

# A Pangolin's Plea

by Leong Tzi Ming

My body's armed with scales just like an ancient dragon  
My claws are as sharp and strong as any eagle's talon

My belly is pinkish and sparsely coated with hair  
My young will be raised on milk and motherly care

When moving about, I walk on my knuckles  
I can also climb trees with a tail full of muscles

Living without teeth, I'll never visit the dentist  
A regular diet of termites and ants is what I insist

My long sticky tongue will reach into their nest  
This source of protein is one of nature's best

I live a quiet life and do not emit any call  
If threatened, I simply curl up into a ball

But somehow, this self defence seems never enough  
Just in case I'm cruelly captured and treated rough

By people who hunt me down for medicine or food  
Or others hoping to boost their libido and mood

Please understand that I'm part of native biodiversity  
I'll be most grateful if you can protect me and my family

We're trying to survive in our rainforest home  
We just need our privacy and freedom to roam

Composed: February 2010



Wild Pangolin photographed by Leong Tzi Ming  
in MacRitchie forest (January 2010)