CHECKLIST OF SCIURIDS (MAMMALIA: RODENTIA: SCIURIDAE) OF SOUTH ASIA

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Abstract
A checklist of 28 species of sciurids belonging to 12 genera in two subfamilies known to occur in South Asia including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka is provided.

Keywords
Checklist, Sciuridae, Rodentia, Mammalia, synonyms, distribution, South Asia

Introduction
Ellerman (1940), and Ellerman (1961), with descriptive accounts of 260 subspecies under 128 species belonging to 46 genera of rodents from India, her immediate neighbours and Afghanistan, still remain the most comprehensive taxonomic works on rodents of the Indian subcontinent. Earlier, Blyth (1863), Gray (1867), Jerdon, (1874), Sterndale (1884), Blanford (1891), Wroughton (1905, 1916), Thomas (1908), Robinson and Kloss (1918), Phillips (1980) and others provided accounts of sciurids of South Asia. Due to numerous taxonomic advances in the last few decades, many taxonomic alterations and extension of geographical range pertaining to sciurids of South Asia has been witnessed (Ellerman & Morrison-Scott, 1951; Moore & Tate, 1965; Saha, 1977; Agrawal & Chakraborty, 1979; Corbet & Hill, 1980, 1986, 1991, 1992; Chakraborty, 1985; Hoffmann et al., 1993). Recent checklists on Indian mammals (Namee, 1998; Alfred et al., 2002) do not include all the South Asian taxa. Keeping this in view and the upcoming Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshop for non-volant mammals of South Asia, we present an updated checklist on sciurids of South Asia, with information on their synonyms, subspecies and broad distribution.

Methods

Deriving information from the above sources, we have listed the species of sciurids known to occur in South Asia including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Species of sciurids from Maldive Islands are not listed as we do not have any published information on the same. For India, an attempt has been made to provide detailed state-wise distribution, while for others only the names of the regions, wherever applicable, has been mentioned. This list is based on the best of the present knowledge on sciurid diversity of the region to date.

Other details on valid names, synonymy and distribution are as per Srinivasulu and Pradhan (2003).

Results
A total of 28 species of sciurids belonging to 12 genera of two subfamilies are recorded from South Asia. Sixteen species
belong to subfamily Sciurinae Hemprich, 1820, and 12 species to subfamily Pteromyinae Brandt, 1855 (Table 1).

Of this diversity, 10 species (36%) are endemic to South Asia with three species endemic to India and one species endemic to Sri Lanka.

Corbet and Hill (1992) included all the known squirrels under two families namely, Sciuridae Gray, 1821 including non-flying squirrels (with subfamilies Ratufinae Moore, 1959; Funambulinae Pocock, 1923, Callosciurinae Moore, 1959; and Marmotinae Pocock, 1923) and Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855 including flying squirrels. Hoffmann et al. (1993) included all the known taxon of squirrels in one family Sciuridae Hemprich, 1820, which contains two subfamilies, namely, Sciurinae Hemprich, 1820 and Pteromyinae Brandt, 1855. The former subfamily includes all the non-flying squirrels and the latter the flying ones. We follow Hoffmann et al. (1993) in this review.

**Family: Sciuridae Hemprich, 1820**

**Subfamily: Sciurinae Hemprich, 1820**

**Genus Callosciurus Gray, 1867**

**Beautiful Squirrels**

Corbet and Hill (1992) treated this genus under subfamily Callosciurinae Moore, 1959. This genus is restricted to Oriental region from the Himalaya to Southeast Asia. It is represented by two species in the region.

1. **Callosciurus pygerythrus** (I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1831)


   **Name:** Irrawady Squirrel, Hoary-bellied Squirrel

   **Type locality:** Syriam, near Pegu, Burma (now Myanmar)

   **Synonyms:**
   - *Sciurus pygerythrus* I. Geoffroy Saint –Hilaire, 1831
   - *Sciurus lokroides* Hodgson, 1836
   - *Sciurus assamensis* Gray ex M'Clelland, 1843
   - *Macroxus similis* Gray, 1867
   - *Sciurus blythi* Tytler, 1845
   - *Sciurus stevensi* Thomas, 1908

   **Subspecies:**
   - *Callosciurus pygerythrus lokroides* (Hodgson, 1836)
   - *Callosciurus pygerythrus blythi* (Tytler, 1854)
   - *Callosciurus pygerythrus stevensi* (Thomas, 1908)

   **Distribution:** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal in India; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Nepal.

   **Comments:** Ellerman (1961) included seven subspecies and Chakraborty (1985) lists six subspecies under this taxon. For South Asia only three subspecies are valid (Corbet & Hill, 1992).

2. **Callosciurus erythraeus** (Pallas, 1799)


   **Name:** Pallas’ Squirrel, Red-bellied Squirrel

   **Type locality:** Garo Hills, Assam (now in Meghalaya), India

   **Synonyms:**
   - *Sciurus erythraeus* Pallas, 1799
   - *Sciurus erythrogaster* Blyth, 1842
   - *Sciurus caniceps* Gray, 1842
   - *Callosciurus caniceps* (Gray, 1842)
   - *Macroxus punctatissimus* Gray, 1867
   - *Sciurus gordoni* var. *intermedia* Anderson, 1879
   - *Callosciurus erythraeus bhutanensis* Bonhote, 1901
   - *Callosciurus erythraeus nagarum* Thomas, 1916
   - *Callosciurus crumpi* Wroughton, 1916
   - *Callosciurus erythraeus wellsi* Wroughton, 1921
   - *Callosciurus castaneoventis aquilo* Wroughton, 1921

   **Subspecies:**
   - *Callosciurus erythraeus erythraeus* (Pallas, 1799)
   - *Callosciurus erythraeus erythrogaster* Blyth, 1842
   - *Callosciurus caniceps* (Gray, 1842)
   - *Macroxus punctatissimus* Gray, 1867
   - *Sciurus erythraeus bhutanensis* Bonhote, 1901
   - *Callosciurus erythraeus nagarum* Thomas, 1916
   - *Callosciurus crumpi* Wroughton, 1916
   - *Callosciurus erythraeus wellsi* Wroughton, 1921
   - *Callosciurus castaneoventis aquilo* Wroughton, 1921

   **Distribution:** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal in India; Bangladesh; Bhutan.

   **Comments:** Ellerman (1961) included nine subspecies that also included forms from Myanmar. Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951), and Ellerman (1961) included *Callosciurus crumpi* Wroughton, 1916 under *Callosciurus caniceps* (Gray, 1842) that later on the basis of its intergradation was synonymized.

**Table 1. Species diversity of Family Sciuridae in South Asia**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific name</th>
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February 2004 *Zoos' Print Journal* 19(2): 1351-1360
with Callosciurus erythraeus (Pallas, 1779) by Corbet and Hill (1992). Corbet and Hill (1992) includes in detail all probable and possible names of this species and indicates that forms from Bhutan and northeastern India belong to Callosciurus erythraeus (Pallas, 1779).

**Genus Dremomys Heude, 1898**

**Plain Long-nosed Squirrel**

This genus is restricted to Oriental region from the Himalaya to South East Asia. It is represented by three species in the region.

3. **Dremomys lokriah** (Hodgson, 1836)


**Name:** Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel

**Type locality:** North and Central regions of Nepal

**Synonyms:** Sciurus erythraeus (Blyth, 1835), Sciurus lokriah Blyth, 1835, Dremomys lokriah Hodgson, 1836

**Subspecies:**
- Dremomys lokriah lokriah (Hodgson, 1836)
- Dremomys lokriah subflaviventris (Gray, 1843)
- Dremomys lokriah bhotia Wroughton, 1916
- Dremomys lokriah garonum Thomas, 1922

**Distribution:** Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland in India.

**Comments:** Ellerman (1961) included two subspecies, namely Dremomys rufigenis rufigenis (Blanford, 1878) and Dremomys rufigenis adamsoni Thomas, 1914, which does not occur in South Asia.

4. **Dremomys pernyi** (Milne-Edwards, 1867)


**Name:** Perny’s Long-nosed Squirrel

**Type locality:** Moupin, Sichuan, China

**Synonyms:** Sciurus pernyi Milne-Edwards, 1867, Dremomys pernyi pernyi (Milne-Edwards, 1867), Dremomys pernyi imus Thomas, 1922

**Subspecies:**
- Dremomys pernyi pernyi (Milne-Edwards, 1867)
- Dremomys pernyi howelli Phillipps, 1935
- Dremomys pernyi howelli Robinson, 1917

**Distribution:** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal in India; Nepal.

**Comments:** Ellerman (1961) maintained two subspecies, namely Dremomys pernyi pernyi (Milne-Edwards, 1867) and Dremomys pernyi howelli Thomas, 1922 reported from Assam as valid for the region. But following Ellerman (1961) who treated it as synonym of the nominate race, we do not list it as distinct subspecies.

5. **Dremomys rufigenis** (Blanford, 1878)


**Name:** Red-cheeked Squirrel

**Type locality:** Mt. Mulaiyit, Tenasserim, S. Burma (Myanmar)

**Synonyms:** Sciurus rufigenis Blanford, 1878

**Subspecies:**
- Dremomys rufigenis rufigenis (Blanford, 1878)

**Distribution:** Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland in India.

**Comments:** Ellerman (1961) included two subspecies, namely Dremomys rufigenis rufigenis (Blanford, 1878) and Dremomys rufigenis adamsoni Thomas, 1914, which does not occur in South Asia.

6. **Funambulus layardi** (Blyth, 1849)


**Name:** Layard’s Striped Squirrel

**Type locality:** Ambigama Hills, Central Province, Sri Lanka

**Synonyms:** Sciurus layardi Blyth, 1849, Funamblus layardi Blyth, 1849

**Subspecies:**
- Funambulus layardi signatus (Blyth, 1849)
- Funamblus layardi signatus (Phillips, 1935)

**Distribution:** Endemic to Sri Lanka.

**Comments:** Belongs to subgenus Funambulus Lesson, 1835. Ellerman (1961) opined that Funambulus layardi signatus Thomas, 1924 could not be regarded as a race due to paucity of specimens, while Funambulus layardi dravidianus Robinson, 1917 should not be treated as a distinct race as it was described only from a juvenile specimen. Phillips (1981) retained two subspecies from Sri Lanka.

7. **Funambulus palmarum** (Linnaeus, 1766)


**Name:** Indian Palm Squirrel, Three-striped Palm Squirrel, Common Palm Squirrel.

**Type locality:** Madras, India
Synonyms: Sciurus palmarum Linnaeus, 1766
Sciurus pencillatus Leach, 1814
Sciurus indicus Lesson, 1835
Sciurus brodei Blyth, 1849
Funambulus palmarum brodei (Blyth, 1849)
Sciurus kelaarti Layard, 1851
Funambulus palmarum comorinus Wroughton, 1905
Funambulus palmarum favonicus Thomas & Wroughton, 1915
Funambulus palmarum olympius Thomas & Wroughton, 1915
Funambulus bengalensis Wroughton, 1916
Funambulus robertsoni Wroughton, 1916
Funambulus palmarum robertsoni (Wroughton, 1916)
Funambulus gossei Wroughton & Davidson, 1919
Funambulus palmarum palmarum (Linnaeus, 1766)
Funambulus palmarum matagimensis Lindsay, 1926
Funambulus palmarum bellaricicus Wroughton, 1916
Funambulus palmarum kelaarti (Layard, 1851)

Subspecies: Funambulus palmarum favonicus (Linnaeus, 1766) including ‘comorinus’, ‘gossei’, and ‘bengalensis’.

Distribution: Endemic to South Asia. Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in India; Sri Lanka

Comments: Belongs to subgenus Funambulus Lesson, 1835. Ellerman (1961) listed six subspecies of Funambulus palmarum from the region – Funambulus palmarum kelaarti (Layard, 1851) (including ‘olympius’ and ‘favonicus’), Funambulus palmarum brodei (Blyth, 1849), Funambulus palmarum roberstoni (Wroughton, 1916), Funambulus palmarum matagimensis Lindsay, 1926, Funambulus palmarum bellaricicus Wroughton, 1916, and Funambulus palmarum palmarum (Linnaeus, 1766) (including ‘comorinus’, ‘gossei’, and ‘bengalensis’). Phillips (1981) listed four subspecies from Sri Lanka – Funambulus palmarum brodei (Blyth, 1849), Funambulus palmarum kelaarti (Layard, 1851), Funambulus palmarum olympius Thomas & Wroughton, 1915, and Funambulus palmarum favonicus Thomas & Wroughton, 1915 (including junior synonym Funambulus palmarum matagimensis Lindsay, 1926). Corbet and Hill (1992) propose the following subspecies from the region: Funambulus palmarum comorinus Wroughton, 1905, Funambulus palmarum favonicus Thomas and Wroughton, 1915, Funambulus palmarum olympius Thomas and Wroughton, 1915, Funambulus palmarum bellaricicus Wroughton, 1916, and Funambulus palmarum matagimensis Lindsay, 1926. We retain only four forms owing to character overlaps with two Indian forms – Funambulus palmarum palmarum (Linnaeus, 1766) and Funambulus palmarum bellaricicus Wroughton, 1916; and two Sri Lankan forms – Funambulus palmarum matagimensis Lindsay, 1924 and Funambulus palmarum kelaarti (Layard, 1851).

8. Funambulus pennantii Wroughton, 1905

Name: Northern Palm Squirrel
Type locality: Mandavi, Surat dist., Bombay Presidency (now Gujarat), India

Synonyms: Funambulus pennantii Wroughton, 1905
Funambulus pennantii argentescens Wroughton, 1905

Subspecies: Funambulus pennantii lutescens Wroughton, 1905

Distribution: Andaman & Nicobar Islands (introduced), Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in India; Nepal; Bangladesh; Pakistan


9. Funambulus sublineatus (Waterhouse, 1838)

Name: Dusky-striped Squirrel
Type locality: Nilgiri Hills, Madras (now Tamil Nadu), India

Synonyms: Sciurus sublineatus Waterhouse, 1838
Sciurus deleSSERTi Gervais, 1841
Sciurus trilineatus Kelaart, 1852
Sciurus palmarum var. obscura Pelzeln & Kohl, 1886
Funambulus kathleenae Thomas & Wroughton, 1915
Tamoides sublineatus obscurus Phillips, 1935

Subspecies: Funambulus sublineatus sublineatus (Waterhouse, 1838)
Funambulus sublineatus obscurus (Pelzeln & Kohl, 1886)

Distribution: Endemic to South Asia. Western Ghats of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in India; Sri Lanka

Comments: Belongs to subgenus Funambulus Lesson, 1835. Ellerman (1961) and Corbet and Hill (1992) recognised above mentioned two subspecies from the region.

10. Funambulus tristriatus (Waterhouse, 1837)

Name: Jungle Striped Squirrel, Western Ghats Striped Squirrel
Type locality: Western Ghats, India

Synonyms: Sciurus (Tamias) dussanIERI Milne-Edwards, 1867
**Funambulus wroughtoni** Ryley, 1913
**Funambulus tristriatus numarius** Wroughton, 1916
**Funambulus tristriatus annandalei** Robinson, 1917
**Funambulus thomasi** Wroughton & Davidson, 1919

**Subspecies:**
- **Funambulus tristriatus tristriatus** (Waterhouse, 1837)
- **Funambulus tristriatus wroughtoni** (Ryley, 1913)

**Distribution:** Endemic to India. Western Ghats of Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in India.

**Comments:** Belongs to subgenus **Funambulus** Lesson, 1835. We follow Ellerman (1961) in retaining **Funambulus tristriatus tristriatus** (Waterhouse, 1837) and **Funambulus tristriatus wroughtoni** (Ryley, 1913). However, Corbet and Hill (1992) retained the subspecies **Funambulus tristriatus numarius** Wroughton, 1916 and **Funambulus tristriatus annandalei** Robinson, 1917. Following Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) we do not treat the later taxon as distinct due to similarities between them and two accepted subspecies.

**Genus Marmota Blumenbach, 1779**

Marmots

This genus is widespread in the Northern Hemisphere above the Tropic of Capricorn. It is represented by two species in the region.

11. **Marmota caudata** (Geoffroy, 1844)


**Name:** Long-tailed Marmot, Golden Marmot

**Type locality:** Hombur (Gombhur), Upper reaches of Indus, Kashmir, India

**Synonyms:**
- **Arctomys caudatus** Geoffroy, 1844
- **Arctomys aurea** Blanford, 1875
- **Arctomys aureus** Blanford, 1875
- **Arctomys littledalei** Thomas, 1909
- **Marmota stirlingi** Thomas, 1916

**Subspecies:**
- **Marmota caudata caudata** (Geoffroy, 1844)
- **Marmota caudata aurea** (Blanford, 1875)

**Distribution:** Jammu & Kashmir in India; Pakistan.

**Comments:** Ellerman (1961) maintained two subspecies, **Marmota caudata caudata** (Geoffroy, 1844) and **Marmota caudata aurea** (Blanford, 1875) based on characteristics of saddle patch from the region. Corbet and Hill (1992) does not include this taxon in their work. We follow Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951), Ellerman (1961), Hoffmann et al. (1993) and Roberts (1997) to retain both the subspecies.

12. **Marmota himalayana** (Hodgson, 1841)


**Name:** Himalayan Marmot

**Type locality:** Nepal

**Synonyms:**
- **Arctomys himalayanus** Hodgson, 1841
- **Marmota bobak himalayana** (Hodgson, 1841)
- **Arctomys hemachalananus** Hodgson, 1843
- **Arctomys hemachalana** (Hodgson, 1843)
- **Arctomys tibetanus** Gray, 1847.

**Subspecies:** None.

**Distribution:** Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Uttaranchal in India; Pakistan; Nepal.

**Comments:** Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951), Ellerman (1961) and Corbet (1978) treated it as a subspecies of **Marmota bobak** (Muller, 1776). Hoffmann et al. (1993) indicates that Gromov et al. (1965) elevated the taxon ‘**himalayana**’ to specific level. Pakistan population was treated as **Marmota himalayana himalayana** (Hodgson, 1841) by Roberts (1997).

**Genus Ratufa Gray, 1867**

Giant Squirrels

This genus is represented by three species in the region. The genus **Ratufa** Gray, 1867 was treated by Corbet and Hill (1992) under the subfamily Ratufinae Moore, 1959 in Family Sciuridae Gray, 1821. Two species are endemic to South Asia of which one is restricted to India.

13. **Ratufa bicolor** (Sparrman, 1778)

1778. **Sciurus bicolor** Sparrman, Göthenborg Samhalle Hand. (Wet. Afd.), 1: 70.

**Name:** Black Giant Squirrel, Malayan Giant Squirrel

**Type locality:** Anjer, W Java, Indonesia

**Synonyms:**
- **Sciurus bicolor** Sparrman, 1778
- **Sciurus giganteus** McClelland, 1839
- **Sciurus macrourus** Sparrman, 1778

**Subspecies:** **Ratufa bicolor gigantea** (McClelland, 1839)

**Distribution:** Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal in India; Probably also in parts of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

**Comments:** Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) listed eight subspecies, while Ellerman (1961), Moore and Tate (1965), and Corbet and Hill (1992) have listed five subspecies of which only one is valid for the region.

14. **Ratufa indica** (Erxleben, 1777)


**Name:** Indian Giant Squirrel, Malabar Giant Squirrel

**Type locality:** Bombay Presidency, India

**Synonyms:**
- **Sciurus indicus** Erxleben, 1777
- **Sciurus purpureus** Zimmerman, 1777
- **Sciurus maximus** Schreber, 1784
- **Sciurus maxima** (Schreber, 1784)
- **Sciurus bombayus** Boddaert, 1785
- **Sciurus bombayana** (Boddaert, 1785)
- **Sciurus malabaricus** Scopoli, 1786
- **Sciurus malabarica** (Scopoli, 1786)
15. Ratufa macroura (Pennant, 1769)
Name: Grizzled Giant Squirrel
Type locality: Highlands of Central and Uva Provinces, Sri Lanka
Synonyms: Sciurus zeylanicus Ray, 1693
Sciurus macrourus Pennant, 1769
Sciurus ceylonicus Erxleben, 1777
Sciurus ceylonica (Erxleben, 1777)
Sciurus ceilonensis Boddaert, 1785
Sciurus tennentii Blyth, 1849
Sciurus macrourus var. montanus Kelaart, 1852
Sciurus macrourus var. montana (Kelaart, 1852)
Ratufa macroura albipes Blyth, 1859
Sciurus macrura Blanford, 1891
Ratufa macroura sinhala Phillips, 1931
Subspecies:
Ratufa macroura macroura (Pennant, 1769)
Ratufa macroura melanochra Thomas & Wroughton, 1915
Ratufa macroura dandolena Thomas & Wroughton, 1915
Distribution: Endemic to South Asia. Tamil Nadu and Kerala in India and many localities in Sri Lanka.
Comments: Ellerman (1961) listed three subspecies that were accepted later by Moore and Tate (1965), Phillips (1981) and Corbet and Hill (1992). Ratufa macroura dandolena is the taxon occurring in India (Ellerman, 1961).

16. Tamiops macclellandi (Horsfield, 1840)
Name: Himalayan Striped Squirrel
Type locality: Assam, India
Synonyms: Sciurus macclellandi Horsfield, 1840
Sciurus macclellandi (Horsfield, 1840)
Sciurus pembertonii Blyth, 1842
Sciurus macclellandi manipuresis Bonhote, 1900
Subspecies: Tamiops macclellandi macclellandi (Hodgson, 1840)
Distribution: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and West Bengal in India; Bhutan; Nepal.
Comments: Ellerman (1940, 1961) and Moore (1959) treated the genus Tamiops Allen, 1906 as one of the subgenera of Callosciurus Gray, 1867. Later, Moore and Tate (1965) elevated it to the generic level. Ellerman (1961) included three subspecies, namely Callosciurus macclellandi macclellandi (Horsfield, 1840), Callosciurus macclellandi barbei (Blyth, 1847) and Callosciurus macclellandi collinus (Moore, 1958), while Corbet and Hill (1992) included six subspecies from the Indo-Malayan region. Of these only Tamiops macclellandi macclellandi (Horsfield, 1840) is found within the range of South Asia.

Subfamily: Pteromyinae Brandt, 1855
Genus Belomys Thomas, 1908
Hairy-footed Flying Squirrel
The genus Belomys Thomas, 1908 (= Trogopterus Heude, 1898) was treated by Corbet and Hill (1992) under family Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855. This genus is restricted to the Himalayas in South Asia and South China. It is represented by single species in the region.

17. Belomys pearsonii (Gray, 1842)
Name: Hairy-footed Flying Squirrel
Type locality: Darjeeling, Assam (now West Bengal), India
Synonyms: Sciuropterus pearsonii Gray, 1842
Trogopterus pearsonii (Gray, 1842)
Sciuropterus villosus Blyth, 1847
Belomys trichotis Thomas, 1908
Belomys pearsonii trichotis (Thomas, 1908)
Trogopterus pearsonii trichotis (Thomas, 1908)
Subspecies: Belomys pearsonii pearsonii (Gray, 1842)
Genus Biswamoyopterus Saha, 1981

Namdapha Flying Squirrel

Corbet and Hill (1992) treated it under family Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855. This monotypic genus is known only from type locality and its vicinity in the Himalaya in Arunachal Pradesh, India.


Name: Namdapha Flying Squirrel

Type locality: Deban, Namdapha, Tirap dist. (now in Chanlang dist.), Arunachal Pradesh in India

Distribution: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland Sikkim and West Bengal in India; Bhutan; Nepal.

Comments: Belongs to subgenus Sciuropterus. Schaub (1953) treated this taxon as subspecies of Sciuropterus alboniger (Hodgson, 1836). Chakraborty (1981) elevated it to species rank, a trend that was accepted by Corbet and Hill (1992) and Hoffmann et al. (1993). However, recently, three specimens were seen at Deban and one at Haldibari on 23 and 24 December 2002 by a Swiss birdwatcher in Namdapha (Ritschard, 2003).

Genus Eupetaurus Thomas, 1888

Woolly Flying Squirrel

Corbet and Hill (1992) included this monotypic genus under family Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855. The genus Eupetaurus, 1888 is sometimes also treated under a family Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855. The Genus Eupetaurus is included this monotypic genus under Family Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855. This monotypic genus is known only from type locality and its vicinity in the Himalaya in Arunachal Pradesh, India.

19. Eupetaurus cinereus Thomas, 1888


Name: Woolly Flying Squirrel

Type locality: Gilgit Valley, Kashmir, India

Synonyms: None

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir and Sikkim in India; Pakistan.

Comments: Schaub (1953) erected a separate family Eupetauridae to accommodate this taxon. Later, McKenna (1962) retained it to Sciuridae based on its affinity with Petaurista genus, especially Petaurista xanthotis (Milne-Edwards, 1872).

Genus Hylopetes Gray, 1867

Arrow-tailed Flying Squirrels

Corbet and Hill (1992) included this genus under family Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855. This genus is restricted to Oriental region from the Himalaya to South East Asia. Two subgenera, namely Hylopetes Thomas, 1908 and Eoglaucomys Howell, 1915 are recognised. The present review has listed three species from the region, out of which one is endemic to South Asia. Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) recognised another species of the genus, namely, Hylopetes phayrei (Blyth, 1859) from Manipur India. However, Hoffmann et al. (1993) excludes it from South Asia. We exclude this species from this checklist for want of a confirmed locality in the region.

20. Hylopetes alboniger (Hodgson, 1836)


Name: Parti-coloured Flying Squirrel

Type locality: Central and northern regions of Nepal

Synonyms: Sciuropterus alboniger Hodgson, 1836

Subspecies: Hylopetes alboniger alboniger (Hodgson, 1836)

Distribution: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland Sikkim and West Bengal in India; Bhutan; Nepal.

Comments: Belongs to subgenus Hylopetes Thomas, 1908. Ellerman (1961) included two subspecies – Hylopetes alboniger alboniger (Hodgson, 1936) and Hylopetes alboniger leonardi (Thomas, 1921) of which the latter does not occur in South Asia. However, Corbet and Hill (1992) synonymized Hylopetes alboniger leonardi with the nominate race and list two extralimital races, namely, Hylopetes alboniger orinus Allen, 1940 and Hylopetes alboniger chiangfengensis Wang and Lu, 1966.

21. Hylopetes baberi (Blyth, 1847)


Name: Small Afghan Flying Squirrel

Type locality: Nizrow, Kohistan, Afghanistan

Synonyms: Sciuropterus baberi Blyth, 1847

Subspecies: Hylopetes fimbriatus baberi (Blyth, 1847)

Distribution: Jammu & Kashmir in India; Pakistan.

Comments: Belongs to subgenus Eoglaucomys Howell, 1915. Ellerman (1940, 1961), and Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) treated this taxon as subspecies of Hylopetes fimbriatus (Gray, 1837). Chakraborty (1981) elevated it to species rank, a trend that was accepted by Corbet and Hill (1992) and Hoffmann et al. (1993).

22. Hylopetes fimbriatus (Gray, 1837)


Name: Small Kashmir Flying Squirrel

Type locality: Simla, Himachal Pradesh, India

Synonyms: Sciuropterus fimbriatus Gray, 1837

Subspecies: Hylopetes fimbriatus fimbriatus (Gray, 1837)


Comments: Belongs to subgenus Eoglaucomys Howell,
1915. Ellerman (1940, 1961) included two subspecies — *Hylopetes fimbriatus fimbriatus* (Gray, 1837) and *Hylopetes fimbriatus baberi* (Blyth, 1847). The latter taxon was elevated to specific level by Chakraborty (1981).

**Genus Petaurista Link, 1795**  
**Giant Flying Squirrels**

The genus *Petaurista* Link, 1795 was treated by Corbet and Hill (1992) under family Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855. This genus is widespread in Asia ranging from South to East Asia. It is represented by five species in the region. One species is endemic to South Asia.

23. *Petaurista caniceps* (Gray, 1842)  
**Name:** Grey-headed Flying Squirrel  
**Type locality:** Nepal  
**Synonyms:**  
*Sciuropterus caniceps* Gray, 1842  
*Petaurista elegans caniceps* (Gray, 1842)  
*Sciuropterus senex* Hodgson, 1844  
*Sciuropterus gorkhali* Lindsay, 1929  
*Petaurista elegans gorkhali* (Lindsay, 1929)  
**Subspecies:** None for the region.  
**Distribution:** Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim Uttaranachal, and West Bengal in India; Bhutan; Nepal.  
**Comments:** Ellerman (1940, 1961), and, Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) included this taxon under *Petaurista magnificus* (Hodgson, 1836). Ghose and Saha (1981) basing on its distinctness considered *nobilis* as a separate species and kept *Sciuropterus chrysotrix* Hodgson, 1844 as synonym under it. Corbet and Hill (1992) and Hoffmann et al. (1993) also maintain *nobilis* as a distinct species.

24. *Petaurista magnificus* (Hodgson, 1836)  
**Name:** Red Giant Flying Squirrel  
**Type locality:** Central and Northern regions of Nepal  
**Synonyms:**  
*Sciuropterus magnificus* Hodgson, 1836  
*Petaurista magnificus magnificus* (Hodgson, 1836).  
*Sciuropterus magnificus* Hodgsoni Ghose & Saha, 1981  
**Distribution:** Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal in India; Nepal.  
**Comments:** Ellerman (1940, 1961) and, Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) considered *Sciuropterus nobilis* Gray, 1842 and *Sciuropterus chrysotrix* Hodgson, 1844 as synonyms of the present species. But see comments under *Petaurista nobilis* (Gray, 1842). One record of this species from southern Tibet adjoining Nepal border by Feng et al. (1986) needs taxonomic confirmation.

25. *Petaurista nobilis* (Gray, 1842)  
**Name:** Noble Giant Flying Squirrel, Gray's Giant Flying Squirrel  
**Type locality:** Darjeeling, West Bengal, India  
**Synonyms:**  
*Sciuropterus nobilis* Gray, 1842  
*Sciuropterus chrysotrix* Hodgson, 1844.  
**Subspecies:**  
*Petaurista nobilis nobilis*  
*Petaurista nobilis singhei* Saha, 1977  
**Distribution:** Endemic to South Asia. Sikkim and West Bengal in India; Bhutan; Nepal.  
**Comments:** Ellerman (1940, 1961) and, Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) included this taxon under *Petaurista magnificus* (Hodgson, 1836). Ghose and Saha (1981) basing on its distinctness considered *nobilis* as a separate species and kept *Sciuropterus chrysotrix* Hodgson, 1844 as synonym under it. Corbet and Hill (1992) and Hoffmann et al. (1993) also maintain *nobilis* as a distinct species.

26. *Petaurista petaurista* (Pallas, 1766)  
**Name:** Red Giant Flying Squirrel, Common Giant Flying Squirrel  
**Type locality:** Western Java, Indonesia  
**Synonyms:**  
*Sciurus petaurista* Pallas, 1766  
*Pteromys albiventer* Gray, 1834  
*Petaurista petaurista albiventer* (Gray, 1834)  
*Pteromys inornatus* Geoffroy, 1844  
*Pteromys birrelli* Wroughton, 1911  
*Pteromys fulvinus* Wroughton, 1911  
**Subspecies:**  
*Petaurista petaurista albiventer* (Gray, 1834)  
**Distribution:** Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Meehalaya, Sikkim and Uttaranachal in India; Nepal; Pakistan.  
**Comments:** Ellerman (1940, 1961) and, Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) included *Petaurista philippensis* (Elliot, 1839) as one of the many subspecies of *Petaurista petaurista* (Pallas, 1766) as *Petaurista petaurista philippensis* (Elliot, 1839). Ellerman (1961) dealt in detail on nine subspecies of this taxon. Corbet and Hill (1992) revised this taxon and separated many forms either as synonyms or subspecies of *Petaurista philippensis* (Elliot, 1839).

27. *Petaurista philippensis* (Elliot, 1839)  
**Name:** South Indian Giant Flying Squirrel, Large Brown Flying Squirrel  
**Type locality:** Near Madras*, India  
**Synonyms:**  
*Pteromys philippensis* Elliot, 1839  
*Petaurista petaurista philippensis* (Elliot, 1839)  
*Pteromys oral* Tickell, 1842  
*Pteromys griseiventris* Gray, 1843  
*Petaurista cindrella* Wroughton, 1911  
*Petaurista lanka* Wroughton, 1911
Subspecies: Petetura philippensis philippensis (Elliot, 1839).
Distribution: Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in India; Sri Lanka.

Comments: No exact location was given but the paper in which it was dealt was about Mammals of South Mahratta Country. Ellerman (1961) and, Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) included this taxon under Petetura petetura (Pallas, 1766) as its subspecies. Phillips (1981) described the Sri Lankan taxon under Petetura petetura lanka Wroughton, 1911 following Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951). Corbet and Hill (1992) reviewed and revised Petetura petetura (Pallas, 1766) forms and elevated ‘philippensis’ forms to specific level under Petetura philippensis (Elliot, 1839).

Genus Petinomys Thomas, 1908

Dwarf Flying Squirrel

The genus Petinomys Thomas, 1908 was treated by Corbet and Hill (1992) under family Pteromyidae Brandt, 1855. This genus is restricted to Oriental region from the Peninsula India and Sri Lanka to South East Asia. It is represented by an endemic species in the region.

28. Petinomys fuscocapillus (Jerdon, 1847)
Name: Travancore Flying Squirrel
Type locality: Travancore (now southern Kerala), India
Synonyms: Sciuropterus fuscocapillus Jerdon, 1847
Sciuropterus layardi Kelaart, 1850
Petinomys fuscocapillus layardi (Kelaart, 1850)
Subspecies: Petinomys fuscocapillus philippensis (Jerdon, 1847) and Petinomys fuscocapillus layardi (Kelaart, 1850).
Distribution: Endemic to South Asia. Kerala and Tamil Nadu in India (Kurup, 1989; Rajamani, 2001); Sri Lanka.
Comments: Ellerman (1940, 1961) included two subspecies, namely Petinomys fuscopellinus philippensis (Jerdon, 1847) and Petinomys fuscopellinus layardi (Kelaart, 1850). Phillips (1981) gave a detailed account of Petinomys fuscopellinus layardi (Kelaart, 1850). Corbet and Hill (1992) synonymized the latter taxon with the nominate race.

Acknowledgements

We thank Dr. J.R.B. Alfred, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and Officer-in-Charge, Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Station, Pune for facilities; Ms. Sally Walker and Mr. Sanjay Molur, Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore helped us in many ways; Dr. Mike J.R. Jordan, Chester Zoo, England helped us with initial list and provided valuable comments on the first draft of the paper. MSP thanks Mr. S.S. Talmale of WRS, ZSI in assisting with the compilation. CS thanks Dr. V. Nagulu and the Head, Department of Zoology, Osmania University, Hyderabad for encouragement; Dr. Bhargavi Srinivasulu, Department of Zoology, Osmania University, and Ms. Binu Priya and Ms. Padma Priya, Zoo Outreach Organisation for their help in literature survey and preparation of the final checklist; and acknowledges the Research Grant from CSIR, New Delhi.

References


Checklist of sciurids (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae) of South Asia

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