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**Distributions in Uganda, Kenya, and north Tanzania of members of the Günther's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri)* and Kirk's dik-dik *M. (kirkii)* species groups, regions of sympatry, records of aberrant-coloured individuals, and comment on the validity of Hodson's dik-dik *M. (g.) hodsoni***

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### Abstract

This paper summarises what is known about the distributions, in Uganda, Kenya, and north Tanzania, of members of the Günther's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri)* and Kirk's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii)* species groups. This includes regions of sympatry that extend from near the Indian Ocean in south Somalia and Kenya westward through central Kenya to central east Uganda. Three traits for distinguishing Günther's dik-dik *M. (g.) guentheri* and Smith's dik-dik *M. (g.) smithii* from Kirk's dik-dik *M. (k.) kirkii* and Cavendish's dik-dik *M. (k.) cavendishi* in the field are provided. More than a dozen records (some supported by photographs) of aberrant-coloured (*i.e.*, greyish and all-white) *M. (guentheri)* are presented. The question of whether Hodson's dik-dik *M. (g.) hodsoni* is a valid species/subspecies is reviewed as this taxon appears to be based on several aberrant greyish individuals.

### Introduction

The dik-diks (tribe Madoquini Pocock, 1910) have a much debated taxonomy. Resolution of the taxonomy of the Madoquini is not helped by the fact that the distributions of the various forms remain poorly understood, as do the limits of the regions of sympatry. The situation is further confused by the occurrence of taxa that are not particularly phenotypically distinct, by frequent misidentification in the field, and by the presence of aberrant-coloured individuals, some of which have probably been described and named as subspecies.

This paper contributes towards resolving the taxonomy of the Madoquini in Uganda, Kenya, north Tanzania, south Ethiopia, and south Somalia by adding to our understanding of the distributions, regions of sympatry, and diagnostic traits (in the field) of species in the subgenus *Rhynchotragus* ('long-muzzled dik-diks'). This subgenus (formerly recognized as a genus) is comprised of two species groups; Günther's dik-diks *Madoqua (guentheri)* and Kirk's dik-diks *Madoqua (kirkii)*.

### *Madoqua (guentheri)* species group: taxonomy

Taxa in the *Madoqua (guentheri)* species group occur east of the Nile River in southeast South Sudan and north Uganda, central and north Kenya, south and southeast Ethiopia, and most of Somalia (Kingswood and Kumamoto 1996, Hoppe and Brotherton 2013). Drake-Brockman (1930) provisionally recognised four subspecies: *guentheri* Thomas, 1894; *smithii* Thomas, 1901; *wroughtoni*

(Drake-Brockman, 1909); *hodsoni* (Pocock, 1926). This taxonomy has been widely followed (Allen 1939, Ansell 1972, Yalden *et al.* 1984, Kingswood and Kumamoto 1996, Hoppe and Brotherton 2013, Kingdon 2015). Grubb (2005) and Groves (2011) recognise but two subspecies as they take *wroughtoni* and *hodsoni* to be synonyms of *guentheri*. Groves and Grubb (2011), and Groves (unpublished data, pers. comm.), found absolute differences among body and skull measurements of *guentheri* and *smithii*. On this basis, they treat them as species (with no subspecies). Here we follow the taxonomy of Groves and Grubb (2011). See the colour plate on page 652 in Groves (2011).

### *Madoqua (guentheri)* species group: distributions

The limits of the geographic distributions of *M. (g.) guentheri* (Figures 1–3) and *M. (g.) smithii* (Figures 4–6) are poorly understood. *Madoqua (g.) guentheri* occurs over most of Somalia, southeast Ethiopia west to about Lake Chew Bahir (= Lake Stephanie), and in northeast Kenya west to about Lake Chew Bahir and southwest to east of the Tana River. The larger, darker, *Madoqua (g.) smithii* occurs in southeast South Sudan, northeast Uganda, extreme southwest Ethiopia, and northwest and central Kenya south to Lake Bogoria, Mount Kenya, and the north bank of the Tana River (Figure 7; Groves 2011, Groves and Grubb 2011, Hoppe and Brotherton 2013, Y. de Jong and T. Butynski pers. obs.). Yalden *et al.* (1984) appear to be incorrect in presuming that the Webi Shebeli River in southeast Ethiopia is the boundary between these two species.



Figure 1. Adult male Günther's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri)* *guentheri*, Mount Forole, Kenya-Ethiopia border. Note the near absence of russet tint on the middle of the back and flanks. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.



Figure 2. Adult female Günther's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) guentheri*, Garissa, central east Kenya. Note the near absence of russet tint on the middle of the back and flanks. Photograph by Brian Finch.



Figure 5. Adult male Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii*, Soita Nyiro Conservancy, Laikipia County, central Kenya. Note the russet tint on the middle of the back and flanks. Photograph by Tom Butynski and Yvonne de Jong.



Figure 3. Adult male Günther's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) guentheri*, Mount Forole, Kenya-Ethiopia border, resting in shade. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.

Figure 6. Subadult male Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii*, Lake Bogoria, central Kenya. Note the narrow white eye-ring and long, dark russet, muzzle. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.



Figure 4. Adult male Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii*, South Turkana National Reserve, northwest Kenya. Note the russet tint on the middle of the back and flanks. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.

#### ***Madoqua (guentheri)* species group: ecology**

Both *M. (g.) guentheri* and *M. (g.) smithii* are cathemeral/polycyclic. They live in some of the hottest, driest (annual mean rainfall <200 mm in some places and highly variable), and most thorny habitats of Africa. The altitudinal range is from *ca.* 40–2,200 m above sea level (asl). With an adult body weight of *ca.* 4 kg, they are, together with Salt's dik-dik *Madoqua saltiana* (de Blainville, 1816) and suni *Nesotragus moschatus* (von Dueben, 1846), eastern Africa's smallest antelope. They are territorial, monogamous species in which the adult male weighs *ca.* 15% less than the adult female. Only the male has horns. More than any other *Madoqua* spp., *M. (g.) guentheri* and *M. (g.) smithii* are adapted to desiccation and heat (up to 40°C). The hottest hours of the day are spent in dense shade under a bush or tree (Figure 3). The elongated muscular muzzle (Figure 6) allows for respiratory heat exchange and water recovery. Moisture is also conserved by producing concentrated urine and dry dung (Figure 8). As such, there is no need to drink. *Madoqua (guentheri)* are selective browsers; diet is comprised mainly of foliage, but also

fruit, flowers, and seeds. For details on the ecology and behaviour of *M. (guentheri)*, see Kingdon (1982, 2013a), Kingswood and Kumamoto (1996), Hoppe and Brotherton (2013), and references therein.

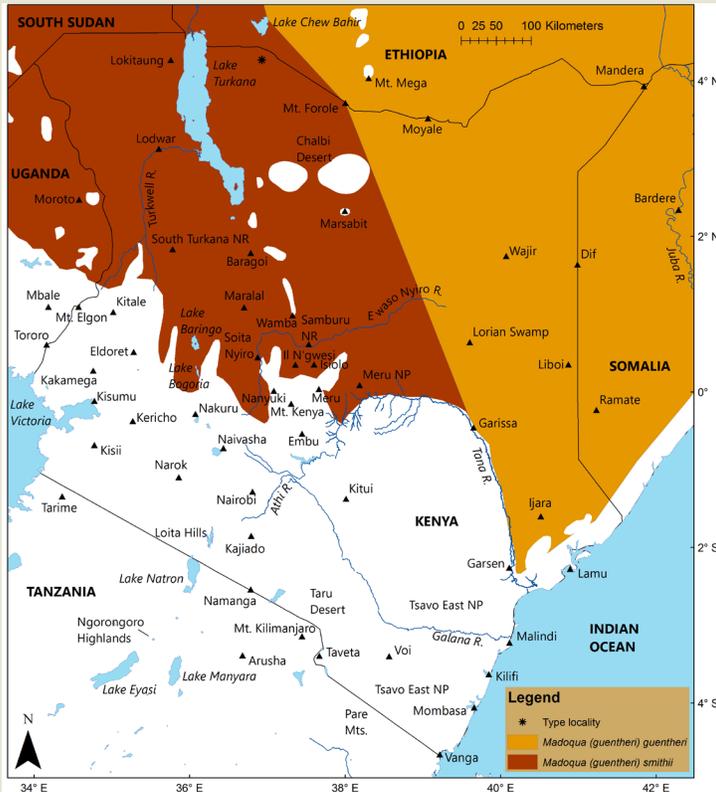


Figure 7. Historic geographic distributions in Kenya for Günther's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) guentheri* and Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii* (Drake-Brockman 1930, Stewart and Stewart 1963, Groves 2011, Groves and Grubb 2011, Hoppe and Brotherton 2013, Y. de Jong and T. Butynski pers. obs.). As a result of habitat loss, current distributions are less than depicted. This map refines previous maps by removing the larger areas where the habitat is unsuitable for these two species (e.g., deserts, forests, higher mountains).



Figure 8. Old (left) and fresh (right) dung pellets of Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii* at a midden in Turkana County, northwest Kenya. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.

#### *Madoqua (kirkii)* species group: taxonomy

Cotterill (2003), Brotherton (2013), and Kingdon (2013b, 2015) recognize four species in the *Madoqua (kirkii)* species group: Kirk's dik-dik *Madoqua (k.) kirkii* (Günther, 1880); Damara dik-dik *M. (k.) damarensis* (Günther, 1880); Cavendish's dik-dik *M. (k.) cavendishi* Thomas, 1898; Thomas's dik-dik *M. (k.) thomasi* (Neumann, 1905). Groves (2011, unpublished data, pers. comm.) and Groves and Grubb (2011) follow this taxonomy but, in addition, accept Hinde's dik-dik *M. (k.) hindei* Thomas, 1902. *Madoqua (k.) hindei* is recognized on the basis of pelage colouration, skull measurements, and because, unlike all other *Madoqua* spp., adult males are larger than adult females. They do not recognize any subspecies. Here we follow the taxonomy of Groves (2011) and Groves and Grubb (2011).

*Madoqua (k.) kirkii* (Figures 9–12), and *M. (k.) cavendishi* (Figure 13) are similar, but *M. (k.) kirkii* is a smaller, more pallid species, while *M. (k.) cavendishi* has a darker russet muzzle and more extensive dark russet on the flanks and legs. *Madoqua (k.) hindei* (Figure 14) differs in several features, most notably in having a russet mid-dorsum. *Madoqua (k.) thomasi* (Figure 15) is, overall, more russet than the other *Madoqua* spp., particularly on the flanks. Compared to the *Madoqua* spp. of eastern Africa, *M. (k.) damarensis* (Figure 16) has more russet on the neck and forequarters, and a blacker hair tuft between the ears (Groves 2011, Groves and Grubb 2011, Brotherton 2013, Foley *et al.* 2014, Y. de Jong and T. Butynski pers. obs.). See the colour plates on pages 328–329 in Brotherton (2013) and on page 652 in Groves (2011), and colour photographs on pages 209 and 265 in Foley *et al.* (2014).



Figure 9. Adult male Kirk's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) kirkii*, Meru National Park, central Kenya. Note the wide white eye-ring and short muzzle. Compare the width of the eye-ring and profile of the muzzle with those of Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (g.) smithii* in Figure 6. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.



Figure 10. Adult male Kirk's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) kirkii*, Samburu National Reserve, central Kenya. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.



Figure 13. Adult female Cavendish's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) cavendishi*, Lake Naivasha, central Kenya. Note the dark russet muzzle, flanks, and legs. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.



Figure 11. Adult male Kirk's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) kirkii*, Garissa, central east Kenya. Note the near absence of russet on the back and flanks. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.



Figure 14. Subadult male (foreground) and adult female Hinde's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) hindei*, Tsavo East National Park, southeast Kenya. Note the russet mid-dorsum. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.



Figure 12. Adult male Kirk's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) kirkii*, Il N'gwesi Conservancy, central Kenya. Note the wide white eye-ring and how the marbled black forehead blends into the russet muzzle. Photograph by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski.



Figure 15. Adult male Thomas's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) thomasi*, Ruaha National Park, central Tanzania. This is the most russet of *Madoqua (kirkii)* spp. Photograph by Walter Jubber.



Figure 16. Adult male Damara dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) damarensis*, Etosha National Park, north Namibia. This species is isolated from other *Madoqua* spp. by >2,000 km. Note the russet neck and forequarters. Photograph by Joachim Louis.

#### *Madoqua (kirkii)* species group: distributions

Four of the species in the *Madoqua (kirkii)* species group are present in East Africa, three of them in Kenya (*kirkii*, *cavendishi*, *hindei*) (Figure 17). *Madoqua (k.) kirkii* occurs from the coast of south Somali and Kenya (north and east of the Tana River) westward to about the east escarpment of the Eastern (Gregory) Rift Valley from the southeast corner of Lake Turkana southward to the Laikipia Plateau. *Madoqua (k.) cavendishi* ranges along the floor of the Eastern Rift Valley from the south end of Lake Turkana southward to Lake Eyasi in Tanzania, and westward through central Kenya to central east Uganda. *Madoqua (k.) hindei* is found south and west of the Tana River, westward to the Eastern Rift Valley, and southward through Tsavo to at least Arusha and the Ruvu River in northeast Tanzania. *Madoqua (k.) thomasi* is endemic to north and central Tanzania. The fifth species, *M. (k.) damarensis*, is extremely isolated in southwest Angola and north and northwest Namibia (Grubb 2005, Groves 2011, Groves and Grubb 2011, Brotherton 2013, Kingdon 2013a, b, 2015, Foley *et al.* 2014, Y. de Jong and T. Butynski pers. obs.).

#### *Madoqua (guentheri)* sympatry with *Madoqua (kirkii)*

*Madoqua (g.) guentheri* is sympatric (ca. 110,000 km<sup>2</sup>; Figure 18) with *M. (k.) kirkii* from near the Indian Ocean in south Somalia and on the north coast of Kenya (east of the Tana River) westward to about Garissa, Lorian Swamp, and Marsabit. From here, westward through central Kenya to the east escarpment of the Eastern Rift Valley, *M. (g.) smithii* is sympatric (ca. 70,000 km<sup>2</sup>) with *M. (k.) kirkii*. From the floor of the Eastern Rift Valley (from the south end of Lake Turkana southward to between Lake Bogoria and Lake Nakuru) westward to central east Uganda, *M. (g.) smithii* is sympatric (ca. 35,000 km<sup>2</sup>) with *M. (k.) cavendishi*.

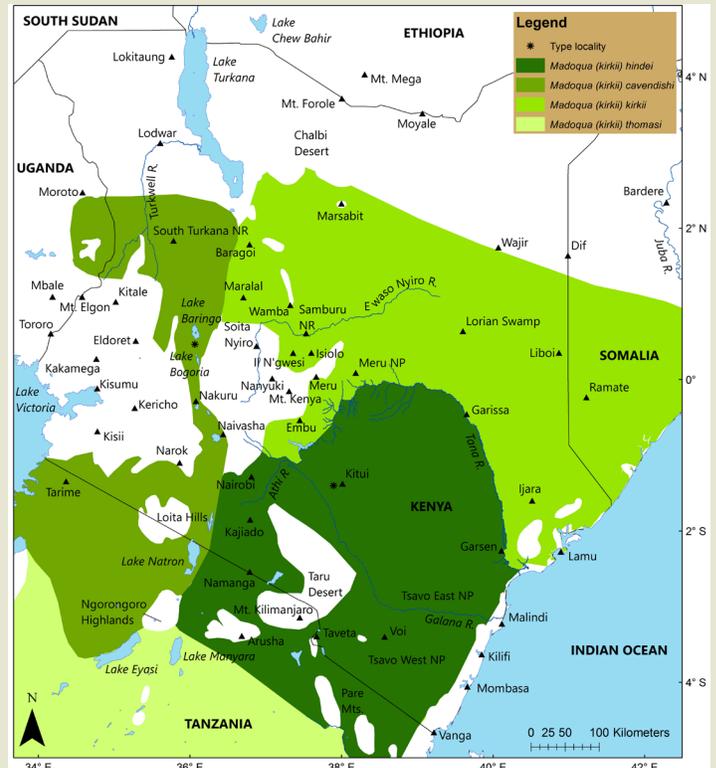


Figure 17. Historic geographic distributions in Kenya, Uganda, and north Tanzania for three species in the Kirk's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii)* species group (Drake-Brockman 1930, Stewart and Stewart 1963, Groves 2011, Groves and Grubb 2011, Brotherton 2013, Y. de Jong and T. Butynski pers. obs.). Current distributions are less than depicted, particularly in southwest Kenya and central north Tanzania where the human population is highest and where large areas of natural habitat have been lost. This map refines previous maps by removing the larger areas of habitat unsuitable for *Madoqua (kirkii)* (e.g., deserts, forests, and the higher mountains).

#### Distinguishing sympatric *Madoqua (guentheri)* and *Madoqua (kirkii)*

Most people, including naturalists and biologists, have difficulty distinguishing between *M. (guentheri)* and *M. (kirkii)* when in sympatry. *Madoqua (guentheri)* are distinguished from sympatric *M. (kirkii)* by their (1) darker russet, relatively long, very mobile, proboscideal, muzzle, (2) narrower, less obvious, white eye-ring, and (3) sharper demarcation between the marbled black of the forehead and the russet of the muzzle (Figure 19).

More than 200 photographs of *M. (guentheri)* and *M. (kirkii)* can be viewed on the 'Dik-dik Photomap' at: <http://www.wildsolutions.nl/photomaps/madoqua/>

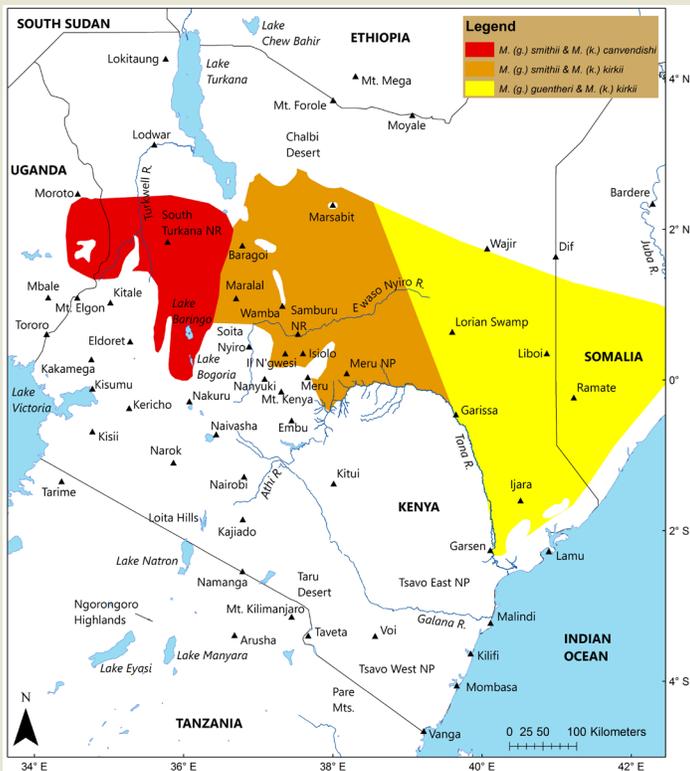


Figure 18. Regions of sympatry between Günther’s dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) guentheri* and Kirk’s dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) kirkii*, Smith’s dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii* and *M. (k.) kirkii*, and *M. (g.) smithii* and Cavendish’s dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) cavendishi* (Drake-Brockman 1930, Stewart and Stewart 1963, Groves 2011, Groves and Grubb 2011, Brotherton 2013, Hoppe and Brotherton 2013, Foley *et al.* 2014, Y. de Jong and T. Butynski pers. obs.). The larger areas of habitat unsuitable for *Madoqua* spp. (e.g., deserts, forests, and the higher mountains) have been removed.

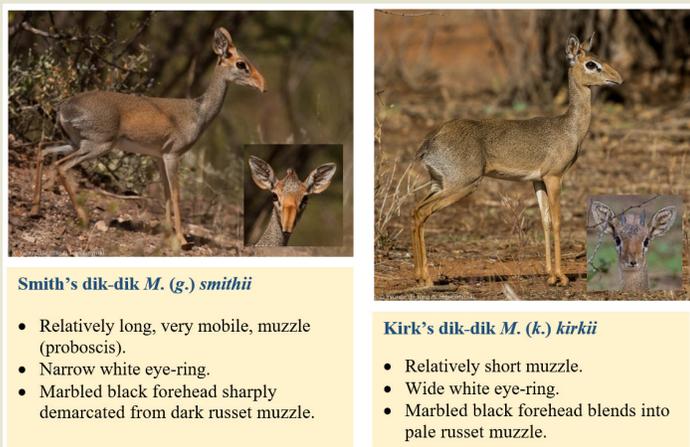


Figure 19. Three traits by which adults in the Günther’s dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri)* species group can be distinguished from adults in the Kirk’s dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii)* species group where sympatric. All four photographs taken by Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski in Laikipia County, central Kenya.

**Aberrant greyish *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii* in central Kenya**  
 The dorsal pelage of *M. (g.) smithii* is typically grizzled yellowish-russet to greyish-russet, while the flanks are brown to russet, varying geographically. *Madoqua (g.) smithii* is the most common antelope in Laikipia County, central Kenya. In September 2016, a camera trap placed by the Zoological Society of London/Lolldaiga Hills Research Programme (ZSL/LHRP) on Lolldaiga Hills Ranch, central Laikipia County (Butynski and De Jong 2014), captured a pair of adult *M. (g.) smithii* at 2,200 m asl. Other pairs of *M. (g.) smithii* have been photographed at this site over the past 3 years. This pair, however, comprised a typical-coloured adult female and an aberrant greyish adult male (Figures 20–22).



Figure 20. Typical-coloured adult female (left) and greyish adult male Smith’s dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii*, Lolldaiga Hills Ranch, east Laikipia County, central Kenya. Photograph by ZSL/LHRP camera trap.



Figure 21. Greyish adult male Smith’s dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii*. This is likely the same individual as in Figure 20. Photograph by ZSL/LHRP camera trap.



Figure 22. Greyish adult male Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii*. This is likely the same individual as in Figures 20 and 21. Photograph by ZSL/LHRP camera trap.

Although this is the first record of a greyish *M. (g.) smithii* on Lolldaiga Hills Ranch, individuals of this colour are not new to us. In about 2009, we encountered two adult greyish *M. (g.) smithii* on Mpala Conservancy (N 00.299279, E 36.905831; 1,650 asl), about 25 km northwest of the Lolldaiga record. Mike Roberts (pers. comm.) photographed an adult male (Figure 23) in 2009 at Boma ya Corner (N 00.65613, E 36.45370; 2,010 asl), Ol Ari Nyiro, Laikipia Nature Conservancy, ca. 90 km northwest of Lolldaiga Hills Ranch.



Figure 23. Greyish adult male Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii*, Boma ya Corner, Ol Ari Nyiro, Laikipia Nature Conservancy, west Laikipia. Photograph by Mike Roberts.

Here is a summary of encounters with greyish *M. (g.) smithii* in central Kenya by six other people (Figure 24):

- Jamie Gaymer (pers. comm.); one in middle of Ol Jogi Ranch.
- Adam Ferguson (pers. comm.); one near Mpala Research Centre on Mpala Conservancy.
- Rosie Woodroffe (pers. comm.); several on Mpala Conservancy, including one along the Ewaso Nyiro River near Clifford's.
- Steve Carey (pers. comm.); one north of the Mpala Research Centre and one at Mukenya Hill on Mpala Conservancy.
- Laurence Frank (pers. comm.); one near the Guest House (former Ranch House) on Mpala Conservancy.
- Ian Craig (pers. comm.); not uncommon on Sera Conservancy and on Namunyak Conservancy. One all-white individual at Namunyak Conservancy.

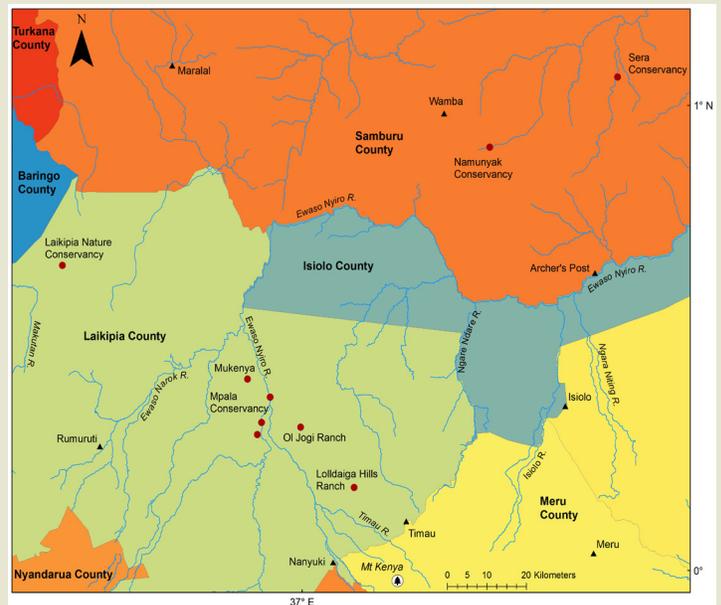


Figure 24. Red dots indicate sites in central Kenya for which there are records of aberrant greyish Smith's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) smithii*.

Based on our >4,000 encounters with *M. (g.) smithii* in Laikipia County, we estimate that <0.1% of the individuals have greyish pelage. Although we have travelled widely through the range of *M. (g.) smithii* in Kenya and Uganda, we have yet to observe a greyish individual anywhere outside of Laikipia County. Ian Craig (pers. comm.) has, however, encountered greyish *M. (g.) smithii* both on Sera Conservancy and on Namunyak Conservancy, as well as an all-white *M. (g.) smithii* on Namunyak Conservancy. These two sites are to the north of Laikipia County (Figure 24).

**Aberrant-coloured *Madoqua (guentheri) guentheri* in Ethiopia**

Håkan Pohlstrand (pers. comm.) provides records of aberrant-coloured *M. (g.) guentheri* in Ethiopia. In 2010, he photographed a greyish adult male in the Babile Elephant Sanctuary (ca. 1,300 m asl), east Ethiopia (Figure 25). In 2017, he photographed an all-white *M. (g.) guentheri* near Yabello, south Ethiopia (Figure 26). At this site (N 04.91853, E 38.05525; 1,950 m asl) he observed five *M. (g.) guentheri*; one typical-coloured, two greyish, and two all-white (not albinos).



Figure 25. Typical-coloured adult female and juvenile, and greyish adult male Günther's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) guentheri*, Babile Elephant Sanctuary, east Ethiopia. Photograph by Håkan Pohlstrand.



Figure 26. All-white Günther's dik-dik *Madoqua (guentheri) guentheri* near Yabello, south Ethiopia. Photograph by Håkan Pohlstrand.

**Aberrant greyish *Madoqua (kirkii) thomasi* in Tanzania**

In 2012, Walter Jubber photographed a greyish adult male *M. (k.) thomasi* in Tarangire National Park, central north Tanzania (Figure 27). This is the only record that we have of an aberrant-coloured individual in the *M. (kirkii)* species group.



Figure 27. Greyish adult male Thomas's dik-dik *Madoqua (kirkii) thomasi*, Tarangire National Park, central north Tanzania. Photograph by Walter Jubber.

**Is *Madoqua (guentheri) hodsoni* a valid taxon?**

As mentioned above, four subspecies of *Madoqua (guentheri)* are provisionally recognised by Drake-Brockman (1930), Allen (1939), Ansell (1972), Kingswood and Kumamoto (1996), Hoppe and Brotherton (2013), and Kingdon (2015). In addition to *smithii* and *guentheri*, these include Wroughton's dik-dik *M. (g.) wroughtoni*, collected in the Webi Valley, and Hodson's dik-dik *M. (g.) hodsoni*, collected on Mt. Mega. Both sites are in south central Ethiopia.

Several authors question the validity of *wroughtoni* and *hodsoni* (Ansell 1972, Yalden *et al.* 1984, Kingswood and Kumamoto 1996, Hoppe and Brotherton 2013), and neither is recognised by Grubb (2005), Groves (2011), or Groves and Grubb (2011), who treat both as synonyms of *M. (g.) guentheri*. Concerning the *hodsoni* holotype, Drake-Brockman (1930, p. 55) states, “*The skull of this species is indistinguishable from that of M. guentheri. It is, however, a very pale local race. The general colour is greyish or creamy white, quite distinct from any other known dik-dik.*” Kingswood and Kumamoto (1996, p. 538), refer to the holotype as a “*pale aberrant*”, while Ansell (1972, pp. 63–64) states, “*...a pale mutant, though not an albino.*” “*...an aberrant specimen.*” All of these authors, and others (e.g., Hoppe and Brotherton 2013), were of the opinion that Pocock (1926) described and named *hodsoni* on the basis of but one specimen. A reading of Pocock (1926), however, indicates that he examined no fewer than three greyish specimens, and that he received reports by Arnold Hodson and Captain Fowler of at least several other greyish dik-diks from Mt. Mega, the type locality. Here are three excerpts from Pocock (1926):

P. 187. “In 1917 Mr. Arnold Hodson saw on Mt. Mega in S. Abyssinia a dik-dik so conspicuously white in colour that he regarded it as a freak of no particular interest. But on returning here years later to the same spot he noticed dik-diks to all appearance precisely similar to it on different parts of the mountain.”

P. 187. In 1920, A. Hodson obtained one specimen of the greyish dik-dik. In addition, in 1928, Captain Fowler brought from Mt. Mega “...a couple of skins similar in colour to the one Mr. Arnold Hodson secured five years ago. Capt. Fowler, moreover, noticed, as Mr. Hodson had done, that these pale dik-diks were not found in the company with those of the ordinary type of coloration.”

P. 188. “A dik-dik of the *R. guentheri* type, as shown by its skull, which is indistinguishable from the skull of that species; but differing from it and all previously recorded species in the general pallor of its pelage, which is greyish or creamy white, the hairs lacking the speckled or ticked appearance seen in other forms of the genus.” “The head is white varied with buff. The summit of the muzzle is greyish in the type, tinted with buff in other specimens...” “The clear white of the belly is separated from the dirty greyish or cream-white of the flanks by a darker band mostly of buff hairs extending from the fore to the hind limb. The legs are whitish on the outer side down to the fetlocks...”

These descriptions meet those of the greyish and all-white *M. (g.) guentheri* reported above. Mt. Mega is ca. 90 km southeast of Yabelo where Håkan Pohlstrand (pers. comm.) encountered two greyish and two all-white (not albino) *M. (g.) guentheri*, and ca. 450 km northeast of Laikipia County where greyish *M. (g.) smithii* occur. It appears that greyish *M. (g.) guentheri* are widespread and always either with or very near typical-coloured *M. (g.) guentheri*, but that they are much more common at some sites (e.g., Yabelo, Mt. Mega) than at others. While some of the above can be taken to support the synonymy of *hodsoni* under *M. (g.) guentheri*, the situation at Mt. Mega and Yabelo needs examination. Specifically, answers to the following questions should be sought;

- What proportions of *M. (g.) guentheri* at each of these two sites have greyish, white, and typical pelage?
- What is the composition of *M. (g.) guentheri* groups as concerns pelage colour?
- Are greyish and white *M. (g.) guentheri* ‘really’ not found in groups with typical-coloured *M. (g.) guentheri* (as stated by A. Hodson and Captain Fowler)?

#### Request for information

Have you seen a greyish or all-white dik-dik?—or a dik-dik with another, aberrant, pelage colour? If so, please let us know where and when, and attach a photograph if you have one. Send to: [yvonne@lolldaiga.com](mailto:yvonne@lolldaiga.com) Thank you!

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