



Species Fact Sheet



MAMMALS <http://www.peoriazoo.org/mammals.html>

African Crested Porcupine

Hystrix africaaustralis

Peoria Zoo Exhibit Africa!

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/africa.html>

Habitat: All types of forests, plantations, rocky areas, mountain steppes, and sandhill deserts

Range: Southern half of Africa

Activity Cycle: Nocturnal– active at night

Size: Up to 60 pounds and 2-3 feet long, largest porcupine

Social Structure: Live in small family groups. Group members forage on their own but commonly share a burrow.

Distinguishing Features: Covered in long, barbed quills that are black and white on top and short, stout quills that are black or brown underneath. The short quills are the ones they use for protection. Quills are made of keratin, just like our hair.

Diet: Roots, bark, tubers, bulbs, fruit and cultivated crops

Life Span: 12-15 years

Did you know?

The barbed spine of the quills detaches easily on contact with an animal's flesh and sinks deeper and deeper in to the skin as the victim moves.