

Lagothrix lagotricha



Humboldt's woolly monkey

Conservation status



Scientific classification

Domain: Eukaryota
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Primates
Suborder: Haplorhini
Infraorder: Simiiformes
Family: Atelidae
Genus: *Lagothrix*
Species: ***L. lagotricha***

Binomial Name

Lagothrix lagotricha
(Humboldt, 1812)

The Humboldt monkey, choyo monkey, pot-bellied monkey, gray woolly monkey or woolly monkey (*Lagothrix lagotricha*), is a species of platyrrhini primate belonging to the family Atelidae. It is one of the four species of the genus *Lagothrix* (woolly monkeys) and lives mainly in the Amazon, southwestern Colombia, and in small regions north of Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and southern Venezuela.^{74,75}

It is one of the largest species of monkeys, and like the other species of the genus *Lagothrix*, it is characterized by the woolly texture of its fur, which varies from light gray to dark brown, and a very long tail, which functions as a fifth limb during locomotion.

They are social animals that form large groups made up of individuals of all ages. They use a wide range of vocalizations, which they apply to communicate during social interactions. They are diurnal (active during the day), arboreal primates, and they feed particularly on fruits that they find on the branches of trees.⁷⁶

The body length ranges between 45 and 55 cm, the tail is longer than the body and measures between 60 and 65 cm; The weight averages 7 kg, with data of specimens reaching 11.5 kg and even up to 15 kg in captivity.

Diet

Its diet is mainly frugivorous. In a 2006 study, about 83% of the food consisted of fruits and seeds, about 12% of leaves, flowers and buds, and only 5% were invertebrates.⁷⁷ Most of the fruits consumed are little desired by their smaller relatives, mainly due to the hardness of the outer skin, which requires a stronger bite to consume them. Additionally, by making some seeds part of their diet, they are efficient dispersers that contribute to the conservation of the forests where they live.⁷⁸

Behaviour

It is a social species where males and females maintain close relationships with each other. Grooming is not common and when it occurs it involves the mother-child duet. Apparently, the males remain in their natal group for life and it is the females who move to different groups. They exhibit parental care and caring for the infants is the task of all members of the group.⁷⁸

Woolly monkeys are vocal animals that make a wide variety of sounds with different purposes. Among these, a high-intensity cry stands out that allows them to locate distant groups or individuals and a high-frequency, high-pitched screech that they emit when they are attacked, which apparently has a deterrent effect. Within social interactions they emit another series of lower intensity sounds that facilitate these relationships while they feed, play, scold or communicate with infants.⁷⁸

In the IUCN Red List the species is considered vulnerable, as it is thought that there is a decline in the population of at least 30% in three generations (45 years), caused mainly by hunting for its meat and the continued loss of their habitat to clear arable land.⁷⁸

Another threat is pet trafficking, in which the mothers of trapped infants generally die; Over time, they are generally mistreated and abandoned, which usually leads to death in captivity.⁷⁸