



# **The 13<sup>th</sup> African Small Mammal Symposium**

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*Programme and Abstract Book*

**Editors:**

**BRYJA Josef, MEHERETU Yonas**

### **African Rodentia becomes African Mammalia**

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The availability of online databases has become key in the advancement of taxonomy and conservation. The African Rodentia database contains extensive specimen and tissue collections of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the University of Antwerp (UA). Since its launch in 2007 the African Rodentia database has become an important reference with 100 unique visitors per month, about 50,000 page views/year and more than 150 registered users. Part of its popularity is thanks to its unique combination of taxonomical, ecological, geographical and genetic data, as well as data on parasitic and viral infections. While rodents, and in particular murids, still make up the largest part of the specimen collections, recent research has increasingly focussed on other mammal taxa like shrews and bats. Because of its proven usefulness for the diffusion of data on African rodents the African Rodentia database will therefore expand its taxonomical range to include all African mammal orders. Like its predecessor, African Mammalia maximizes its effectiveness by allowing users to query all fields, so not only on species names, but also on the collector, the locality, date of collecting, habitat, type of infection, availability of measurements, morphological and DNA sequence information. These same reasons that set apart African Rodentia from GBIF and other global databases, will allow African Mammalia to become an important reference for mammalogists working on the African continent.

(POSTER)

### **Vertebrate diversity patterns in the Congo Basin rainforests**

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One of the most widely recognized patterns in ecology is the increase in species richness from poles to tropics. Literature suggest that the Congolian lowland rainforest does not follow this pattern: The Central Congolian forest (CCLF), south of the Congo river, is thought to harbor fewer vertebrate species and endemics than the Northeastern (NELF) and Northwestern lowland rainforest (NWLRF) north of the Congo river. We used data from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) database on terrestrial vertebrates (mammals, birds, and reptiles), to

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# African Rodentia becomes African Mammalia

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# African Rodentia becomes African Mammalia



Frederik Van de Perre, Julien Cigar, André Heughebaert, Herwig Leirs & Erik Verheyen

Since its launch in 2007 the *African Rodentia* **database** has become an important reference with on average 100 unique visitors per month, about 50,000 page views per year and more than 150 registered users. Because of its proven usefulness for the diffusion of data on African rodents the taxonomical range of the database was expanded in 2019 to include **all African mammal orders**.

**African Mammalia**

Home Taxa Search About Register Login

Search **Soricidae** » **Sylvisorex akaibe** preserved

**Taxonomy**

Family: Soricidae Genus: Sylvisorex Species: Sylvisorex akaibe

**Determination:** Sylvisorex akaibe  
**Determinator(s):** Frederik Van de Perre  
**Determination year:** -  
**Determination accur.:** regional expert in the taxa with high certainty

**Specimen Information**

**Specimen number:** - **Basis of record:** preserved specimen  
**Field number:** COB1174 **Sex:** male  
**Type:** - **Sexual condition:** abdominal testes, epididymis not visible  
**State:** alcohol **Lifestage:** -  
**Collector(s):** Frederik Van de Perre  
**Collection date:** 2015-07-30  
**Trap method:** Pitfall trap  
**Disposition:** in collection

**Distribution & Ecology**

**Locality:** Yangambi Biosphere Reserve  
**Country:** Congo (DR)  
**Altitude:** 427 m  
**Latitude:** 0.796722173691  
**Longitude:** 24.494140625  
**Habitat(s):** secondary forest  
**Extra habitat info:** -

**Pictures**

3 picture(s) found. Click on the picture for full size.

**Measurements**

To export measurements, go to *Sylvisorex* or *Sylvisorex akaibe*.

**Weight:** 5.0 g

**hb:** 70.00 mm  
**tl:** 32.00 mm  
**hf:** 12.00 mm  
**el:** 7.70 mm

An explanation of those measurements is available in the *about* section of this website.

**DNA Sequences**

To export sequences, go to *Sylvisorex* or *Sylvisorex akaibe*.

**Type:** 16s rRNA

```
AACCATCACCTCTAGCATTAAATAGTATAGAAGCACTGCCTGCCAGTGACATTAGTTAAACGGCCGGTATCCTGACCGTGCAAAGGTAGCATAATCATTGT  
CCTTAAATAGGGACTTGTATGAATGGTCCACGAGGGTTAACTGCTCTTACTTTTAACTAGTGAATTTGACCTTCCCGTGAAGAGGCGGGAATAAGCAATAAG  
ACGAGAAGACCOCTATGGAGCTTAAATTAATTAACCTAAATAAATTAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAAATAA  
CTCGGAGCATAAATAACCTCCGAGTAAATAAACCAGGACCTACCAAGTCAAAACAACATTATTGATCCAAATCATATTGATCAACGGGAATAAGTTACCCCTAGG  
GATAACAAGCGCAATCCTATTAAAGATCCATATCGACAATAGGGTTTACGACCTCGATGTTGGATCAGGACACCCAAATGGTGTAGCAGCTATTAAAGGTTCTGTT  
GTTCAACGATTAA
```

**Tests & Tissues**

**Tested on:** parasites tested (PA)  
**Tissue samples:** liver (unknown), spleen (unknown), kidney (unknown), blood (unknown)

The *African Mammalia* database contains the extensive specimen and tissue collections of the Royal Museum for Central Africa, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the University of Antwerp.

## Functionality

- **Unique combination** of taxonomical, ecological, geographical, morphological, and genetic information, as well as pictures and data on parasitic and viral infections.
- **Query all fields**, so not only on species names, but also on the collector, the locality, date of collecting, habitat, type of infection, availability of morphological and DNA information, etc.
- **Blast** DNA sequences against the database.
- **Export** specimen information, measurements, and DNA sequences.

Visit *African Mammalia* now!



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