

## = Bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum =

The bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum ( *Caluromys philander* ) is an opossum from South America . It was first described by Swedish zoologist Carl Linnaeus in 1758 . The bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum is characterized by a gray head , brown to gray coat , orange to gray underside and a partially naked tail . It is nocturnal ( active mainly at night ) and solitary ; there is hardly any social interaction except between mother and juveniles and in mating pairs . The opossum constructs nests in tree cavities , and its litter size ranges from one to seven . Gestation lasts 25 days , and the juveniles exit the pouch after three months ; weaning occurs a month later . The bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum inhabits subtropical forests , rainforests , secondary forests and plantations ; its range extends from northern Venezuela to northeastern and southcentral Brazil . The IUCN classifies this opossum as least concern .

## = = Taxonomy = =

The bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum is one of the three members of *Caluromys* , and is placed in the family Didelphidae in the marsupial order Didelphimorphia . It was first described by Swedish zoologist Carl Linnaeus as *Didelphis philander* in the 10th edition of *Systema Naturae* ( 1758 ) . It was given its present binomial name , *Caluromys philander* , by American zoologist Joel Asaph Allen in 1900 . A 1955 revision of marsupial phylogeny grouped *Caluromys* , *Caluromyslops* , *Dromiciops* ( monito del monte ) and *Glironia* ( bushy @-@ tailed opossum ) under a single subfamily , Microbiotheriinae , noting the dental similarities among these . A 1977 study argued that these similarities are the result of convergent evolution , and placed *Caluromys* , *Caluromyslops* and *Glironia* in a new subfamily , *Caluromyinae* . In another similar revision in 2009 , the bushy @-@ tailed opossum was placed in its own subfamily , *Glironiinae* .

The following four subspecies are recognized :

*C. p. affinis* Wagner , 1842 : Occurs in Mato Grosso ( Brazil ) and Bolivia .

*C. p. dichurus* Wagner , 1842 : Occurs in eastern and southeastern Brazil .

*C. p. philander* Linnaeus , 1758 : Occurs to the east of Rio Negro in Brazil , the Guianas , and to the south of the Orinoco River in Venezuela .

*C. p. trinitatis* Thomas , 1894 : Occurs in Trinidad and to the north of the Orinoco River in Venezuela .

The cladogram below , based on a 2016 study , shows the phylogenetic relationships of the bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum .

## = = Description = =

The bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum is characterized by a brown to gray coat , gray head , orange to gray underside and a partially naked tail furry at the base . A distinctive , narrow dark brown stripe runs between the eyes and the ears , from the tip of the nose to the back of the ears . Similar but broad streaks run from brown rings around either eye . Grayish fur separates these stripes from one another . Ears are large and almost always hairless . The coat is thick , soft and woolly ; the flanks may be grayer than the back . The dorsal hairs continue up to 5 ? 7 centimetres ( 2 @.@ 0 ? 2 @.@ 8 in ) onto the tail , after which it is naked , as the name suggests . The tail is dark brown towards the end , spotted with white and dark brown , terminating in a white or yellowish white tip .

The size appears to decrease from Venezuela to Suriname ; the mean weight is 170 grams ( 6 @.@ 0 oz ) in Venezuela and 250 grams ( 8 @.@ 8 oz ) in Suriname . The head @-@ and @-@ body length is typically between 16 and 26 centimetres ( 6 @.@ 3 and 10 @.@ 2 in ) . The ears measure 3 to 3 @.@ 5 centimetres ( 1 @.@ 2 to 1 @.@ 4 in ) , the tail 25 to 36 centimetres ( 9 @.@ 8 to 14 @.@ 2 in ) and the hind feet 3 @.@ 2 to 3 @.@ 9 centimetres ( 1 @.@ 3 to 1 @.@ 5 in ) . The dental formula is 5 @.@ 1 @.@ 3 @.@ 44 @.@ 1 @.@ 3 @.@ 4 ? typical of didelphids .

## = = Ecology and behavior = =

The bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum is nocturnal ( active mainly at night ) , and thus difficult to observe or capture . Nevertheless , it is one of the very few opossums that have been successfully studied in detail . A study showed that activity of bare @-@ tailed woolly opossums can be affected by the extent of moonlight . While activity in males dropped from new moon to full moon ( that is , with increasing exposure to moonlight ) , activity in females remained largely unaffected . The opossum is arboreal ( tree @-@ living ) and a good climber . A study showed that the tail , being prehensile , can act as an additional limb for locomotion , avoiding falls and carrying leaves to build nests . It builds nests with dry leaves in tree cavities .

Individuals tend to be aggressive to one another ; hisses , grunts and even distress calls accompany agonistic behavior . Largely solitary , the only interactions observed are between mother and juveniles and in a mating pair . In a primary forest of French Guiana , the mean home range size was calculated as 3 hectares ( 0 @.@ 012 sq mi ) . Ranges of both sexes overlapped extensively . The size of home ranges is influenced by environmental factors such as forage availability and individual needs . ' Click 's are a common vocalization , produced by the young as well as adults . Bare @-@ tailed woolly opossums , like other Caluromys species , will bite on being handled or to escape predators . Predators include the jaguarundi and margay .

#### = = = Diet = = =

An omnivore , the bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum feeds on fruits , vegetables , gum , nectar , small birds and reptiles . A study of the foraging behavior of the bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum and the sympatric kinkajou showed that both feed on a variety of plants , choose plants by their abundance , show similar preferences , and favor certain plant parts at certain times of the year . A notable difference between the two was that while the kinkajou focused on plants with a wide distribution , the bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum also fed on less common plants .

#### = = = Reproduction = = =

In French Guiana , females mate successfully after they are a year old . Females can have three litters a year , unless food is scarce . Gestation lasts 25 days ? the longest among didelphomorphs ; the young come out of the pouch at three months and weaning occurs at four months . A study in French Guiana showed that development of the offspring is slow for the first 40 days , and then accelerates during the last 40 days . The litter size ranges from one to seven . Newborn weigh 200 milligrams ( 0 @.@ 0071 oz ) , and their weight increases to 11 grams ( 0 @.@ 39 oz ) after weaning . After exiting the pouch , offspring are sheltered in nests , where the mother regularly visits them for nursing .

#### = = Distribution and status = =

The bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum inhabits subtropical forests , rainforests , secondary forests and plantations ; it prefers dense cover , though it can be seen on canopies as well . It can occur up to an altitude of 1 @,@ 200 ? 1 @,@ 800 metres ( 3 @,@ 900 ? 5 @,@ 900 ft ) above the sea level . The range extends from northern Venezuela eastward to northeastern and southcentral Brazil , and includes Guiana , French Guiana , Margarita Island , Trinidad , and Suriname . The IUCN classifies the bare @-@ tailed woolly opossum as least concern , due to its wide distribution and presumably large population . The survival of this opossum is threatened by deforestation and habitat loss .