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Erin M. Wampole
University of Rhode Island

Brian D. Gerber
University of Rhode Island

Jean Claude Razafimahaimodison
Centre ValBio

Mahandry Hugues Andrianarisoa
Centre ValBio

Claude Jacquot Ralazampirenena
Centre ValBio

See next page for additional authors

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Gerber Brian D. (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-9285-9784)
Farris Zach J. (Orcid ID: 0000-0003-0600-9682)
Tobler Mathias W. (Orcid ID: 0000-0002-8587-0560)
Cardinal Claire (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-5607-1383)
Wampole Erin M (Orcid ID: 0000-0002-9788-461X)

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Madagascar Terrestrial Camera Survey Database 2021: A collation of protected forest camera surveys from 2007–2021

Erin M. Wampole[1], Brian D. Gerber[1], Zach J. Farris[2,15], Jean Claude Razafimahaimodison[3], Mahandry Hugues Andrianarisoa[3], Claude Jacquot Ralazampirenena[3,18], Patricia C. Wright [3,6], C. Delaid Rasamisoa[4], Dean Gibson[4], Mathias W. Tobler[4], Timothy M. Eppley[4], Natalie Vasey[5], Steig E. Johnson[7], Caitlynn Filla[8], Kim Valenta[8,15], Patrick Ross[9], Asia Murphy[10], Sarah M. Karpanty[11], Marcella J. Kelly[11], Cullen Anderson[12], Claire Cardinal[13], Giuseppe Donati[13], Prisca Razafy[14], Radoniaina Rafaliarison[15], Fidisoa Rasambainarivo[16], Josia Razafindramanana[17], Samuel D. Merson[19], And Eileen Larney[20]

[1] *Department of Natural Resources Science, University of Rhode Island, Kingston RI, USA*
[2] *Department of Health and Exercise Science, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, USA*
[3] *Centre ValBio, Ranomafana, Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar*
[4] *Conservation Science & Wildlife Health, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, San Diego, CA, USA*
[5]*Department of Anthropology, Portland State University, Portland, OR, USA*
[6]*Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA*
[7] *Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada*
[8] *Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA*
[9] *Department of Biology, University of Missouri, St. Louis, Saint Louis, Missouri, United States*
[10] *Department of Environmental Studies, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, USA*
[11] *Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA*
[12] *Department of Natural Resource Science, Washington State University, Pullman WA, USA*
[13]*Department of Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom*

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[14] *Department of Zoology & Animal Biodiversity, University of Antananarivo, BP 566 Antananarivo, Madagascar.*
[15] *Mad Dog Initiative. Akanin'ny Veterinera Akaikiniarivo, Antananarivo, Madagascar*
[16] *Mahaliana Labs, Antananarivo, Madagascar*
[17] *Mention Anthropobiologie et Développement Durable, University of Antananarivo, Antananarivo, Madagascar*
[18] *Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar*
[19] *Parks Australia, Parkes, Canberra, ACT, Australia*
[20] *Zoological Society of London, Kanchanaburi, Thailand*

Corresponding Author: Erin M. Wampole. E-mail: erin.wampole@gmail.com

Abstract: Madagascar is a threatened global biodiversity hotspot and conservation priority, yet we lack broadscale surveys to assess biodiversity across space and time. To fill this gap, we collated camera trap surveys, capturing species occurrences within Madagascar into a single standardized database. This dataset includes nine distinct protected areas of Madagascar and encompasses 13 subprojects, 38 camera arrays, 1156 sampling units (independent camera site per survey) within two important biodiversity eco-regions: western dry deciduous forest, and eastern humid rainforest. Camera surveys were conducted from June 2007 to January 2021. The final dataset includes 17 unique families of mammals (Bovidae, Canidae, Cheirogaleidae, Daubentoniidae, Equidae, Eupleridae, Felidae, Hominidae, Indriidae, Lemuridae, Lepilemuridae, Muridae, Nesomyidae, Pteropodidae, Soricidae, Suidae, Tenrecidae)comprising 45 species and 27 unique families of birds (Accipitridae, Acrocephalidae, Alcedinidae, Bernieridae, Brachypteraciidae, Caprimulgidae, Cisticolidae, Columbidae, Coraciidae, Corvidae, Cuculidae, Dicruridae, Mesitornithidae, Monarchidae, Motacillidae, Muscicapidae,

Numididae, Phasianidae, Rallidae, Sarothruridae, Strigidae, Sturnidae, Sulidae, Threskiornithidae, Upupidae, Vangidae, Zosteropidae) comprising 58 species. Images were processed and verified by individual project dataset creators and camera operation and species tables were then collated. The final product represents the first broad-scale freely available standardized formal faunal database for Madagascar. Data are available through this publication and at DOI:10.5281/zenodo.5801806. These data will be useful for examining species- and community- level trends in occurrence across space or time within Madagascar and globally, evaluating native and invasive species dynamics, and aid in determining species conservation status and planning for at-risk species. There are no copyright restrictions; please cite this paper when using the data for publication.

Key words/phrases: camera trap, Eupleridae, forest fauna, lemur, Madagascar, subtropical rainforest, subtropical deciduous forest

Open Research: Data are available as Supporting Information and are also available in Zenodo at: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5801806

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