

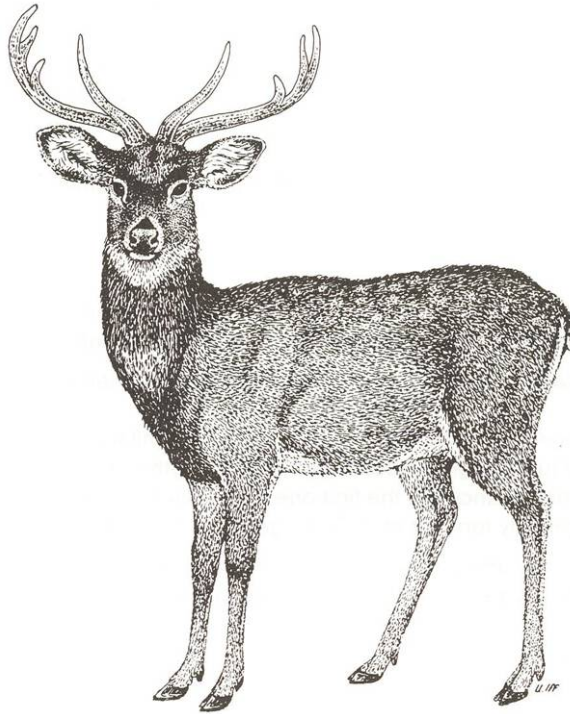
Cervus eldi

M'Clelland, 1842



Common names: engl.: Eld's Deer, Thameen, Brow-antlered Deer
 esp.: Ciervo de Elde
 fr.: Cerf d'Eid
 de.: Leierhirsch
 ital.: Tameng, Cervo di Eld
 local: Sangai (E India: Manipur), Thamin/Thameng (Burma)

Scientific synonyms: Genus: *Panolia*, *Rucemus*, *Rusa*
 Species: *acuticauda*, *acuticornis*, *frontalis*, *lyratus*, *platyceros*, *thamin*
 Subspecies: *brucei*, *cornipes*, *hainanus*, *typicus*

**Characteristics:***Adult:*

General appearance: Long-legged, long-bodied, medium-sized deer with a lyre-shaped pair of large antlers, and large, spreadable hooves.

Measurements: Head-body length: about 180 cm; height at shoulder: 105-115 cm; tail: about 20 cm; antlers along beam: about 100 cm.

Body weight: Males about 70-100 kg, females about 40-70 kg (West Berlin and Zurich zoo data).

Ears: Medium-sized; wide but not pointed; well-haired on inner surface.

Tail: Medium in length, well-haired.

Coat: Hair smooth and thin with hardly any underfur. Uneven length of hairs produces a somewhat shaggy appearance. Colour of summer coat fawn red on upper parts with some pale spots near the middle line of the back. Underparts pale brown. Some white on the chin, around the eyes and margins of the ears. Winter coat uniformly dark brown above, whitish underneath.

Antlers: Long, curved brow tine (about 38 cm) and beam set at right angles to the pedicle, thus forming a more or less continuous bow-shaped curve; beam undivided for the greater part of its length, the pair of antlers having the appearance of a lyre. The beam forks towards its end, and older stags have 2 to 10 or more small jags sprouting from the upper surface of the outer tine of the terminal fork; a few jags may sprout on the upper surface near the base of the brow tine; up to 10 points. Shedding from end of June to early September, free of velvet by December or early January.

Sexual dimorphism: Females are somewhat smaller and more lightly built and slightly paler at all seasons.

Juvenile: Spotted at birth. Weight at 10 days 4,2 to 5,3 kg. (Zurich zoo data).

Distribution:

C.e. eldi: E India (Manipur, Keibul Lamjao Sanct. only).
C.e. siamensis: PR China (Hainan Isl.), Kampuchea Dem., SE Thailand, SW Viet Nam.
C.e. thamin: Burma, W Thailand.

**Population:**

Wild population:

Rare, especially *C.e. eldi*: below 23 individuals in 1978, threatened by cattle grazing, poaching and hydrological development.
C.e. siamensis: extremely scarce in Thailand and Viet Nam and heavily affected in Kampuchea due to the war (uncontrolled hunting and habitat destruction); rare also on Hainan.
C.e. thamin: probably several thousand individuals, threatened by poaching and agricultural land use.

Captive population:

Zoo stocks in 1985 according to the International Zoo Yearbook: *C.e. siamensis*: 5 specimens at Paris.
C.e. thamin: 162 specimens in 13 collections.
C.e. eldi: 94 specimens in 13 Indian zoos in May 1988.

Trade:

Almost exclusively inter-zoo exchange of captive bred *thamin*. From 1983 to 1985 35 specimens have been recorded by CITES Parties.

Intraspecific variation:

C.e. eldi: Description see above.
C.e. siamensis: Pale spots, marked off by a light band on the lower flank; specimens from Hainan are smaller and have simpler antlers with no palmation.
C.e. thamin: More rufous-coloured than *C.e. eldi*; larger antlers.

Similar species:

Cervus duvauceli (Swamp deer, barasingha) (sheet A-119.006.004.004): Very similar in body form, but larger. Without traces of the metatarsal tuft and gland; beam and antlers scythe-shaped with projecting tines starting about two thirds of the distance up, the first one frequently bifurcating and with the beam often curving abruptly horizontally forward at the emergence of the first point.
Cervus unicolor: (Sambar): Larger; long, coarse woolly and usually darker hair; long bushy tail; antlers have sturdy beams with usually three points only.

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