

Black Headed Spider Monkey

Scientific Name: *Ateles Fusciceps*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Primates

Family: Atelidae



Males on the average weigh between 19 and 20 lbs; and females' average weight is 19 lbs. The black-headed spider monkey is one of the largest of the New World Monkeys. It is found primarily in Central and South America. Black-headed spider monkeys have generally live to about 22 years of age. They are considered critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a result of habitat loss and poaching. The black-headed spider monkey lives in trees, and is most active during the daytime. It moves through trees by climbing and arm swinging.

Range

The Black-headed spider monkey is found in Ecuador, Panama and Columbia.

Habitat

They live primarily in tropical and subtropical humid forests located between 330 and 5,580 feet above sea level.

Gestation

Between 226- 232 days

Litter

1

Behavior

These primates are known to form large fission-fusion groups of 20 to 100 monkeys, composed of multiple males and females. When feeding, these groups split into smaller sub-groups. They communicate through vocalizations such as a high-frequency whinny. When various troops of these primates gather in once place, the animals greet each other by hugging, which helps to avoid undesirable aggression and conflicts.

Reproduction

Females give birth every three years. Females may consort with a male while mating for up to three days, or else mate with several males. Mating occurs with the male and female face to face, and can last for five to 10 minutes. An infant will ride on its mother's back for 16 weeks and then is weaned at 20 months.

Wild Diet

They primarily feed upon ripe fruits and leaves, supplementing their usual diet with occasional nuts, seeds, insects, and eggs.