


Tamarin

Tamarins ^{[1] [2]}	
	
Emperor Tamarin, a New World monkey	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Primates
Family:	Callitrichidae
Genus:	<i>Saguinus</i> Hoffmannsegg, 1807
Type species	
<i>Saguinus ursula</i> Hoffmannsegg, 1807 = <i>Simia midas</i> Linnaeus, 1758	
Species	
17 species, see text	
Synonyms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hapanella</i> Gray, 1870 • <i>Leontocebus</i> Wagner, 1840 • <i>Marikina</i> Lesson, 1840 • <i>Midas</i> E. Geoffroy, 1812 • <i>Mystax</i> Gray, 1870 • <i>Oedipomidus</i> Reichenbach, 1862 • <i>Oedipus</i> Lesson, 1840 • <i>Seniocebus</i> Gray, 1870 • <i>Tamarin</i> Gray, 1870 • <i>Tamarinus</i> Trouessart, 1904 	

The **tamarins** are squirrel-sized New World monkeys from the family Callitrichidae in the genus *Saguinus*. They are closely related to the lion tamarins in the genus *Leontopithecus*.

Range

Tamarins range from southern Central America through central South America, where they are found in the Amazon basin and north Bolivia but not in mountainous regions.

Description

Different tamarin species vary considerably in appearance, ranging from nearly all black through mixtures of black, brown and white. Mustache-like facial hairs are typical for many species. Their body size ranges from 13 to 30 cm (plus a 25 to 44 cm long tail) and they weigh from 220 to 900 grams. Tamarins differ from marmosets primarily in having lower canine teeth that are clearly longer than the incisors. In captivity, tamarins can live for up to 18 years.

Behavior and Reproduction

Tamarins are inhabitants of tropical rainforests and open forest areas. They are diurnal and arboreal, and run and jump quickly through the trees. Tamarins live together in groups of up to 40 members consisting of one or more families. More frequently, though, groups are composed of just three to nine members.

Tamarins are omnivores, eating fruits and other plant parts as well as spiders, insects, small vertebrates and bird eggs.

Gestation is typically 140 days, and births are normally twins. The father primarily cares for the young, bringing them to their mother to nurse. After approximately one month the young begin to eat solid food, although they aren't fully weaned for another two to three months. They reach full maturity in their second year. Tamarins are also known to be monogamous.

References

- [1] Groves, C. (2005). Wilson, D. E., & Reeder, D. M, eds. ed. *Mammal Species of the World* (<http://www.bucknell.edu/msw3>) (3rd ed.). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. pp. 133-136. OCLC 62265494. ISBN 0-801-88221-4. .
- [2] Rylands AB and Mittermeier RA (2009). "The Diversity of the New World Primates (Platyrrhini)". In Garber PA, Estrada A, Bicca-Marques JC, Heymann EW, Strier KB. *South American Primates: Comparative Perspectives in the Study of Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation*. Springer. pp. 23–54. ISBN 978-0-387-78704-6.

External links

- Primate Info Net *Saguinus* Factsheets (<http://pin.primate.wisc.edu/factsheets/links/saguinus>)

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