

Oriental Small-clawed Otter

Aonyx cinerea



Range: southern India, China and Southeast Asia

Size: ♂ 0.7-0.9m (28-37 in)

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Tail length: 30 cm (12 in)

Weight: ♂ 2.7-5.4 kg (6-12 lb)

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Habitat: mangrove swamps and shallow rivers

Activity: Diurnal

Diet: mollusks

Breeding: monogamous mates for life

Estrus cycle: 28 days

Group: 2- 20 family group

Gestation : 60 days

Weaned: 14 weeks

Sexual maturity: 2-3 years

Lifespan: 16 years



Order: Carnivora Family: Mustelidae

The smallest of the thirteen species of otters the Oriental or Asian otter is native to the mangrove swamps and rivers of Southeast Asia. The otters get their common name from their distinctive claws which do not extend past the fleshy pads of their toes. The toes are only webbed to the first joint which , with the short claws, allow for more dexterity in comparison to other otters. The Oriental Short-clawed

Otter uses these highly dexterous paws to hunt crabs and mollusks in shallow water.

The OSCO is a family oriented species. An adult pair will mate for life. Pups from previous years stay with the parents and help raise younger pups. Only the alpha pair mate in a group

The Oriental Small-clawed otter is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN. Habitat loss is a major threat due the change in land use of its habitat. Pollution is also a threat with heavy metal pollution negatively affect the otters prey populations.