

Bush Pig

Bushpig (*Potamochoerus larvatus*)

Potamochoerus larvatus (F. Cuvier, 1822)



Photo: Deon Furstenburg

Afrikaans: Bosvark

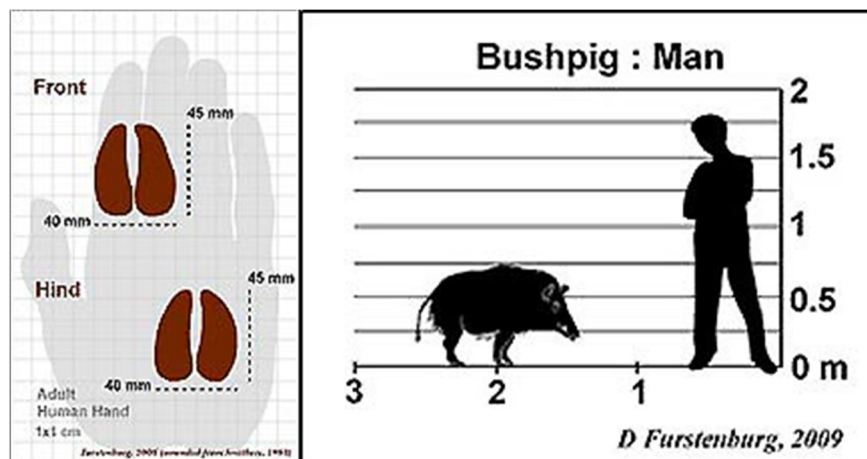
German: Bushschwein
Potamochère

French: **Description**

A medium-sized, robust, body on short powerful legs. Its relative large mass, its low centre of gravity and its extreme power enables

the pig to steamroller over potential danger making it an animal to fear. The head is elongated, tapering forward towards the snout. Bushpig boars have facial warts below the eye-banks similar to those of warthogs but are less prominent. The hide colour varies from red-brown in its western distribution to orange-yellow in Gabon, reddish-brown in Zimbabwe and blackish-brown in South Africa. With ageing the hide turns darker. The head and neck has yellow-white hair and a long, whitish mane of up to 16 cm stretching across the back to the tail base. Creamy-white, albinistic forms of bushpig are frequently recorded. Piglets are dark reddish-brown with prominent, horizontal yellow stripes along the back and flanks. The stripes disappear after 5-6 months. The body is covered with scarce, robust hair up to 8 cm in length. The mean adult shoulder height of bushpig is 65-70 cm and the mass 60-80 kg, although mature boars can reach 120 kg. The Barbary wild boar of northern Africa is 84 cm and 70-90 kg and the giant forest hog of western Africa 99 cm and 180-227 kg.

Comparison To Man



Trophy

The lower canines abrade the upper and prevent them spreading outwards. The upper canines forming the tusks are relatively small, compared to those of the warthog, and have razor sharp edges. The mean trophy length is 8-10 cm and the Rowland Ward qualifying trophy standard, 13.9 cm with a record length of 30.16 cm. Rowland-Ward recognises only one bushpig, *P. larvatus*.