

# Fossili

## Panthera fossilis

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Panthera fossilis (also known as Panthera leo fossilis or Panthera spelaea fossilis) is an extinct species of cat belonging to the genus Panthera, known from remains found in Eurasia spanning the Middle Pleistocene and possibly into the Early Pleistocene.

Although often historically considered a subspecies of the living lion (Panthera leo), Panthera fossilis is currently considered either a distinct species to be ancestral to or a chronosubspecies of Panthera spelaea (commonly known as the cave lion or steppe lion). In comparison to Late Pleistocene Panthera spelaea specimens, Panthera fossilis tends to be considerably larger, up to 400–500 kilograms (880–1,100 lb), considerably exceeding modern lions in size, and making them among the largest cats to have ever lived, along with the South American sabertooth Smilodon populator.

## Misgurnus fossilis

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The weatherfish (Misgurnus fossilis) is a species of true loach that has a wide range in Europe and some parts of Asia. It is an omnivorous scavenger bottom feeder, using its sensitive barbels to find edible items. The diet mostly consists of small aquatic invertebrates along with some detritus. The weatherfish is long and thin which allows it to burrow through the substrate and navigate through places that deeper bodied fish would have trouble with. It grows up to 30 cm (12 in) in total length, though there are fishermen who say they have caught longer, up to 45 cm (17.7 in). If true, this would make Misgurnus fossilis the largest species of true loach.

This loach has a very wide range, especially in Europe. It occurs north of the Alps, from the Meuse River in western Europe all the way to the Neva River in northwestern Russia. It also occurs in the northern part of the Black Sea basin from the Danube River to the Kuban River, and in the Caspian Sea in the River Volga and River Ural drainages. It is also introduced in a few different areas, but not to the extent of the pond loach (Misgurnus anguillicaudatus).

Adult weatherfish live in dense patches of aquatic vegetation while juveniles prefer to live near the shoreline in very shallow water where there is a lot of detritus; neither adults nor juveniles are found in open areas without vegetation. Because of their habitat preferences, dredging and aquatic weed removal poses a danger to weatherfish populations. The weatherfish is listed as least concern but is protected in most of its range. They are able to survive in habitats that many other fish would be unable to because of their ability to breathe atmospheric oxygen. In low oxygen conditions, the weatherfish will swim to the surface and gulp air. The air then goes through the intestines where a complex system of blood vessels extracts the oxygen, before expelling the air from the anus.

## Heteropneustes fossilis

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*Heteropneustes fossilis*, also known as Asian stinging catfish or fossil cat, is a species of air sac catfish found in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, and Bhutan. It has also been introduced to the Tigris River Basin in western Iran.

### Steppe brown bear

*The steppe brown bear (Ursus arctos priscus) is a disputed extinct subspecies of brown bear that lived in Eurasia during either the Pleistocene or the*

The steppe brown bear (*Ursus arctos priscus*) is a disputed extinct subspecies of brown bear that lived in Eurasia during either the Pleistocene or the early Holocene epochs, but its geological age is uncertain. Fossils of the bear have been found in various caves in Slovakia, particularly those of Vazec, Vyvieranie, Lisková, Kupcovie Izbička, and Okno. Other authors have argued that the subspecies should be rendered invalid, as its geological age is unclear and "its skull is identical to modern *U. arctos*."

### Andean condor

*Vultur condor Shaw, 1809 Sarcorhamphus aequatorialis Sharpe, 1874 Vultur fossilis Moreno & Mercerat, 1891 Vultur patruus Lönnberg, 1902 Vultur pratuus Emslie*

The Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*) is a South American New World vulture and is the only member of the genus *Vultur*. It is found in the Andes mountains and adjacent Pacific coasts of western South America. With a maximum wingspan of 3.3 m (10 ft 10 in) and weight of 15 kg (33 lb), the Andean condor is one of the largest flying birds in the world, and is generally considered to be the largest bird of prey in the world.

It is a large black vulture with a ruff of white feathers surrounding the base of the neck and, especially in the male, large white patches on the wings. The head and neck are nearly featherless, and are a dull red color, which may flush and therefore change color in response to the bird's emotional state. In the male, there is a wattle on the neck and a large, dark red comb or caruncle on the crown of the head. The female condor is smaller than the male, an exception to the usual sexual dimorphism seen in birds of prey.

The condor is primarily a scavenger, feeding on carrion. It prefers large carcasses, such as those of deer or cattle. It reaches sexual maturity at five or six years of age and nests at elevations of up to 5,000 m (16,000 ft), generally on inaccessible rock ledges. One or two eggs are usually laid. It is one of the world's longest-living birds, with a lifespan of over 70 years in some cases.

The Andean condor is a national symbol of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru and plays an important role in the folklore and mythology of the Andean regions. The Andean condor is considered vulnerable by the IUCN. It is threatened by habitat loss and by secondary poisoning from lead in carcasses killed by hunters. Captive breeding programs have been instituted in several countries.

### Sant'Agata Fossili

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Sant'Agata Fossili is a comune (municipality) in the Province of Alessandria in the Italian region Piedmont, located about 100 kilometres (62 mi) southeast of Turin and about 30 kilometres (19 mi) southeast of Alessandria. As of 31 December 2004, it had a population of 425 and an area of 8.0 square kilometres (3.1 sq mi).

Sant'Agata Fossili borders the following municipalities: Carezzano, Cassano Spinola, Castellania Coppi, Sardigliano.

## Rhea fossilis

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Rhea fossilis is an extinct species of bird in the genus Rhea that inhabited the Southern Cone of South America during the Neogene period. Its closest living relatives are the greater rhea and the lesser rhea.

## History of lions in Europe

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The history of lions in Europe is part of the wider history of the lion species complex. The rediscovery and confirmation of their presence in Europe, already known by myths, historical accounts and ancient art, was made possible by the finds of fossils of Pleistocene, Holocene and Ancient lions excavated in Europe since the early 19th century.

The oldest remains of lions in Europe, assigned to the species Panthera fossilis, are over 600,000 years old. This species represents one of the largest known felids to have ever existed; it eventually evolved into the smaller, modern lion-sized cave lion (Panthera spelaea), which is widely depicted in Palaeolithic European cave painting. Remains of P. fossilis and P. spelaea are known from across Europe. Cave lions became extinct around 14,000 years ago at the end of the Pleistocene. During the early-middle Holocene from around 8,000-6,000 years ago, the modern lion colonised Southeast Europe and parts of Central and Eastern Europe, before becoming extinct in Europe likely during classical times or perhaps as late as the Middle Ages.

Lions have appeared in European literature since the times of Ancient Greece, such as in the Iliad, or with the story of the Nemean lion. Ancient Greeks also depicted them in sculpture, such as with the Lion Gate of Mycenae or in the island-sanctuary of Delos, where various sculptures of lions survive to this day.

During the Roman Republic and later Roman Empire, using lions in gladiatorial games and public spectacles was a prized endeavor. North African Barbary lions were imported into Europe during the Middle Ages.

## Panthera spelaea

*lineage (either regarded as the separate species Panthera fossilis or the subspecies P. spelaea fossilis) in Eurasia date to around 700,000 years ago (with possible*

Panthera spelaea, commonly known as the cave lion (or less commonly as the steppe lion), is an extinct Panthera species that was native to Eurasia and northwest North America during the Pleistocene epoch. Genetic analysis of ancient DNA has revealed that while closely related, it was a distinct species genetically isolated from the modern lion (Panthera leo), with the genetic divergence between the two species estimated at around 500,000 years ago.

The earliest fossils of the P. spelaea lineage (either regarded as the separate species Panthera fossilis or the subspecies P. spelaea fossilis) in Eurasia date to around 700,000 years ago (with possible late Early Pleistocene records). It is closely related and probably ancestral to the American lion (Panthera atrox). The species ranged from Western Europe to eastern Beringia in North America, and was a prominent member of the mammoth steppe fauna, and an important apex predator across its range along with other large carnivores like cave hyenas, which cave lions came into conflict with.

It closely resembled living lions with a coat of yellowish-grey fur though unlike extant lions, males appear to have lacked manes. Whether or not cave lions lived in social groups like living lions is uncertain, but they are frequently suggested to have been largely solitary, similar to living tigers.

*Panthera spelaea* interacted with both Neanderthals and modern humans, who used their pelts and in the case of the latter, depicted them in artistic works.

Cave lions became extinct about 13,000 years ago as part of the end-Pleistocene extinction event, the precise cause of which is unknown, though climatic change, changes in prey abundance, and competition with other carnivores and humans have been suggested as possible causal factors.

Dorcopsoides

*Macropodidae* Genus: †*Dorcopsoides* Woodburne, 1967 Type species †*Dorcopsoides fossilis* Woodburne, 1967 Other species †*D. buloloensis* (Plane, 1967) †*D. cowpatensis*

*Dorcopsoides* is a genus of extinct kangaroo from the Late Miocene of Australia and Late Pliocene of Papua New Guinea.

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