

Linnaeus's Two-Toed Sloth (aka Linne's Two-Toed Sloth)

Choloepus didactylus

Description: Linnaeus's two-toed sloth's fur varies in coloration from gray-brown to beige. The coat also has a greenish cast resulting from algae growing in the fur. The outer fur is long and bristly and the inner fur is short and fine. They have two toes on their forelegs and three toes on their hind legs.

Range: Central to South America

Habitat: Tropical Rainforest (strictly arboreal)

Diet: Primarily herbaceous eating berries, leaves, fruits, and other vegetation. They also have been known to eat small insects. They obtain water from vegetation and lapping up dew.

Weight: 9-19 lbs

Length: 18-33 in

Lifespan: 20-40 years

Status: Least Concern

Predators: Large cats (jaguars and ocelots), birds of prey, and large snakes

Threats: Habitat loss/destruction— logging & over-hunting

Relatives: Hoffmann's two-toed sloth is the other sloth species in the family Choloepodidae. They are also under the same suborder, Folivora, as the other 4 sloth species.

Breeding: Not much is known about the mating system of this species. It has been suggested that Linnaeus's sloths are either polygynous or polygynandrous and that the females initiate mating. This species mates year round with a peak season in March-April. Females have one offspring a year after a six month gestation period. The young live clinging to the mother for the first 5 months and are completely independent until 1 year of age, however, young are known to associate with their mothers until 2 years of age. Females reach sexual maturity at 3 years old and males at 4-5 years old.

Quick Facts:

- The structure of their fur promotes algae growth and sloths are likely to get nutrients from licking this algae or absorbing it through their skin.
- Their stomachs have four parts and it can take up to a month to digest a meal.
- Sloths only go to the ground to defecate once a week.
- Sloths are great swimmers!

Conservation: The largest threat Linne's two-toed sloths face is habitat loss due to logging. Luckily, there are multiple protected areas throughout their native range. One thing the public can do to help this species is not purchasing products from these tropical rainforests.

GSC Residents:

Name: Indie

Date of Birth: April 8, 2021

Sex: Female

Origin: Brevard Zoo

Favorite Foods:

Favorite Enrichment:

Trained Behaviors:

From the Keeper:

**Sources:**

https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Choloepus_didactylus/#:~:text=Ranging%20in%20length%20from%2021,rudimentary%20ears%2C%20and%20large%20eyes.

https://animalia.bio/linnaeuss-two-toed-sloth#google_vignette

<https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/two-toed-sloth#:~:text=Big%20forest%20cats%20like%20jaguars,mov,e%20quickly%20through%20the%20trees.>