

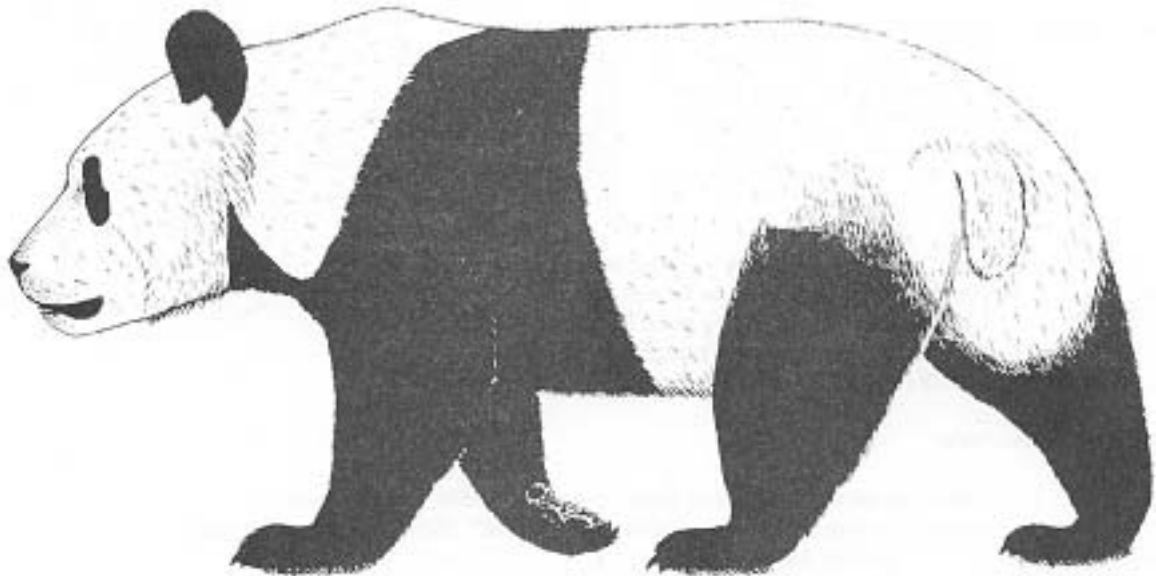


Ailuropoda melanoleuca

(David, 1869)

Common names:	engl.:	Giant Panda, Panda
	esp.:	Panda gigante
	fr.:	Panda géant, Panda
	de.:	Bambusbir, Grosser Panda
	ital.:	Orso del Bambu, Panda gigante
	chin.:	Daxiongmao, Damaoxiong

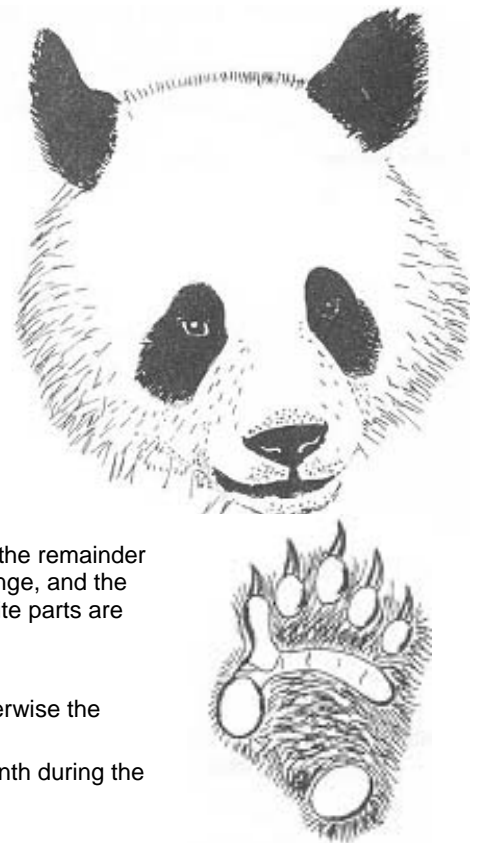
Scientific synonyms: None relevant



Characteristics:

Adult:

General appearance:	Unmistakable (WWF logo!). Large headed, heavily built bear-like animal with a striking black-and-white colour pattern.
Size:	Head – body length: up to 160 cm, tail: 12 to 16 cm, height at shoulder 65 to 75 cm.
Body weight:	75 - 130 kg (Berlin Zoo: male 117 kg, female 85 kg).
Head:	Massive, with a heavy muzzle and broad, whiskered cheeks. The rounded ears and a patch around each eye black. Nose pad black.
Legs:	Plantigrade. Five toes on each foot. Soles of the fore and hind feet with a mat of long hair (as in the polar bear). The pad on the sole of each forepaw has an accessory lobe.
Coat:	Harsh, long and dense. The eye patches, ears, throat, legs and a band across the shoulders are black, the remainder of the body is whitish. The black often has a brownish tinge, and the white becomes soiled in an old coat. Sometimes the white parts are washed with brownish or reddish.
Tail:	Darker than body and usually black-tipped. Long.
Sexual dimorphism:	The females are about 20 % lighter than the males, otherwise the sexes are alike.
Juvenile:	Weight at birth about 2 kg. The cubs gain 2.5 kg per month during the first year of their lives. Pattern as in the adult.



Distribution: PR China, today restricted to some mountain areas in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces.



Population:

Wild population: Probably less than 1,000.

Captive population: The International Zoo Yearbook reports 12 Giant Pandas kept in 7 collections outside the People's Republic of China (year 1981). In China some 40 specimens are kept in zoos.

Trade: Legal international trade is restricted to live specimens which are donated to foreign states by the Chinese government. Some skins obtained long time ago have been illegally exported (prior to CITES listing).

Intraspecific variation: None.

Taxonomy: The views on the taxonomic position of *Ailuropoda* are controversial: Family Ursidae ("Mammal species of the World", ISIS Taxonomic Directory, Davis 1904, Walker 1968). Monotypic family Ailuropodidae (Thenius, 1979). Family Ailuropodidae, together with *Ailurus* (Pocock 1921, Corbet and Hill 1980). Family Ailuridae (Thenius 1969, Poglayen-Neuwall in Grzimek's Tierleben 1970). Subfamily Ailurinae of Procyonidae (Simpson 1945, Sanderson 1959).

Similar species: None.

Bibliography: Alien, G.A. (1938) The Mammals of China and Mongolia. New York.
Claude, C. (1971) Bambusbären (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca* DAVID, 1869) aus der Stötznerschen Expedition 1913/15 in Schweizer Museen. Vierteljahresschrift der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zürich 116, 433-443.
Schaller, G.B. (1981) Pandas in the Wild. Nat. Geogr. 160, 735-749.
Walker, E.P. *et al.* (1975) Mammals of the World. Baltimore.