

PYGMY MARMOSET

Description

The Pygmy Marmoset has speckled, tawny fur and a hood of hair on its head. Like other marmosets, the Pygmy Marmoset has claw-like nails that help them to climb. The tail is 17–23 cm long, which is longer than the body, and marked with black rings.

Diet

Pygmy Marmosets are **omnivores**. They gouge 10 or more new holes out of tree bark every day and return to these, and older holes, at different times to collect and eat the gum the tree produces. They also eat flower nectar, fruit, grubs and spiders.

In the wild

They travel in troops of 5–10 and there is one breeding pair per troop. Older offspring usually carry the younger offspring. When they are under attack, the whole group will mob an intruder, loudly vocalising and attacking until it retreats. At other times, they will remain still until the threat has passed.

Predators of Pygmy Marmosets include raptors (birds of prey), small cats and snakes.

Threats

Pygmy Marmosets are at most risk from the loss of their natural rainforest habitat in South America. Threats to this species include logging for the timber industry, land clearing for agriculture and the illegal pet trade.

At Perth Zoo

A family of Pygmy Marmosets is in the **Lesser Primates** area.

Did you know?

The Pygmy Marmoset is the smallest primate in the world. It is so small it fits into a human palm.



Scientific Name

Callithrix pygmaea

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

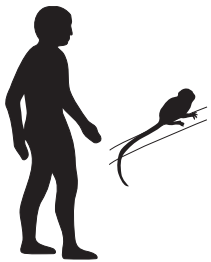
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: 12–15 cm

Weight: 100–125 g

Gestation: 130–140 days

Number of young: 1–3



Distribution ■

Distribution: The Amazon

Habitat: Rainforest

