

KASHMIR STAG *Cervus elaphus hanglu* Linnaeus 1758

Vernacular/other Names: *hangul, honglu* (Hindi/Kashmiri)



Taxonomy

Family: *Cervidae*
Subfamily: *Cervinae*

Conservation Status
IUCN: Endangered
CAMP: -
IWPA: Schedule I
CITES: Appendix - I
U.S. ESA: Endangered



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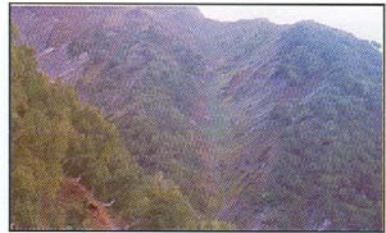
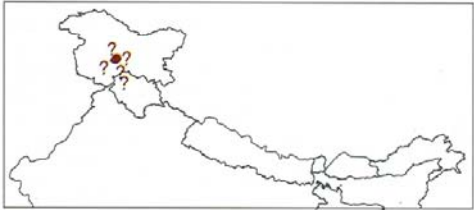
Distribution & Habitat: At present occurs only in the Dachigam National Park and a few isolated pockets in Jammu & Kashmir State of India. In the past, it was distributed in mountains of Kashmir and in Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh. Subalpine forests, temperate broad leaved oak and conifer mixed forests, riverine forests, grasslands and scrub habitats

Description: A subspecies of the Red deer of Europe that is distinctly different from the Red deer in body size, colour, and antler size and shape. Hangul is dark grey and dark brown rather than reddish and unlike Red deer, the antler bay tine is normally larger than brow and has much of cup. In Hangul, 10 - point head is the normal one and any greater number of points is far more usual than in the case of Red deer. The coat colour ranges from light to dark brown, fading to dingy white on lips, chin, underparts and anal region. The white rump patch does not extend much above the tail and is divided by a broad median stripe extending down to the base of the tail and sometimes to its extremity. Coat colour fades during summer, but tones up with denser coat in winter, which in big males is very dark or rufous brown. Fawns are spotted. Old females may show white flecks. Antlers in adult males grow up to 1 m

Behaviour: Hangul is essential a forest animal found singly or in groups of about 10 -15 individuals. It is diurnal and make distinct altitudinal migration from higher to lower elevations in winter. Predators are snow and common leopards. It is a selective feeder and feeds on a wide variety of plants that includes leaves/shoots of some trees and shrubs, grasses and herbs.

Size
Body length: 165-265 cm
Shoulder Height: 120-125 cm
Weight: 180 kg
Antler length: 1 m

Another subspecies of the Red Deer that is reported in the Indian subcontinent is **Shou** or **Sikkim stag** (*Cervus elaphus wallichi*). It is reported to occur in Chumbi valley located close to the Indo-China border in Sikkim and there are unconfirmed reports of this subspecies being sighted occasionally in Pangolokha Wildlife Sanctuary.



K. Ahmed

Reproduction & Life cycle
Gestation period: six months
Rutting: late autumn-early winter
Young per birth: one
Weaning: 7 months
Sexual Maturity: 2.5 years (f) 2 years (m)
Life Span: 12-15 years