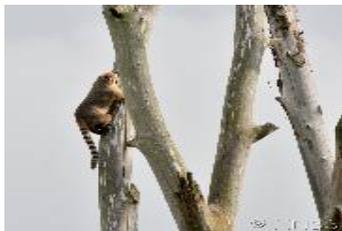


Coati, *Nasua nasua*



Overview

Short description of *Nasua nasua*, Coati

The South American coati resembles its close relative the raccoon *Procyon lotor* of North and Central America in size and general appearance. Its fur is a pale brown, often reddish, with darker legs, feet, ears and markings around the face and long, pointed snout. The tail is thick and bushy, strongly ringed with darker brown, and often held aloft. The animals are active diurnally, hunting for fruit or for animal prey on the ground or high in trees.

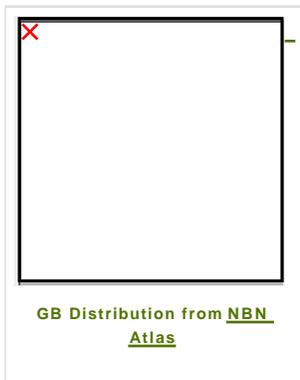
Description of *Nasua nasua*, Coati status in GB

The South American, ring-tailed or brown-nosed coati is not thought to be established in GB but has occasionally been observed outside the confines of zoological collections. No instances are known of breeding in the wild in GB. Like its relative the raccoon, it might have the potential to become invasive in GB.

Habitat summary: *Nasua nasua*, Coati

A variety of wooded landscapes are inhabited by South American coatis, including gallery forest, cerrado (tropical and woodland savannah) and wetlands. Forests are generally preferred and open areas used more sporadically.

Distribution map



Author's name:

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We try to keep these factsheets up to date, however if you notice any issues please contact us

Overview table

Environment:	Terrestrial
Species status:	Non-Native
Native range:	Mexico, Central America, Brazil, Argentina Distrito Federal, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Paraguay, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela
Functional type:	Omnivore
Status in England:	Non-Native
Status in Scotland:	Non-Native
Status in Wales:	Non-Native
Location of first record:	?
Date of first record:	Unknown

Invasion history: *Nasua nasua*, Coati

Origin

The South American coati has a wide native distribution east of the Andean chain, from Colombia and Venezuela southwards to northern Argentina and northern Uruguay.

First Record

Sightings in south Cumbria in 2003–04 may have been the first in the wild in GB.

Pathway and Method

The South American coati is a popular subject for zoological collections and is relatively skilled at escaping from captivity. Short-term escapes from captivity have been the pathway for the records so far in GB.

Species Status

The South American coati is widespread and common across most of its native range and is classified as of 'Least Concern' for conservation by IUCN. The only known non-native population is on Robinson Crusoe Island in the Juan Fernandez Islands in the southeast Pacific Ocean (Chile).

Ecology & Habitat: *Nasua nasua*, Coati

Dispersal Mechanisms

These animals can travel long distances on feeding forays and can climb and swim well. Young males disperse from their natal group when about three years of age.

Reproduction

Adult males are generally solitary whereas females and young animals, including males up to two years old, live in groups. Females in a group all come into oestrus at once, when fruit is in season. Pregnant females leave the group temporarily to give birth and suckle their young in a nest built in a tree.

Known Predators/Herbivores

South American coatis are prey in their native range to foxes, jaguars, pumas, ocelots and jaguarundis, and to dogs and people.

Resistant Stages

None known.

Habitat Occupied in GB

The few animals observed in GB have mostly been in the vicinity of the zoological collections that were presumably their source.

Distribution: *Nasua nasua*, Coati

There were seven known records in GB up to 2008, involving ten animals. During 2003–07, perhaps up to ten animals were recorded in the wild in south Cumbria.

Impacts: *Nasua nasua*, Coati

Environmental Impact

No ecosystem impacts are known but an established non-native population might become an important predator of or competitor with native wildlife.

Health and Social Impact

None are known.

Economic Impact

None are known.

References & Links: *Nasua nasua*, Coati

Identification

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Management and impact

General

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