

FAUNAL SURVEY OF THE NORTH-EASTERN PORTION OF WEST KILOMBERO FOREST, UDZUNGWA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

A report to Tanzania National Parks

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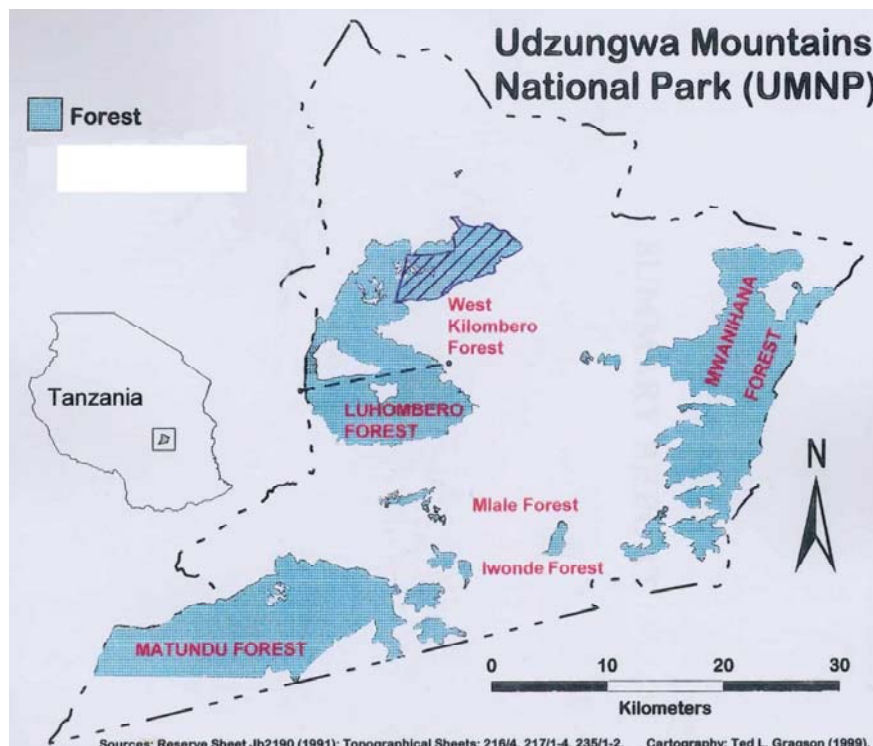
Introduction

This zoological survey was conducted from 10th-18th October 2002, in a remote and previously undocumented area of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park (UMNP), Tanzania. The area surveyed forms the north-eastern section of the West Kilombero Forest, and includes the most northerly block of moist evergreen forest in the Udzungwas.

In total, we entered 35 square-kilometre blocks (using Tanzania Surveys and Mapping Division map, Series Y742, Sheet 217/1, Edition 1-TSD), centred on 36°40'E, 7°41'S. The survey area ranges in altitude from 1500m to 2130m a.s.l., and is covered in a mosaic of different evergreen forest communities. At the western end, within the forest, there is a network of small, open, grassy and swampy valleys.

The combination of steep terrain, impenetrable vegetation and time constraints often prevented straight line transects (though some were completed), and instead we planned routes daily to maximise the area covered. We then walked quietly in pairs, at a slow to medium pace, and recorded all the fauna and field signs we encountered (including recognised vocalisations).

Fig. 1 Map of UMNP, showing area of West Kilombero Forest surveyed (crossed)



Checklist of species

All of the following mammals and birds were recorded within the forested area on which the survey was focused, from 1500-2100m, with the following two noteworthy exceptions, recorded within the UMNP in the arid country to the north of the survey area:

Sable antelope *Hippotragus niger*: two groups seen (group sizes 2 and 3), 1400m

Dark-capped yellow warbler *Chloropeta natalensis*: on the edge of a swamp, at 1600m

MAMMALS

Primates

Udzungwa red colobus
Black-and-white colobus
Sykes monkey

Procolobus gordonorum
Colobus angolensis
Cercopithecus mitis

Macroscelidea

Giant elephant-shrew¹

Rhynchocyon sp.

Rodentia

(Tanganyika mountain) squirrel
Crested porcupine

Paraxerus (lucifer byatti)
Hystrix cristata

Carnivora

African clawless otter
Mongoose²
Spotted hyena
Genet³
African civet
Leopard
Lion

Aonyx capensis
?
Crocuta crocuta
Genetta sp.
Civettictis civetta
Panthera pardus
Panthera leo

Tubulidentata

Aardvark

Orycteropus afer

Hyracoidea

Eastern tree hyrax

Dendrohyrax validus

Proboscidea

African elephant

Loxodonta africana

Artiodactyla

Bush pig
African buffalo
Bushbuck
Blue duiker
Harvey's duiker
Abbott's duiker

Potamochoerus larvatus
Syncerus caffer
Tragelaphus scriptus
Cephalophus monticola
Cephalophus natalensis harveyi
Cephalophus spadix

¹This species has been trapped and is currently (2007) been described as a new species of *Rhynchocyon* by the authors and collaborators. ²Camera-trapping recorded *Bdeogale crassicauda* as the most common mongoose in the area (F. Rovero unpubl.). ³Camera-trapping recorded *Genetta servalina lowei* as the most common mongoose in the area (F. Rovero unpubl.).

BIRDS

Species		Altitude (m.a.s.l.)
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	2000
Little sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>	1500
African harrier-hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	2000
Mountain buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	2100
Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1600
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	2000
Long-crested eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	1800
Verreaux's eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	2100
African crowned eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	1800-2000
Udzungwa forest-partridge	<i>Xenoperdix udzungwensis</i>	1800
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2100
Olive pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	2100
Lemon dove	<i>Aplopelia larvata</i>	1700-1800
Livingstone's turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>	1700-2100
Barred long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Cercococcyx montanus</i>	1700
Nightjar	?	2100
Scarce swift	<i>Schoutedenapus myoptilus</i>	1800
Speckled mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	2100
Bar-tailed trogon	<i>Apaloderma vittatum</i>	1600-2100
Green wood-hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	1800
Crowned hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>	2000
Trumpeter hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna bucinator</i>	1550
Silvery-cheeked hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna brevis</i>	1800-2100
African broadbill	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>	1800
Mosque swallow	<i>Hirundo senegalensis</i>	1700-2100
Black saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne holomelas</i>	1500-1800
Green-throated greenbul	<i>Andropadus chlorigula</i>	2000
White-starred robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>	1700-1800
Swynnerton's robin	<i>Swynnertonia swynnertoni</i>	1700
Sharpe's akalat	<i>Sheppardia sharpie</i>	1800-2000
Olive-flanked robin-chat	<i>Cossypha anomala</i>	2000
African stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	2000
Evergreen forest warbler	<i>Bradypterus lopezi</i>	1700-2100
African tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus metopias</i>	1800
Chapin's apalis	<i>Apalis chapini</i>	1800-1900
Bar-throated apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>	1800-2000
Ashy flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>	2000
Forest batis	<i>Batis mixta</i>	1600-1900
African hill-babbler	<i>Pseudoalcippe abyssinica</i>	1700
Malachite sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	2100
Moreau's sunbird	<i>Nectarinia moreaui</i>	2000-2100
Collared sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>	2100
Fulleborn's black boubou	<i>Laniarius fuelleborni</i>	1900
Square-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>	1700
White-naped raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	1600-2100
Kenrick's starling	<i>Poeoptera kenricki</i>	1900
Waller's starling	<i>Onychognathus walleri</i>	2000-2100
Forest weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>	1700
Yellow-browed seedeater	<i>Serinus striolatus whytii</i>	2000

Notes on selected species

Udzungwa red colobus (RC) Locally common. Seen on 7 occasions in tall, mature evergreen forest, 1500-1800m.

- twice in monospecific groups (group sizes 5+,?)
- 3 times together in the same tree with black-and-white colobus:
 - a) 25+ RC (9 ad?, 4 adf w/ 4 CI, 3 sa, 1 juv, 4?) & 5+ B/W (3 ad, 2?)
 - b) 1 RC (adm) & 4+ B/W (1 adm, 1 sa, 1 juv, 1?)
 - c) 3++ RC & 6+ B/W
- twice together with Sykes' group:
 - a) 13+ RC (including 10 ad/sub-ad?, 2 CI, 1 juv) & 6+ Sykes (1 adm, 3 ad?, 2 juv)
 - b) 2++ RC & 3+ Sykes

Black-and-white colobus (B/W) Common. Seen on 13 occasions (including in association with RC, see above). Monospecific group sizes 1,4+,7 (1 ad?, 1 adf w/ 1 CI, 4?), 5+,2++, 2+, 6+, 6+, 2+, 4+, 6+ (including 1 adf w/CI, 1 adm, 1 sa). Heard on a further 9 occasions. Adults observed eating fruit of *Strychnos sp.*

Sykes monkey Common. Seen on 12 occasions (group sizes 5+,1,4+,5+,1,6+,3++,4++ incl. 1 juv, 6+, 2+, 1); heard on a further 11 occasions. 1700-2000m.

Un-identified giant elephant shrew An apparently healthy population: seen on six occasions (1-2 individuals), 1680-1800m. Appear to favour the floor of tall, mature evergreen forest with little understorey.

African elephant Common. Seen on three occasions (group sizes 3, 4 incl. 1 juv, & 6-7 incl. 3 juvs.); heard on a further five occasions. 1600-2200m. Some evidence of elephant activity (old dung) outside of the forest, between the survey area and Mbatwa ranger post.

Bush pig Numerous, and at least partly diurnal. 1700-2100m.

Blue duiker Locally common, 1500-1700m.

Harvey's duiker Encountered once at 2000m (looked the same as red duiker found in Mwanihana); probable scat found, 1700-2000m.

Abbot's duiker Very probable scat at margin between tall forest and bamboo patch, 2100m.

African crowned eagle Only seen once on this survey. On a separate brief visit in November, a bird was seen visiting a nest in the top of a tree at 1800m.

Udzungwa forest-partridge One individual seen on two separate occasions, at 1700m and 1800m, 3km apart. At 1800m, the bird was walking around on the floor, on top of a ridge covered in medium-sized trees. Plant species present included *Pavetta sp.*, *Tabernaemontana sp.*, and small patches of bamboo *Arundinaria alpina*. The forest floor was covered in grasses and herbs to 30cm.

Livingstone's turaco Very common, 1700-2100m. Calling constantly every day from dawn to dusk, suggesting breeding season. Nest found within thick crown (about 50 cm from the edge of the crown) of a spiny shrub/small tree about 5 metres high, at 1900m, in a transitional zone between tall forest and bamboo. The nest was a small, shallow bowl, 10cm in diameter, containing 3 eggs.

Swynnerton's robin Seen once: juvenile (with adult nearby) in understorey, 1700m.

Olive-flanked robin-chat Nest discovered at 2000m, 1m above the ground in a small bush, containing two live chicks, 1-2 days old.

African tailorbird Pair duetting in understorey (3m above ground), 1800m.

Moreau's sunbird Common, 2000-2100m.

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