

HELMETED

GUINEA FOWL

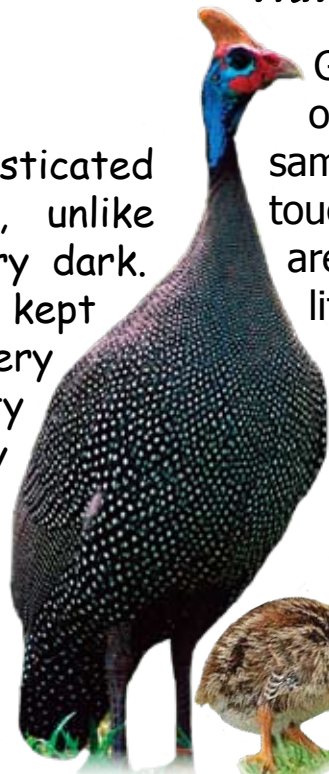
Numida meleagris

DISTRIBUTION



The ancient Romans domesticated Guinea Fowl for food, unlike chicken the meat is very dark. These birds are still kept domestically, they are very noisy so make good security guards, although sadly they are still hunted even today.

The bony casque or helmet on top of its head covered with horny cartilage gives the species its name.



Guinea Fowl hens often share nests, over 50 eggs have been found in the same nest. The eggs have tremendously tough shells which are covered in little dipples.

The chicks have a very different pattern from the adults.



FACTS & FIGURES	
Where found	West, North-eastern and southern Africa. Introduced elsewhere.
Habitat	Savanna, farmland, bush, woodland and shrubbed grassland
Diet	Seeds, roots, tubers, grubs, rodents, small reptiles, and insects; occasionally feeds on vegetation and fruits.
Average length	53-58cm
Number of eggs	6-20 eggs
Incubation	26-28 days
Lifespan	Approx 25 years

Guinea Fowl are found in Greek mythology. Meleagros was the son of Oeneus, king of Calydon. According to legend, upon his death, his sisters were transformed to Guinea Fowl.

The Helmeted Guinea Fowl is capable of strong flight, but it is mainly terrestrial, often choosing to run rather than fly if spooked.

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST
for the Helmeted Guinea Fowl



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