CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Gambian Pouched Rat

Cricetomys gambianus

The Gambian Pouched Rat is a large, nocturnal rodent native to sub-Saharan Africa. Distinguished by their cheek pouches, which they use for carrying food, these rats can grow up to 90 cm (including t…

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Nesomyidae
Habitat: Savanna and forest edges
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 5-8 years in the wild, up to 8-9 years in captivity
Weight: 1-1.4 kg
Scientific name: Cricetomys gambianus

Did you know?

- A single Gambian Pouched Rat can search an area the size of a tennis court for landmines in just 30 minutes—a task that would take a human with a met…
- Gambian Pouched Rats have been trained to detect landmines and tuberculosis due to their keen sense of smell. They are named for their large cheek po…

What I learned

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