

Red-flanked Duiker

Cephalophus rufilatus



Class: *Mammalia*

Order: *Artiodactyla*

Family: *Bovidae*

Characteristics:

Red-flanked duikers (pronounced dy-ker) are actually tiny antelopes. They are one of 21 duiker species. Both sexes have horns and live in pairs. Red-flanked duikers have a rounded back, reddish brown body and dark black legs. The head and neck have tufted black hairs that will stand up when the animal is excited.

Behavior:

Duikers are quite solitary, territorial and males are combative with other males. Red-flanked duikers are diurnal, meaning active during the day. They are a shy and elusive antelope that live in savannah woodlands and mark their territories with scent glands near their eyes and within their hooves. Scent marking seems a strong trait in this animal. They spend their days hiding under fallen trees trunks or under bushes, rarely leave the protection of forest cover, and usually will remain near water sources.

Reproduction:

Red-flanked duikers reach sexual maturity at around nine months, but because of the time it takes to find a mate and develop a relationship they usually breed first around two years old. Males will display to find a mate by curling their lip, strutting diagonally and grooming. Females are only in heat for 12-24 hours. Their gestation period is 32-35 weeks and often only have one young.

Diet:

Wild: fallen fruits, seeds, flowers, leaves and branches, fungi and shoots. They have even been seen occasionally eating a small bird or mammal.
Zoo: Herbivore pellets, carrot, sweet potato, greens and hay

Conservation:

While their populations appear to be steady, they do rely on healthy, non-fragmented forests. They are one of the primary targets of bushmeat trade and sought out by trophy hunters.

FYI:

The name duiker means "diving buck" referring to their quick leaps into dense cover when surprised.



Range & Habitat:

Savannah woodlands of west and central Africa



Lifespan: up to 15 years in captivity, 5-7 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Info.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

