

## Marbled Cat *Pardofelis marmorata* at Virachey National Park, Ratanakiri, Cambodia

Gregory Edward McCann  
[greg.mccann1@gmail.com](mailto:greg.mccann1@gmail.com)

**Observer:** Gregory Edward McCann (camera trap installer)  
**Photographs by:** Habitat ID ([www.habitatid.org](http://www.habitatid.org)) & Virachey National Park staff.  
**Subject identified by:** Gregory Edward McCann.

**Location:** Virachey National Park, Ratanakiri province, Cambodia.  
**Elevation:** 1,455 metres.  
**Habitat:** Bamboo-dominated forest on mountain ridge.  
**Date and time:** 24 January 2016, 13:29 hrs.

**Identity of subject:** Marbled Cat, *Pardofelis marmorata* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae).

**Description of record:** A lone Marbled Cat was photographed by camera trap in Virachey National Park (VNP), on the summit of Phnom Haling, one of the highest mountain ridges in northeast Cambodia, in an area dominated by bamboo (Figs. 1 and 2.).



Fig. 1 : Full frame camera trap image.

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Fig. 2 : Cropped camera trap image.

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**Remarks:** The subject is identified as a Marbled Cat *Pardofelis marmorata* based on its fur patterning, which includes large, dark blotches on its limbs, and its stocky shape. In addition the 'cloudy' pattern of lines on its back distinguishes it from the larger Clouded Leopard *Neofelis nebulosa*. It appears to be an adult and, based on its posture and the condition of its coat, it seems to be in healthy condition.

Preliminary results of an on-going camera trapping program in VNP (which commenced in January 2014) have, as of March 2016, also resulted in 13 other trigger events of Marbled Cat, from seven different camera stations. In all a total of 49 images have been acquired. Of the total 14 trigger events, 13 have occurred during the day i.e. 93%: this is typical of the species throughout its range. Although this cat was considered to be "mainly nocturnal" by Francis (2008), primary records indicate high levels of diurnal activity, at least at ground-level (e.g. Johnson *et al.* 2009, Lynam *et al.* 2013, Gumal *et al.* 2014, Pusparini *et al.* 2014, Than Zaw *et al.* 2014, McCarthy *et al.* 2015).

A single trigger event is defined here as one or more images taken at one camera-trap station, which are known or likely to show the same individual or other social unit, and have no gap longer than 30 minutes between successive images.

This latest record, and other recent camera trap images acquired by our team, confirm the continued existence of the Marbled Cat in VNP.

Beyond Cambodia the species ranges widely in South and Southeast Asia: IUCN (Ross *et al.* 2015) quote a range which includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia (Kalimantan, Sumatra), Laos, Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak), Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Phnom Haling ridge forms part of the international border between Cambodia and Laos.

IUCN (Ross *et al.* 2015) classify the species as 'Near Threatened', and state that it is 'recorded relatively infrequently' and that the species is threatened by habitat loss and hunting.

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