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Study of bearcat's morphology

Introduction: According to Cosson et al. (2007), 9 subspecies of binturong might exist. Yet those results come essentially from captive data and still need to be confirmed, even if one of the subspecies is now well known and described, *Arctictis binturong whitei*. Furthermore, strong differences in the size, the weight and the fur of the binturongs are often observed in zoological parks. So this studies aims to measure the disparity of captive binturong morphology and to link it to the subspecies in the Bearcat, *Arctictis binturong*.

Goals:

- Evaluate the disparity in captive bearcat body and tail size ;
- Evaluate the disparity in captive bearcat fur ;
- Link this disparity to the age and the sex of individuals ;
- Link those disparities to the lineage of bearcats ;
- Link those disparities to the known subspecies.

Material and methods:

The data will be collected in the institutions across the world. A survey will be send to provide the following information: identification of individuals, subspecies (if known), sex, age, genealogy, total size, size of the body, size of the tail, weight, fur colour and size of hair. The gathered data will be analysed with the help of the software « R » in order to test if there are links between the total size, the weight and the hair size and then to test if the sex, the age, the subspecies and the genealogy have an influence on one of the criteria (total or body size, weight, hair size).

Bibliography:

Cosson, L., Grassman, L.L., Zubaid, A., Vellayan, S., Tillier, A., and Veron, G. (2007). Genetic diversity of captive binturongs (*Arctictis binturong*, Viverridae, Carnivora): implications for conservation. *J. Zool.* 271, 386–395.



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