A group of Asian small-clawed otters are perched on a stone wall. One otter in the foreground is yawning, showing its teeth. The background is slightly blurred, showing more otters and a natural setting.

# Status of Asian small-clawed otter *Aonyx cinereus* in the wild

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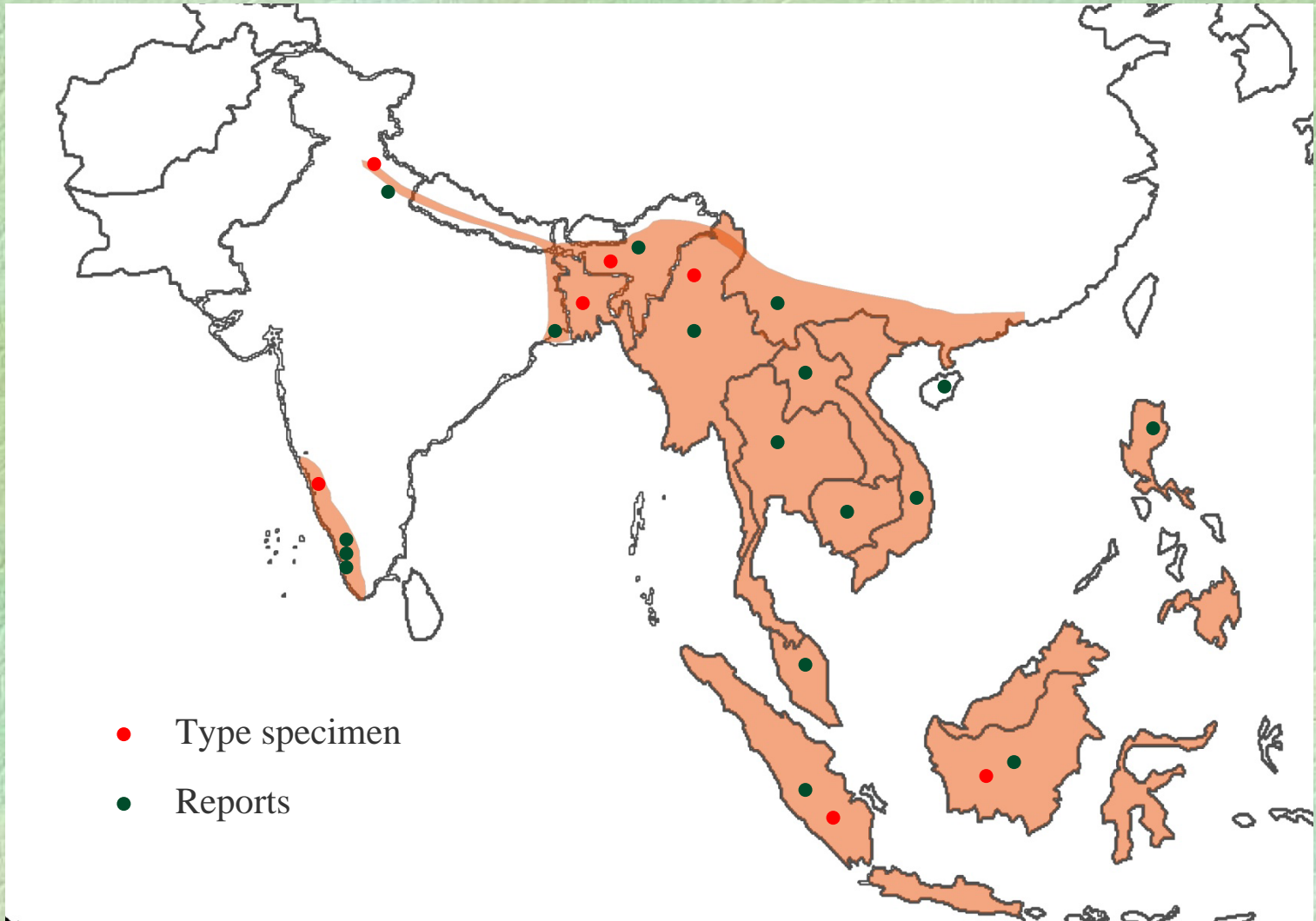
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## Distribution range

- From India, eastward up to Palawan (Philippines) and Taiwan, Southern China in the north.
- Confirmed from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, south China and Hainan Islands, Thailand, Laos PDR, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan and Philippines.
- In recent years, in England it has established itself in the wild after escaping from captivity (Jefferies 1990 & 1991).

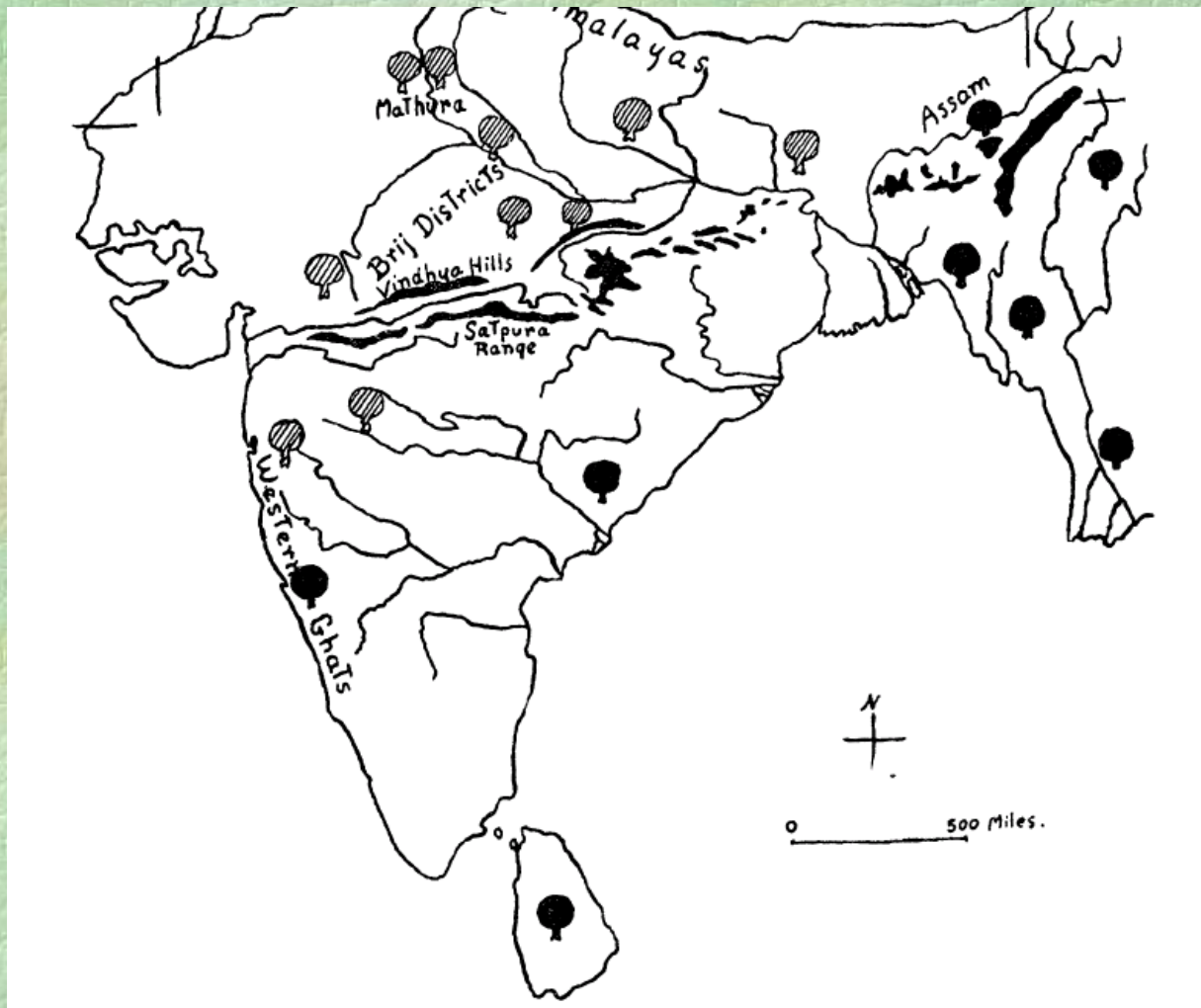
## Subspecies

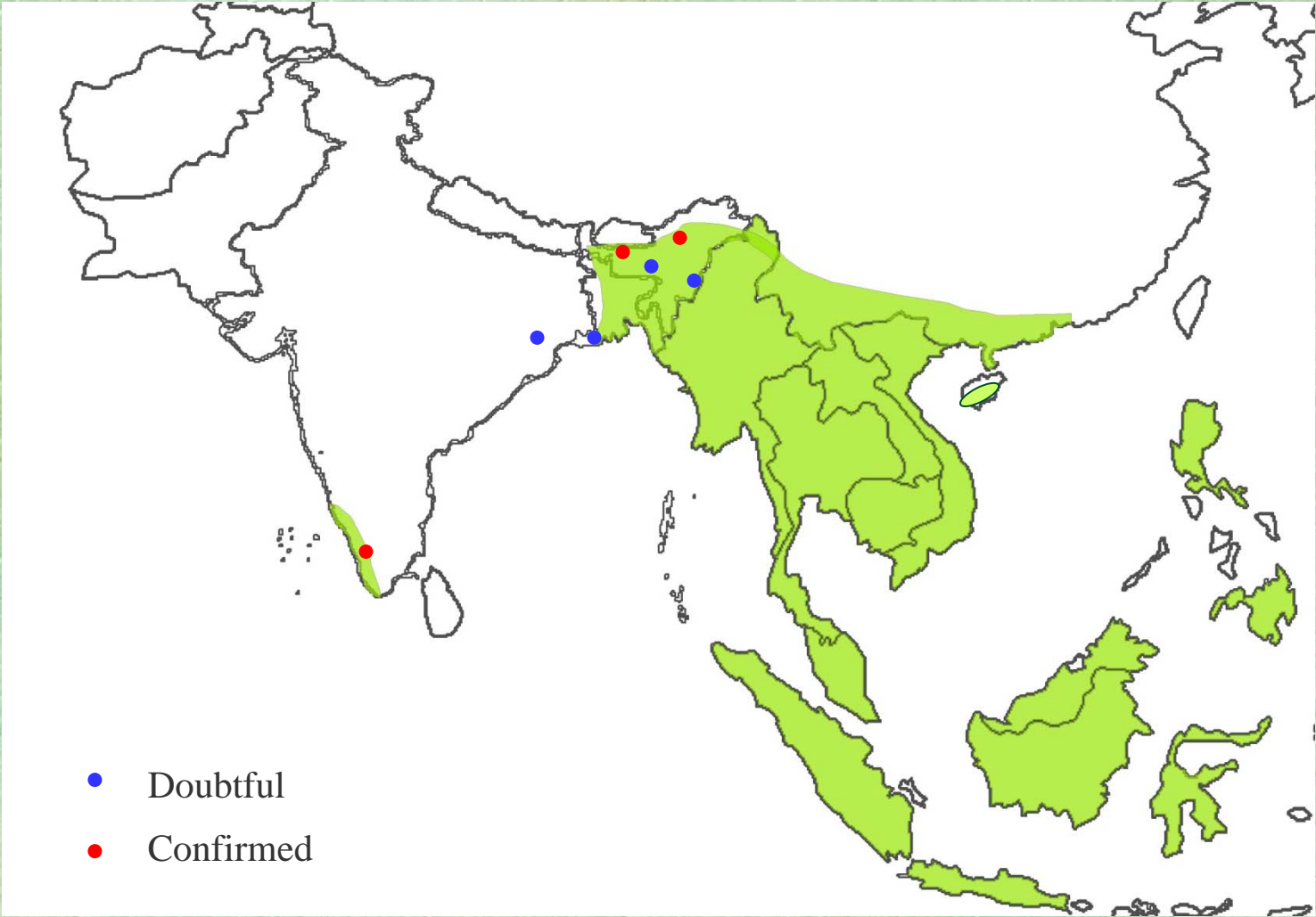
- *Aonyx cinereus concolor* - occurs in Himalayas from Kulu eastward to Assam, Meghalaya and upper Burma, locality type Garo hills of Meghalaya
- *Aonyx cinereus nirnai* - occurs in hill ranges of southern India, locality type Virajpet of south Coorg.





# Possible route of radiation





# Habitat in Southern India





# Habitat in Northeastern India



# Habitat overlaps with *Lutra lutra* in the range



# Current status

Area searched/information collected	Status
<b><i>North India</i></b>	
Corbett Tiger Reserve	<b><i>No records</i></b>
Upper catchemnt of Dehra Dun	<b><i>No records</i></b>
Dudhwa and Katerniaghat WLS	<b><i>No records</i></b>
<b><i>East/Northeast India</i></b>	
Sunderbans	<b><i>Doubtful</i></b>
Similipal Tiger Reserve	<b><i>Doubtful</i></b>
Assam (zoo)	<b><i>Confirmed</i></b>
Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh	<b><i>Confirmed</i></b>
Keibul Lamjao National Park, Manipur	<b><i>Doubtful</i></b>
<b><i>South India</i></b>	
Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala	<b><i>Confirmed</i></b>
Eravikulum National Park, Kerala	<b><i>Confirmed</i></b>
Annamali Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu	<b><i>Confirmed</i></b>

## Conclusion

- Though the species seems to be stable in many parts of its eastern range the Western range is shrinking especially along the foot hills of Himalayas
- Few Protected Areas in the Western Ghats and Northeast India still seems to be holding sizeable population, however their status needs to be ascertained.

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and Tamil Nadu