



Small Indian mongoose

(*Urva auropunctata*)

The mongoose originated in a large section of Asia and was introduced to Saint-Martin in 1885. The species was observed for the first time in Guadeloupe in 1888 and in Martinique in 1890.

Description

- A small mammal with short legs and an elongated body
- Average size of females is 54 cm long and of males is 59 cm long
- Average weight of 450 g, however the largest males can reach 1 kg
- Brown, yellowish fur, occasionally grey due to black and white rings on the hairs Underside a lighter colour than the rest of the body
- Pointed snout, muscular and bushy tail, short, round ears
- Non-retractile claws
- Small eyes with a brown iris

Ecology and reproduction in its original environment

- Variable habitats, the highly adaptable species is found in forests, in open environments, occasionally in developed areas, including residential buildings. In the Caribbean, it is more frequently found in dry environments than in wet forests
- Omnivorous, but tending toward carnivorous, a highly variable diet depending on the availability of food
- Sexual maturity at 10 months, no particular season for reproduction
- Females can produce up to three litters per year, with one to five young per litter (generally two), gestation lasts 42 to 50 days
- A solitary animal in its original range, but it tends to live in groups in areas where it has been introduced
- Life expectancy 3 to 4 years in the wild
- Diurnal species
- Carrier and vector of rabies

Documentation

- Lorvelec, O., Pascal, M., & Pavis, C., 2001. Inventory and status of mammals in the French Caribbean (not including bats and cetaceans). In Report n° 27 of the Association pour l'Étude et la Protection des Vertébrés et Végétaux des Petites Antilles, Petit-Bourg, Guadeloupe. 22 pp. (In French)
- Lorvelec, O., Pascal, M., Delloue, X., & Chapuis, J.L., 2007. Non-flying terrestrial mammals in the French Caribbean and the recent introduction of a squirrel. *Rev.Ecol. (Terre Vie)*, 62 : 295-314. (In French)
- https://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/cd_nom/850071/tab/fiche
- <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/8050856>

Author: Clara Singh, IUCN French committee.

Classification

Order	Carnivores
Family	<i>Herpestidae</i>
Genus	<i>Urva</i>
Species	<i>U. auropunctata</i> (Hodgson, 1836)

