

# De Brazza's Monkey

*Cercopithecus neglectus*



**Class:** *Mammalia*

**Order:** *Primates*

**Family:** *Cercopithecidae*

**Characteristics:** De Brazza's monkeys are gray with black extremities and tail. They have a round head, with a long white beard, white muzzle, and a distinct orange crown. The thighs and rumps have white stripes. Legs are long, and the tail is non-prehensile. ([Arkive](#)) Male De Brazza's monkeys have a distinct blue scrotum. These monkeys are **sexually dimorphic** in size with the females weighing about 7 pounds less than the males. Males of the species weigh around 15 pounds. They range in size from 15-25 inches in length. ([Animal Diversity](#))

**Behavior:** These monkeys are known to be shy and inconspicuous. De Brazza's monkeys live in trees, but are commonly found in the **understory** near the ground rather than up in the canopy. They live in **polygynous** family groups of 8-10 individuals, but in some cases may live in smaller **monogamous** families. De Brazza's monkeys communicate through visual and **vocal signals** and mark their territory with saliva and scent markings and will protect their territory aggressively against other monkey species. ([Encyclopedia of Life](#))

**Reproduction:** De Brazza's monkeys reach sexual maturity at 5-6 years old. There is a gestation period of 5-6 months. ([Lincoln Park Zoo](#)) The female will give birth at night to a single offspring. Twins are rare in the species. The infant will immediately cling to the mother after birth. ([Oregon Zoo](#)) The young are fully dependent on the mother for one year after birth.

## **Diet:**

Wild: fruit, leaves, flowers, mushrooms, beetles, termites, and worms  
Zoo: Leaf eater biscuit, eggs, fruits, greens, and vegetables

**Conservation:** De Brazza's monkey is listed as least concern by [IUCN Redlist](#). They are the most widespread forest monkey in Africa. There are some localized declines taking place across the range through deforestation of habitat for agricultural land and timber. It is also hunted for meat and as an agricultural pest. De Brazza's monkeys are an SSP species in breeding facilities throughout the country.

**FYI:** Named for Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza, an Italian explorer originally named Pietro Savorgnan di Brazza. The word guenon is French for "fright," referring to their tooth-baring grimace made when angry or excited.



## **Range & Habitat:**

Forested regions close to rivers and waterways, including dense swamp forest, lowland tropical forest, and low mountain forest.



**Lifespan:** up to 30 years in captivity, 20 years in the wild.

**Special Adaptations:** De Brazza's monkeys freeze as a defense mechanism. They also have cheek pouches which allows them to store food while foraging and eat it later.

## **IUCN Conservation Status:**

Least Concern

