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New species of monkey found in Congo rainforest – 20th July 2026

Level 4

Scientists are continuing to find new species. The latest discovery is a monkey with orange lips and a roaring call. The monkey was found in a rainforest in Congo. It is just the fifth new species of African monkey to be found in 75 years. Locals call the monkey Likweli. Scientists gave it the scientific name *Colobus congoensis*. An anthropologist said the discovery was "a scientific triumph" and a reminder "that some of Earth's rarest creatures may vanish".

Anthropologists said the monkey has a glossy coat, long fur, a long tail, and stunning facial markings. They said it has "distinctive skull, dental, and skeletal characteristics". These make it different to other known colobus monkeys. The study co-author agreed. He said he went to museums to analyze skulls, pelts, and skeletons from known African colobus monkeys. He said his research allowed his team to show that the Likweli was a distinct species.

Level 5

Despite centuries of exploration, scientists continue to find new species. The latest discovery is a monkey with distinctive orange lips and a deep roaring call. The monkey 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 75 years. Locals call the monkey Likweli. Scientists gave it the scientific name *Colobus congoensis*. An anthropologist said the discovery was "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 it is a different type of monkey. It has a glossy coat, long fur, and a long tail. It also has stunning facial markings. Researchers said the Likweli has "distinctive skull, dental, and skeletal characteristics". These distinguish it from other known colobus monkeys. Study co-author Professor Christopher Gilbert agreed. He said his team went to museums to analyze skulls, pelts, and skeletal anatomy from known African colobus monkeys. He said: "Those comparisons allowed us to demonstrate conclusively that *Colobus congoensis* represents a distinct species."

Level 6

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."