

APERTURE 25 October 2017

Pied tamarin doesn't look too happy about its extreme close-up



© 2017 Tim Flach

By **Jessica Hamzelou**

THIS pied tamarin has every reason to look cross. The animal's native habitat, a small patch of rainforest in north-eastern Brazil, is being concreted over as neighbouring city Manaus expands. As a result, its population is thought to have halved in the past 18 years.

"It is extraordinary to think that one of the rarest primates in the world often ends up being roadkill, or electrocuted by power lines," says photographer Tim Flach.

The animal pictured here is safely residing in an enclosure at Jersey Zoo, as part of a breeding programme that aims to eventually release the species back into the wild. And, despite the grumpy expression, pied tamarins are curious and sociable. Flach tried to stay very quiet and still during the shoot, but the tiny primates – which are just 25 centimetres long – were having none of it, he says. "They're very social. A lot of the time this little guy was jumping onto my shoulders and back off again."

The photograph is part of a collection of animal images depicting species on the brink of extinction featured in Flach's new book, *Endangered*. By capturing the personalities of the

animals, Flach hopes readers will feel an emotional connection and be motivated to help protect them. The striking resemblance to a certain film character doesn't hurt either. "We look at this animal, and we think: it looks like Yoda from *Star Wars*," says Flach.

Photographer

Tim Flach, *Endangered* by Tim Flach and text by Jonathan Baillie (Abrams, £50)

This article appeared in print under the headline "Road rage"

Magazine issue 3149, published 28 October 2017

