

## Black Spider Monkey

The Black Spider Monkey is from the Amazon Rainforest in South America. Their genus name is *Ateles*, and their Species name is *Ateles Paniscus*. They are all black except for red faces and ears, with extremely long tails, arms, and legs. They are around 20-23 inches tall and weigh around 20 pounds.

Black Spider Monkeys are warm-blooded and reproduce from sexual reproduction. When they give birth, they take care of the baby until it is old enough to live on its own. They usually travel in groups of 30 by the night to help keep a better watch and smaller groups by the day. The monkeys prefer to travel by tree so they will be safe from their predators, such as crocodiles and jaguars.

Black Spider Monkeys are classified as omnivores because they eat lots of different kinds of food. They eat bananas, mangos, different types of berries, and honey. But they also enjoy eating bugs like termites and grubs. Sometimes spider monkeys will eat flowers and supple leaves as well.

The reason why these monkeys are endangered is because of deforestation. Companies and farmers keep cutting down trees and destroying their natural habitat, leaving them with smaller amounts of food and shelter. Although the current population is unknown, it is estimated that a %30 percent loss has occurred in the last 45 years. Efforts being made to help the Black Spider Monkey are reducing illegal and unregulated logging of protected areas. Also, WWF is helping to promote FSC certification.

