**Myocastor coypus**

**Nutria**

Myocastoridae, the rodent family

**Diagnostic Characteristics**

- Large rodent resembling beavers and muskrats
- Long, thin round tail as opposed to muskrats which have laterally flattened tails
- Brown or yellow-brown in color
- Webbed hind feet
- Prominent incisors which are bright orange-yellow

**Background**

- Native to South America
- Consumes wetland plants and crops as well as roots of plants
- Litter sizes range from 2-9
- Sexually mature in 3-9 months
- Causes extreme habitat destruction:
  - undermines river and stream banks
  - converts marshland to open water by consuming plants when in high densities
  - threatens populations of species that inhabit wetland habitats

Photo Credit:


Angelo Rossi - [http://www.flickr.com/photos/rougenair](http://www.flickr.com/photos/rougenair)

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