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Of *New Mexico*



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Booklet data last updated on 9/11/2009

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Coati, White-nosed

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Taxonomy

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Species IDa	050165
Name	Coati, White-nosed
Other Common Names	Coatimundi; Coati (Indian name); Pizote; El gato solo (Los gatos en familia); Chula; Chulo
Category	05 Mammals
Elcode	AMAJE03010
BLM Code	NANA
Phylum	Chordata
Subphylum	Vertebrata
Class	Mammalia
Subclass	Theria
Order	Carnivora
SubOrder	Fissipedia
Family	Procyonidae
Genus	Nasua
Species	narica
Subspecies	No Data Submitted
Authority	(Merriam)
Scientific Name	Nasua narica
Account Type	This account represents the entire species, including any and all subspecies recognized in



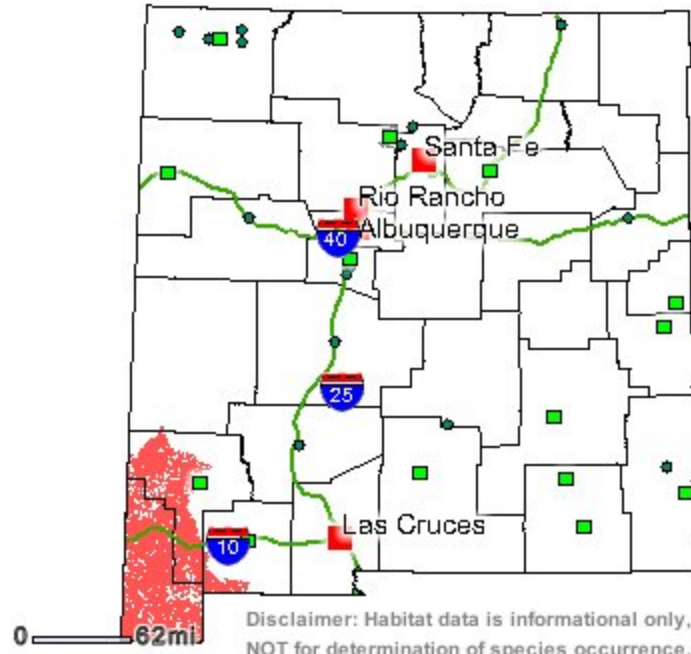
Photo: Jason Roback

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Predicted Habitat

the Southwest. There are no separate subspecies accounts relating to this species.

Taxonomic References [01](#), [02](#), [06](#), [16](#), [24](#), [26](#), [33](#)



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Comments on Taxonomy

The common Mexican coatiundi --*Nasua nasua*-- barely enters New Mexico, where it is rare and represented by but a single record [*01*](#).

This species is also known as Coati (Indian name), Pizote, El gato solo (Los gatos en familia), Chula, and Chulo (Hass, 1997) [*33*](#).

9/23/93 -- Species name changed to *N. narica*. Jones et al. (1992) have taken Decker's (1991) lead in recognizing the North American coati as distinctive from their close relatives of South America (*N. nasua*) [*16*](#).

Legal Status (section updated on 9/1/2009)

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Status	References
USFS Sensitive: Region 3 (NM,AZ)	03 , 04 , 42
Mexico: See Comments	19
State NM: Delisted	06
State NM: Provides full protection	07 , 41
State NM: Sensitive taxa (informal)	35
State NM: Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)	41
State TX: State Endangered Species	18
Heritage Global: Demonstrably Secure (G5)	21
Heritage NM: Apparently Secure in NM (S4)	41
Heritage AZ: Apparently Secure in AZ (S4)	21

See Comments

Concern

CONCERN: Limited or dated data/information

References

[34](#)

Comments on Legal Status

1990: Coati was listed as an USFS Sensitive species (USFS, 1990) [*03*](#), (USFS, 1990) [*04*](#).

1995: *Nasua narica* was listed under the Natural Heritage Global Rank "G5" ("G5" = "Demonstrably Secure") (AGFD, 1995) [*21*](#).

This listing was made on December 1, 1983 (NMNHP, 1997) [*36*](#).

NEW MEXICO 1979: In New Mexico the coatimundi was listed State Endangered, Group II in 1979 (Hubbard, et al., 1979) [*05*](#).

1990: By 1990 the coatimundi had been delisted in New Mexico (NMDGF, 1990) [*06*](#).

1992: Moderate priority was assigned to the coati with regard to the importance of assessing a threshold for its sustainable harvest as a furbearer in New Mexico (Thompson, et al., 1992) [*17*](#).

1997: *Nasua narica* was listed under the Natural Heritage NM State Rank "S2" ("S2" = "Imperiled") on December 2, 1994 (NMNHP, 1997) [*36*](#).

2006: *Nasua narica* was identified as a species of greatest conservation need in the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for New Mexico (NMDGF, 2006) [*41*](#).

2006: *Nasua narica* was listed under the New Mexico Chapter 17 status "Provides full protection" (NMDGF, 2006) [*41*](#).

ARIZONA 1995: *Nasua narica* was listed under the Natural Heritage Arizona State Rank "S4" ("S4" = "Apparently Secure") (AGFD, 1995) [*21*](#).

TEXAS 1993: Coati was listed Endangered in the state of Texas. Laws and regulations pertaining to endangered or threatened animal species are contained in Chapters 67 and 68 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Code and Sections 65.171-65.184 of Title 31 of the Texas Administrative Code (TPWD, 1993) [*18*](#).

MEXICO 1991: *Nasua nelsoni* was listed in Mexico as "Under Special Protection" (Min. of Soc. Dev. in Mexico, 1991) [*19*](#).

2006: *Nasua narica* was listed under the Natural Heritage NM State Rank "S4" ("S4" = "Apparently Secure in NM") (NMDGF, 2006) [*41*](#).

2007: U.S. Forest Service included the species *Nasua narica* its region 3 sensitive species list (USFS, 2007) [*42*](#).

Comments on Population Trends and Threats

1975: The common Mexican coatimundi, *Nasua nasua*, barely entered New Mexico, where it was rare and represented by but a single record (Findley, et al., 1975) [*01*](#).

Comments on Cultural Importance

No Data Submitted

Species Distribution (section updated on 9/11/2009)

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State

References

NM: Extant

[05](#)

AZ: Extant

[21](#)

TX: Species occurs(ed)

[23](#)

New Mexico County Occurrence

County	Data	Season	Regular	Abundance	Behavior	References
Grant						05, 43
Hidalgo						05, 12, 14, 43
New Mexico		Yr-Rnd	Regular		Breeds	22

Accident County Occurrence

No Data Submitted

Historical County Occurrence

County	Data	References
Catron		05

Expected County Occurrence

No Data Submitted

Arizona County Occurrence

No Data Submitted

Hydrological Area

No Data Submitted

Historical Hydrological Area

No Data Submitted

Other Distribution - New Mexico

Land Unit

FOREST SERVICE LANDS, NEW MEXICO
 USFS - GILA NATIONAL FOREST
 THE NATURE CONSERVANCY LANDS
 THE NATURE CONSERVANCY LANDS - GRAY RANCH, (Formerly TNC)

Other Distribution References - [03, 04, 13, 14, 20](#)

Other Distribution - Arizona

Land Unit

US FOREST SERVICE LANDS, ARIZONA
 APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST
 CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Other Distribution Arizona References - [20](#)

Mountain Range

Mountain Range	Reference
3130-10845 Animas Mts.	14
Comments on Distribution	
<p>GENERAL DISTRIBUTION 1979: The range of this species extends from Central America through most of Mexico and into southern Texas, southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona; the subspecies molaris is found from the southwestern United States through all but the central plateau of Mexico. New Mexico: Most records are from the Peloncillo Mountains in Hidalgo County, but there are also reports from as far north as the Gila Valley and Burro Mts (Grant Co.) and San Francisco Valley (Catron Co.) -- but some or all of these could be escaped or released captives (Hubbard et al., 1979) *05*.</p>	
<p>White-nosed coatis inhabit woodland, grassland and desert scrub from Panama north to southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and Texas along the Rio Grande (Taylor, 1934; Kaufmann et al. 1976) *38*.</p>	
<p>1979: This species reaches its northern distributional limits in the southwestern United States (Hubbard et al., 1979) *05* NEW MEXICO 1975: The common Mexican coatimundi, <i>Nasua nasua</i>, barely enters New Mexico, where it is rare and represented by but a single record (Findley et al., 1975) *01*.</p>	
<p>1975: Records of occurrence: Specimens examined (total 1): HIDALGO: Animas Mts., Pine Canyon, 1 (USNM). Not mapped (Findley et al., 1975) *01*.</p>	
<p>1990: Coati is an USFS Sensitive species found in the Gila and Coronado, New Mexico portion, National Forests (Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List, 1990) *03*, *04*.</p>	
<p>1992: Coati have been reported as far north as Glenwood, New Mexico (Dr. Hayward, personal comm.). Additional road kill/observation survey data (from 9/91 to 5/92; not from the museum collections) include records from Hidalgo county (Thompson et al., 1992) *17*.</p>	
<p>1995: Coati are a uncommon species in Gila National Forest (USDA Forest Service, 1995) *37*.</p>	
<p>2004: The species <i>Nasua narica</i> occurs in Grant and Hidalgo counties (Frey, 2004) *43*.</p>	
<p>ARIZONA 1986: Found in Cochise, Santa Cruz, and eastern Pima counties; wanderers and stragglers farther west and north; other records from as far north as Walnut Canyon, near Flagstaff, and Petrified Forest (Hoffmeister, 1986) *08*.</p>	
<p>TEXAS 1993: Coati occurred in the Gulf Coast prairies, South Texas brush country, Edwards Plateau, and Trans Pecos ecoregions in Texas (TPWD, 1993) *18*.</p>	
Comments on Prehistoric Distribution	
No Data Submitted	
Habitat Association	Back to top
General Habitat	References
RIPARIAN	08?
RIPARIAN	05?
TERRESTRIAL	08?
TERRESTRIAL	05?

MONTANE	08
MONTANE	40
LOWLANDS	08
LOWLANDS	40

Comments on Habitat Associations

In New Mexico the coati inhabits canyons characterized by riparian vegetation such as sycamore and oaks *05*.

White-nosed coatis inhabit woodland, grassland and desert scrub *38*.

In a preliminary study in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona, coatis were located most frequently in woodland habitats. Coati locations were highest in oak woodland and riparian forests. Less than 10% of locations occurred in grassland habitats. Using the GAP vegetation layer, coatis were located most frequently in encinal and ponderosa pine forest. Coatis were located most frequently between 1600 and 2100m in elevation. Proportion of coati locations was slightly higher on north aspects than south aspects *38*.

Gap Analysis Habitat Associations

Gap Vegetation Type	Season	Gap Importance	References
FOREST	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999
DOUGLAS/WHITE FIR mixed conifer	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
PONDEROSA PINE	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
CHIHUAHUA/APACHE PINE	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
WOODLANDS	Yr-Rnd	Important	999
PINYON/JUNIPER closed	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
JUNIPER SAVANNA	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
BORDER PINYON/ALLIGATOR JUNIPER	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
REDBERRY JUNIPER open	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
SILVERLEAF/NETLEAF OAK closed	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
ENCINAL OAK open/gray/emory/white oak	Yr-Rnd	Important	8, 40
SCRUB	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999
Mt SCRUB mahogany/gambel/wavyleaf oak	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
CHAPARRAL toumey/scrub/live oak/manzan	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
GREAT BASIN sagebrush	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
GREAT BASIN rabbitbrush/winterfat/etc	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
CHIH DESERT creosotebush	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
CHIH DESERT tarbush/mesquite/ocotillo	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
AZ UPLAND SONORAN DESERTSCRUB (AZ)	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
GRASS	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999
SHORT GRASS STEPPE gramma+buffalograss	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40

CHIH DESERT GRASSLAND black grama	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
CHIH DESERT GRASSLAND tabosa/sacaton	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
RIPARIAN	Yr-Rnd	Important	999
MONTANE RIPARIAN cottonwd/alder/willow	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
LOWLAND RIPARIAN cottonwood/sycamore	Yr-Rnd	Important	8, 23, 40
ARROYO RIPARIAN Apache plume/mesquite	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
BARREN	Yr-Rnd	Important	999
BARREN: MINES & QUARRIES	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	8, 40
BARREN: ROCK OUTCROP	Yr-Rnd	Important	40

Comments on Gap Analysis Habitat Associations

"Coatis inhabit woodland areas of the warmer parts of Central America, Mexico, and the extreme southern United States including southern Texas. . They also occur in some of the rocky canyons that enter the mountains from the lowlands." (Davis & Schmidly, 1994) *23* "Coatis in Arizona inhabit woodlands of the lower canyons of the southeastern mountains. Here the prevalent vegetation consists of oaks, sycamores, and walnuts. Sometimes they live in canyons with a mixture of oaks and pines, shrubby woodland, or grassland and shrubs. They climb trees easily and rapidly and often take to trees as a means of escape. Coatis are usually found near stream or creeks or some source of water. Although they are not a desert animals, coatis may move into and through desertscrub when going from one place to another." (Hoffmeister, 1986) *08*

Land Use / Land Cover Associations

Land Use / Land Cover	References
Forest Land	17, 08?, 14?
Evergreen Forest Land	17
Mixed Forest Land	17
Water	08?, 14?
Streams and Canals	08?, 14?

Comments on Land Use / Land Cover Associations

No Data Submitted

National Wetlands Inventory

No Data Submitted

Comments on National Wetlands Inventory

No Data Submitted

Habitat SAF

No Data Submitted

Habitat PNV

PNV	References
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland (Juniperus-Pinus)	14?

Habitat Eco Regions

No Data Submitted

Habitat Life Zones

Life Zone	References
UPPER SONORAN: PINYON-JUNIPER	11
LOWER SONORAN: MESQUITE-CREOSOTE BUSH	17

Comments on General Habitat Associations

They can be found in oak and pinon-juniper woodlands [*14*](#).

In New Mexico the coati inhabits canyons characterized by riparian vegetation such as sycamore and oaks [*05*](#).

ARIZONA Coatis in Arizona inhabit woodlands of the lower canyons of the southeastern mountains. Here the prevalent vegetation consists of oaks, sycamores, and walnuts. Sometimes they live in canyons with a mixture of oaks and pines, shrubby woodland, or grassland and shrubs. They are usually found near streams or creeks or some source of water. Coatis probably live in natural retreats such as rock crevices, cavities among tree roots, and caves or mines. We saw one about 300 feet down a nearly vertical mine shaft [*08*](#).

Coati in Arizona frequently use chaparral, pine-oak and riparian woodlands of mountains and they occasionally leave the woods for open desert or grassland or range into coniferous forest (Wallmo and Gallizoili 1954, Kaufmann 1984) [*17*](#).

Primary habitat types include: Mixed Coniferous Forest, Coniferous and Mixed Woodlands, and Juniper Savanna [*17*](#).

Secondary habitat types include: Montane Scrub, Chihuahuan Desert Scrub, Closed Basin Scrub, Plains-Mesa Grassland, Desert Grassland [*17*](#).

PRIMARY HABITAT -- GIS CALCULATIONS: The coati uses approximately 193 out of 8756 square kilometers of Subalpine Coniferous Forest (SCF) habitat within New Mexico [*17*](#).

The coati uses approximately 1685 out of 23609 square kilometers of Mixed Coniferous Forest (MCF) habitat within New Mexico [*17*](#).

The coati uses approximately 5612 out of 41470 square kilometers of Coniferous and Mixed Woodlands (C&MW) habitat within New Mexico [*17*](#).

The coati uses approximately 221 out of 30939 square kilometers of Juniper Savanna (JS) habitat within New Mexico [*17*](#).

The coati uses approximately 17 out of 55233 square kilometers of Desert Grassland (DG) habitat within New Mexico [*17*](#).

The coati uses a total of approximately 7728 out of the 311478 square kilometers within New Mexican borders [*17*](#).

Food Habits

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Trophic	References
INVERTIVORE-eats invertebrates	999
OMNIVORE-eats plants and animals	05?

Trophic Comments

No Data Submitted

LifeStage	Food Item Consumed	Part of Food Item
General	PLANTS	Roots
General	PLANTS	Fruit/Seeds/Cones
General	CUPRESSACEAE	Not Specified
General	J. deppeana	Fruit/Seeds/Cones
General	LILIACEAE	Not Specified
General	Yucca spp.	Not Specified
General	Allium spp.	Not Specified
General	AMARYLLIDACEAE	Not Specified
General	A. parryi	Flower
General	SALICACEAE	Not Specified
General	P. fremontii	Flower
General	RHAMNACEAE	Not Specified
General	R. betulaefolia	Fruit/Seeds/Cones
General	VITACEAE	Not Specified
General	V. arizonica	Not Specified
General	CACTACEAE	Not Specified
General	Opuntia spp.	Not Specified
General	ERICACEAE	Fruit/Seeds/Cones
General	A. pungens	Fruit/Seeds/Cones
General	ANIMALS:	Egg/Fetus stage
General	INVERTEBRATES	Not Specified
General	ARTHROPODA	Not Specified
General	Insecta	Not Specified
General	Terrestrial Insects	Not Specified
General	Coleoptera	Not Specified
General	Orthoptera	Not Specified
General	CHORDATA (Vertebrates)	Not Specified
General	Reptilia	Not Specified
General	Aves	Not Specified
General	Passeriformes	Not Specified
General	Mammalia	Not Specified
General	Mammalia	See Comments

General	Sylvilagus spp.	Not Specified
General	Carrion	Not Specified
General	SEE COMMENTS	See Comments
Adult		
Adult		

LifeStage**References**

General	05
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Comments on Food Habits - General

These bands of coatimundis move slowly along, rooting in litter, crevices, and other places for food, both on the ground and at times in trees. They are primarily diurnal and quite omnivorous, eating fruits, nuts, roots, insects and eggs [*05*](#).

Coatis feed extensively on soil-inhabiting invertebrates, lizards, snakes, carrion, rodents, nuts and fruits of native trees, prickly pear, and yucca. They are quite omnivorous when necessary, feeding on what is available [*08*](#).

In a preliminary study of the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona, ninety-two scats were collected and examined during the study. Fruits, mostly juniper berries, were found in 92% of scats, invertebrates were found in 77% and vertebrates were found in 4%. Diet varied seasonally, with vertebrates found only in scats collected in the fall and winter, and some fruits found in scats only during the summer. Two lizards found in scats were identified from skeletal material and scales. The mammal remains (Sylvilagus spp.) and bird remains (Passeriformes) consisted solely of hair or feathers, without any skeletal material, and may have been scavaged. The predominant invertebrates consisted of orthopterans (grasshoppers and crickets) and coleopterans (small ground beetles (Carabidae) and grubs (Scarabidae)). Juniper fruits were consumed year-round, and buckthorn, prickly pear, chokecherry, and canyon grape consumed during the summer. Additional foods observed being consumed, but not recovered in scats included deer (Odocoileus virginianus) carrion; rock squirrels (Spermophilus variegatus); flowers of cottonwood (Populus fremontii); chokecherry; and agave (Agave parryii); wild onions (Allium spp.); and orchard fruits, primarily apples [*38*](#).

Comments on Food Habits - Important

No Data Submitted

Comments on Food Habits - Adult

No Data Submitted

Comments on Food Habits - Juvenile

No Data Submitted

Comments on Food Habits - Larval

No Data Submitted

Environmental Associations

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LifeStage**Environmental Associations**

General	General Waterbody Type: Streams
General	Terrestrial Features: Caves

General	Terrestrial Features: Mines
General	Terrestrial Features: Rock outcrops & Rimrock
General	Terrestrial Features: Woodlands
General	Terrestrial Features: Canyon/Steep slope
General	Terrestrial Features: Specified in Comments
General	See Comments On Environmental Associations
LifeStage	References
General	05 , 08 , 14

Comments on General Environmental Associations

In New Mexico the coati inhabits canyons characterized by riparian vegetation such as sycamore and oaks *05*.

ARIZONA Coatis in Arizona inhabit woodlands of the lower canyons of the southeast- ern mountains. Here the prevalent vegetation consists of oaks, sycamores, and walnuts. Sometimes they live in canyons with a mixture of oaks and pines, shrubby woodland, or grassland and shrubs. They are usually found near streams or creeks or some source of water. Coatis probably live in natural retreats such as rock crevices, cavities among tree roots, and caves or mines. We saw one about 300 feet down a nearly vertical mine shaft *08*.

Comments on Limiting Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Adult Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Breeding Adult Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Feeding Adult Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Resting Adult Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Juvenile Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Resting Juvenile Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Feeding Juvenile Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Larvae Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Resting Larvae Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Feeding Larvae Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Pupa Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Egg Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Life History

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Description

Distinguishing features: This medium-sized (total length 46 inches) mammal resembles the related raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*). Both of these species are grayer than the brownish coati and have bushier tails which are marked with more distinct alternating dark and light rings. The coati is further distinguished by its relatively long, upturned snout, and it often carries the tail in a vertical position *05*.

Other descriptive details: The overall coloration is dark, grizzled brown; the tail which is as long as the head and body is marked with relatively indistinct alternating light and dark rings. The snout is whitish in color, and white spots are present above and below each eye. The ears are small, rounded, and whitish in color. Total length 850-1340 mm, tail 420-680, hind foot 95-122 (Hall and Kelson, 1959) *05*.

ARIZONA A procyonid with facial mask and ringed tail, although not boldly differentiated; legs short; front claws elongate; snout prominent, mobile, and demarcated with light-colored fur; color of dorsum in Arizona specimens brownish intermixed with black; feet black; ears rimmed with white; skull elongate, especially rostrum; no postorbital processes on zygomata; auditory bullae small but greatly inflated; external auditory meatus separated from bulla by tube; ascending ramus of mandible short and weak. Dentition: 3/3, 1/1, 4/4, 2/2 *08*.

In a 16 month preliminary study in the Huachuca Mountains, adult female coatis weighed an average of 4.0 + or - 0.45 kg (n=37), whereas adult male coatis averaged 5.2 + or - 1.33 kg (n=32, recaptures included) *38*.

Reproduction

The breeding season is during April and May, and after a gestation period of approximately two and one-half months, four to six young are born. ARIZONA Mating is thought to take place in April and young are born in June *08*.

In a 16-month preliminary study in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona, the mating season extended from mid-March to the end of April. Births occurred during late June. Females brought the young from the dens approximately 5 weeks postpartum, and brought an average of 3.9 young back to the troops *38*.

Behavior

Biology: In New Mexico the coati inhabits canyons characterized by riparian vegetation such as sycamore and oaks. Coatis are usually found in groups, sometimes of ten or more individuals. These bands typically move slowly along,

rooting litter, crevices, and other places for food, both on the ground and at times in trees. They are primarily diurnal and quite omnivorous, eating fruits, nuts, root, insects and eggs. Coatis utter squeaks, whistles, and other vocalizations, some of which sound birdlike *05*.

ARIZONA These animals are often found in groups or bands in Arizona. Several observers have reported differing group sizes: six to 14, 25 or more, and possibly as many as 36. Groups consist of mothers and young males and females during much of the year. One group reportedly contained 38 animals: 13 adult females and yearlings (both males and females) and 25 young less than a year old. Adult males, solitary most of the year, occupy sizeable home ranges. Four ranged over 70 to 270 hectares during approximately seven months (Lanning, 1976). Groups of coatis covered even more country, for some roamed canyon complexes over 200 to 300 hectares (Kaufmann et al., 1976:624) *08*.

Coati are seminomadic in the U.S. and may leave an inhabited area entirely after a short time (Kaufmann 1982). They are known to visit water places frequently (Wallmo and Gallizoili 1954) *17*.

Coatis live in troops composed of related females and their offspring (Kaufmann, 1962; Russell, 1983; Gompper, 1994). Adult males usually are solitary outside of the mating season. Females within the troops often do not act independently, but rather in concert with the troop *38*.

Species Origin

The common Mexican coatimundi, *Nasua nasua*, barely enters New Mexico, where it is rare and represented by but a single record *01*.

ARIZONA Coatis were thought at one time to be recent emigrants into Arizona. However, they were in the Huachucas as early as 1892 for one was captured in the wild and the specimen is in the U.S. National Museum *08*.

Limiting Factors

No Data Submitted

Population Attributes

ARIZONA Populations were thought to be high in 1959, with a crash in 1960-61 (Kaufmann et al., 1976). Other highs and crashes may have occurred during this century *08*.

Life History Codes

Origin: Native to NM

Defense: Flee/Escape (Fly, jump, climb, run, etc.)

Defense: Specified in Comments

Breeding/Spawning Season: Spring

Breeding/Spawning Season: March

Breeding/Spawning Season: April

Breeding/Spawning Season: May

Breeding/Spawning Season: June

Gestation/Incubation Period: 1-2 months (29-60 days)

Reproduction: Viviparous/Ovoviviparous (live bearing)

Birth/Hatching of young: June

Nest/Den period: 1-2 months

Offspring per Reproductive Effort: 3-4

Offspring per Reproductive Effort: 5-7

Activity Pattern: Diurnal - Active in day

Foraging Strategy: Probing

Water Needs: See Comments

Dispersion/Distribution: Clumped

Grouping Tendencies: Specified in Comments

Major Mortality Factors: Predation

Home Range Size: Specified in Comments

Life History Code References - [01](#), [05](#), [08](#), [34](#), [38](#)

Comments on Life History Codes

+0799+ They climb trees easily and rapidly and often take to trees as a means of escape ***08***.

+5899+ Usually found near streams or creeks or some source of water ***08***.

+6799+ Often found in groups or bands (reported from 6 to 38) consisting of adult females and young males and females. Adult males are solitary most of the year ***08***.

+8199+ Four adult males ranged over 70 to 270 hectares during approximately seven months (Lanning, 1976). Groups have covered canyon complexes over 200 to 300 hectares (Kaufmann et al., 1976:624) ***08***.

Coatis are able to raise their metabolic rates by 130% above basal when exposed to air temperatures of 0 degrees C ***15***.

+8199+ In a 16 month preliminary study in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona, males had home ranges averaging 8.7 km² (kernel density estimator) while troops exclusive of the nesting season averaged 16.6 km². Females during the nesting season (pre- and post-parturition) averaged 2.8 km² ***38***.

Comments on Species Association

A 16 month preliminary study that took place in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona, was the first to document extensive predation on coatis by mountain lions in Arizona, although studies in the tropics have reported predation on coatis by mountain lions and jaguars (*Panthera onca*; Emmons, 1987; Glanz, 1991; Jorgenson and Redford, 1993). Previously undocumented was bear predation on coatis. Other reported predators, not detected during this study, include Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*; Gilbert, 1973; Kaufmann et al., 1976) ***38***.

Wildlife Disease and Parasites

Disease	Transmission	References
RABIES		38
SEE COMMENTS		38
RABIES		38

SEE COMMENTS

[38](#)

Comments on Disease

Coatis are subject to both rabies and canine distemper virus (Kaufmann et al., 1976; Kaufmann, 1987; Risser, 1963) *[38](#)*.

Management Practices

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Comments on Special or Standard Techniques

AGING -- In specimens measured, the sagittal crest is medium to well- developed, and the teeth have some to considerable wear *[08](#)*.

TRAPPING -- In a 16 month preliminary study in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona, live traps (Tomahawk model 207) were set along canyon bottoms. A mixture of peanut butter and dry cat food was used as a bait that was inexpensive and effective at catching coatis. No coatis were caught in Hav-a-hart raccoon traps *[38](#)*.

IMMOBILIZING -- During a 16 month preliminary study, when a coati was captured it was immobilized with a 5:1 mixture of ketamine hydrochloride and xylazine hydrochloride at 22 mg/kg (Seal and Kreeger, 1987) *[38](#)*.

Effects

Management Action

Adverse

ADC: Sodium Cyanide M-44

Adverse

ADC: Leghold traps

Adverse

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC) Chemical

Adverse

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC) Non-Chemical

Beneficial

Wildl. Mgt; regulate take:
amt/method/season/age/sex

Comment

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC) Chemical

Comment

ADC: Zinc Phosphide, above ground (grain bait)

Comment

ADC: Zinc Phosphide (meat bait)

Comment

ADC: Zinc Phosphide, below ground (grain bait)

Effects

References

Adverse

[27](#), [29](#)

Beneficial

[05](#)

No Effect

[32](#)

Comments on Management Practices

Conservation: The main threat to this species appears to be indiscriminant killing (e.g. shooting, trapping, poisoning), and only authorized control activity should be carried out. Habitat protection is also a consideration in conservation efforts in behalf of the animal (Hubbard, et al, 1973) *[05](#)*.

Comments on Animal Damage Control Methods

NOTE: The BISON-M coding of potential impacts of ADC practices (e.g., M-44's, traps, snares and poisons) in the "RESULTS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES" (MGT.FIELD & MGT fields) section, assumes the practice occurs in occupied habitat

and is applied without mitigation. For more information, contact Jon Klingel, Conservation Services Division, NM Dept of Game and Fish. Santa Fe, NM. A large number of Coati were taken in leghold traps by furtrappers in Arizona in 1970s as nontarget species (Kaufman personal communication with Klingel, May 1997) *27*.

Coatis are believed to be at risk from M-44 devices, based on kills of related species, biology of the species, and/or expert opinion. ADC practices occur in occupied habitat without mitigation (Klingel, 1997)*22*.

NMDGF is continuing literature review and obtaining expert opinion regarding this species. This species may not be vulnerable to M-44s based on additional information (Klingel, 1997) *22*.

Kaufmann states "...highly opportunistic omnivores. Coatis also eat carrion." Further, "...and others fall victim to predator control campaigns (Kaufman, 1976) *29*.

Bruce Hayward (personal communication) noted that coatis disappeared from the Burro Mountains in New Mexico in 1971 at about the same time that a coyote poisoning campaign was carried out there ..." (Kaufmann, et al, 1976)*30*.

Dr. Hass stated that she believes coatis would be at risk from M-44s, leg snares, and leg-hold traps. She doesn't have any familiarity with neck snares. Coatis eat carrion, are attracted to scents, and are easily trapped. In SE Arizona, where she studies the species, coatis are associated primarily with woodlands. Avoiding woodlands would avoid most coati habitat. She also stated the IUCN had recommended the coati for federal listing in the US under the Endangered Species Act. (Hass, 1997) *28*.

Direct mortality risk from zinc phosphide is low. However, damage may occur to kidney, lungs and liver. This is based on a physiological study done using Siberian ferrets. Secondary poisoning by zinc phosphide are known to affect different animals in the following manner: Red and Gray Foxes become ill, Great Horned Owl showed significant behavioral irregularities, Red Fox, rats, chickens, domestic cats and dogs have died (Johnson and Fagerstone, 1994)*32*.

Scavengers may be at some risk from animals killed by below ground bait of zinc phosphide grains because some of the target animals die above ground. One study estimated that 1290 Black-tailed prairie dogs, poisoned by zinc phosphide grains, died above ground (Johnson and Fagerstone, 1994)*32*.

The normal target species for zinc phosphide - meat baits use, are commensal rodents (having contact with humans). Zinc phosphide is highly to extremely toxic to both mammals and birds. All scavengers are at risk of primary poisoning and possibly secondary poisoning from zinc phosphide in meat baits. For many of these species the LD 50 level has not been determined (Johnson and Fagerstone, 1994)*32*.

Comments on Recommended Management Practices

No Data Submitted

Comments on Historical Management Practices

ARIZONA Coatis were protected from harvest until 1947. Removal of protection for coatis followed complaints by mountain residents of coati depredation on orchards and poultry (Wallmo and Gallizioli, 1954; F. Thomas pers. comm). Coatis were classified as furbearers with unlimited harvest from 1 November 1948-1 March 1949. During 1949, the season on furbearers became year-round, with unlimited take. Until 1969, an unlimited number of coatis could be harvested year-round, using any legal method of take. During 1980-1981, coatis were reclassified as non-game mammals, and take with leghold traps was prohibited. Coatis continued to be classified as non-game animals from 1981-1986, with an unlimited take and year-round season. In 1986-1987, coatis were listed specifically in the hunting regulations under "Predatory, furbearing, and other mammals." The season was limited to 1 August - 31 March. Harvest was unlimited. During 1988-89, the season on coatis decreased to 1 September- 31 March, and a limit of one animal per calendar year was imposed. These regulations remain in effect to date *38*.

Comments on Population Status

No Data Submitted

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