

# Slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*)

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Overall tempo brisk, which will nonetheless make the chorus very slow

This is the tale of a primate,  
Cousin of monkey and ape,  
Who moves too slowly to notice,  
So that his prey won't escape.

"Slow loris" —  
That's the chorus.

Southeastern portions of Asia  
And islands like Mindinao  
Form *Nycticebus coucang*'s range  
Where the conditions allow.

Rainforest, fast disappearing,  
Harbours the insects he eats.  
Those that his cousins find stinky  
He just considers as treats.

"Slow loris" —  
That's the chorus.

Too slow to swing through the branches,  
He creeps along them at night;  
Retinas backed with reflectors  
Optimize minimal light.

Slow metabolic production  
Leaves him with no heat to spare.  
Though he resides in the tropics,  
He needs thick fur, not just hair.

"Slow loris" —  
That's the chorus.

Most mammals larger than squirrels,  
Shaped to meet gravity's force,  
Maintain one orientation,  
Though they're reversing their course.

Slow loris, large as a house cat,  
Short-limbed, and pleasingly plump,  
Climbing a tree or descending,  
Leads with his nose or his rump.

"Slow loris" —  
That's the chorus.



This is the tale of a pri-mate, Cou-sin of mon-key and ape,



Who moves too slow-ly to no-tice, So that his prey won't es - cape.



"Slow lor-is" That's the cho-rus.

Lower front teeth, pointing forward,  
Form a rough comb in their arc.  
These clean the fur where encrusted  
And scrape the resins from bark.

Although the tongue's used for tasting,  
There is a part, underneath,  
Tipped with hard, horn-like protrusions,  
That clean the front-pointing teeth.

"Slow loris" —  
That's the chorus.

Near the slow loris' elbows,  
One finds the brachial glands,  
Glands which exude a secretion  
That he rubs on with his hands.

Mixed with these brachial exudates,  
Enzymes saliva contains  
Cleave key molecular bonds and  
Then lethal poison remains.

"Slow loris" —  
That's the chorus.

When he has sex, it's the female  
Who must bear both of their weight.  
She hangs beneath a strong branch and  
He hangs from her as they mate.

Through inefficient nutrition,  
Growth of the fetus is slow.  
Six months' gestation produces  
Young of two ounces or so.

"Slow loris" —  
That's the chorus.

Viewing the loris by daylight,  
Many have long been deceived.  
Viewed under nighttime conditions,  
He's not as slow as believed.

"Slow loris" —  
That's the chorus.

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