

River Otters of South Florida

**ROSF**



# **Otter Information**

## **The Otters'**

## **Closest Relatives**

By

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Otters and their closest relatives share common physical characteristics and adaptations for catching, holding and processing the prey they feed upon. First, they are all carnivores or meat eaters. A characteristic of all carnivores is the specialization of the teeth. The canine teeth are generally long and afford the carnivore an effective way to hold on to their prey as well as deeply penetrate the neck of their prey and constrict the trachea and sever the blood vessels in the neck. The presence of specialized teeth to cut or shear flesh is probably the most distinctive characteristic of carnivores. In contrast to reptiles, the upper and lower jaws of the mammals, other than the platypus and echidna, are lined with a series of different types of teeth with each type having a specific function. Beginning at the front of the jaw and going backward are the incisors, then the canines, premolars, and then the molars. Modifications in the shape of the first molar in the upper jaw and the last premolar of the lower have created a specialized tooth arrangement between the upper and lower jaw. These two teeth work together to cut and shear meat and are called the "Carnassials."

Carnivores include the canines (dogs, wolves and foxes), felines (small and large cats), Ursids (bears and the giant panda), the procyonids (raccoons, lesser panda, cacomistles, coatimundis, kinkajous, and the olingos), the hyenids (brown, striped and spotted, and the aardwolf), the viverids (civets, genets, and linsangs), Herpestids (mongooses and the fossa), and the Mustelids that are named below.

The closest relatives of otters are those carnivores which emit a must or musk like the otters. These must/musk-bearers are scientifically classified as the Mustelids. Mustelids include weasels, badgers, skunks, ermines, stoats, minks, ferrets and pole cats, martens, the fisher, and the sable, the tyra, the

grison, the zorilla, wolverines, and the honey badger or ratel, the hog badger, stink badgers, ferret badgers, American and Old World badgers, and the otters. These nearest relatives emit scent to mark their territories and communicate their reproductive state. Some mustelids, such as skunks, can spray this scent toward other animals which may pose a threat. These scent glands are well developed in most mustelids.

Mustelids differ from other carnivores in they have a relatively short face and a long, somewhat flat, skull. The arrangement of their large muscles of the jaw, used for cutting and crushing, provide greater leverage than in the other carnivores. These large jaw muscles take up much of the space along the side of the skull. This has resulted in the mustelid brain case being displaced toward the back of skull rather than being on the front and middle of the top of the skull as in most other carnivores.

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**Tyra** (*Eira barbara*)

**Range:** From southwestern and southeastern Mexico south through Central American and into South America

**Size:** 980-1150 mm x 4400g-a female (Walker, 1975)

**Diet:** Small mammals, birds, tree squirrels, agoutis, rabbits, small deer, fruit, and honey (Walker, 1975)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Walker, E.P. 1975. Mammals of the World, Volume II. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. John Hopkins University Press. 1500 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.focusingonwildlife.com](http://www.focusingonwildlife.com) (photo)



**Lesser Grison** (*Galictis cuja*)

**Range:** The Lesser Grison ranges through central and southern South America

**Size:** 550-640mm and approx. 1000g (Walker, 1975)

**Diet:** Primarily carnivorous

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Walker, E.P. 1975. Mammals of the World, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Vol. II. The John Hopkins University Press. 1500 pp.

eol Encyclopedia of Life (Photo)



**Greater Grison** (*Galictis vittata*)

**Range:** Southern Mexico south to Peru and Brazil

**Size:** 635 -710mm and 1300-3200 g (Walker, 1975)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Walker, E.P. 1975. Mammals of the World, Volume II. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition .The John Hopkins University Press. 1500 pp.

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) (photo)



**Eurasian Wolverine** (*Gulo gulo*)

**Range:** Circumpolar from Norway to eastern Russia

**Size:** 820-1319mm x 6600-18200g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** Primarily scavengers and hunts musk deer, roe deer, wild sheep, and moose and small mammals, such as rodents and hares. Also feeds on carrion

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (photo)





**North American Wolverine** (*Gulo luscus*)

**Range:** Alaska down to British Columbia and through northern Canada and into Newfoundland

**Size:** 910-1040mm x and 17,000-27,000g. (Burt and Grossenheider, 1966)

**Diet:** Moose, elk, caribou, deer, and other large animals are typically taken as carrion and a variety of small-to medium-sized mammals are taken such as porcupines, snowshoe hares, hoary marmots, Arctic ground squirrels and Columbian ground squirrels. Wolverines also take voles, lemmings, mice and rats, shrews, and pocket gophers, American pikas, American beavers, American mink, American martens, coyotes and wolves, weasels, lynx, other wolverines and birds, eggs and fish. (fs.fed.us, 2017))

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Burt, W.H. and R.P. Grossenheider. 1966. A Field Guide to the Mammals. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 284 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

www.us.fed.us 2017

www.archive.org (photo)





**Zorilla or Striped Polecat (*Ictonyx striatus*)**

**Range:** "...occurs from Mauritania to Sudan and south to South Africa..." (Nowak, 2005)

**Size:** 450-660mm and 400-1500g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** Mainly small rodents and insects, eggs, amphibians, reptiles, and birds (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R.M. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press. 313 pp.



**Libyan Weasel** (*Ictonyx libyca*)

**Range:** North Africa

**Size:** 321-440mm and 200-600g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** Although little is known of the diet of this species, it is thought to feed on small desert rodents, eggs, reptiles, and birds (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017



**Patagonian Weasel** (*Lyncodon patagonicus*)

**Range:** South and western areas of Argentina and Chile

**Size:** 360-440mm (Hunter, 2011) x (weight unknown)

**Diet:** Small rodents (adapted for digging and living under ground) and birds

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017



**African Striped Weasel or White-naped Weasel** (*Poecilogale albinuca*)

**Range:** Sub-equatorial Africa

**Size:** 380-590mm and 283-380g. (Brilliant, 2017)

**Diet:** Primarily small mice, rats, and mole rats, small reptiles, snakes, insects, and eggs. (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Brilliant, T. 2017. Animal Diversity Web

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press.

240 pp

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org)





**Stone or Beach Marten (*Martes foina*)**

**Range:** "...occurs through much of Europe and central Asia south-east to northern Myanmar. It is found from Spain and Portugal in the west, through central and southern Europe, the Middle East (south-west to Israel), and central Asia, extending as far east as the Tuva (Russia) and Tien Shan mountains and north-west China." (IUCN)

**Size:** 620-840mm x 1100-2300g. (Nowak, 2005)

**Diet:** "The diet consists of rodents, birds, eggs, and berries. Vegetable matter forms a major part of the Summer food in some areas." (Nowak, .M. 2005).

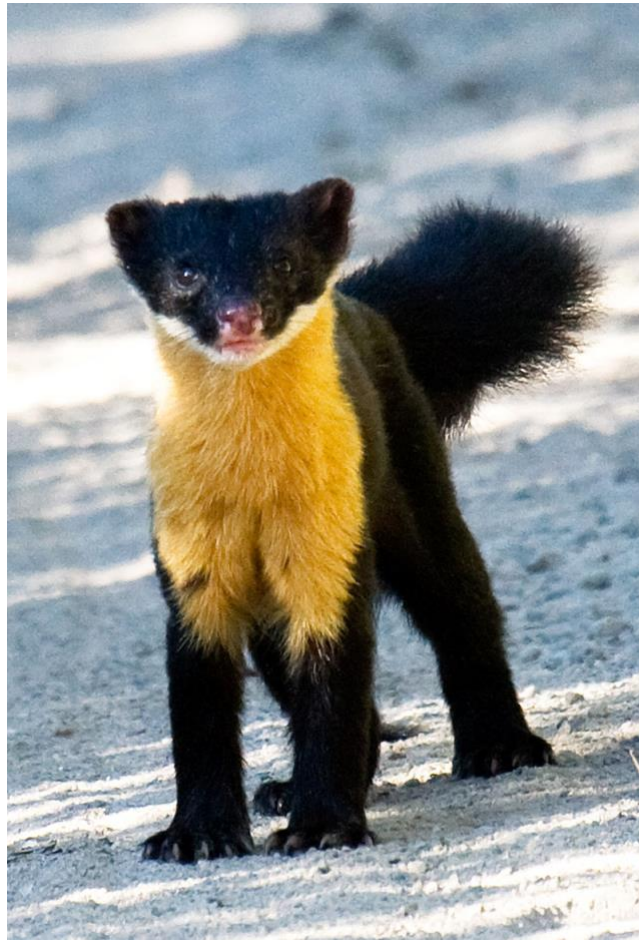
**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R.M. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press.  
313 pp.

[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) (photo)



**Nilgiri Marten** (*Martes gwatkinii*)

**Range:** Southwest India

**Size:** 850-1200mm x 1000-3000g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** "It is reported to prey on birds, small mammals and insects such as cicadas." (Wikipedia)

**Red List Status:** VU A Vulnerable Species

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (photo)





**European Pine Marten** (*Martes martes*)

**Range:** "...throughout most of Europe, Asia Minor, northern Iraq and Iran, the Caucasus, and in westernmost parts of Asian Russia (Western Siberia)." (IUCN)

**Size:** 610-860mm x 800-1800g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** "...predominantly carnivorous diet, consuming voles, mice, squirrels, rabbits, birds, and amphibians. Carrion is a major food source in the winter. Bee nests, mushrooms, and berries are also sometimes eaten." (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List (2017)

[www.alechtron.com](http://www.alechtron.com) (photo)



**American Marten** (*Martes americana*)

**Range:** "... occurs across most of North America from Alaska through much of forested Canada, into the north-eastern United States, and south along northern California, south in the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains." (IUCN)

**Size:** 500-680mm x 280-1250g with "...males averaging about 15% larger than females in body length and as much as 65% larger than females in body weight." (Clark,T.W. et al, 1997)

**Diet:** Primarily voles. They also consume deer mice and shrews, birds, fish and snowshoe hare in Winter. (Clark, T.W. et al. 1997.)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern (IUCN)

**References:**

- Clark, T.W., E, Anderson, C. Douglas, and M. Strickland.1997. The American Association of Mammalogists. Mammalian Species. No. 289. 8 pages
- IUCN Red List (2017)
- www.arkive.org (photo)



**Fisher** (*Pekania* [*Martes*] *pennati*)

**Range:** The “Fisher has a large range in northern North America: from Quebec, the Maritime Provinces, and New England west across boreal Canada to south-eastern Alaska, south through the western mountains to Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and California, and formerly south to Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, and North Carolina,” (IUCN)

**Size:** 750-1200mm and 2000-5000g (Rhines, C. 2017)

**Diet:** “Fishers eat mice porcupines, squirrels, snowshoe hares, birds, and shrews, and sometimes, other carnivores. The may also feed on fruits and berries, such as beechnuts and apples.” (Rhines, C. 2017)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern (IUCN)

**References:**

Rhines, C. 2017. Fisher. Animal Diversity Web, ADW University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology  
IUCN Red List 2017



**Yellow-throated Marten ( *Martes flavigula* )**

**Range:** "...occurs in South, South-east and East Asia, from Afghanistan and Pakistan in the west, along the Himalaya and foothills east to southern China, throughout mainland South-east Asia, and the islands of Sumatra, Java and Borneo, It also extends north through eastern China (including Taiwan) and Korea to the Russian Far East In Bangladesh it occurs in the North-east and South-east." (IUCN)

**Size:** 370-650mm x 2000-6000g (Nowak, 2005)

**Diet:** They primarily eat musk deer (*Moschus* sp.) and also eat lizards, birds, and insects. They have a preference for fruit and, like some mustelids, don't eat carrion.

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern (IUCN)

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R.M. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press.  
313 pp.

The accuracy of an internet photo as  
this species cannot be confirmed  
(*Martes melampus*)

**Japanese or Tsushima Island Marten** (*Martes melampus*)

**Range:** “Two subspecies of Japanese Marten have been described: *M. m. melampus* of Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and adjacent islands, and *M. m. tsuensis* of the Tsushima islands, which lie between Kyushu and the Korean Peninsula (Masuda 2009). It has been introduced on Sado Island and Hokkaido (Masuda 2009). It has been recorded in the southern Korean Peninsula but there are no locality details to prove a wild origin and no native population has been confirmed...” (IUCN)

**Size:** No information Available

**Diet:** No Information Available

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017





**Sable** (*Martes zibellina*)

**Range:** China; Japan (Hokkaido); Kazakhstan; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Mongolia; Russian Federation. (IUCN)

**Size:** 425-680mm x 700-1800g (eol, 2017)

**Diet:** Small mammals, birds, medium-sized mammals (pika, squirrels, muskrats, marmots, musk-deer, berries, and pine nuts (eol. 2017 and IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

eol Encyclopedia of Life 2017

IUCN Red List 2017



The accuracy of an internet photo  
as this species cannot be confirmed  
(*Mustela africana*)

**Tropical or South American Weasel** (*Mustela africana*)

**Geographic Range:** "The species is distributed in the Amazon Basin in Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and northern Bolivia, potentially present in southern Colombia." (IUCN)

**Size:** 300-590mm x 100-300g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** "Like most other weasels, the tropical weasel feeds on rodents and other small mammals." (all-about-ferrets)

**Red List Status:** DD A Data Deficient Species

**References:**

all-about-ferrets.org

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017



**Altai or Mountain Weasel** (*Mustela altaica*)

**Range:** Numerous countries of central and eastern Asia

**Size:** 307-460mm and x 120-220g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** “The mountain weasels are strict carnivores...They primarily feed on pikas and voles; they have an important ecological role in reducing or limiting the population numbers of these rodents. Muskrats, rabbits, ground squirrels, small birds, lizards, frogs, fish, and insects are also found in their diet.” (Wikipedia)

**Red List Status:** NT A Near Threatened (IUCN)

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

wikipedia.org (some text and photo)



**Winter**

**Short-tailed Weasel, Ermine, or Stoat (*Mustela erminea*)**

**Range:** “Global, from approximately 35° N to the Arctic, throughout Eurasia, N America and Greenland.” (Hunter, 2011)

**Size:** 212-360mm x 60-370g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** “...consists mainly of small rodents and also includes birds, eggs, frogs and insects.” (Nowak, 2005)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. *Carnivores of the World*. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R.M. 2005. *Walker’s Carnivores of the World*. John Hopkins University Press. 313 pp.

Photos: Summer pelage ([www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org)) and winter pelage (IUCN Redlist)



**Steppe Polecat** (*Mustela eversmanii*)

**Range:** "...occurs east from Poland, the Czech Republic and Austria (central Europe) through southern Russia, northern Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan to Mongolia and northern and western China." (IUCN)

**Size:** Males are from 400- 700mm in total length with females being smaller and weigh 1350-2050g (Wikipedia)

**Diet:** Its diet consists mainly of rodents including susliks (*Spermophilus ssp*) marmots (*Marmota ssp.*), and various genera of hamsters, gerbils and voles and pikas (*Ochotona spp*). (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

wikipedia.org 2017

www.zooinstitutes.com (photo)



**Columbian Weasel** (*Mustela felipei*)

**Size:** 328-352mm x 120-150g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** "...preys primarily on fish, other small aquatic animals, and small terrestrial mammals."  
(Wikipedia)

**Red List Status:** VU A Vulnerable Species

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press.  
240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (some text and photo)





**Long-tailed Weasel** (*Mustela frenata*)

**Range:** "...from just north of the United States–Canadian border south to northern South America ...In South America it is known from Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia..." (IUCN)

**Size:** 279-330mm x 85-340g (Nowak, 2005)

**Diet:** Mainly rodents and other small mammals (Nowak, 2005)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R.M. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press.  
313 pp.

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) (photo)





**Japanese Weasel** (*Mustela itatsi*)

**Range:** Japan and adjacent islands (IUCN)

**Size:** 400-520mm x 150-450g "Female are generally smaller." (eol)

**Diet:** "Rodents, insects, amphibians and reptiles make up the main part of its diet." (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** NT A Near Threatened Species

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.eol.org](http://www.eol.org)

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (photo)



**Yellow-bellied Weasel** (*Mustela kathiah*)

**Range:** Asia

**Size:** 375-420mm x approx. 1500g (theanimalfiles)

**Diet:** "...rodents (rats, mice, and voles), other small mammals and birds." (theanimalfiles)

**Red List Status:** Has not been assessed by IUCN

**References:**

[www.theanimalfiles.com](http://www.theanimalfiles.com)

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) (photo)



**European Mink (*Mustela lutreola*)**

**Range:** “France; Romania; Russian Federation; Spain; Ukraine” (IUCN)

**Size:** 720-830mm x 600-1100g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** “...amphibians, crustaceans (crayfish), fish, small mammals, insects and birds...” (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** CR A Critically Endangered Species

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Bio-foto.com (photo)



**Indonesian Mountain Weasel** (*Mustela lutreolina*)

**Range:** Indonesia-Java and Sumatra

**Size:** 443-491mm x 295-340g (Wilson and Reeder, 2005)

**Diet:** Unknown

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern (IUCN)

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Wilson, D.E. and D.M. Reeder. 2005. Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference, Vol I. p 616.

[www.observationdeck.kinja.com](http://www.observationdeck.kinja.com) (photo)



**Black-footed Ferret ( *Mustela nigripes* )**

**Range:** Very limited and disconnected populations in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah

**Size:** 494-650mm x 760-1100g (Hunter 2011)

**Diet:** Primarily Prairie dogs (*Cynomys* spp.)

**Red List Status:** EN An Endangered Species (IUCN)

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Encyclopedia of Life [www.eol.org](http://www.eol.org) (photo)





**Least Weasel ( *Mustela nivalis* )**

**Range:** The Least Weasel has a circumboreal Holarctic distribution, taking in much of Europe, northern Asia and northern North America. It is found almost throughout Europe, including Britain (but not Ireland). In mainland Asia it ranges south to northern Mongolia and Korea and northern China. Further west in Asia it occurs south to Lebanon, Iran and Afghanistan. It is also found on Honshu, Hokkaido, Kunashiri and Etorofu islands in Japan and on Sakhalin and the Kuril islands in Russia. In North Africa it is confined to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. (IUCN)

**Size:** Sizes vary greatly within the range of this species from 131-347 mm x 29- 250 g with females being markedly smaller than males in some geographic regions (Wikipedia)

**Diet:** Small rodents (mice and rats), eggs, and birds

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern (IUCN)

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (some text and photo)





**Malayan Weasel** (*Mustela nudipes*)

**Range:** Thai-Malay peninsula, and the islands of Sumatra and Borneo (IUCN)

**Size:** 54-66mm and weight range unknown (Wikipedia)

**Diet:** Unknown

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern (IUCN)

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) (photo)



**European or Western Polecat (*Mustela putorius*)**

**Range:** widespread in the western Europe and "... east to the Ural Mountains in the Russian Federation. It is absent from Ireland, northern Scandinavia, much of the Balkans, much of the eastern Adriatic coast, and occurs in Greece only marginally, in the north. It is widespread in France, less so in the south-west and south-east in mainland Spain, in Romania and in many other countries of its range. Since the year 2000 many distribution gaps in the Swiss Midlands and Jura have been filled and in the Grisons the species has expanded its range in the Vorderrhein Valley to almost the Oberalp Pass, and in the Vorderrhein Valley to the Via Mala area." (IUCN)

**Size:** 345-565mm x 405-1710g. (Nowak, 2005) Females are smaller.

**Diet:** "It feeds on live lagomorphs, rodents (various genera of voles, mice and hamsters), amphibians and other vertebrates, also sometimes on invertebrates and carrion. In many Mediterranean areas, it is specialised in the predation of lagomorphs, notably European Rabbit." (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern (IUCN)

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R.M. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press. 313 pp.

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) (photo)

The accuracy of an internet photo as  
this species cannot be confirmed  
(*Mustela russelliana*)  
This species is only known from  
four museum specimens

**Sichuan or Lackedteeth Pygmy Weasel (*Mustela russelliana*)**

**Range:** China, Sichuan Province

**Size:** 178-192 mm x weight unknown (Groves, 2007)

**Diet:** Unknown (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** DD Data Deficient (IUCN)

**References:**

Groves, C. (2007). On some weasels from eastern Asia. *Small Carnivore Conservation*, Vol. 37 :21-25.

IUCN Red List 2017



**Siberian Weasel (*Mustela sibirica*)**

**Range:** This species is distributed from the western Ural Mountains east to the Pacific Ocean and south to the islands of Taiwan and Jeju (Republic of Korea). It also occurs south of the Himalayas and a large part of east-central Asia (north, west, and southern China and southern Mongolia). (IUCN)

**Size:** 380-600mm x 360-820g (Wikipedia). Females are smaller than males.

**Diet:** "It feeds on small mammals, such as voles, squirrels, mice, and pikas, on amphibians, fish, and carrion, and, when they are seasonally available, on pine *Pinus* nuts." (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) (photo)



**Back-striped Weasel** (*Mustela strigidorsa*)

**Range:** South and East Asia

**Size:** to 280-530mm x 700-2000g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** Unknown

**Red List Status:** VU A Vulnerable Species (IUCN)

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (photo)



The accuracy of an internet photo of  
this species cannot be confirmed  
(*Mustela subpalmata*)

**Egyptian Weasel** (*Mustela subpalmata*)

**Range:** "...lower Nile Valley of Egypt..." (IUCN)

**Size:** Unknown

**Diet:** Unknown

**Red List Status:** LC Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

The accuracy of an internet photo of  
this species cannot be confirmed

(*Mustela tonkinensis*)  
This species is known from a  
single, collected specimen

**Tonkin Weasel** (*Mustela tonkinensis*)

**Range:** Northern Viet Nam (IUCN)

**Size:** Unknown

**Diet:** Unknown

**Red List Status:** DD A Data Deficient Species

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017



**American Mink** (*Neovison vison*)

**Range:** “The species occurs in North America from Alaska and Canada through the United States except Arizona and the dry parts of California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, and western Texas.” (IUCN)

**Size:** 328-660mm x 450-2300g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** “Typical prey are fish, amphibians, crustaceans, Muskrats, and small mammals.” (IUCN) and additionally feeds on “...birds...herptiles, eggs and aquatic invertebrates.” (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Garrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org) (photo)



**Libyan Weasel** (*Ictonyx libycus*)

**Range:** "Algeria; Burkina Faso; Chad; Egypt; Eritrea; Libya; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco; Niger; Nigeria; Senegal; Sudan; Tunisia; Western Sahara" (IUCN)

**Size:** 378-545mm x 760-1100g (Hunter 2011)

**Diet:** "The diet apparently consists of rodents, young ground birds, and insects." (Nowak, 2005)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Garrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

Nowak, R.M. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press. 313 pp.

Red List IUCN 2017

Zoo Chat|ZooPlzen, Pilsen, Czech Republic (photo)



**African Striped Weasel** (*Poecilogale albinucha*)

**Range:** “Sub-equatorial Africa, from S. Kenya and S. Uganda to coastal DR Congo, and south to S. Africa” (Hunter, 2011)

**Size:** 378-565mm x 2100-3800g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** This weasel is a “Rodent specialist, hunting mainly small mice, rats, and mole rats to its own size. Also eats small reptiles, insects and eggs.” (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Garrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) (photo)





**Marbled Polecat** (*Vormela peregusna*)

**Range:** "N. China, Mongolia, C. Asia, the Middle East and SE Europe." (Hunter, 2011)

**Size:** 440-933mm x 370-715g (Nowak, 2005)

**Diet:** "...rodents, birds, reptiles and other animals." (Nowak, 2005)

**Red List Status:** VU A Vulnerable Species

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R.M. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press. 313 pp.

Photo by Bernhard Grzimek.



**Honey Badger or Ratel** (*Mellivora capensis*)

**Range:** “The Honey Badger has an extensive range which extends through most of sub-Saharan Africa from the Western Cape, South Africa, to southern Morocco and south-western Algeria, and outside Africa through Arabia, Iran and western Asia to Middle Asia (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), the Indian peninsula and Nepal.” (IUCN)

**Size:** 600-1220mm x 7.0-14.5 kg (Nowak, 1999) and (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** “The most important prey is small mammals to the size of Springhare and reptiles, including monitors, African Rock Python and highly venomous reptiles. E.g. Cape Cobra, Puff Adder.....Also consumes invertebrates, birds, nestlings, eggs, carrion, fruits including berries and seeds.” (Hunter, 2011) “Honey and bees are important foods at certain times of the year.” (Nowak, 1999)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R. M, 2005. Walker’s Carnivores of the World. The John Hopkins University Press. 331 pp.

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (photo)



**Japanese Badger** (*Meles anakuma*)

**Range:** Only occurs on the Japanese islands of Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku, and Shodoshima. (IUCN)

**Size:** 7000-8100 mm x 4400-6400 kg (IUCN)

**Diet:** Earthworms, berries, beetles, and persimmons. (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) (photo)



**European Badger** (*Meles meles*)

**Range:** "...originally occurred throughout Europe, including the British Isles and several Mediterranean islands (Sicily, Crete, Rhodes), and in Asia as far east as Japan and as far south as Palestine, Iran, Tibet, and southern China." (Nowak, 2005)

**Size:** 675-1102mm x 10,000- 16,000g (Nowak, 2005)

**Diet:** "Omnivorous, feeding mainly on soil-living invertebrates, especially earthworms ( a major component of the diet in most populations) and insects, followed by wild and cultivated fruit including berries, hard mast, grains, tubers and mushrooms. Small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews are important prey; hedgehogs, rabbits, small birds, herptiles, and eggs are opportunistically consumed." (Nowak, 2005)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press.  
313 pp.

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (photo)





**Asian Badger** (*Meles leucurus*)

**Range:** The “Asian Badger is found in Russia (from the Volga River east through parts of Siberia to the Russian Far East) and across central Asia east of the Caspian Sea to Mongolia, China and Korea.” (IUCN)

**Size:** 500-700mm x 3500-9000g (Revolv, 2017)

**Diet:** “This species is an opportunistic forager with an omnivorous diet, including fruit, nuts, bulbs, tubers, acorns, and cereal crops. It also consumes a variety of invertebrates (especially earthworms), wasp and bee nests, birds' eggs, carrion, and live vertebrate prey such as mice, voles, hedgehogs and moles.” (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) (photo)

[www.revolv.com](http://www.revolv.com)



The accuracy of an internet photo of  
this species cannot be confirmed  
(*Arctonyx albogularis*)

**Northern Hog Badger** (*Arctonyx albogularis*)

**Range:** “Northern Hog Badger occurs in Sikkim and elsewhere in North-east India (and presumably in intervening Bhutan); across southern and eastern China...” (IUCN)

**Size:** 560-930mm x 5000-10,000g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** “...high proportion of small rodents and snails in the diet, as well as herptiles, birds, earthworms, beetles, larvae, roots, acorns and leaves.” (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press, 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017



**Greater Hog Badger (*Arctonyx collaris*)**

**Range:** "SE Asia, from E. India, extreme S China, Myanmar and Thailand to Indochina." (Hunter, 2011)

**Size:** 670-770mm x 7000-14,000g (Nowak, 2005)

**Diet:** "Poorly known; thought to be omnivorous and possibly specializing partially in earthworms...like Sumatran Hog-badger..." (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** VU A Vulnerable Species

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press, 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R. M, 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. The John Hopkins University Press. 331 pp.



**Sumatran Hog Badger** (*Arctonyx hoeveii*)

**Range:** Sumatra

**Size:** 590-890mm x 4000-8000g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** "Thought to have a diet consisting almost entirely of soil-living invertebrates, primarily earthworms, beetle larvae and ants." (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press, 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017



**Bornean Ferret-badger** (*Melogale everetti*)

**Range:** “Endemic to Borneo.” (Hunter, 2011)

**Size:** 475-660mm x 1500-3000g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** The feeding ecology of this ferret-badger is “Poorly known. Reportedly eats soil-living invertebrates (especially earthworms), lizards, small birds, rodents and fruit.” (Hunter, 2011).

**Red List Status:** EN An Endangered Species

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) (photo)



**Small-toothed or Chinese Ferret-badger** (*Melogale moschata*)

**Range:** South and central China, Taiwan, northern Myanmar, northern India and northern Indochina. (Hunter, 2011)

**Size:** 445-630mm x 800-1600g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** “Feeds chiefly on soil-living invertebrates, especially earthworms and insects, as well as fruits and seeds. Less important food includes small mammals, herptiles, carrion and eggs.” (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) (photo)





**Javan Ferret-badger** (*Melogale orientalis*)

**Special Note:** “Physically indistinguishable from Bornean Ferret Badger and sometimes considered the same species (and both are sometimes treated as a subspecies of Large-toothed Ferret-badger).” (Hunter, 2011).

**Range:** Java and Borneo (Walker, 1975). Java and Bali (Hunter, 2011)

**Size:** 495-570mm x 1000-2000g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** The diet is unknown but, “...assumed to be similar to that of other ferret-badgers” (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** DD A Data Deficient Species

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press, 240 pp

IUCN Red List 2017

Walker, E.P. 1975. Mammals of the World, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Vol II. John Hopkins University Press. 1500pp.

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) (photo)



**Large Toothed or Burmese Ferret badger** (*Melogale personata*)

**Range:** Nepal, Assam, Burma, Siam, and Indochina (Walker 1975)

**Size:** 475-660mm x 1500-3000g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** "...feed on small mammals, insects, earthworms, and fruit." (Walker 1975)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Walker, E.P. 1975. Mammals of the World, 3rd Edition, Vol. II. John Hopkins University Press. 1500 pp.

[www.wildlifeatrisk.org](http://www.wildlifeatrisk.org) (photo)

## Stink Badgers

Stink badgers are not badgers but, Old World relatives of the skunks found in the New World.



**Sunda, Malaysian, or Java Stink Badger** (*Mydaus javanensis*)

**Range:** “ Sunda stink badgers are found in Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and the northern Natuna Islands There are three subspecies 1. (*M. j. javanensis*) in Java and on mainland Sumatra, 2. (*M. j. lucifer*) in Borneo, and 3. (*M. j. ollula*) in the Natuna Islands.” (wikipedia, 2017)

**Size:** 409-585mm x 1400-3600g (Hunter,2011)

**Diet:** “This species feeds on birds' eggs, carrion, insects, worms and plants ...” (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern Species

**References:**

alchetron.com (photo)

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)



**Palawan Stink Badger** (*Mydaus marchei*)

**Range:** Palawan and Calamian Islands of the Philippines. (Novak, 2011)

**Size:** 335-535mm x 850-2500g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** "...invertebrates, such as worms and insects including insects like mole crickets and beetles, and larvae...crabs and freshwater arthropods...fallen ripened fruits and seeds." (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern (IUCN)

**References:** IUCN Red List 2017

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press. 313 pp.

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) (photo)





**American Badger** (*Taxidea taxus*)

**Range:** “The species is distributed from southern Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and southern Ontario), over most of the northern, western and central United States, and south to Puebla and Baja California, Mexico.” (IUCN)

**Size:** 520-875mm and 3.6-10 kg (Walker, 1975)

**Diet:** “Most food is obtained by excavating the burrows of fossorial rodents. Ground squirrels are often major item in diet, as are pocket gophers, kangaroo rats, prairie-dogs, and mice; also eats scorpions, insects, snakes, lizards, and birds, especially when ground squirrel population is low (IUCN). Carrion is also eaten (Hall and Kelson, 1959).

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hall, E.R. and K. R. Kelson. 1959. The Mammals of North America. Vol. II. Ronald Press. 1162 pp

IUCN Red List 2017

Walker, E. P. 1975. Mammals of the World, Vol II, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. John Hopkins University Press. 1500 pp.

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) (photo)





**Hooded Skunk** (*Mephitis macroura*)

**Range:** primarily in southwest U.S. in extreme west Texas, southwest New Mexico, and most of southern Arizona and Mexico thru to NW Costa Rica

**Size:** 553-795mm x 700-2700g (Hunter, 2017). Tail length may be equal to or slightly longer than head and body length. Males are distinctly larger than females.

**Diet:** Feeds mainly on soil or leaf litter-living invertebrates and also rodents, shrews, fruits, especially prickly pear, and eggs. (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) (photo)



**Striped Skunk** (*Mephitis mephitis*)

**Range:** “The species occurs throughout most of southern Canada from British Columbia, Hudson Bay, and Nova Scotia, throughout the United States and into northern Mexico.” (IUCN)

**Size:** 320-870mm x 600-5500g (Hunter, 2011). Males generally larger than females.

**Diet:** An opportunistic omnivore feeding on a wide variety “...of invertebrates and small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, eggs, fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts.” (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.whyevolutionistrue.wordpress.com](http://www.whyevolutionistrue.wordpress.com) (photo)



**Molina's Hog-nosed Skunk** (*Conepatus chinga*)

**Range:** "Central and southern Peru, Bolivia, southern Brazil, Chile, northern and western Argentina, Uruguay;" (Nowak, 2005)

**Size:** 430-780mm x 1000-3000g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** Omnivorous. Feeds primarily on invertebrates-ground beetles and their larvae. Also eats rodents, small reptiles and their eggs and carrion. (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2015. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

IUCN Red List (photo)

Nowak, R. 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. John Hopkins University Press. 313 pp.



**American Hog-nosed Skunk** (*Conepatus leuconotus*)

**Range:** Southwestern U.S., Mexico, and throughout Central America to northern Nicaragua. (Hunter, 2011)

**Size:** 460-920mm x 2000-4500g (Hunter, 2011)

**Diet:** "Invertebrates, especially soil-living insects, grubs and larvae, comprise 50-90% of the diet. Also eats small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, carrion and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables." (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

animaldiversity.org (photo)

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017





**Amazonian or Striped Hog-nosed Skunk (*Conepatus semistriatus*)**

**Range:** "Its range begins in southern Mexico and continues south into northern Peru along the western Andes and east across northern Venezuela and into the llanos of Colombia, with an isolated population in eastern Brazil (Nowak 2005)." (IUCN)

**Size:** 465-810mm x 1400-3500g (Hunter 2011)

**Diet:** "Omnivorous and thought to eat mainly invertebrates grubbed from the soil surface, supplemented with small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and ripe fallen fruits." (Hunter, 2011)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University\_Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) (photo)





**Southern Spotted Skunk** (*Spilogale angustifrons*)

**Range:** This species occurs through central Mexico southward into Costa Rica

**Size:** 300-395mm x 240-540g (Hunter, L. 2011)

**Diet:** This species "... is omnivorous - feeding on insects, small mammals, fruit, grain, birds and bird eggs." (IUCN)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) (photo)



**Western Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*)**

**Range:** This spotted skunk can be found from extreme southwest British Columbia and south along the Pacific Coast states into and across Mexico and Central America to El Salvador

**Size:** 325-570mm x 260-1000g (Hunter, L. 2011)

**Diet:** "...an omnivorous species, feeding primarily on insects and small mammals." (IUCN, 2017)

**Red List Status:** LC A Species of Least Concern

**References:**

Hunter, L. 2011. Carnivores of the World. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.tpw.magazine.org/westernspottedskunk/june2016](http://www.tpw.magazine.org/westernspottedskunk/june2016) (photo)



**Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)**

**Range:** The eastern spotted skunk extends east from the Mississippi river through Louisiana and northward to the Ohio river and then eastward to the western edges of the southern coastal states along the Atlantic and on into most of Florida.

**Size:** 330-610mm x 200-900g (Hunter, L., 2011)

**Diet:** Insects and rodents and birds, eggs, fruits, and carrion. (Hunter, L., 2011)

**Red List Status:** VU A Vulnerable Species

**References:**

Hunter, L. Carnivores of the World. 2011. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

[www.worldlifeexpectancy.com](http://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com) (photo)



**Pygmy Spotted Skunk** (*Spilogale pygmaea*)

**Range:** Mexico's tropical Pacific coast from southern Sinaloa to Oaxaca. (IUCN, 2017) and (Nowak, R. M, 2005)

**Size:** 24-29.7cm x 130-170g (Hunter, L. 2011)

**Diet:** "mainly on invertebrates, especially larvae and adult beetles, ants, termites, millipedes, centipedes, spiders and scorpions." Diet also includes the spiny pocket mouse during the dry season and occasionally eats small lizards, birds, crustaceans, snails, vegetation and fruits and seeds. (Hunter, L. 2011)

**Red List Status:** VU Vulnerable Species

**References:**

animaladay.blogspot.com 2013 (photo)

Hunter, L. Carnivores of the World. 2011. Illustrated by P. Barrett. Princeton University Press. 240 pp.

IUCN Red List 2017

Nowak, R. M, 2005. Walker's Carnivores of the World. The John Hopkins University Press. 331 pp.

7 March 2022

