

INVASIVE MAMMAL: Monkey (*Macaca fascicularis*, Crab-eating macaque)

(updated October 2008)

DESCRIPTION: Crab-eating macaques are native to Southeast Asia. They are usually gray or grayish-brown in color. Male macaques stand about 18 inches tall, with a tail a little longer than the body. Males usually weigh 8 to 15 pounds. Females are smaller than the males.

THREAT: The macaque is a serious pest in Palau, and preys on crabs and birds in addition to destroying farm crops and gardens in Angaur. The monkey is also a carrier for viruses and diseases that can affect humans, including B-virus, which is often lethal to humans. Pet monkeys have bitten their owners in Palau, and these bites have sometimes resulted in serious infections.

HOW THEY SPREAD: The monkeys can only get from Angaur to the other islands of Palau with the help of humans. Once they reach the other islands, however, they can easily move around. They are able to swim, and can swim to nearby islands. They are well adapted to living in mangroves, and can move from one mangrove area to another. If a monkey escapes from an owner in Koror, it can easily move to Babeldaob or the Rock Islands and Peleliu.

CURRENT STATUS: Crab-eating macaque monkeys have caused major socio-economic and environmental damage to Angaur, and they can do the same to the rest of Palau. To prevent this, the monkeys should be removed from Palau. Unfortunately, many residents of Palau keep monkeys as pets, unaware of the threat monkeys pose to their health and to the environment. The monkeys have established a strong population in Angaur, and there are individual escaped monkeys in other areas around Palau – wild monkeys have been reported in the Rock Islands and in Peleliu, Koror, and Airai. ***It is illegal to take a monkey from one island to another within Palau, and possession of a monkey outside of Angaur is a violation of quarantine regulations.***



WHAT YOU CAN DO: *Do not transport monkeys out of Angaur.*

If you own a monkey, have it neutered, and make sure it cannot escape. Please turn it in to the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection (DFWP), who can dispose of it humanely. If you know someone who owns a monkey, tell them how it threatens Palau's farms, human health, and natural ecosystems. Support the efforts of the National Invasive Species Committee to rid Palau of this pest. If you see a wild monkey on any island other than Angaur, inform DFWP at 488-2487.