

# Indian palm squirrels

Call Biosecurity Queensland immediately on **13 25 23** if you see this species



## Indian palm squirrels (*Funambulus pennantii* and *Funambulus palmarum*)

- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell Indian palm squirrels in Queensland.
- Small rat sized mammal, with 3 or 5 distinctive stripes on its back and a bushy tail.
- Potential pest to fruit crops and outcompete native marsupials.
- Prolific breeders and can carry new diseases into Australia.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

### Description

Have at least three stripes running along their bodies, but *Funambulus pennantii* has two additional paler stripes on its sides, running between hind and forelegs. Fur colour is generally grey-brown with some species being a little more reddish (rarely black). The belly is creamy white or brownish. The ears are small and triangular. The tail is covered with interspersed long black and white hairs. The ears are small and triangular. Range in size from 225–400 mm total length (including 110–120 mm long tail) and weigh 60–200 g. Like other species in the Order Rodentia, Indian palm squirrels have chisel-sharp incisor teeth that grow constantly. They are active during the day and build nests.

### Pest risk

The Indian palm squirrel is a prohibited invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland in **13 25 23**.

They are major pests of fruit crops (including mangoes), and consume the eggs of native birds. They are an established invasive animal in small areas of Western Australia.

### What should I do?

If you think you have seen an Indian palm squirrel, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the Indian palm squirrel from escaping.

### Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit our website at [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

