

this magnificent primate as one of the premier tropical forest tourism attractions on the African continent.

Cross River Gorilla *Gorilla gorilla diehli*, *Nigeria and Cameroon*

Up until very recently, this had been the most neglected subspecies of gorilla. It was originally named in 1904 as a distinct species, *Gorilla diehli*, based on a few specimens collected in what was then the German colony of Kamerun, close to the Nigerian border at the headwaters of the Cross River. Based on recent morphological studies, it is now considered a subspecies of *Gorilla gorilla*. Present populations are restricted to densely forested hills on the Nigeria-Cameroon border about 300 km from the nearest population of western lowland gorillas (*G. g. gorilla*). Several very important conservation efforts on behalf of the Cross River gorilla have been launched over the past few years. Molecular studies are now underway at the City University of New York and should confirm these populations as genetically distinct. Field studies in Cameroon have reconfirmed the gorilla's presence in the Mone River Forest Reserve and the Mbulu Hills, which could possibly be linked to those of the Takamanda Forest Reserve, where the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has an ongoing biodiversity conservation program. WCS has established a similar program at Nigeria's Cross River National Park under the direction of Dr. John Oates (City University of New York). Objectives of the Nigerian program include determining the extent of the gorilla's distribution within national park boundaries and assessing potential population links with the Takamanda gorillas, surveying gorillas that reside on community land in the Mbe Mountains, and establishing a permanent research base within the newly-designated Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary.

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NOTES

A NOTE ON THE SOMALI GALAGO GALAGO GALLARUM (THOMAS, 1901)

The Somali galago *Galago gallarum* occurs in eastern and northern Kenya, Somalia, and southern Ethiopia. Groves (2001) describes the distribution as "broadly between Tana and Webi Shebeyli Rivers, west to Lake Turkana and rift lakes of Ethiopia, in semiarid woodland country." Very little is known about this species. Studies to date have concentrated on the museum collections. *G. gallarum* is regarded as a species distinct from the northern lesser galago (or Senegal bushbaby) *G. senegalensis*, with which it is marginally sympatric in Kenya (Olson, 1979, 1986; Nash *et al.*, 1989; Groves, 2001; Grubb *et al.*, 2003). No field studies have been conducted on this species and field observations come from opportunistic encounters. Here we present notes on a sighting of two Somali galagos during a brief field trip in 1999 to Garissa District, south-eastern Kenya. We also present observations made during a preliminary examination of the collection of galagos at the National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi.

During a night walk (from 22:10–00:15h, 27 January 1999), two Somali galagos were seen near our camp at Gababa (01° 34.40'S; 40° 07.12'E, 180

m asl), situated to the east of the Tana River. This is an area of *Acacia mellifera* dominated bushland. We were guided to this location by a local pastoralist who noted the galagos when he was cutting thorny branches for livestock fencing. He stated that the galagos were concealed deep inside an acacia bush and that there was no evidence of a nest. When we reached this location at 22:30 h, two Somali galagos were seen in a 1.8 m tall *A. mellifera*. Although one of the galagos came to the ground and fled, the other, an adult male (scrotum seen) remained in the acacia. We observed the galago for 45 min at a distance of 3–7 m, using our headlamps, spotlight, and binoculars. We later located the other galago about 50 m away and obtained good views of it for approximately 20 min. The second galago was smaller than the first, suggesting that it was either an adult female or a subadult male.

The following is a description of these two Somali galagos: Muzzle, cheeks and forehead ashy-grey, giving the impression of large grey eye rings around faint, narrow, black eye rings. 'Tear' lines black. Nose stripe light grey. Nose tip and around mouth black. Eyes relatively large, giving bright orange eye shine. Ears black. Top of head and back reddish-brown with a pinkish tinge. Rump more rufous than back. Flanks, outsides of front and rear legs rufous, almost light orange. Tail dark brownish-black over proximal half and near black, bushier, over distal half. Shoulders, forearms, and thighs orange brown. Hands grey on dorsal side. Throat and ventrum nearly white. Except for their size, the only difference between the two galagos was that the tail of the smaller animal was almost entirely black.

Both Somali galagos were very distinct from *G. senegalensis* seen by the authors either near the Tana River or elsewhere in Kenya. One call was recorded which we describe as similar to the single note, brief, 'tjong' call of *G. senegalensis*. In *G. senegalensis* this call is made in the context of 'medium' alarm (Zimmermann, 1990). In our situation the galago was obviously alarmed by the presence of people and the strong torch light shining on it. The recording of this call is deposited at the Nocturnal Primate Research Group Sound Archive, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP, UK.

There is one *G. gallarum* specimen (reg. no. 987) at the National Museums of Kenya. This specimen was collected in 1911 on the Uaso Nyiro River near the Lorian Swamp, north-eastern Kenya. The skin is still in good condition. When placed next to a *G. s. braccatus* taken just south of the Tana River (reg. no. 990), the differences in the pelage are considerable. The *G. gallarum* specimen is overall reddish-brown on the dorsum and the *G. s. braccatus* specimen is grey on the dorsum. A comparison of facial characteristics was prevented by the condition of the *G. gallarum* skin.

The vocal repertoire, natural history, and conservation status of *G. gallarum* have yet to be studied. Indeed, this species remains one of Africa's least known primates. Field scientists working within the geographic range of *G. gallarum* are encouraged to look for this galago and to obtain as much information as possible.

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- Also see: Butynski, T.M. & Y.A. de Jong. 2004. Natural History of the Somali lesser galago (*Galago gallarum*). *Journal of East African Natural History* 93: 23–338.