

The Southern Tamandua (**Tamandua tetradactyla**) is one of the four anteaters found in the Amazon (Giant Anteater, Silky Anteater, Northern Anteater and Southern Anteater).

It is commonly found in the Amazon basin and therefor also in Suriname.

With a length of 54 – 88 cm (tail: 40 -59 cm) and weighing between 4 – 9 kg, this is certainly a small anteater compared with the rarely seen Giant anteater.

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## Tamandua Tetradactyla



**SOUTHERN  
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## SOUTHERN TAMANDUA

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHER - ARMIDA MADNGISA & WWW.NATURE-MYVIEW.COM

The Southern Tamandua is also known as the Collared Anteater or the Lesser Anteater. In Suriname they are locally known as Mirafroiti.

The Southern Tamandua is a solitary animal and is most often found in trees. From time to time it will also journey on the ground. These anteaters are toothless creatures, but they do have a prominent feature: a long snout with a long prehensile sticky tongue. A feature much needed to catch their delicate prey: ants, termites and bees. When necessary they will tear open nests with their sharp claws, but usually anthills are left undamaged as anteaters don't like to destroy their food source.

When this small creature feels threatened it will stand up straight with its frontlegs spread wide. This indicates that it is ready to defend itself with its razor sharp claws and not that it is going to give you a free hug.

