

# Articles

## AN IUCN CLASSIFICATION FOR THE PRIMATES OF COLOMBIA

The recent article by Rylands *et al.* (1995) classifying the Neotropical primates using the new IUCN (1994) definitions for threatened status categories is an important contribution to our understanding of the level of threat for most subspecies and some species. However, in this article I would like to make some comments. Firstly, in accordance with the original IUCN document (1994) and in agreement with Gärdenfors (1995), national lists of primates ought to be categorized on a regional level whenever possible, rather than a simple reiteration of international categories. Second, any list should include the species' status, along with the subspecies' categories. Let us not forget the importance and the primacy of the species in contrast to subspecies' designations, which can at times be rather arbitrary and artificial. Likewise, a species category is not simply a summary of the subspecies assessments, as Baillie (1995) has pointed out.

Here (see Table) I provide a list of Colombian primates classified from a regional (Colombian) perspective and compare it to the international classification of the same taxa.

It is worthwhile noting that some Colombian taxa (*Callicebus cupreus*, *C. c. discolor*, *Cebus albifrons yuracus*) are considered to be at a higher level of risk than the international categorization because only a small population is known within the country, and that in regions with widespread colonization. Other Colombian taxa (*Cacajao melanocephalus ouakary* and *Alouatta palliata aequatorialis*) are considered at higher risk because of the particular situation in Colombia, which include lower population densities due to less *igapó* in the upper reaches of the Amazonian tributaries, and to hunting for food by indigenous people in the case of *C. m. ouakary*, and the lack of information on the Colombian populations of *Alouatta palliata equatorialis*, which is here classified as DD.

In Colombia, *Ateles geoffroyi griseus* is represented by a small subset of a total population classified as EN, and the Colombian population may therefore even be considered "CR", but no data are available. Although Rylands *et al.* (1995) categorized *Lagothrix lagothricha lugens* as CR, I classify it here as VU (see Defler, 1996).

The categorization of the conservation status of many

	Species and subspecies	(1)	(2)	(3)	Notes
01	<i>Cebuella pygmaea</i>	LR	LR	20	(4)
02	<i>Callimico goeldii</i>	VU	VU	25?	
03	<i>Saguinus fuscicollis</i>	LR	LR	15	
	<i>S. f. fuscus</i>	LR	LR	100	
04	<i>Saguinus geoffroyi</i>	LR	LR	40	(5)
05	<i>Saguinus inustus</i>	LR	LR	50	
06	<i>Saguinus leucopus</i>	VU	VU	100	
07	<i>Saguinus nigricollis</i>	LR	LR	20	
	<i>S. n. nigricollis</i>	LR	LR	20	
	<i>S. n. graellsii</i>	LR	LR	20	(6)
	<i>S. n. hernandezii</i>	VU/DD	VU/DD	100	
08	<i>Saguinus oedipus</i>	EN	EN	100	
09	<i>Aotus brumbacki</i>	VU/DD	VU/DD	100?	(7)
10	<i>Aotus "hershkovitzi"</i>	DD	DD	100?	(8)
11	<i>Aotus lemurinus</i>	VU	VU	80?	
	<i>A. l. lemurinus</i>	VU	VU	70?	
	<i>A. l. griseimembra</i>	EN	EN	100	
12	<i>Aotus vociferans</i>	LR	LR	50?	
13	<i>Callicebus cupreus</i>	LR	VU	5	
	<i>C. c. discolor</i>	LR	VU	5	
	<i>C. c. ornatus</i>	VU	VU	100	
14	<i>Callicebus torquatus</i>	LR	LR	25	
	<i>C. t. lucifer</i>	LR	LR	40	
	<i>C. t. lugens</i>	LR	LR	40	
	<i>C. t. medemi</i>	VU	VU	100	
15	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	LR	LR	15-20	(9)
	<i>S. s. albigena</i>	LR	LR	100?	
	<i>S. s. cassiquiarensis</i>	LR	LR	40?	
	<i>S. s. macrodon</i>	LR	LR	60?	
16	<i>Cebus albifrons</i>	LR	LR	30	
	<i>C. a. albifrons</i>	LR	LR	30	(10)
	<i>C. a. cesare</i>	DD	DD	100	(11)
	<i>C. a. versicolor</i>	DD	DD	80?	
	<i>C. a. malitiosus</i>	DD	DD	100	
	<i>C. a. yuracus</i>	DD	VU	10?	
17	<i>Cebus apella</i>	LR	LR	10	
	<i>Cebus apella apella</i>	LR	LR	?	
18	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>	LR	LR	45	(12)
19	<i>Pithecia monachus</i>	LR	LR	20	(13)
	<i>P. m. monachus</i>	LR	LR	15	
	<i>P. m. milleri</i>	VU	VU	100	
20	<i>Cacajao melanocephalus</i>	LR	LR/VU	35	(14)
	<i>C. m. ouakary</i>	LR	VU	30	
21	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	LR	LR/VU	35	
	<i>A. p. aequatorialis</i>	LR	VU/DD	50?	
22	<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>	LR	LR	25	
	<i>A. s. seniculus</i>	LR	LR	?	
23	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	VU	VU	20	(15)
	<i>A. g. rufiventris</i>	VU	VU	90	(16)
	<i>A. g. griseus</i>	EN/DD	EN/DD	5	
24	<i>Ateles hybridus</i>	EN	EN	50	(17)
	<i>A. h. hybridus</i>	EN	EN	40	
	<i>A. h. brunneus</i>	EN/DD	EN/DD	100	
25	<i>Ateles belzebuth</i>	VU	VU	10-15	(18)
	<i>A. b. belzebuth</i>	VU	VU	35-40	
26	<i>Lagothrix lagothricha</i>	VU	VU	20	
	<i>L. l. lagothricha</i>	LR	LR	50	
	<i>L. l. lugens</i>	CR	VU	100	(19)

### Notes

(1) International classification according to the Mace-Lande system (IUCN, 1994) and Rylands *et al.* (1995). LR = Lower risk, DD = Data deficient, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = Critically endangered.

(2) Evaluation of Colombian primate populations, using the same criteria as the international evaluations of IUCN (1994).

(3) Percentage of total distribution represented by the Colombian populations.

(4) If no subspecies are listed, the species is considered to be without subspecies.

- (5) *Saguinus geoffroyi* and *S. oedipus* are considered to be separate species, *contra* Hershkovitz (1977).
- (6) Hernández-Camacho and Cooper (1976) and Hernández-Camacho and Defler (1985, 1989) consider *S. graellsii* to be a separate species from *S. nigricollis*.
- (7) The distribution of *Aotus brumbacki* is poorly known, since specimens have been karyotyped from the environs of Villavicencio only. For this reason it seems important to categorize the species VU/DD. In fact it may be more correct to use only DD.
- (8) *Aotus "hershkovitzi"*, a species with the highest known karyotype,  $2n=58$ , is in the process of being described by Martha Bueno *et al.* (pers. comm.).
- (9) *Saimiri sciureus*, *sensu* Hershkovitz (1984).
- (10) *Cebus albifrons albifrons* = *C. albifrons unicolor* (Defler and Hernández-Camacho, in prep.).
- (11) *Cebus albifrons versicolor*, an extremely variable subspecies with light and dark phases, includes *C. a. pleei* and *C. a. leucocephalus* (see Hernández-Camacho and Cooper, 1976).
- (12) In this account no subspecies are distinguished for *Cebus capucinus*, since they are in doubt. (see Hernández-Camacho and Cooper, 1976; Mittermeier and Coimbra-Filho, 1981).
- (13) *Pithecia monachus*, *sensu* Hershkovitz (1987).
- (14) *Cacajao melanocephalus*, *sensu* Hershkovitz (1987).
- (15) *Ateles geoffroyi* is considered here to include *Ateles fusciceps*, *sensu* Froehlich *et al.* (1991).
- (16) *Ateles geoffroyi rufiventris* has priority over *A. g. robustus*.
- (17) *Ateles hybridus* is considered a full species (Froehlich, pers. comm., 1993).
- (18) Following Froehlich *et al.* (1991), *Ateles belzebuth* includes as subspecies "belzebuth", "chamek", and "marginatus".
- (19) *Lagothrix lagothricha lugens* is considered here to be "VU", *contra* Rylands *et al.* (1995); but see Defler (1996).

of these animals will continue to be in flux, and future census work will undoubtedly result in some changes to the classification of many of the taxa listed here.

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## THE IUCN CONSERVATION STATUS OF LAGOTHRIX LAGOTHRICHA LUGENS ELLIOT, 1907

Recently, Rylands *et al.* (1995) published the results of an evaluation by the Neotropical Section of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group (PSG) of the Mace-Lande categorization for the conservation status of the New World primates. In their article *Lagothrix lagothricha lugens* was classified as "CR" (Critically Endangered), which in the new Mace-Lande IUCN system is the most severe threat in the wild before extinction (IUCN, 1994; IUCN, 1995). The bases for this classification were the criteria B1 (populations severely fragmented), B2 (continuing decline, observed, inferred or projected, in extent of occurrence, area of occurrence, area, extent and/or quality of habitat, the number of locations or subpopulations, and the number of mature individuals), and C2a (a continuing decline, observed or projected, or inferred, in numbers of mature individuals and population structure due to severe fragmentation (i.e., no subpopulation estimated to contain more than 50 mature individuals) (Rylands *et al.*, 1995). In this note I propose that this taxon be categorized as vulnerable "VU", and I discuss here why I have come to this