

Red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*) are native to highland temperate forests of southwestern China, India, Myanmar, and Nepal. They are the sole surviving species of the family Ailuridae of mammalian order Carnivora and not close taxonomically to giant pandas (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*), which are bears (family Ursidae). Red pandas and giant pandas represent separate evolutionary origins of specialized feeding on bamboo within an otherwise primarily carnivorous mammalian order. As in giant pandas, evolutionary modification of a wrist bone serves as a false "thumb" for grasping bamboo. In body size, longevity, and fondness for climbing trees, red pandas resemble domestic cats.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature considers red pandas endangered because their wild habitats and populations are in decline.

