

DISTRIBUTION



AFRICAN CAPE PORCUPINE

Hystrix africaeaustralis

Porcupines are nocturnal being most active after dark. They spend most of the day sleeping, waking occasionally to eat.



Porcupines are killed for many reasons, they are reported as crop destroyers, they are a favoured food item for humans in many parts of its range and hunting them has become a past time.

They shelter in caves or dens they dig themselves, one defence trick is to retreat into its burrow, exposing only its quills and making it hard to dislodge.



FACTS & FIGURES

Where found	Sub-saharan Africa
Habitat	Rocky outcrops and hills
Diet	Plant material: fruits, roots, tubers, bulbs, and bark.
Average length	Over 2 feet long
Average weight	25-40kg
Number of young	Usually 2-4
Gestation	Around 112 days
Maximum lifespan	Up to 20 years old

Female cape porcupines are the biggest rodents in southern Africa, weighing more than 30 kilograms (66 pounds) and growing more than two feet long.

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST for the African porcupine



THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS CURRENTLY BEEN ASSESSED AS *LEAST CONCERN* IUCN RED LIST