ecoglen fauna fact sheet

Genetta maculata

English: **Common Large-spotted Genet**
Afrikaans: **Grootkolmuskeljaatkat**
IsiZulu: **Insimba**
Sepedi: **Tšhipa**

Status: Common

Identification:

Description: The Common Large-spotted Genet grows to a length of upto 110cm with a tail length of 50cm and weighs between 2 and 3 kg. The animal is of lean build and has an overall colouration of grey/rusty brown with varying sizes of dark brown to black spots.

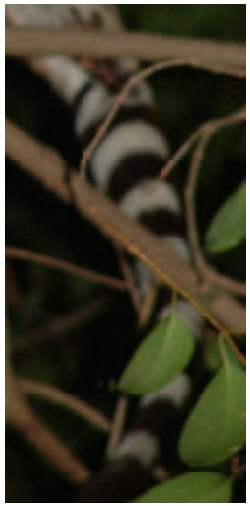
The tail is banded with alternating dark brown/black and white bands ending in a black tip. This is one of the features that help distinguish it from its cousin the Small-spotted Genet [Genetta genetta] which has a banded tail with a white tip.

The Large and Small-spotted Genets share other features but the Large-spotted Genet can be distinguished by the less prominent black facial markings, smoother and shorter fur and a white/light coloured chin.

Due to their sleek fur and kitten-like curiosity and behaviour they have a high cute factor, their European cousin are often kept as pets overseas.

Behaviour: The Common Large-Spotted Genet is one of Ecoglen's night creatures. Normally solitary, they usually hunt on the ground but are at home in the treetops as they are very agile climbers.

Diet: Small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, birds and fruit.



Habitat: Riverine forest.

Distribution: Eastern areas of Southern Africa.

Location:

The specimen pictured was photographed in a private garden, in a tree close to the riverbank along the small dam area below Gnl. Louis Botha Ave.

Bibliography

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