

Francois Langur

Scientific Name: *Trachypithecus francoisi*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Primates

Family: Cercopithecidae



These monkeys are part of the leaf-eating group of cercopithecines. They have a large stomach in which fibrous leaves can ferment and eventually be digested. They have a white stripe between the corners of the mouth and ear. Some of them have a pale or even golden-yellow color on the crown and neck. Otherwise they are uniformly black but the fur is fine and silky. A characteristic feature is the tuft of erect hairs on the crown. These monkeys have slender bodies, long tails and long slender hands. They are excellent aerialists. These animals are diurnal and spend a good deal of time eating leaves, mostly young ones, and fruit of flowers when available. They can dig up roots including cultivated plants like potatoes. They live in unstructured groups of 20

to 50 individuals with usually twice as many females as males. Many males live solitary lives or enter a group when mature. Babies are bright orange color when born. The color gradually changes to black as the baby grows older. The care of infants is shared by several females, not just the mother. Any lactating female may nurse any baby in the group.

Range

Southeast China to central Laos and Viet Nam

Habitat

Rocky places with trees

Gestation

140 – 220 days

Litter

1

Behavior

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Reproduction

Sexual behavior is initiated by females. If a male ignores her advances she may hit or bite him. The baby is bright orange color when born and this color gradually changes to black as it grows older. The care of infants is shared by several females, not just the mother. Any lactating female may nurse any baby in the group and sometimes females are found carrying as many as three babies, perhaps none hers.

Wild Diet

Leaves, cultivated crops