

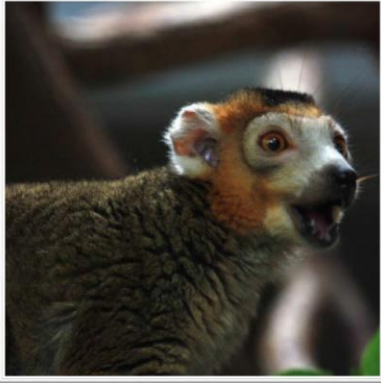
Crowned Lemur

Scientific Name: *Eulemur coronatus*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Primates

Family: Lemuridae



They are described as completely covered in a wooly blanket and their distinguishing feature is a bright orange crescent centered on the forehead and arching back to the ears -- hence, crowned lemur. There is a distinct difference in colors: females have an overall gray color with a dull orange-brown back, while males are orange overall with the back being of a more chocolate hue. Males also have a black center to their crown. Their face is typical of lemurs, round and ending in a short black snout. They have sharp claws on all fingers and toes. The body is about 14 inches long with a tail length of 18 inches and a weight of about 6 pounds.

Range

Extreme northern Madagascar

Habitat

From moist to dry tropical forest, ranging sea level up to 1400 meters

Gestation

4.5 months

Litter

Usually one, occasionally twins

Behavior

These mostly diurnal primates tend to be social, living in groups ranging in size from 5 to 15 individuals, with an average group size of 5 or 6. Crowned lemur groups usually contain several adults of both sexes. It has been suggested that group size decreases in more humid environments. Foraging often takes place within subgroups of the larger group, and special vocalizations may be used to maintain contact between different subgroups.

Reproduction

Mating of crowned lemurs occur in late May and June, resulting in births between mid-September and October. Earlier births coincide with the first rainfalls. Early births also tend to occur in nutritionally richer, wetter areas. Conversely, later births seem to occur in drier forests where fruit availability is low.

Wild Diet

Primarily fruits, supplemented by leaves and flowers and the occasional insect