

(c) The photograph shows an Amur leopard found in southeastern Russia and northern China.

*In-vitro* fertilisation (IVF) techniques are being developed to help conserve this endangered species of leopard.



(Source: © NaturaLight / Alamy Stock Photo)

These techniques are being developed using mice.

IVF involves the removal of egg cells from the female mice. The zona pellucida can be damaged during this process.

The effect of damaging the zona pellucida was investigated.

Three hundred mouse egg cells were distributed equally in three Petri dishes containing nutrient solutions.

Samples of sperm of different concentrations were added to each Petri dish. The volume of each sample added was the same.

The experiment was repeated for egg cells which had their zona pellucida damaged.

The graph shows the percentage of egg cells fertilised by more than one sperm (percentage polyspermy).