

Scientific name: *Herpestes javanicus*

Common name: Small Indian Mongoose

Organism type: mammal

Description

The Small Indian Mongoose has a slim body with short legs. The head is elongated with a pointed nose. Length of head and body is 509 to 671mm, and tail 150 to 285mm. The ears are short. They have four feet with five toes and long sharp claws for digging. Fur is short, soft and pale to dark brown flecked with golden spots. Underside is paler than rest of body. Eyes are amber/brown but are blue green in young animals. The sexes differ in size with males having a wider head and being bigger in size than the female.



Small Indian Mongoose (Herpestes javanicus)

Behavior and Reproduction

Mongoosees are mostly solitary although males will sometimes form social groups and share burrows. Pregnancy duration is up to 49 days. Breeds two or three times a year with a litter having 2-5 young, no real season, though there are breeding peaks. Females can breed from the age of 10 months.

Occurs in

Agricultural areas, coastland, desert, natural forests, planted forests, range/grasslands, riparian zones, ruderal/disturbed areas, scrub/shrublands, urban areas, wetlands.

General impacts

The Small Indian Mongoose has had a major impact on native species in the areas where it has been introduced. In most cases the native wildlife in these areas evolved in the absence of predatory mammals so they are particularly threatened by mongoose predation. Species considered to have been driven to extinct through predation are the Barred-wing Rail (see *Nesoclopeus poecilopterus* in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) in Fiji and the Hispaniola Racer (*Alsophis melanichnus*) (Hays and Conant, 2007). Mongooses have also been implicated in the decline of many other bird, reptile and mammal species. They also eat invertebrates but the impact of this predation on invertebrate populations has not been studied. On St. John Island in the US Virgin Islands the mongoose is a major predator of Hawksbill Turtle eggs (see *Eretmochelys imbricata* in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) and trapping around vulnerable beaches led to an increase inbreeding success for the turtles (Coblentz and Coblentz, 1985). Small Indian Mongooses are also a vector for rabies.

Management Information

Physical: Trapping is commonly used to remove Small Indian Mongooses from sensitive areas.

Chemical: Diphacinone anticoagulant poison has been used to control mongooses in Hawai'i.

Range

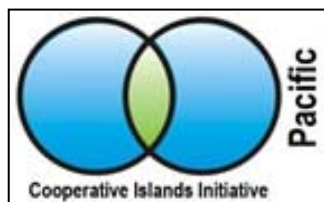
Native range: Northern Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (south to Sind on the west and Orissa on the east), Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, and southern China including Hainan Island.

Pacific range: Fiji (found on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu; introduced 1883) and Hawai'i (found on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and O'ahu; introduced 1883).

In December 2009 Samoa reported its first mongoose in the Aleipata District, when a conservation team, fortunately, happened to see a mongoose crossing the road. However, after consultation with villagers it appeared that a mongoose had been sighted as far back as 2008. An incursion response using DOC 250 predator traps was initiated by the Samoan National Invasives Task Team in February 2010 which resulted in the capture of one male mongoose within 24hours of the traps been laid out.

This information was taken from the Global Invasives Species Database. For more information relating to this species and other invasive species please visit:

<http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>



<http://www.issg.org/cii/PII/>

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