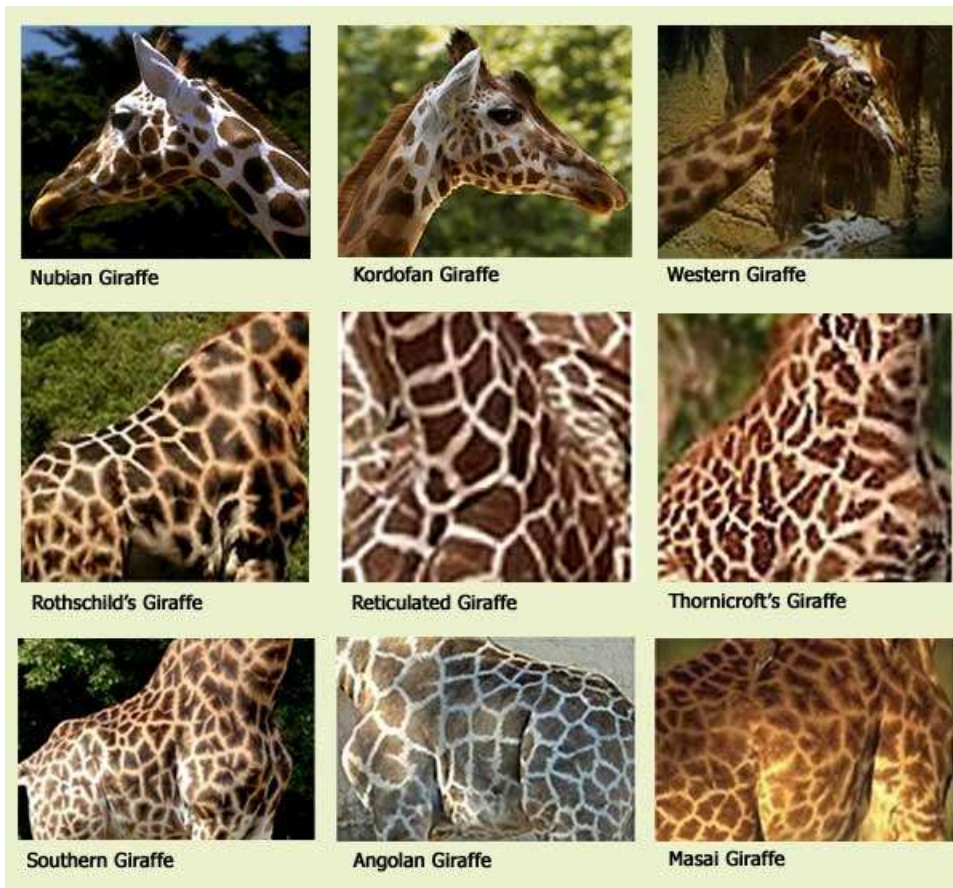




Different authorities recognize different numbers of giraffe subspecies, differentiated by colour and pattern variations and range. Some of these subspecies may prove to in fact be separate species.



- Reticulated or Somali Giraffe (*G.c. reticulata*) — large, polygonal liver-coloured spots outlined by a network of bright white lines. The blocks may sometimes appear deep red and may also cover the legs. Range: northeastern Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia.



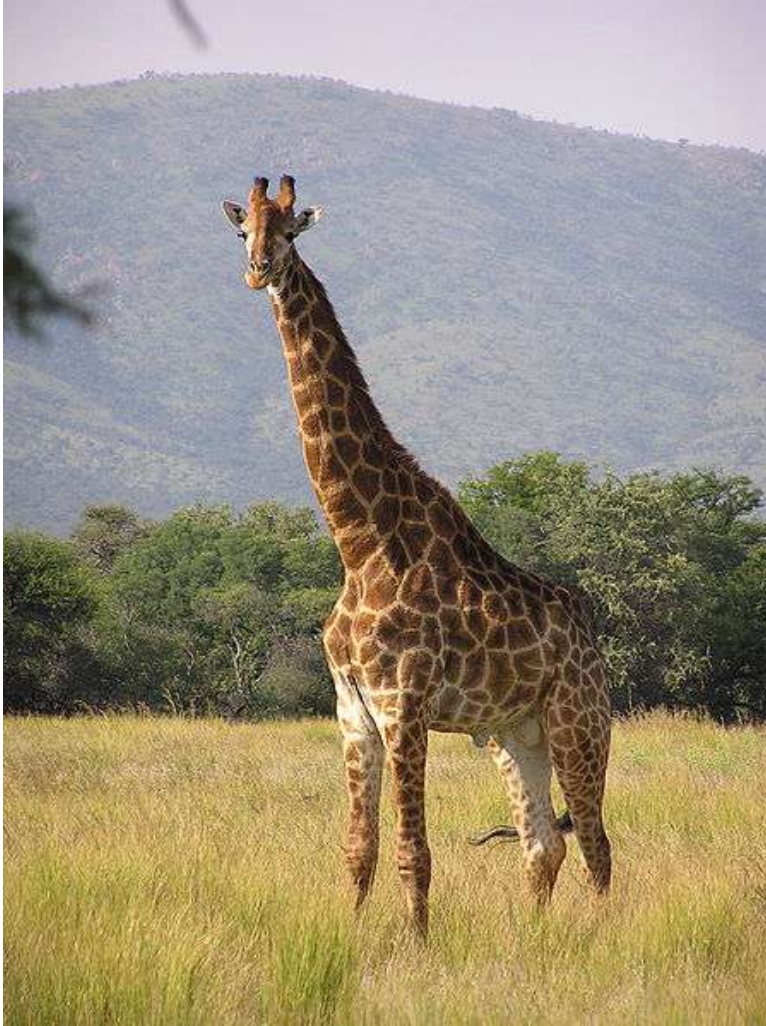
- Angolan or Smoky Giraffe (*G.c. angolensis*) — large spots and some notches around the edges, extending down the entire lower leg. Range: Angola, Zambia.



- Kordofan Giraffe (*G.c. antiquorum*) — smaller, more irregular spots that cover the inner legs.
Range: western and southwestern Sudan.



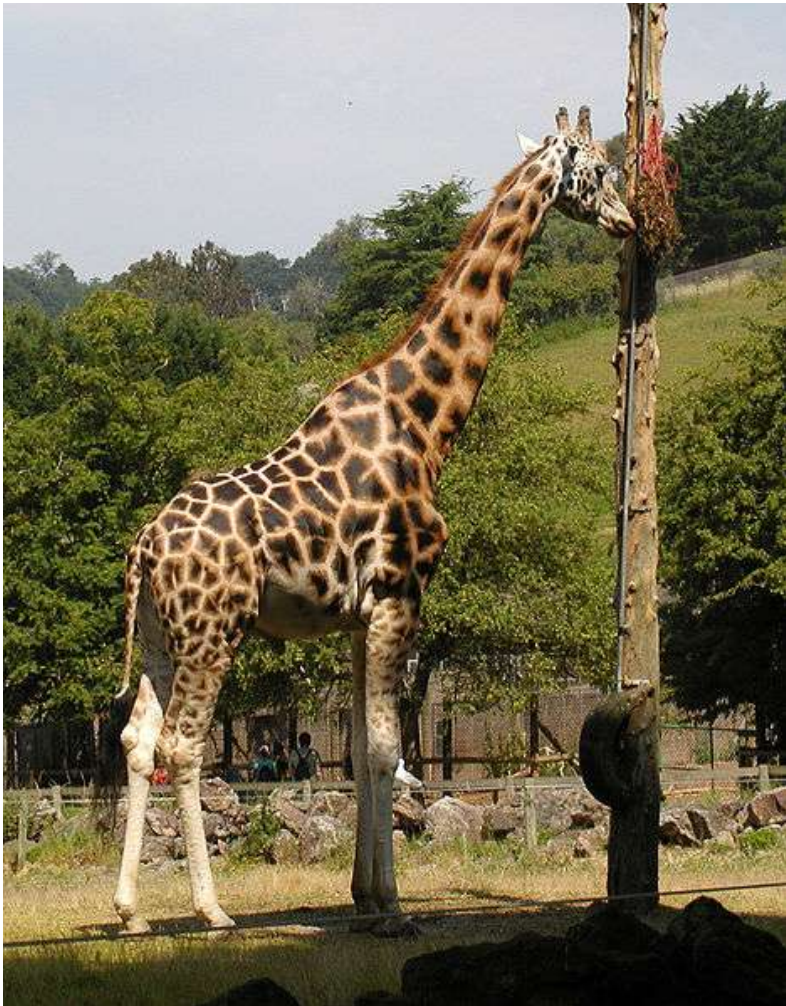
- Masai or Kilimanjaro Giraffe (*G.c. tippelskirchi*) — jagged-edged, vine-leaf shaped spots of dark chocolate on a yellowish background. Range: central and southern Kenya, Tanzania.



- Nubian Giraffe (*G.c. camelopardalis*) — large, four-sided spots of chestnut brown on an off-white background and no spots on inner sides of the legs or below the hocks. Range: eastern Sudan, northeast Congo.



- Rothschild Giraffe or Baringo Giraffe or Ugandan Giraffe (*G.c. rothschildi*) — deep brown, blotched or rectangular spots with poorly defined cream lines. Hocks may be spotted. Range: Uganda, north-central Kenya.



- South African Giraffe (*G.c. giraffa*) — rounded or blotched spots, some with star-like extensions on a light tan background, running down to the hooves. Range: South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique.



- Thornicroft or Rhodesian Giraffe (*G.c. thornicrofti*) — star-shaped or leafy spots extend to the lower leg. Range: eastern Zambia.

(evidently this is a very rare giraffe...NJ)

- West African or Nigerian Giraffe (*G.c. peralta*) — numerous pale, yellowish red spots. Range: Niger, Cameroon.



{ [Wikipedia](#) }

A report in [BMC Biology](#) uses genetic evidence to show that there may be at least six species of giraffe in Africa.

Currently giraffes are considered to represent a single species classified into multiple subspecies.

The study shows geographic variation in hair coat colour is evident across the giraffe's range in sub-Saharan Africa, suggesting reproductive isolation.