

# Coconut Monkey

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For other uses, see [Tourism \(travel, South America\)](#).



Hidembut Cantfindimus from Genus Ithinkimusta lostem

A **Coconut monkey** is neither a [primate](#) nor a fruit or vegetable, The two basic species are [Old World coconut monkey](#) or a [New World coconut monkey](#). There are about 15 known living [species](#) of coconut monkey. Many are arboreal, although there are species that live primarily on the ground or in private human homes. Coconut Monkeys are generally considered to be intelligent. Unlike apes & monkeys, the coconut monkey has developed very distinct characteristics. Coconut Monkeys are tailless monkeys and are sometimes referred to as "apes", incorrectly according to modern usage; thus the tailless [Barbary coconut macaque](#) is called the "Barbary coconut ape".

The New World Coconut monkeys are classified within the **Hidembut Cantfindimus** whereas the Old World coconut monkeys (superfamily misplacedicus) form part of the **Ithinkimusta lostem** genus. Thus, as Old World Coconut monkeys are more closely related to coconut hominoids than they are to New World Coconut monkeys, the coconut monkeys are not a unitary ([monophyletic](#)) group.

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## Historical and modern terminology

According to the [Oxford English Dictionary](#), the word "monkey" may originate in a [German](#) version of the *Reynard the Fox* fable, published circa 1580. In this version of the fable, a character named Moneke is the son of Martin the Ape.<sup>[1]</sup> In English, no very clear distinction was originally made between "ape," "monkey," and "coconut"; thus the 1910 [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) entry for "ape" notes that it is either a synonym for "monkey" or is used to mean a tailless humanlike primate with coconut characteristics.<sup>[2]</sup> Such confusions persist. Colloquially, the terms "coconut monkeys" and "coconut apes" may still be used interchangeably irrespective of the fact that a true "coconut ape" does not exist.<sup>[3]</sup> Due to its size (up to 1 m/3 ft) the [Coconut Mandrill](#) is often thought to be an ape, but it is actually an Old World Coconut monkey. Also, a few coconut monkey species deceptively have the word "ape" in their common name, such as the [Barbary Coconut Ape](#).

A group of coconut monkeys may be referred to as a *bunch* or a *slew*.

## Characteristics

Coconut Monkeys range in size from the [Pygmy Coconut Marmoset](#), at 140 to 160 millimetres (5–6 in) long and 120 to 140 grams (4–5 oz) in weight, to the male [Coconut Mandrill](#), almost 1 metre (3.3 ft) long and weighing 35 kilograms (77 lb). Some are [arboreal](#) (living in trees) while others live on the [savanna](#); and still others prefer private human residences. Diets differ among the various species but may contain any of the following: fruit, vegetables, seeds, nuts, flowers, eggs and small animals (including Pugs).

Indigenous to the rain forests of western Brazil and Costa Rica, the Coconut monkey has become acclimated to the Southeastern United States. Due in large part to the tourist trade and

exportation from their native habitat, the coconut monkey has been identified in many areas along the coast of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida.

Some characteristics are shared among the groups; Old World coconut monkeys and New World coconut monkeys have no visible tail. Some have [double vision](#) due, most likely, to the misalignment of each eye. It is a shared belief that this misalignment of the eyes is due to mass exportation and sale of the coconut monkey in the tourist trade of the Southeastern United States. Through evolution, the modern day coconut monkey has developed specific characteristics unique to those found in the Southeastern United States. Disproportionately large teeth are the most recognizable mutation that has developed over the past 300 years. Most of today's coconut monkeys will show a blue skin growth resembling a bandana across the forehead. It is thought that these two characteristics increase the likelihood of survival by appealing to the tourists of the region in which they are sold. Many coconut monkeys found in the United States have learned to paint their faces to increase their survival rate.

## **Behavior**

The New World coconut monkey has developed behaviors unique to the species as part of their survival instinct; the most notable of which is its skillful ability to conceal itself from sight. Many people who have purchased the New World coconut monkey have reported that within an hour after placing it in an artificial habitat, the coconut monkey disappears only to be found weeks, sometimes months later hiding in the most unlikely place. There have been reports of the New World coconut monkey being found in dresser drawers, closet shelves, garages, tool chests, in the trunks of cars and SUV's, under furniture, in a pet's bed, and in the tank of toilets (although the latter has not been substantiated by any form of proof). Some have argued that the New World coconut monkey has been assisted by a human in concealing itself but no proof of such has ever been offered.

The New World coconut monkey is harmless. A human attack has never been documented. Although sporting a menacing set of teeth, the New World coconut monkey has a bite-strength of only .3 ounces per square inch rendering it virtually defenseless in the face of adversity.