

Black Lion Tamarin

Leontopithecus chrysopygus



Range: São Paulo Brazil
HBL: ♂: 20-33cm (7.9-13 in)
♀: 20-33 cm (7.9-13 in)
Tail: 38 cm (16 in)
Weight: ♂ 540-690 g (19-24 oz)
♀: 540-690g(19-24 oz)
Sexual Maturity:♀: 16-24 month
♂: 16-24 months
Estrus: seasonal wet season
Estrus cycle: 17 days
Gestation:125-132 days
Weaning: 8-12 weeks
Habitat: rainforest with distinct dry
Season
Food: fruit gum insects spiders
Activity: Diurnal
Lifestyle: Arboreal
Social: multi male female
Breeding Polyandrous
IUCN: Endangered
Subspecies: Monotypic
Longevity: captive: 27 years

Order: Primates Family: Callitrichidae

Once considered a subspecies of the golden lion tamarin *L. rosalia* the Black Lion Tamarin is one of the most endangered primates in the world. The entire population is restricted to the Morro do Diablo state forest Reserve in the south west region of São Paulo Brazil.

The species gets it's specific name *chrysopygus* from the golden orange coloration on its thighs and rump. The sexes are similar and it is monotypic. This is the largest of the four lion tamarin species. It also has the lowest vocalization of the genus.

Like other members of the callitrichid family the black lion tamarin live in small family groups. Although some groups have a single dominant breeding pair many troops contain multiple adult male which the adult female breeds with. It is believed that by breeding with all the adult males the female fools the males to assist in caring for the offspring. All members of the troop assist in child care with the mother only carrying the young, usually twins, during feeding.