

New species of monkey found in Congo rainforest

20th July 2026



Despite centuries of exploration, scientists continue to find incredible new species of wildlife. The latest discovery is a previously unknown monkey with distinctive orange lips and a deep roaring whoop. The primate

was found in a rainforest in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is just the fifth new species of African monkey to be found in the past 75 years. Locals in the area call the monkey Likweli. Scientists have given it the scientific name *Colobus congoensis*. Anthropologist Kate Detwiler said: "The discovery of *Colobus congoensis* is both a scientific triumph and a sobering reminder that some of Earth's rarest creatures may vanish before the world even knows they exist."

Anthropologists say the Likweli is a different type of monkey. It has a glossy black coat, long fur, and a flowing tail. It also has stunning orange lips and facial markings. Researchers from Florida Atlantic University said the Likweli has "distinctive skull, dental, and skeletal characteristics". These distinguish it from other known colobus monkeys. Study co-author Professor Christopher Gilbert concurred. He said: "We analyzed museum collections, examining skulls, pelts, and skeletal anatomy alongside specimens from known African colobus monkeys. Those comparisons allowed us to demonstrate conclusively that *Colobus congoensis* represents a distinct species."

Sources: sciencealert.com / smithsonianmag.com / cnn.com

Writing

We should spend more money in looking for new species. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

exploration / scientists / species / wildlife / monkey / Congo / anthropologist / vanish / fur / tail / orange lips / skull / skeleton / professor / museum / anatomy / Africa

True / False

- 1) Likweli is the first new monkey species to be discovered in centuries. T / F
- 2) The Likweli's sound is a deep roaring whoop. T / F
- 3) The Likweli was found high in the mountains above the tree line. T / F
- 4) An anthropologist said the discover of the monkey was sobering. T / F
- 5) The Likweli has very short fur. T / F
- 6) The Likweli's skull and skeleton are identical to those of other monkeys. T / F
- 7) An anthropologist found Likweli specimens in a museum. T / F
- 8) The Likweli is a distinct species. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. exploration | a. shiny |
| 2. species | b. disappear |
| 3. distinctive | c. show |
| 4. triumph | d. types |
| 5. vanish | e. agreed |
| 6. glossy | f. victory |
| 7. characteristics | g. distinguishing |
| 8. concurred | h. structure |
| 9. anatomy | i. research |
| 10. demonstrate | j. features |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How does the look of the Likweli sound?
- c) What are the differences between monkeys and apes?
- d) What surprised you about the new monkey in the article?
- e) What questions would you ask a monkey if it could talk?
- f) If you could spend one day as a monkey, what would you do?
- g) If you found a new monkey species, what would you name it?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the anthropologists?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Despite centuries of | a. anatomy |
| 2. The latest discovery is a previously | b. may vanish |
| 3. The primate was found | c. collections |
| 4. Scientists have given it | d. unknown monkey |
| 5. some of Earth's rarest creatures | e. black coat |
| 6. It has a glossy | f. conclusively |
| 7. distinctive skull, dental, and skeletal | g. exploration |
| 8. We analyzed museum | h. the scientific name |
| 9. skeletal | i. characteristics |
| 10. demonstrate | j. in a rainforest |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think exploring rainforests is like?
- How does the discovery of a new species make you feel?
- What do you think of monkeys?
- How many more species are there left to discover?
- What do you know about the Democratic Republic of Congo?
- Would you like to be an anthropologist?
- How do you feel about different species vanishing?
- What's your favourite monkey and ape?

Spelling

- Despite centuries of toepxrlnoai
- find nlbieceird new species of wildlife
- cediinvistt orange lips
- a deep roaring opwho
- The pamirte was found in a rainforest
- Earth's rarest screaeurt may vanish
- tsigooasthorlpn say the Likweli is different
- iaaflc markings
- leltksea characteristics
- These dhsuitigsni it
- amnyato alongside specimens
- demonstrate eycciovlslu that

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. d	3. g	4. f	5. b
6. a	7. j	8. e	9. h	10. c

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	For how long does the article say there has been exploration?
2.	What kind of sound does the monkey make?
3.	How many new monkey species have been found in the past 75 years?
4.	Who called the new monkey Likweli?
5.	What did an anthropologist warn might happen to Earth's rarest animals?
6.	What kind of coat does the new monkey have?
7.	What colour does the article say the monkey's facial markings are?
8.	Who is Christopher Gilbert?
9.	Where were the skulls and pelts that researchers analyzed from?
10.	What did researchers conclusively demonstrate about the monkey?

Speaking – Primates

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • Chimpanzee | • Orangutan |
| • Baboon | • Spider monkey |
| • Gorilla | • Marmoset |
| • Macaque | • Howler monkey |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.