

Komba

WILDLIFE CLUBS OF KENYA

Komba 3, 2018



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INSIDE

Nairobi's Urban LEOPARD

50 years - The birth of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya

Babies from the bush...
meet Kenya's galagos (Part 3)

Babies from the bush.... meet Kenya's galagos (Part 3)

By Yvonne de Jong, Tom Butynski & Noah Dekker. Photographs and maps by the authors unless otherwise stated.



Subadult Kenya coast dwarf galago at Mpeketoni, north coast of Kenya.

Large ears, big eyes, fluffy tail, and small....the galagos (also known as ‘bushbabies’ or ‘kombas’) are fully equipped to qualify as ‘Africa’s cutest group of mammals’. If you have read parts one and two of this series on bushbabies you know that there are six species and nine subspecies of bushbaby in Kenya. They vary in size from the 90 gram mountain dwarf galago (scientific name *Paragalago orinus*) to the 1,200 gram northern silver galago (scientific name *Otolemur crassicaudatus argentatus*).

In the first *Komba* magazine of this year we discussed the two species of greater galago, while the second issue dealt with the two species of lesser galago. We continue here with our three-part series on Kenya’s galagos to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, indeed the Wildlife Clubs’ logo and magazine both bear the name ‘Komba’. The name ‘Komba’ was selected to show that all creatures, small and big, are important. In this issue we present the dwarf galagos.

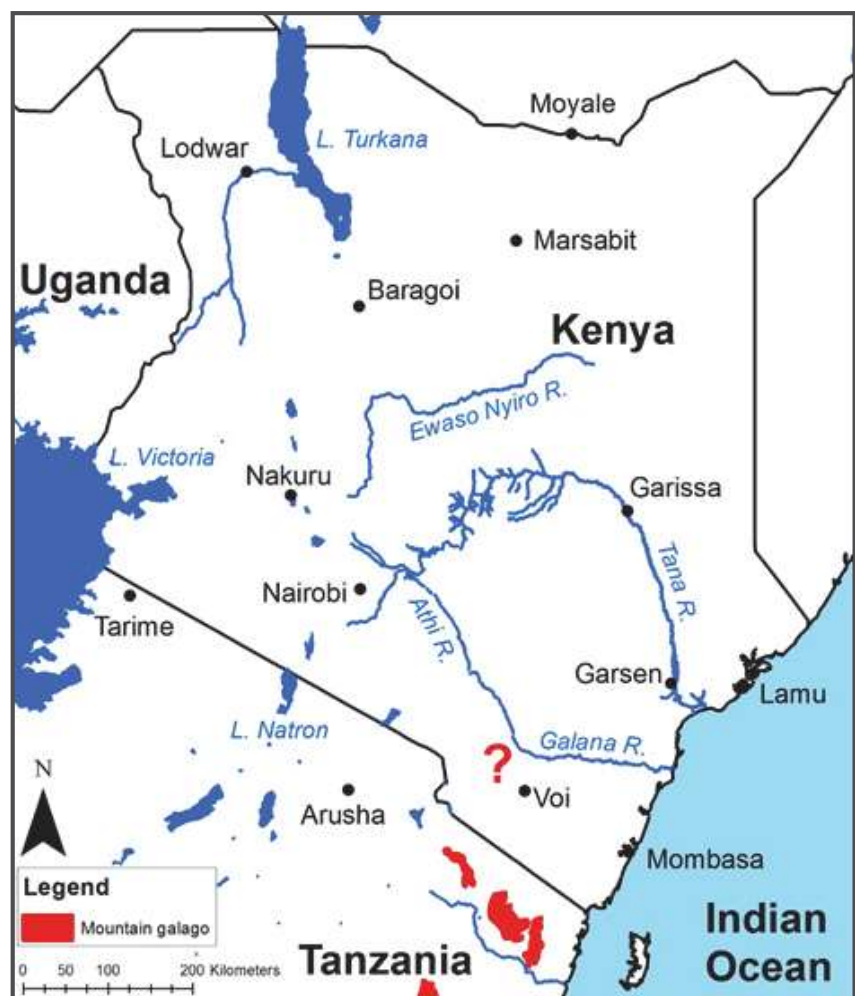


Mountain dwarf galago in Malawi. Photograph by Johan Karlsson.

Two species of dwarf galago occur in Kenya; the mountain dwarf galago and the Kenya coast dwarf galago. Like all species of galago, they are nocturnal (active at night), arboreal (live in trees), and eat fruit, gum, and insects.

Mountain dwarf galago

Mountain dwarf galago *Paragalago orinus* probably occur in the Taita Hills of southeast Kenya...but we are not yet certain. In Tanzania, it lives in montane forest, sometimes as high as 2600 metres above sea level. If present in the Taita Hills, it is the second smallest species of galago (90 gram) in Kenya. All galagos make a loud call that is unique to the species. Mountain dwarf galago has a very cool loud call... the ‘scaling call’. You can listen to this call at: <http://www.wildsolutions.nl/vocal-profiles/galagoides/orinus/>



Distribution in Kenya of the mountain dwarf galago.

Kenya coast dwarf galago

Kenya coast dwarf galago *Paragalago cocos* weighs about 150 grams. If you have been at the Kenyan coast, there is a good chance that you have heard or seen this species at night. It lives in coastal forests, a type of forest that is being rapidly destroyed by loggers and farmers. Fortunately, the Kenya coast dwarf galago is able to survive on some kinds of farmland, particularly where there are many coconut palms. In fact, this galago is named after the coconut palm *Cocos nucifera*!



Adult Kenya coast dwarf galago at Ndera Conservancy, lower Tana River, Kenya.



Distribution in Kenya of the Kenya coast dwarf galago.

Do you want to see more galago pictures and learn more about their distributions? If so, go to our Photographic Maps on <http://www.wildsolutions.nl/photography/photomap/>

Go here to listen to the unique loud call that each species of galago makes: <http://www.wildsolutions.nl/vocal-profiles/>

Go here to see a drawing of each of East Africa's galago species and subspecies, as well as its distribution: <http://www.wildsolutions.nl/pg/>