



BURCHELL'S ZEBRA

Equus burchellii



The characteristic striped coats of Burchell's zebras make them easily recognizable. They are distinguished from the two species of mountain zebra by the yellowish or grayish shadow stripes between the stripes on their rumps, the absence of a dewlap, and the fact that the stripes continue under the belly. No two individuals are exactly alike. The function of their stripes has been a matter of debate. They may provide a form of camouflage under certain light conditions, or they make it difficult for a predator to single out an individual against the backdrop of a whole herd. Burchell's zebras are mainly grazers, but they will occasionally browse and/or feed on herbs.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

Males average 51-56 inches in height, while females are slightly shorter.

WEIGHT

Males weigh an average of 550 pounds. The average female is close to 480 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Burchell's zebras are herbivores and avid grazers. They are in constant search of green pastures. In the dry season, they can live on coarse, dry grass only if they are within a short distance of water holes.

HABITAT

The Burchell's zebra occupies open grassy plains or lightly-wooded grasslands located near sources of water.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The Burchell's zebra ranges from southeastern Sudan to South Africa and west to Angola.

FUN FACT

Burchell's zebras will mate with donkeys, producing a hybrid that has been called a "zebdonk."