



BY PAIGE B.

the 0 can be  
silent or spoken

# OPPOSSO OF THE AMERICAS

Issue #2

Zoology Zines



How did we get to North America?

About 3 million years ago a land bridge called Isthmus of Panama emerged to connect North and South America

**I am not a pet! Please keep me in the wild where I belong!**

The Virginia Opossum prefers to live in woodlands and near human activity. They have a short lifespan of about 1 1/2 to 2 years in the wild and 3 to 4 years in captivity. When scared, this opossum plays dead! They eat mosquitos!

**Distribution:**  
Eastern North & South America



[https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Glironia\\_venusta/](https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Glironia_venusta/)  
[https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Tlacuatzin\\_canescens/](https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Tlacuatzin_canescens/)  
[https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Philander\\_opossum/](https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Philander_opossum/)  
<https://blog.nature.org/2021/05/11/strange-and-surprising-facts-about-opossums>  
[iucnredlist.org](http://iucnredlist.org)

## Information

## SOURCES

### Photos

Mikell Darling / Upsplash.com (Virginia opossum)  
Sébastien SANT/ iNaturalist (Bushy tailed Opossum)  
Josh Vandermeulen/ iNaturalist (Grey Four Eyed Opossum)  
Karl Hawkman Drakulfeith/ iNaturalist (Grey Mouse Opossum)

## Virginia Opossum

**Scientific Name:**  
*Didelphis virginiana*



**I'M THE ONLY MARSUPIAL IN THE UNITED STATES**

## Distribution:

Mexico, Guatemala



## Scientific Name:

*Tlacuatzin canescens*

This species of opossum is very small. At adulthood it can fit in the palm of your hand. We prefer to live alone from one another. This opossum does not have a pouch, instead, babies develop in a thick patch of fur. a favored food of this species are insects. I help disperse seeds I eat in the forest.

## Mexico and Central and South American Opossums

There are around 100 species of opossums that live in Mexico, and Central and South America. Most species are considered not endangered and are of least concern with the IUCN Red List. They generally live in dense forests with full coverage. Although not endangered, human activity encroaching into forests such as the Amazon could lead to habitat loss for them in the future.

## Distribution:

Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Brazil



## Scientific Name:

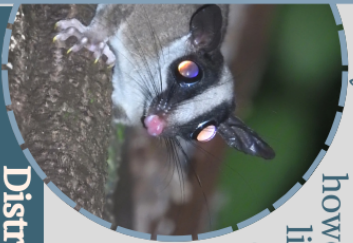
*Philander opossum*

This opossum gets its name from the white spots above its eyes. This gives the allusion of having four eyes. This opossum builds its nest from dried leaves in the lower branches of trees in the rainforests and wetlands. Unlike their cousins, they are quick and agile and make click sounds.

## Bushy Tailed

**Scientific Name:**  
*Glironia venusta*

This opossum is a canopy dweller and can be hard to study. Due to this there is not much known about what they eat and how they communicate. They are known to carry ticks, however. They do not live near humans and prefer to stay in the forests. This species of opossum does not have a pouch for their young.



## Distribution:

Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia