



GOLDEN TAKIN

Kingdom: *Animalia* Phylum: *Chordata* Class: *Mammalia* Order: *Artiodactyla* Family: *Bovidae*
Budorcas Taxicolor Bedfordi

Description: The Takin is one of the largest and stockiest of the goat antelopes.

Range: China

Habitat: Forested valleys to grass covered alpine zones above 4,000 feet

Diet in the Wild: Leaves, leaves, buds and grasses

Length: 6.5-7.5 feet

Height: 50 inches

Weight: 1,400 pounds for males and 1,000 for females

Lifespan: 12-15 years

Status: ENDANGERED

Special Features:

- Short, stocky legs are supported by two-toed hooves with a large spur.
- The large head is accented with an arched Roman nose.
- Both sexes have stout horns ridged at the base.
- The long, shaggy coat is light colored with a dark stripe down the back. Males have a dark face.
- The Takin has an oily, strong-smelling substance that is secreted over its whole body.
- Live in herds of 20 individuals, although older males will become more solitary.
- When disturbed, the Takin will give a "cough" alarm and the herd will retreat and lie on the ground for camouflage.
- Takins use the same path through thickets on regular visits to salt licks and grazing areas.
- Rearing up, a Takin can balance on its hind legs to nip off branch tips 8 feet above ground. It may prop its forelegs or just its chest against a tree trunk and then lean forward until the trunk snaps.
- The mythological golden fleece is supposed to have come from the Takin.



Breeding/Care of Young:

- Mating takes place between July and August
- Gestation is 8 months
- Sexually mature at 2.5 years
- Usually single birth

