

Coypu or Nutria: *Myocastor coypus*

(Non-Native)



The genus *Myocastor*, is derived from the Greek *mys* and *kastor* or “mouse-beaver.” The Coypu somewhat resembles a very large rat, or a beaver with a small tail. They can be identified by their bright orange-yellow incisor teeth.

Coypu were introduced into Louisiana wildlife in the 1930s after escaping from the fur farms, which had originally imported the species from South America. Coypu are pests that destroy wetland vegetation and cypress trees, causing the erosion of wetlands and displacement of native animals, like the muskrat.

