



# FRANÇOIS' LEAF MONKEY

PRIMATA

Family: Cercopithecidae

Genus: *Trachypithecus*

Species: *françoisi*



**Range:** southern Guangxi province in China, northern Vietnam east of the Mekong River, and west-central Laos

**Habitat:** Moist forests and well-sheltered rocky areas in the limestone hills and caves of undisturbed China and Vietnam.

**Niche:** diurnal, terrestrial, omnivorous

**Wild diet:** leaves, young and mature. Fruit, buds, flowers, seeds, stems, bark and insects

**Zoo diet:** bread, fruits, raw potatoes, lettuce, peanuts & vitamin supplements

**Life Span:** (Wild) ~ 20

(Captivity) 26.30 years

**Sexual dimorphism:** M is longer and heavier with longer tails

**Location in SF Zoo:** Primate Discovery Center

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## APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

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François Langur is one of several species of leaf monkeys. Its body is slim, with a small head, slender extremities and long tail. Pelage varies from uniformly brown to jet-black. They have a characteristic white stripe running from the corner of the mouth to the ear and a black crest atop the head. Hands and feet have nails and the tail tip is white. Faces are usually dark and without hair, and their muzzles are short. They have prominent brow ridges resembling raised eyebrows. Forelegs are much shorter than hind legs with hairless hands and feet that allow easy grasping of branches. Thumbs are well-developed, opposable but shortened.

Langurs lack cheek pouches but have enlarged salivary glands and a sacculated two-chambered stomach with special bacteria to help them digest leaves. As leaf eating monkeys, long periods of rest are required for the long digestive process. The buttocks of this tree-dwelling species have thickened pads, ischial callosities, which are separate in females and united as one in males.

<b>Weight:</b>	M 20 lbs F 13.2 lbs
<b>HRL:</b>	16 - 30 in
<b>TL:</b>	32-35 in

Young langurs display bright orange coloring, an adaptation that scientists believe may encourage females in the group to offer care. Young will gain their black coloring with a year.

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## STATUS & CONSERVATION

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Francois' langur is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and listed on Appendix II of CITES. Populations of Francois' langurs have diminished as a result of major changes in land use. In particular, an increase in agricultural land and logging for both timber and fuel wood has reduced the area available to this species. It has also been extensively hunted for food and for use in traditional "medicinal" preparations. Part of the range of Francois' langur was heavily bombed during the Vietnam War, killing individuals as well as damaging and defoliating their habitat.

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## COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

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One male leads a family group of 3 - 12 individuals, including 4 - 6 females and several young. Family groups sleep outside in mild weather and in caves during cold winters. Members spend most of their time in the trees, although animals will travel on the ground between food trees, despite the increased risk of predation.

They are extremely agile, adept at jumping more than 10 meters from tree to tree. Vocalization and visual displays have been observed in other members of the genus; however, little is known about the communication of this primate though it is reasonable to assume that, as in other primates, visual, tactical, acoustic, and chemical communication are all used. Kinship plays an important role in dominance with higher ranking mothers transmitting this rank to their female offspring. Territory covers 250-1250 acres. It gets moisture by drinking dew on leaves.

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## COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

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Mating occurs throughout the year, peaking in autumn and winter. The frequency of breeding is unknown. A female delivers a single offspring once annually. The young are born fully furred and are fairly active.

The whole body of baby monkey is milky yellow, with golden yellow head and black tail. After about 30 days, the whole body turns black, but the head is still golden yellow. The infant may nurse for up to two years, but once weaned, it ceases to have contact with its mother. Females become sexually mature at 3-4 years and males at four years of age. Physical growth is not complete until 6-7 years, however.

Estrus: polyestrous, men. 24 days	Sexual Maturity: M 5 yrs / F 4 yrs
Gestation: 196 days (6-7 months)	Weaning Age: up to 2 years
# of Mammae: 1 pr	Weight at birth: 16.9 oz
# of Young: 1 rarely 2	

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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There are six or seven subspecies within the *francoisi* group, all may be distinct species.

White-side burned black leaf monkey, Francois Langur and Francois's black leaf monkey are other names for this animal.

### Sources:

**Last Revision: 9/93**

**Present Revision: 3/08**

Brainard, ed 1983 / MacDonald, 1984

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