

Animals in danger

Goat Walia Ibex

The **walia ibex** (*Capra walie*, [Ge'ez](#): ዋልያ *wālyā*) is an [endangered](#) species of [ibex](#). It is sometimes considered a [subspecies](#) of the [Alpine ibex](#). Threats against the species include habitat loss, [poaching](#) and restricted range; only about 500 individuals survived in the [mountains of Ethiopia](#), concentrated in the [Semien Mountains](#), largely due to past poaching and habitat depletion. If the population were to increase, the surrounding mountain habitat would be sufficient to sustain only 2,000 ibex. The adult walia ibex's only known wild [predator](#) is the [hyena](#).

However, young ibex are often hunted by a variety of [fox](#) and [cat](#) species. The ibex are members of the goat family, and the walia ibex is the southernmost of today's ibexes. In the late 1990s, the walia ibex went from endangered to critically endangered due to the declining population. The walia ibex is also known as the Abyssinian ibex.



These animals have a chocolate-brown to chestnut-brown coat coloration, greyish-brown muzzle, and a lighter grey in the eyes and legs. The belly and insides of the legs are white, and black and white patterns stretch upon the legs of these animals. The males weigh 80–125 kg (180-280 lb) and have very large **horons** which curve backwards, reaching lengths up to 110 cm (43 in). These horns are used for dominance disputes between males. The males also have distinguished black beards. The length of the walia ibex beard varies with age. The older males have longer, thicker beards than the young ones . Females also have horns, but they are shorter and thinner. Females are smaller and lighter in color. The horns on both males and females are rigid. The overall size of the walia ibex is smaller and slimmer than the alpine ibex.