

## Bradypus Tridactylus



Pale-throated sloth<sup>23</sup>

### Conservation status



### Scientific classification

Domain: Eukaryota  
Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Pilosa  
Family: Bradypodidae  
Genus: Bradypus  
Species: *B. tridactylus*

### Binomial Name

**Bradypus tridactylus**

(Linnaeus, 1758)

*Bradypus tridactylus* Linnaeus, is commonly called the pale-throated sloth. Males have a middorsal speculum. *B. tridactylus* is endemic to rain forests of northeastern South America. Like other sloths, *B. tridactylus* is a high-canopy folivore. It is listed as “Least Concern” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources because of its distribution in pristine areas of the Amazon Basin. It does not adapt to zoo settings.<sup>24</sup>

Adults are blackish with close, large, black spots on shoulders, back, and haunches. They also have a yellow head and throat. Males have a dorsal orange-yellow patch with a broad, tapering, black central streak and a black spot. Juveniles are grayer than adults.

### Habits

Pale-throated sloths are solitary, herbivorous animals that spend almost their entire lives in trees. Depending on habitat, population densities of anything from 1.7 to 221 per square kilometre (4.4 to 572.4/sq mi) have been reported. They eat only leaves, twigs, and buds of the trees of *Cecropia*, *Ceiba*, *Elizabetha*, and *Hevea*. Its known predators include jaguars, margays, harpy eagles, and anacondas.<sup>25</sup>

*Bradypus tridactylus* is not active; The preferred sleeping posture is to sit on the horizontal branch, hold the vertical stem with the rear limbs, curl the head and neck flat on the breast, and curl both forelimbs around the head and body. It readily swims, with propulsion coming mainly from the forefeet. When swimming, three-fourths of its head and much of its dorsum are out of the water. When foraging, *B. tridactylus* suspends itself beneath branches hanging by its claws.<sup>24</sup>