

**From: Full text of "The IUCN Mammal Red Data Book. Part 1: threatened mammalian taxa of the Americas and the Australasian zoogeographic region (excluding Cetacea)"**

Downloaded June 2, 2012 from [http://www.archive.org/stream/iucnmammalreddat01thor/iucnmammalreddat01thor\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/iucnmammalreddat01thor/iucnmammalreddat01thor_djvu.txt) Pages 126-130 deal with *Saguinus oedipus*. The text referring to personal observations made in Sinu by PFNeyman and not cited elsewhere except in the cited report has been colored blue. I have updated references 10 and 11 to my work.

THE IUCN MAMMAL RED DATA BOOK

PART I: Threatened mammalian taxa of the Americas and the Australasian zoogeographic region (excluding Cetacea)

Compiled by JANE THORNBACK and MARTIN JENKINS of the IUCN CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTRE with the help and advice of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN and other experts throughout the world.

Published by IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, (IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219(c) Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CBS ODL, U.K.)

© International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

ISBN No. 2-88032-600-1 First published 1982 Reprinted 1984

COTTON-TOP TAMARIN or PINCHE    ENDANGERED *Saguinus oedipus oedipus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
Order PRIMATES - Family CALLITRICHIDAE

SUMMARY

Endemic to northwest Colombia. Total numbers unknown. Main threat is habitat destruction within its small range; also populations were probably seriously depleted by the animal trade between 1960 and 1975. Trade has been curbed, but loss of habitat to agriculture continues unabated. Protected by law and two reserves have been established in areas where the tamarin could occur. Total elimination of trade and the creation of properly protected reserves are urgently required to ensure its survival.

DISTRIBUTION

Northwest Colombia; between the Rio Atrato in the west, and the lower Rios Cauca and Magdalena in the east; in the Departments of Cordoba, Bolivar, Sucre, Atlantico, northwest Antioquia and northeast Choco (2,3,7). For map see (2,3). Southern limits in the Andes foothills are poorly known (13).

Hershkovitz believes that the original distribution was similar to today's (5,7). However, Struhsaker et al have obtained reports of the tamarin's possible previous occurrence in areas east of the Magdalena (as yet unconfirmed (1<sup>^\*</sup>)) and suggest that the apparent control of distribution by major rivers may only be an artifact of agricultural patterns that obscure the true former distribution, and *S. oedipus* may in fact be characteristic of the drier forests of all northernmost "Colombia

Neyman has also received sightings reports from local Indians which suggest that the species' range is not continuous up to 500 m in the Andes foothills as previously thought. It seems *S. oedipus* may not inhabit steep riverine habitat, such as the upper River Sinu, but rather is confined to broader valleys, i.e. in forest on river-edge sedimentary deposits such as along the Manso River (11). This is compatible with Struhsaker et al's distributional theory and if correct is of consequence because it implies a smaller distributional area than previously assumed (1).

POPULATION

Total numbers unknown (3), not possible to provide an estimate since there is only limited knowledge of the state and extent of the remaining forest, much less the tamarin numbers contained in the various isolated forest remnants (3). In 1975 Neyman believed it unlikely that there were many forests large enough to maintain sufficient tamarins for a viable long-term breeding population (3).

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Deciduous forest in the northern part of its range to humid tropical forest in the Andes foothills (4,10,11). Altitudinal range from sea level to about 500 m (2,7). Survives well in secondary forests, and where this has recently replaced primary, some increase in numbers might even be temporarily expected (3).

Average group size is unknown, but 11 groups observed by Neyman all numbered between 3 and 13 (3,10); groups appear territorial (3,10). Feeds on fruit, vines, epiphytes, insects, newly sprouting leaves or buds, leaves, leaf stems, and in one instance a frog (3,10). May also lick nectar or gather pollen or insects from certain flowers or fruits (3,10). Twins are the norm after a gestation of about 125-130 days (7).

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL** Its range occupies an area that supported an extensive indigenous pre-Colombian human population, and is today a densely inhabited region. By 1966 at least 70% of the original forest cover in its original range had been replaced with pasture and farmland (3). By 1973/74 the more densely settled northern three-quarters of the area accounted for only about 5% of remaining forest, which was scattered in over 270 isolated tiny secondary forest patches. Some of these were known to lack tamarins even though they appeared to provide suitable habitat (3,\*). In 1975 the future of these forest patches was described as at best uncertain, not only because wood and wildlife were constantly being extracted, but because in Colombia forested land not yielding cuttable timber is considered to be 'unexploited'. By law and custom such land may be colonised, a not uncommon event, and one which discourages private owners from maintaining naturally forested areas (3).

The less accessible southern portions of the tamarin's range contain extensive forest tracts which were thought to contain the majority of remaining populations (3). However the 1973/74 studies documented widespread deforestation in the region and noted a great reduction in forest area compared to 1966, particularly in those foothills accessible by road (3). Even in remote areas such as the upper Sinu River, accessible only by river, a large proportion of riverine forest had already been cut or was secondary growth forest

Projected dam construction along the Sinu in an area designated a reserve on 1976 Inderena maps will bring access by road and hasten the rate and permanency of deforestation (11,13). Neyman believed habitat destruction would continue at an even faster pace as the density of settlers increased. At best she considered it likely that any remaining forest would be reduced to tiny patches such as remain in the northern and central parts of the animal's range (3).

Capture of this tamarin for the pet trade and for biomedical research has undoubtedly taken its toll (3). Between 1968-72 nearly 10,000 Cotton-tops were imported to the U.S.A.; and it is likely that between 1960-1975 some 30,000-40,000 were exported from Colombia (2). The actual number taken from the wild is greater than these figures, since considerable mortality (3 to 33 percent in marmosets (6)) undoubtedly occurs between capture and export, particularly as tamarins are delicate and difficult to maintain in captivity. Although the numbers exported were small compared to many other primates, they were large for an animal with such a restricted range (3).

#### CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN

*Saguinus oedipus* including *geoffroyi* is listed in Appendix 1 of the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, so that trade in it between acceding nations is subject to strict control and trade for primarily commercial purposes banned. All exports of primates from Colombia has been banned since 1974\*. Prior to then a total ban on the export of Cotton-top tamarins from Colombia was in effect from 1969-1972, but in spite of the ban appreciable numbers (2500-3500 a year) entered the U.S.A. during this period (3). Regulations were amended in 1972 to allow permit holders to export 25 specimens, each, per month to satisfy the demands of biomedical research (1,2). In 1973 all export of primates from Colombia was banned, exceptions being temporarily made for scientific use until 1974\* when all exports were halted (3).

Two reserves have been established in areas where *S. oedipus* could occur (3). Patricia Neyman studied this tamarin between 1973-75

#### CONSERVATION MEASURES PROPOSED

Several, properly protected reserves are urgently required within its range (3,9) and are considered of 'highest priority' in IUCN's Global Strategy for Primate Conservation (1981-1983). Any trade that still persists should be eliminated; other more abundant callitrichid species should be used in its place in biomedical research (3).

#### CAPTIVE BREEDING

In 1979 there were at least 229 males, 219 females and 13 of undetermined sex held in 53 zoo collections, 224 captive bred (12).

#### REMARKS

For description of animal see (7). Most authors consider the Panamanian tamarin a separate species *S. geoffroyi* (2). However both Hershkovitz and Napier consider *geoffroyi* to be a subspecies of *S. oedipus* (7,15).

The generic name *Oedipomidas* is also sometimes used. *S. o. geoffroyi* is the only callitrichid endemic to Central America, its range extends from the Colombian Province of Choco north to Panama and a bordering part of Costa Rica (7); Dawson has made a study of this animal (16). It is not as yet considered threatened.

Patricia Neyman who has studied *S. o. oedipus* very kindly assisted with the compilation of this data sheet; we are also grateful to Dr. G. Dawson for commenting about *geoffroyi*.

#### REFERENCES

1. Green, K.M. (1976). The nonhuman primate trade in Colombia. In Thorington, R.W. 3r. and Heltne, P.G. (Eds), *Neotropical Primates; Field Studies and Conservation* . National Acad, of Sciences, Washington D.C.
2. Hernandez-Camacho, I. and Cooper, R.W. (1976). The nonhuman primates of Colombia. In Thorington, R.W. 3r. and Heltne, P.G. (Eds), *Neotropical Primates; Field Studies and Conservation* . National Acad, of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
3. Neyman, P.F. (1978). Aspects of the ecology and social organization of free-ranging Cotton-top Tamarins (*Saguinus oedipus*), and the conservation status of the species. In Kleiman, D.G. (Ed.), *The Biology and Conservation of the Callitrichidae* . Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
4. Struhsaker, T.T., Glander, K., Chirivi, H., and Scott, N.3. (1975). A survey of primates and their habitats in Northern Colombia (May- August 1974). In *Primate Censusing Studies in Peru and Colombia* . Pan American Health Organisation, Washington, D.C.
5. Hershkovitz, P. (1979). Mammals of Northern Colombia. Preliminary Report No.4: Monkeys (Primates) with taxonomic revisions of some forms. *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus* . 98; 323-327.
6. Thorington, R.W. 3r. (1972). Importation, breeding and mortality of New World Primates. *Int. Zoo Yb* 12; 18-23.
7. Hershkovitz, P. (1977). *Living New World Monkeys (Platyrrhini)*. With an Introduction to Primates . Volume I. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago and London.
8. Muckenhirn, N.A. (1976). Addendum to the nonhuman primate trade in Colombia. In Thorington, R.W. 3r. and Heltne, P.G. (Eds), *Neotropical Primates; Field Studies and Conservation* . National Acad, of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
9. Heltne, P.G. and Thorington, R.W. 3r. (1976). Problems and potentials for primate biology and conservation in the New World. In Thorington, R.W. 3r. and Heltne, P.G. (Eds), *Neotropical Primates; Field Studies and Conservation* . National Acad, of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
10. Neyman, P.F. (1979). Ecology and social organization of the Cotton-top Tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*) . Ph.D Thesis, Univ. of California, Berkeley, available through University Microfilms and at: [http://pats-educent.net/saguinus\\_oedipus.htm](http://pats-educent.net/saguinus_oedipus.htm) .
11. Neyman, P.F. (1977). Protección y manejo de los Primates de Sucre y Córdoba. Proyecto Primates Inderena - actividades adelantadas entre Junio y Septiembre, 1977. Report to Inderena, Bogotá, Colombia. Available at: [http://pats-educent.net/saguinus\\_oedipus.htm](http://pats-educent.net/saguinus_oedipus.htm) . This one has an actual map with the place visited on it. Also available on the website is: *The Protection and Management of Primates in Sucre and Córdoba (Colombia), 1977, A Report to the New York Zoological Society Regarding Studies Carried Out in Colombia, South America, June-Sept. 1977* which describes the visit to the Southern Serranía de San Jacinto, in English, but not as extensive as the Spanish report.
12. Olney, P.3.S. (Ed.) (1980). *International Zoo Yearbook 20* . Zool. Soc. London.
13. Neyman, P.F. (1981). In litt.
14. Hernandez-Camacho, I. (1981). Pers. comm.
15. Napier, P.H. (1976). *Catalogue of Primates in the British Museum (Natural History) Part 1; Families Callitrichidae and Cebidae* . British Museum (Natural History), London.
16. Dawson, G.A. (1976). Behavioural ecology of the Panamanian Tamarin, *Saguinus oedipus* (Callitrichidae, Primates). Ph.D. Thesis. Michigan State Univ.