

# Eastern Black-and-white Colobus (Guereza)

*Colobus guereza*



**Class:** *Mammalia*

**Order:** *Primates*

**Family:** *Cercopithecidae*

**Characteristics:** The eastern black-and-white colobus is a large monkey with long black fur and a u-shaped portion on the sides and back of long, white fur. Their body size ranges from 17 to 28 inches tall. The tail is also long and white. The tail is longer than the head and body combined at a length of 20-40 inches. ([Primate Info Net](#)) The monkey's face has a white ring around the eyebrows, chin, and cheeks. These colobus monkeys weigh 11-31 pounds and are one of the larger monkeys found in the range. The males weigh up to 1.19 times more than the females of the species. ([Animal Diversity](#)) This colobus monkey has a long thin nose and slightly drooped eyes which some people think give them a sad appearance.

**Behavior:** Guereza colobus monkeys live in small groups of 3-15 individuals. The group is normally one male and several females and juveniles. The eastern black-and-white colobus is most active during the day and sleeps during the night. While awake, they are feeding, socializing, and moving about in the canopy. ([Minnesota Zoo](#)) These monkeys communicate mostly through vocalizations between males of different groups. ([Arkive](#))

**Reproduction:** Females of the species reach sexual maturity at 4 years of age, while males reach maturity at 6 years of age. The female will initiate sexual behavior with tongue smacking. The female can produce one young every 20 months. There is a 6-month gestation period for each young. At birth, the infant immediately grasps to the mother's stomach.

([Encyclopedia of Life](#)) The infants are completely white in color with pink faces as opposed to the black with white of the parents. ([Hogle Zoo](#))

**Diet:** Wild: Primarily leaves and fruit. They get almost their entire water supply from dew and moisture of their diet, and water held in tree cavities. Zoo: Greens, leaf eater biscuits, vegetables, and fruits

**Conservation:** This species is listed by [IUCN Redlist](#) as least concern. Not much is known about population trends for the Colobus guereza, but the species is locally threatened in parts of its range. Major threats to the population include habitat loss and hunting. The Eastern Black-and-white Colobus is an SSP species.

## **FYI:**

Natural predators of these large monkeys are crowned hawk eagles, leopards, and chimpanzees.



## **Range & Habitat:**

The guereza has a central African distribution, extending from Nigeria, Cameroon and Gabon, across to Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. They prefer forested habitats in a variety of climates.



**Lifespan:** up to 35 years in captivity, 20 years in the wild.

**Special Adaptations:** This monkey has adapted to have no thumb. The guereza has only four digits to easily swing on branches.

## **IUCN Conservation Status:**

Least Concern

