

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

A report to Tanzania National Parks

Trevor Jones¹ & Francesco Rovero²
December 2002

¹ Environmental Sciences Research Centre, Department of Life Sciences, Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge, SP1 1PT, UK.

² Sezione di Zoologia dei Vertebrati, Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali, Via Calepina 14, I-38100, Trento, Italy.

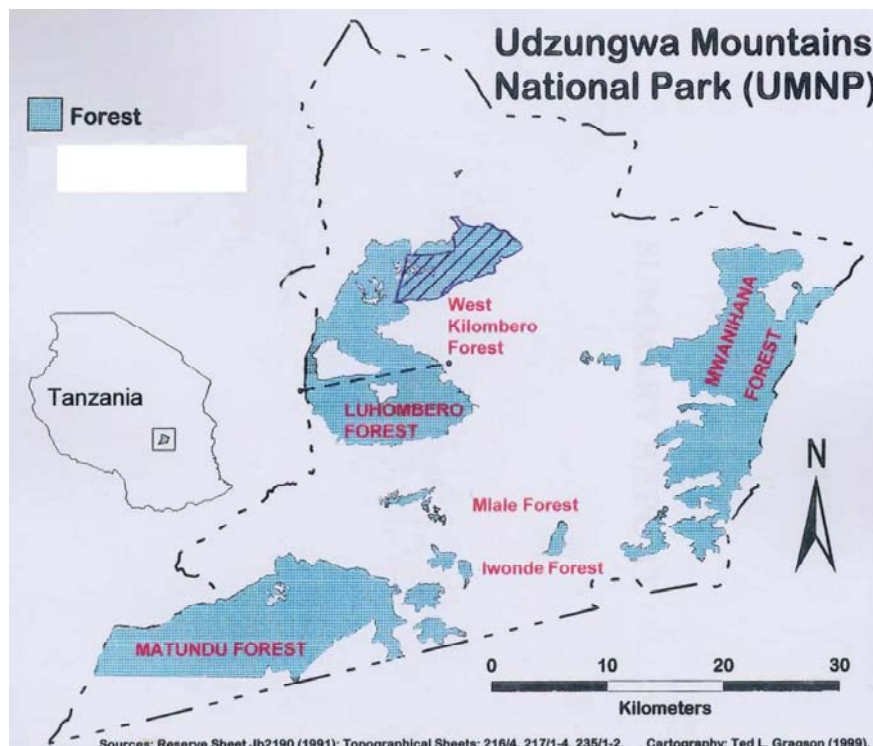
Introduction

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.

Acknowledgements

We thank Quentin and Trish Luke for their observations of primates and the forest-partridge. Thanks to Louis Hansen for his comments on the report. Richard Laizzer, Athumani Mndeme and Arafat Mtui provided outstanding logistical support and fine company. The expedition would not have been possible without the help of the people of Msosa village. This work was partly funded by the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation. Finally, we thank Tanzania National Parks and Mr. Meoli, Warden-in-charge of UMNP, for permission to conduct the survey.