

## New World Primate Profile

### *Callithrix jacchus*

Common names: marmoset (Indonesia); true marmoset or white-tufted-ear marmoset (Inggris); ouistit (French); penseelaapje (Dutch); sagui-comum or sagui-do-nordeste (Portuguese); marmosett, silkesmarmosett, vit silkesapa, or vitörad silkesapa (Swedish)



Foto Walberto Sinaga

Common marmosets are small-bodied New World monkeys that have a mottled brown, grey, and yellow color with white ear tufts and long, banded tails. Infants are born with a brown and yellow coat and develop the white ear tufts and forehead blaze as they age. Males and females are about the same size, with males measuring, on average, 188 mm (7.40 in) and females having an average height of 185 mm (7.28 in). Males have slightly higher average weights than females at 256 g (9.03 oz) and 236 g (8.32 oz), respectively. The average lifespan of a wild common marmoset is 12 years.

Marmosets are endemic to Brazil. They range in the northeastern and central forests from the Atlantic coast and inland as far west as the Rio Grande and are found in the states of Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceará, and Piauí. Marmosets have been introduced to areas outside of their natural geographic range in Brazil and can be found living within the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, Argentina. These forests of the dry central region of South America are markedly different from the humid rainforests of Amazonia and are relatively more hostile environments with shorter canopies (only 65

to 98 ft). They are also less species-dense and species-rich and have more seasonal fluctuations in temperature and rainfall than the rainforest of Brazil.

The specialized morphological adaptations of common marmosets can be best understood by reviewing their specialized diet and arboreal lifestyle. Marmosets are exudativore-insectivores and their claw-like nails, incisor morphology, and gut specialization reflect this interesting diet. Though all callitrichines feed on plant exudates, marmosets utilize gum, sap, latex, and resin much more than other species. Marmosets also include in their diet fruits, seeds, flowers, fungi, nectar, snails, lizards, tree frogs, bird eggs, nestlings, and infant mammals.

### References

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