



Lemur Diversity in Madagascar

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Abstract A basic understanding of the taxonomy, diversity, and distributions of primates is essential for their conservation. This review of the status of the taxonomy of lemurs is based on a 5-d workshop entitled “Primate Taxonomy for the New Millennium,” held at the Disney Institute, Orlando, Florida, in February 2000. The aim is not to present a taxonomic revision, but to review our current understanding of the diversity and current and past ranges of lemurs and indicate where there is controversy, discrepancy, or lack of knowledge. Our goal therefore is to provide a baseline for future taxonomic investigation, as well as a clearer focus for research

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and conservation priorities. We here focus on the lemurs of Madagascar and recognize 5 families, 15 genera, and 99 species and subspecies. We list 39 species of lemurs described since 2000: 2 dwarf lemurs, *Cheirogaleus*; 11 mouse lemurs, *Microcebus*; a giant mouse lemur, *Mirza*; a bamboo lemur, *Haplemur*; 17 sportive lemurs, *Lepilemur*; and 7 woolly lemurs, *Avahi*. Taxonomic revisions have resulted in the resurrection of a further 9 taxa. However, the figures do not represent the total diversity of Malagasy lemurs because more new species are being identified via new field studies and accompanying genetic research, and should be described in the near future.

Keywords diversity · lemurs · Madagascar · taxonomy

Introduction

This paper is the last in a series of 4 that resulted from a 5-d workshop entitled “Primate Taxonomy for the New Millennium,” held at the Disney Institute, Orlando, Florida, February 25–29, 2000, and organized by the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group (PSG), The Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) at Columbia University, Conservation International, and the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation. The rationale behind the workshop was the need for a basic understanding of the diversity, taxonomy, and distribution of all primates as a fundamental basis for efforts to conserve them and to maintain the full diversity of the order. Although much research has been conducted on primate taxonomy over the past 5 decades, the taxonomy of many different groups remains unclear, including that of species at greatest risk of extinction. This confounds conservation

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efforts and makes it difficult to determine how resources should best be allocated. The Orlando meeting involved 25 experts in various aspects of primate taxonomy. The main objectives were to draw up a list of recognized primate taxa to serve as the basis for future conservation action and to take advantage of the presence of so many experts to begin an assessment of the conservation status of all primates for the IUCN Red List. The results of the assessment for the Neotropical primates were published in 2000 (Rylands *et al.* 2000), and will be revisited in a further publication (Rylands and Mittermeier, in press). Grubb *et al.* (2003) published conclusions regarding the African primates, and Brandon-Jones *et al.* (2004) published the agreed listing of the Asian primates. However, all of them are to be regarded as provisional. Here we report on our findings and conclusions for the lemurs of Madagascar, along with the numerous taxa that researchers have described since 2000.

Morphological and (especially) cytogenetic and molecular genetic studies are resulting in some major changes in our understanding of the diversity, phylogeny, and systematics of the lemurs (Fausser *et al.* 2002; Mayor *et al.* 2004; Ravoarimanana 2001; Rumpler 2000, 2004), as well as the identification of numerous new species (Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2006a; Andriantompohavana *et al.* 2006, 2007; Craul *et al.* 2007; Kappeler *et al.* 2005; Lei *et al.* 2008; Louis *et al.* 2006a, b; Olivieri *et al.* 2007; Rabarivola *et al.* 2006; Radespiel *et al.* 2008; Rasoloarison *et al.* 2000; Rylands *et al.* 2002; Thalmann and Geissmann 2000, 2005; Zaramody *et al.* 2006; Zimmermann *et al.* 1998). Groves and Tattersall (1991), Groves (2000, 2001, 2005, 2007), and Groves and Helgen (2007) revised existing museum material intensively. As a result of the aforementioned work, primatologists described 39 new species from the time of the Orlando workshop in 2000 to September 2008 and resurrected 9 other taxa, bringing the total number of taxa recognized here to 99 (97 species).

It is not our aim to present another taxonomic revision, but instead to review the current situation and to indicate controversy, discrepancies, and gaps in our understanding of the diversity of the Madagascar lemurs and their current and past ranges. We hope that this will provide a baseline for future taxonomic investigation and a clearer focus for conservation priorities. Our resulting taxonomic list is in Table I, together with the earlier taxonomic arrangements of Mittermeier *et al.* (1994), Goodman *et al.* (2003), and Groves (2005). As is inevitable in producing a list of this kind, there are, in many cases, disparate opinions and standpoints of the authors themselves regarding the affinities and validity or otherwise of certain named forms and the appropriate taxonomic ranking (species or subspecies). The 14 authors involved in constructing the list, the first 6 of whom comprised the core working group at the 2000 primate taxonomy workshop, do not necessarily agree on the arrangements for all of the genera and should not be taken to task if they express alternative opinions and standpoints elsewhere. The list results from the majority opinion and we hope we have indicated adequately where doubts and controversies exist. Groves (2001, 2004) and Tattersall (2007) discussed many of the issues involved in the taxonomic classification of the primates, and the latter author presented contrasting viewpoints for the lemurs in particular.

Before providing details on the different lemur taxa, we summarize some of the concepts that have contributed to uncertainties in lemur taxonomy. They relate mainly to the multiple interpretations of what constitutes a species. Scientists,

Table 1 Lemur taxa recognized in this paper in comparison to Mittermeier *et al.* (1994), Groves' taxonomy (Groves 2005), and the "pre-Groves system" extended by new taxa and summarized by Goodman *et al.* (2003)

Mittermeier <i>et al.</i> (1994)	Goodman <i>et al.</i> (2003)	Groves (2005)	Lemur taxa recognized in the present paper
Family Cheirogaleidae	Family Cheirogaleidae	Family Cheirogaleidae	Family Cheirogaleidae
<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	1. <i>Microcebus murinus</i>
<i>M. rufus</i>	<i>M. rufus</i>	<i>M. rufus</i>	2. <i>M. rufus</i>
<i>M. myoxinus</i>	<i>M. myoxinus</i>	<i>M. myoxinus</i>	3. <i>M. myoxinus</i>
	<i>M. griseorufus</i>	<i>M. griseorufus</i>	4. <i>M. griseorufus</i>
	<i>M. ravelobensis</i>	<i>M. ravelobensis</i>	5. <i>M. ravelobensis</i>
	<i>M. berthae</i>	<i>M. berthae</i>	6. <i>M. berthae</i>
	<i>M. sambiranensis</i>	<i>M. sambiranensis</i>	7. <i>M. sambiranensis</i>
	<i>M. tavaratra</i>	<i>M. tavaratra</i>	8. <i>M. tavaratra</i>
			9. <i>M. lehilahytsara</i>
			10. <i>M. jollyae</i>
			11. <i>M. mittermeieri</i>
			12. <i>M. simmonsii</i>
			13. <i>M. mamiratra</i>
			14. <i>M. danfossi</i>
			15. <i>M. bongolavensis</i>
			16. <i>M. macarthurii</i>
<i>Mirza coquereli</i>	<i>Mirza coquereli</i>	<i>Mirza coquereli</i>	17. <i>Mirza coquereli</i>
			18. <i>Mirza zaza</i>
<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>	<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>	<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>	19. <i>Allocebus trichotis</i>
<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>	20. <i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>
	<i>C. adipicaudatus</i>	<i>C. adipicaudatus</i>	21. <i>C. adipicaudatus</i>
<i>C. major</i>	<i>C. major</i>	<i>C. major</i>	22. <i>C. major</i>
	<i>C. crossleyi</i>	<i>C. crossleyi</i>	23. <i>C. crossleyi</i>
	<i>C. sibreei</i>	<i>C. sibreei</i>	24. <i>C. sibreei</i>
	<i>C. ravus</i>	<i>C. ravus</i>	25. <i>C. ravus</i>
	<i>C. minusculus</i>	<i>C. minusculus</i>	26. <i>C. minusculus</i>
<i>Phaner furcifer</i>	<i>Phaner furcifer</i>	<i>Phaner furcifer</i>	27. <i>Phaner furcifer</i>
<i>P. furcifer</i>	<i>P. pallelescens</i>	<i>P. pallelescens</i>	28. <i>P. pallelescens</i>
<i>P. furcifer parienti</i>	<i>P. parienti</i>	<i>P. parienti</i>	29. <i>P. parienti</i>
<i>P. furcifer electromontis</i>	<i>P. electromontis</i>	<i>P. electromontis</i>	30. <i>P. electromontis</i>
Family Lemuridae	Family Lemuridae	Family Lemuridae	Family Lemuridae
<i>Lemur catta</i>	<i>Lemur catta</i>	<i>Lemur catta</i>	31. <i>Lemur catta</i>
<i>Eulemur fulvus fulvus</i>	<i>Eulemur fulvus fulvus</i>	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	32. <i>Eulemur fulvus</i>
<i>E. fulvus sanfordi</i>	<i>E. fulvus sanfordi</i>	<i>E. sanfordi</i>	33. <i>E. sanfordi</i>
<i>E. fulvus albifrons</i>	<i>E. fulvus albifrons</i>	<i>E. albifrons</i>	34. <i>E. albifrons</i>
<i>E. fulvus rufus</i>	<i>E. fulvus rufus</i>	<i>E. rufus</i>	35. <i>E. rufus</i>
		<i>E. cinereiceps</i>	36. <i>E. rufifrons</i>
<i>E. fulvus collaris</i>	<i>E. fulvus collaris</i>	<i>E. collaris</i>	37. <i>E. collaris</i>
<i>E. fulvus albocollaris</i>	<i>E. fulvus albocollaris</i>	<i>E. albocollaris</i>	38. <i>E. cinereiceps</i>
<i>E. macaco macaco</i>	<i>E. macaco macaco</i>	<i>E. macaco macaco</i>	39. <i>E. macaco</i>
<i>E. macaco flavifrons</i>	<i>E. macaco flavifrons</i>	<i>E. macaco flavifrons</i>	40. <i>E. flavifrons</i>
<i>E. coronatus</i>	<i>E. coronatus</i>	<i>E. coronatus</i>	41. <i>E. coronatus</i>
<i>E. rubriventer</i>	<i>E. rubriventer</i>	<i>E. rubriventer</i>	42. <i>E. rubriventer</i>
<i>E. mongoz</i>	<i>E. mongoz</i>	<i>E. mongoz</i>	43. <i>E. mongoz</i>
<i>Hapalemus griseus griseus</i>	<i>Hapalemus griseus griseus</i>	<i>Hapalemus griseus griseus</i>	44. <i>Hapalemur griseus</i>
	<i>H. g. meridionalis</i>	<i>H. g. meridionalis</i>	45. <i>H. meridionalis</i>
<i>H. griseus alaotrensis</i>	<i>H. griseus alaotrensis</i>	<i>H. alaotrensis</i>	46. <i>H. gilberti</i>
<i>H. aureus</i>	<i>H. aureus</i>	<i>H. aureus</i>	47. <i>H. alaotrensis</i>
<i>H. griseus occidentalis</i>	<i>H. occidentalis</i>	<i>H. occidentalis</i>	48. <i>H. aureus</i>
			49. <i>H. occidentalis</i>

<i>Hapalemur simus</i>	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>	<i>Prollemur simus</i>	50. <i>Prollemur simus</i>
<i>Varecia variegata</i> <i>variegata</i>	<i>Varecia variegata</i> <i>variegata</i>	<i>Varecia variegata</i> <i>variegata</i>	51. <i>Varecia variegata</i> <i>variegata</i>
<i>V. v. rubra</i>	<i>V. v. rubra</i>	<i>V. v. editorum</i>	52. <i>V. v. editorum</i>
Family Megaladapidae	Family Lepilemuridae	<i>V. v. subcincta</i>	53. <i>V. v. subcincta</i>
<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>	<i>V. rubra</i>	54. <i>V. rubra</i>
<i>L. microdon</i>	<i>L. microdon</i>	Family Lepilemuridae	Family Lepilemuridae
<i>L. leucopus</i>	<i>L. leucopus</i>	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>	55. <i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>
<i>L. ruficaudatus</i>	<i>L. ruficaudatus</i>	<i>L. microdon</i>	56. <i>L. microdon</i>
<i>L. edwardsi</i>	<i>L. edwardsi</i>	<i>L. leucopus</i>	57. <i>L. leucopus</i>
<i>L. dorsalis</i>	<i>L. dorsalis</i>	<i>L. ruficaudatus</i>	58. <i>L. ruficaudatus</i>
<i>L. septentrionalis</i>	<i>L. septentrionalis</i>	<i>L. edwardsi</i>	59. <i>L. edwardsi</i>
	<i>L. ankaranensis</i>	<i>L. dorsalis</i>	60. <i>L. dorsalis</i>
		<i>L. septentrionalis</i>	61. <i>L. septentrionalis</i>
		<i>L. ankaranensis</i>	62. <i>L. ankaranensis</i>
			63. <i>L. aeeclis</i>
			64. <i>L. randrianasoli</i>
			65. <i>L. sahamalazensis</i>
			66. <i>L. mittermeieri</i>
			67. <i>L. ahmansoni</i>
			68. <i>L. betsileo</i>
			69. <i>L. fleuretae</i>
			70. <i>L. grewcocki</i>
			71. <i>L. hubbardi</i>
			72. <i>L. jamesi</i>
			73. <i>L. milanoii</i>
			74. <i>L. petteri</i>
			75. <i>L. seali</i>
			76. <i>L. tymerlachsoni</i>
			77. <i>L. wrighti</i>
			78. <i>L. otto</i>
			79. <i>L. scottorum</i>
Family Indriidae	Family Indriidae	Family Indriidae	Family Indriidae
<i>Indri indri</i>	<i>Indri indri</i>	<i>Indri indri indri</i>	80. <i>Indri indri</i>
		<i>I. i. variegatus</i>	
<i>Avahi laniger</i>	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	81. <i>Avahi laniger</i>
<i>A. occidentalis</i>	<i>A. occidentalis</i>	<i>A. occidentalis</i>	82. <i>A. occidentalis</i>
	<i>A. unicolor</i>	<i>A. unicolor</i>	83. <i>A. unicolor</i>
			84. <i>A. cleesei</i>
			85. <i>A. peyrierasi</i>
			86. <i>A. meridionalis</i>
			87. <i>A. ramanantsoavani</i>
			88. <i>A. betsileo</i>
			89. <i>A. mooreorum</i>
<i>Propithecus diadema</i> <i>diadema</i>	<i>Propithecus diadema</i> <i>diadema</i>	<i>Propithecus diadema</i> <i>diadema</i>	90. <i>Propithecus</i> <i>diadema</i>
<i>P. d. candidus</i>	<i>P. d. candidus</i>	<i>P. d. candidus</i>	91. <i>P. candidus</i>
<i>P. d. edwardsi</i>	<i>P. d. edwardsi</i>	<i>P. edwardsi</i>	92. <i>P. edwardsi</i>
<i>P. d. perrieri</i>	<i>P. d. perrieri</i>	<i>P. perrieri</i>	93. <i>P. perrieri</i>
<i>P. v. verreauxi</i>	<i>P. v. verreauxi</i>	<i>P. verreauxi</i>	94. <i>P. verreauxi</i>
<i>P. v. deckenii</i>	<i>P. v. deckenii</i>	<i>P. deckenii</i>	95. <i>P. deckenii</i>
<i>P. v. coronatus</i>	<i>P. v. coronatus</i>	<i>P. deckenii coronatus</i>	96. <i>P. coronatus</i>
<i>P. v. coquereli</i>	<i>P. v. coquereli</i>	<i>P. coquereli</i>	97. <i>P. coquereli</i>
<i>P. tattersalli</i>	<i>P. tattersalli</i>	<i>P. tattersalli</i>	98. <i>P. tattersalli</i>
Family Daubentoniidae	Family Daubentoniidae	Family Daubentoniidae	Family Daubentoniidae
<i>Daubentonia</i> <i>madagascariensis</i>	<i>Daubentonia</i> <i>madagascariensis</i>	<i>Daubentonia</i> <i>madagascariensis</i>	99. <i>Daubentonia</i> <i>madagascariensis</i>

In all, we recognize 5 families, 15 genera, and 99 species and subspecies.

politicians, and the public are familiar with the term species, and most arguments concerning biological diversity use the term. Yet there are many different definitions, as indicated by Groves (2001, 2004). Hey (2001) provided a review, listing no less than 24 different species concepts. Hey (2001, p. 328) argued that the diversity of definitions results from 2 processes: 1) the evolutionary processes that have caused biological diversity and 2) the human mental apparatus that recognizes and gives names to patterns of recurrence.

The search for a definition of the species is essentially the search for a way to operationalize the Evolutionary Species [“a lineage... evolving separately from others and with its own unitary evolutionary role and tendencies” (Simpson 1961, pp. 153–154)].

Four concepts are most often applied in defining taxonomic units: 1) The Biological Species Concept, which is “groups of actually or potentially interbreeding natural populations which are reproductively isolated from other such groups” (Mayr 1963, p. 19); 2) The Phylogenetic Species Concept, which is “the smallest diagnosable cluster of individual organisms within which there is a parental pattern of ancestry and descent” (Cracraft 1983, p. 170); 3) The Recognition Species Concept, which is “that most inclusive population of biparental organisms which share a common fertilisation system” (Paterson 1986, p. 63); and 4) Subspecies, which, according to Mayr (1963) and Mayr and Ashlock (1991), are “an aggregation of phenotypically similar populations of a species that inhabit a geographical segment of the distribution range of a species and can be taxonomically distinguished from other populations of that species” (Thalmann *et al.* 2002, p. 12). To be considered a subspecies, *ca.* 75% of the individuals of a population should be different from all other individuals of the species. Thalmann *et al.* (2002) applied the criterion to resolve the debate as to whether *Propithecus verreauxi deckenii* and *P. v. coronatus* should be considered distinct subspecies or whether they should more correctly be lumped into one taxonomic unit.

In addition to the formal concepts, there is a widespread assumption, rarely made fully explicit, that species ought to be defined by certain degrees of difference. The expectation lies behind some of the taxonomic conclusions in molecular investigations: the amount of difference, e.g., in a mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequence, should be so much percent for 2 taxa to rank as species. It was only in 2001 that researchers gave the concept a name: the Genetic Species Concept (Bradley and Baker 2001); the authors showed that there is indeed a particular degree of genetic distance that characterizes subspecies, sister species, and so on, but it is by no means universal and one cannot use it as a strict taxonomic criterion. The same authors have more recently defined a Genetic Species as “a group of genetically compatible interbreeding natural populations that is genetically isolated from other such groups” (Baker and Bradley 2006, p. 645), and they reiterate that, though based on the idea that “speciation is the accumulation of genetic changes in 2 lineages... that produced genetic isolation and protection of the integrity of the 2 respective gene pools that have independent evolutionary fates” (*ibid.*), there is no certainty about genetic distances between species, and in effect Genetic Species are virtually identical to Phylogenetic Species. This underlines yet again that species difference is a quality, not a quantity.

The so-called Distinct Population Segment, which is listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, is another unit relevant for conservation. The term was introduced in 1978 to protect populations of charismatic species such as timber wolves and grizzly bears that are rare locally but can be abundant elsewhere (Clark 2002; DeWeerd 2002). Distinct population segments as such are not equivalent to subspecies, which are populations that “inhabit a geographical segment.”

Debate continues as to which of the taxonomic concepts should be the basis for conservation, with some preferring the Phylogenetic Species Concept and others the Biological Species Concept. Part of the discussion revolved around some still unresolved questions, two of which are outlined below.

Discrepancies Between Traits

Taxonomy, systematics, and phylogenetic reconstructions are based on morphological, cytological, and genetic traits. It has been a matter of debate as to how diverging results based on the different traits can be reconciled. Researchers currently consider integration of the different aspects based on objective criteria problematic because morphological traits that result from several interacting coding genes are compared with sequences of noncoding DNA, coding DNA, and chromosomal rearrangements of unknown consequences. Several reviewers have analyzed problems arising from combining gene trees and species trees (Nichols 2001) and from linking speciation to chromosomal rearrangements (Rieseberg 2001), and also concerning the kinds of genetic differences that distinguish species (Orr 2001). The problem is that there is often little or no correlation between genetic distinctiveness and speciation or morphological shift. Further, some difficulties exist because nature and our own, often biased, expectations do not match. Yoder (1997), Thalmann (2003), Rumpler (2004), and Ganzhorn *et al.* (2006) summarized some of the discrepancies as they occur in lemurs. In the main, we take the view that any apparently heritable character variation is appropriate in taxonomy.

Natural Hybridization

Several researchers who have demonstrated hybridization between morphologically clearly distinct units have questioned the application of the Biological Species Concept for lemurs. Hybrids have been reported for *Eulemur mongoz* × *Eulemur (f.) fulvus* (Zaramody and Pastorini 2001), *Eulemur (m.) macaco* × *E. (f.) fulvus* at Manongarivo (Goodman and Schütz 2000), *E. (m.) macaco* × *E. (m.) flavifrons* (Meyers *et al.* 1989; Rabarivola *et al.* 1991), and *E. (f.) fulvus* × *E. (f.) rufus* (Lehman and Wright 2000). Johnson and Wyner (2000), Johnson (2002), and Wyner *et al.* (2002) also reported a zone of hybridization between *Eulemur (fulvus) albocollaris* (now called *E. cinereiceps*) and *E. (f.) rufus*.

The examples illustrate the difficulties in the classification of biological diversity. However, classifications are conventions and thus tools to be used for specific purposes. A full understanding of the diversity of extant lemurs is vital if we are to conserve them and, though there is doubt in any assessment, we lean toward maintaining controversial taxa and species level classifications, as discussed by Groves (2001, 2004).

The taxonomic arrangement that we recommend in Table I and describe below is our majority opinion on the current state of lemur taxonomy, and captures, to the best extent possible on the basis of available knowledge, the distinct units that we consider essential for the development of an effective strategy for the conservation of the full range of lemur diversity. Further, several of the authors consider the subspecies concept largely useless for classifying the primates of Madagascar, with perhaps a few exceptions. We recognize a total of 5 families, 15 genera, and 99 species and subspecies (Table I).

The Lemurs of Madagascar

The living primates of Madagascar comprise 5 families: Cheirogaleidae, Lemuridae, Lepilemuridae, Indriidae, and Daubentoniidae. This is an extraordinary level of higher order diversity for an island of only 581,540 km². The same number of nonhuman primate families occurs in the Neotropics (Callitrichidae, Cebidae, Aotidae, Pitheciidae, Atelidae) and in the entire Asian region (Tarsiidae, Lorisidae, Cercopithecidae, Hylobatidae, Hominidae), and is 1 more than the number of families native to mainland Africa (Lorisidae, Galagidae, Cercopithecidae, Hominidae). This is especially impressive in light of the fact that Madagascar is <2–3% the size of each of the other major continental regions. Further, and of particular concern for conservation purposes, <10% of Madagascar remains sufficiently intact to serve as habitat for wild lemur populations, meaning that all of the country's primate diversity is confined to an area of *ca.* 50–60,000 km².

We review by family and genus the taxonomy of all Madagascar's primates, with a discussion of the species and subspecies recognized, interpret the available information, and discuss the taxonomic questions as yet unresolved.

Family Cheirogaleidae Gray, 1873

Cheirogaleidae Gray, 1873 includes 5 genera: *Microcebus*, *Mirza*, *Allocebus*, *Cheirogaleus*, and *Phaner*. Cheirogaleid lemurs range in size from the world's smallest primate at *ca.* 30 g to *ca.* 600 g. All move quadrupedally, and most have elongated bodies and short legs. They sleep during the day in small nests of dead leaves or in holes in trees, and some undergo prolonged periods of seasonal torpor.

***Microcebus* É. Geoffroy, 1828: Mouse lemurs**

Microcebus murinus (J. F. Miller, 1777): Gray mouse lemur

Microcebus rufus É. Geoffroy, 1834: Brown mouse lemur

Microcebus myoxinus Peters, 1852: Pygmy mouse lemur

Microcebus griseorufus Kollman, 1910: Rufous-gray mouse lemur

Microcebus ravelobensis Zimmermann *et al.*, 1998: Lac Ravelobe or golden-brown mouse lemur

Microcebus berthae Rasoloarison *et al.*, 2000: Madame Berthe's mouse lemur

Microcebus sambiranensis Rasoloarison *et al.*, 2000: Sambirano mouse lemur

Microcebus tavaratra Rasoloarison *et al.*, 2000: Northern brown mouse lemur

Microcebus lehilahytsara Roos and Kappeler in Kappeler *et al.*, 2005: Goodman's mouse lemur

Microcebus mittermeieri Louis *et al.*, 2006: Mittermeier's mouse lemur

Microcebus simmonsii Louis *et al.*, 2006: Simmons' mouse lemur

Microcebus jollyae Louis *et al.*, 2006: Jolly's mouse lemur

Microcebus mamiratra Andriantompohavana *et al.*, 2006: Claire's mouse lemur

Microcebus danfossi Olivieri *et al.*, 2007: Danfoss' mouse lemur

Microcebus bongolavensis Olivieri *et al.*, 2007: Bongolava mouse lemur

Microcebus macarthurii Radespiel *et al.*, 2008: MacArthur's mouse lemur

The current census of species in *Microcebus* indicates ≥ 16 , 12 of which have been described within the last 10 yr. The mouse lemurs are the smallest of the Malagasy prosimians. They are nocturnal omnivores and one of the most abundant and widespread genera of lemurs.

Tattersall (1982) provided a detailed description of the entangled taxonomic history of *Microcebus* which, until recently, was believed to consist of only 2 species: *Microcebus murinus*, gray-colored and confined largely to dry forests of western Madagascar, and *M. rufus*, reddish and native to the country's more humid eastern forests. Petter (1962) and Petter *et al.* (1977) were the first to suggest that ≥ 2 forms of reddish mouse lemur were readily distinguishable: an eastern one and what appeared to be distinct populations from the dry western forests of Ankarafantsika and Analabe. Atsalis *et al.* (1996) confirmed the distinction between the eastern and Analabe red mouse lemurs, as did Zimmermann *et al.* (1997, 1998) for the Ankarafantsika form, which they also found to be distinct.

For the western forms Rasoloarison *et al.* (2000) investigated specimens of *Microcebus* from 12 localities ranging from Ankarana in the north to Beza Mahafaly in the south and clarified some of the confusion of the assignments of names to the different types. Rasoloarison's own field surveys resulted in the description of 3 new species—*Microcebus sambiranensis*, *M. tavaratra*, and *M. berthae*—the resurrection of a fourth (*M. griseorufus*), and the redefinition of a fifth (*M. myoxinus*).

Primatologists once believed *Microcebus murinus* to range “throughout the forested areas of western, southern and southwestern Madagascar, from Fort Dauphin to the Sambirano region” (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994; Tattersall 1982, p. 119). *Microcebus murinus* occurs along the west coast from the humid evergreen littoral forests of Mandena in the southeast (east of Fort Dauphin/Tolagnaro; Ramanamanjato and Ganzhorn 2001) and north at least to Ankarafantsika in the northwest. Primatologists have assigned all individuals sighted or caught north of Ankarafantsika to *Microcebus* species other than *M. murinus* (cf. Randrianambinina *et al.* 2003). New evidence suggests that *Microcebus* cf. *murinus* is not monotypic but consists of several forms, which are distinct genetically and morphologically (Lahann *et al.* 2006; Pastorini *et al.* 2003).

Peters (1852) returned from a collecting expedition to Madagascar with 3 western mouse lemurs that he named *Microcebus myoxinus* and that Schwarz (1931) later declared to be a synonym of *M. murinus*. Based on the capture and measurement of >80 mouse lemurs, Schmid and Kappeler (1994) concluded that 2 species were present in the Kirindy/CFPF Forest northeast of Morondava: a larger, grayer *Microcebus murinus* and a smaller, more rufous species, for which they resurrected the name *M. myoxinus*. However, a renewed examination of the material that Peters

(1852) collected indicated that the Kirindy/CFPF mouse lemurs represented another new species (later described as *Microcebus berthae* by Rasoloarison *et al.* 2000), and that *M. myoxinus* is actually the species that occurs in Aboalimena and Bemaraha, apparently from the north of the Tsiribihina River at least to the Soalala Peninsula (Rasoloarison *et al.* 2000).

Kollman (1910) described the subspecies *Microcebus minor griseorufus* from southern Madagascar, which Tattersall (1982) considered a synonym of *M. murinus*. Rasoloarison *et al.* (2000) elevated it to a full species, *M. griseorufus*. It is among the smallest of the mouse lemurs and occurs in southwestern Madagascar from the spiny forests in and around Berenty and Andohahela (Parcel 2; Yoder *et al.* 2002; Ganzhorn, *unpubl. data*), Lac Tsimanampetsotsa (Goodman *et al.* 2002; Louis *et al.* 2006a; Ralison 2006), and the Beza Mahafaly Special Reserve (Rasoazanabary 2004; Rasoloarison *et al.* 2000) north at least to Lamboharana, and northeast to Isalo (E. E. Louis, *unpubl. data*) and the Mikea forests north of Tuléar (Ganzhorn and Randriamanalina 2004).

On the basis of morphological measurements and comparison of vocalizations, Zimmermann *et al.* (1997, 1998) concluded that 2 species of mouse lemur inhabited the forest of Ampijoroa, within the Ankarafantsika Nature Reserve in northwestern Madagascar. In addition to the widespread *Microcebus murinus*, they described the new species *M. ravelobensis*, at present known only from the region of Ankarafantsika and suspected from the Reserve Spéciale de Bora (Randrianambinina *et al.* 2003).

Rasoloarison *et al.* (2000) described 3 new species of mouse lemur from western Madagascar, based largely on morphometric data that were subsequently supported by analyses of mtDNA (Yoder *et al.* 2000). *Microcebus berthae*, originally called *M. myoxinus* by Schmid and Kappeler (1994), was the name given to the diminutive brown mouse lemur from Kirindy/CFPF. *Microcebus berthae* is the world's smallest primate and has a restricted range, extending north from Kirindy/CFPF to Analabe, and south as far as the Andranomena Special Reserve (Schwab and Ganzhorn 2004).

Only slightly larger in size is *Microcebus sambiranensis*, another reddish-colored mouse lemur that occurs in the Manongarivo Special Reserve in northwestern Madagascar (Goodman and Soarimalala 2002) and possibly the forest of Mahilaka (Randrianambinina *et al.* 2003). Earlier reports had identified the Manongarivo mouse lemurs as *Microcebus rufus* (cf. Mittermeier *et al.* 1994; Nicoll and Langrand 1989; Tattersall 1982) or *M. ruficeps* (cf. Raxworthy and Rakotondraparany 1988).

The larger *Microcebus tavaratra* occurs in the Ankarana Special Reserve in far northern Madagascar. It is known only from Ankarana and Analamerana, to the east. It is not known whether *Microcebus murinus* is sympatric with *M. tavaratra* there. Andriantompohavana *et al.* (2006) conducted a molecular genetic analysis of 10 specimens from Mahamasina, Ankarana. As was the case for *Microcebus sambiranensis*, the Ankarana population was previously considered to be *M. rufus* (cf. Mittermeier *et al.* 1994; Nicoll and Langrand 1989).

Researchers assumed that *Microcebus rufus* occurs throughout Madagascar's humid eastern forests from Fort Dauphin in the south to Montagne d'Ambre in the north, including the Sambirano region (Tattersall 1982). However, the mouse lemurs are difficult to distinguish in the field at night, and researchers are reconsidering the current records of *Microcebus rufus*, based on visual field surveys. Petter *et al.*

(1977) noted geographic variations in morphology, especially in ear size, throughout their range, and Groves (2001) suggested that northern specimens are darker and shorter-tailed than those from the south. The distinction of *Microcebus* cf. *rufus* into ≥ 2 separate types, a northern and a southern form, seemed also justified based on genetic analyses (Pastorini *et al.* 2001b; Yoder *et al.* 2000). The form at the Sambirano, originally classified as *Microcebus rufus*, might actually be *M. sambiranensis*, one of the taxa described by Rasoloarison *et al.* (2000) because intensive surveys of the Réserve Spéciale de Manongarivo revealed that *M. sambiranensis* was the only form present (Goodman and Soarimalala 2002).

Roos and Kappeler in Kappeler *et al.* (2005) described a distinct form, *Microcebus lehilahytsara*, from Andasibe, in the province of Toamasina, diminutive even for mouse lemurs, being similar in head-body length to *Microcebus berthae*. Louis *et al.* (2006a) conducted a phylogenetic study of *Microcebus* via morphological and molecular genetic data: 555 base pairs (bp) of mtDNA D-loop sequence data. They identified an eastern clade with 7 forms, which they indicated were distinct species. They included *Microcebus rufus*, which they redefined, and 3 new species: *M. mittermeieri* in the north; the intermediate-sized *M. jollyae* in the south-central eastern forests; and *M. simmonsii* from Betampona Special Reserve and Zahamena National Park in the north-central forests of the east coast.

Louis *et al.* (2006a) fixed the type locality of *M. rufus* as Ranomafana National Park (southeast of Fianarantsoa), and they indicated that its geographic range extended to the Mantadia National Park (Andasibe), but they noted that the mouse lemur from the Mantadia National Park, although similar in coloration and pelage patterns to *M. rufus* at Ranomafana, was smaller and genetically differentiated, and suggested it may be a different species (referred to as *Microcebus* sp. nova #2). This seems likely to be *Microcebus lehilahytsara* described independently by Kappeler *et al.* (2005).

The northernmost species of the eastern clade was caught in Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve, Province of Antsiranana. *Microcebus mittermeieri* is well differentiated genetically, and the smallest of the newly described *Microcebus* species from the eastern humid forest; at 40 g, about 8 g smaller than *M. lehilahytsara*. It is lighter in color than typical *Microcebus rufus*. *Microcebus simmonsii* is a large species (78 g), orange-red, and occurs in the Zahamena National Park and Betampona Special Reserve, to the north of *M. rufus* and *M. lehilahytsara*. Lastly, *Microcebus jollyae* weighs ca. 60 g and occurs east and southeast of Ranomafana National Park; its distribution is currently believed to range from Kianjavato in the north to Manombo Special Reserve in the south. Louis *et al.* (2006a) identified 2 differentiated forms in the southern part of the range of *Microcebus jollyae*, and consider its distribution only temporary as more information becomes available. In the Makira region, *Microcebus mittermeieri* is sympatric with 2 other mouse lemurs, one of which Radespiel *et al.* (2008) described as *Microcebus macarthurii*, but the other remains undescribed owing to small sample size.

Louis *et al.* (2006a) also found that the mouse lemur from the island of Nosy Be in the northwest, west of the Manongarivo Special Reserve, was divergent from the mainland species there, *Microcebus sambiranensis*. They referred to it as *Microcebus* sp. nova #4, and Andriantompohavana *et al.* (2006) subsequently described it as *M. mampiratra*, with the type locality Lokobe Special Reserve, Nosy Be, Province

of Antsiranana. Andriantompohavana *et al.* (2006) found another mainland population from Antafondro, south of the Sambirano River in northwestern Madagascar, sp. nova #5, to be closely related to *Microcebus mamiatra* but genetically distinct, and indicated that further research may result in its description as a separate taxon.

In a molecular genetic analysis of mouse lemur populations separated by rivers in northwestern Madagascar, Olivieri *et al.* (2007) described a further 3 species. *Microcebus danfossi* is from the reserves of Bora and Anjiamangirana, and *M. bongolavensis* is from the area around Port-Bergé and limited by the rivers Mahajamba and Sofia. The third species is *Microcebus lokobensis*, with the type locality “Province of Mahajanga, from the forest fragment near the village of Ampasimpohy (13°23'24"S; 48°20'31"E) which is the border of the Integrated Nature Reserve of Lokobe on the Island of Nosy Be” (Olivieri *et al.* 2007, p. 17). Andriantompohavana *et al.* (2006) also described a mouse lemur from the Island of Nosy Be (type locality “Province de Antsiranana, Nosy Be, Lokobe Special Reserve (ca. 13°24'16.9"S; 048°18'11.2"E at 13 m.)” Both Olivieri *et al.* (2007) and Andriantompohavana *et al.* (2006) indicated that the species they described corresponded to *Microcebus* sp. nova #4 of Louis *et al.* (2006a). Olivieri *et al.* (2007) noted that they sequenced loci different from the ones examined by Louis *et al.* (2006a), making comparison impossible. The diagnostic features given by both Louis *et al.* (2006a) and Olivieri *et al.* (2007) are genetic, except for morphometric measurements—ear length and width, lower leg length and toe length—which the latter authors used to compare *Microcebus lokobensis* with *M. tavaratra* from Ankarana and Analamerana to the north. Comparison of the authors’ descriptions of the pelage of *Microcebus lokobensis* and *M. mamiatra* is not helpful in determining if they are the same or different. We consider *Microcebus lokobensis* to be a junior synonym of *M. mamiatra*.

By all accounts, there are numerous further species of *Microcebus* that have yet to be described, with populations having distinct genetic identities separated by even quite small rivers (E. E. Louis, *unpubl. data*).

***Allocebus* Petter-Rousseaux and Petter, 1967: Hairy-eared dwarf lemur**

Allocebus trichotis (Günther, 1875): Hairy-eared mouse lemur, hairy-eared dwarf lemur

Allocebus contains the single species *A. trichotis*, a tiny nocturnal dwarf lemur from the northern rain forests of eastern Madagascar that closely resembles mouse lemurs (*Microcebus*) in size and color, but from which it is easily distinguished by the wavy hair on its ears. Crossley collected the holotype in 1874, and Humblot another 2 specimens of *Allocebus trichotis* in 1880, but their origin is uncertain (Harcourt and Thornback 1990; Tattersall 1982). In 1965, A. Peyrieras captured individuals in the forest of Andranomahitsy, west of Mananara, but it was not until 1989 that Meier and Albignac (1989, 1991) found it again in the same forest and announced the rediscovery of the species. Over the next few years, field researchers suggested that the species had a restricted and patchy distribution (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006), but subsequent researchers have recorded its presence in the Mantadia, Masoala, Marojejy, and Verezantsoro National Parks, and the Analamazaotra and Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserves (Garbutt 2000; Goodman and Raselimanana 2002; Rakotoarison 1998; Rakotoarison *et al.* 1996; Schütz and Goodman 1998).

Mirza Gray, 1870: Dwarf lemur or giant mouse lemur*Mirza coquereli* (Grandidier, 1867): Coquerel's dwarf lemur*Mirza zaza* Kappeler and Roos in Kappeler *et al.*, 2005: Northern dwarf lemur

Dwarf lemurs of the genus *Mirza* are medium-sized, omnivorous, and nocturnal. The preferred mode of locomotion is rapid quadrupedal running. Until recently, primatologists recognized only one species, *Mirza coquereli*. It was recorded from the western dry forests, in 2 widely separated (several hundred kilometers) subpopulations; one in the north, in the Sambirano region and including the Ampasindava Peninsula, and the other in the central west in the National Park of Zombitse-Vohibasia, south of the Mangoky River, north to Antsalova and Belo-sur-Tsiribihina (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006). Petter *et al.* (1977), Tattersall (1982), and Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) suggested that *Mirza* may occur between the 2 areas. Recent surveys found *Mirza* cf. *coquereli* at Namoroka, between the 2 areas (Kappeler *et al.* 2005).

Alfred Grandidier (1867) originally described *Mirza coquereli* in *Cheirogaleus*, indicating its resemblance to the fork-marked lemur, known to Grandidier as *C. furcifer*. At ca. 300 g, the slightly smaller Coquerel's dwarf lemur is >3 times the mass of the largest mouse lemur, with which it was previously lumped in *Microcebus*, based largely on similar features of dental anatomy and locomotive behavior (Petter *et al.* 1977). Tattersall (1982) revived the genus *Mirza* for it, citing its larger size and some morphological and behavioral features. The coat of *Mirza coquereli* is a rich brown or grayish brown, and their ears are large, rounded, and distinctive.

Kappeler *et al.* (2005) conducted a study of the external morphology and genetics, comparing the southern and northern populations of *Mirza*. They found *Mirza* from Kirindy/CFPF (southern) to be heavier and slightly larger than those in the north (Ambato). They concluded that "all external measurements that controlled for differences in body size indicated northern *Mirza* to be scaled-down versions of the animals from the south" (p.16). The northern *Mirza* are more grayish than typical *Mirza coquereli*. Kappeler *et al.* (2005) found differences in social organization, nesting behavior, and reproductive activity in the 2 *Mirza* populations (northern *Mirza* are more promiscuous; Setchell and Kappeler 2003), and genetic studies (mitochondrial cytochrome *b*) also clearly separated them. Together they formed a distinct clade from *Microcebus*, supporting their generic separation by Tattersall (1982). Morondava is the type locality of *Mirza coquereli*, the correct name for the southern population, and Kappeler and Roos in Kappeler *et al.* (2005) gave the name *Mirza zaza* to the northern population, with the type locality being "Baie de Pasandava" (=Ampasindava), Congoni, Province of Antsiranana. Dwarf lemurs are secretive, their distributions need to be further investigated, and further taxa may yet be discovered.

Cheirogaleus* É. Geoffroy, 1812: Dwarf lemursCheirogaleus medius* É. Geoffroy, 1812: Eastern fat-tailed dwarf lemur*Cheirogaleus major* É. Geoffroy, 1812: Greater dwarf lemur*Cheirogaleus adipicaudatus* Grandidier, 1868: Southern fat-tailed dwarf lemur*Cheirogaleus crossleyi* Grandidier, 1870: Furry-eared dwarf lemur*Cheirogaleus sibreei* Forsyth Major, 1896: Sibree's dwarf lemur

Cheirogaleus ravus Groves, 2000: Greater iron-gray dwarf lemur

Cheirogaleus minusculus Groves, 2000: Lesser iron-gray dwarf lemur

The dwarf lemurs are small nocturnal primates that range from 150 to 600 g, but also vary considerably in body mass across seasons (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006). They employ quadrupedal locomotion along branches at all levels of the forest and tend to jump less and move more slowly than the closely related mouse lemurs (*Microcebus* spp.). As many as 7 species are now believed to occur throughout Madagascar, but the number will undoubtedly change as soon as the distributions are better defined. Indeed, at this time, it is fair to say that the taxonomy of the genus is by far the most confused of all 15 lemur genera. What we relate here is likely to be substantially modified over the course of the next few years.

Geoffroy St. Hilaire (1812) described *Cheirogaleus* from 3 drawings of dead specimens that Dr. Philibert Commerçon sent to Paris with no locality information. Geoffroy considered each drawing to represent a distinct species, naming them *major*, *medius*, and *minor*. Wolf (1822) disagreed and assigned all 3 “specimens” to *Lemur commersonii*. Geoffroy (1828) assigned the first biological specimen of *Cheirogaleus* to reach Paris, a living individual, to a new species, *C. milii*. Smith (1833) then added *Cheirogaleus typicus* to the genus based on a specimen that presumably originated in southeast-central Madagascar. Grandidier (1867) described *Chirogaleus* [sic] *samati* from the Tsidsibon River of coastal western Madagascar, 2 additional species, *C. gliroides* and *C. adipicaudatus*, from Tuléar the following year (Grandidier 1868), and 2 yr later *C. crossleyi* from the “forests east of Antsianak” (Grandidier 1870). *Cheirogaleus gliroides* was ultimately determined to be a mouse lemur (genus *Microcebus*), and no type specimens of *adipicaudatus* or *crossleyi* remain. Gunther (1875) added *Cheirogaleus trichotis* to the growing list of dwarf lemurs, but Petter-Rousseaux and Petter (1967) eventually reassigned the species to its own genus, *Allocebus*. A review of the Cheirogaleidae by Gray (1872) introduced *Opolemur* to dwarf lemur taxonomy, and Forsyth Major (1894) followed shortly thereafter with descriptions of 2 new species, *Opolemur thomasi* from Fort Dauphin and *Cheirogaleus melanotis* from Vohima. Two years later, Forsyth Major (1896) described the “last” new species of dwarf lemur, *Chirogaleus* [sic] *sibreei* from Ankeramadinika “one day’s journey east of Antananarivo.” The locality is not included in available gazetteers of Madagascar but is depicted on a map published in 1900 (Anonymous 1900). Sabotsy (18.883°S, 47.967°E) and Manjakandriana (18.917°S, 47.800°E) are close to Ankeramadinika on the map and are also on a modern map (F.T.M. 1990). By comparing the maps, one can approximate Ankeramadinika to *ca.* 2.5 km east of Ambatolaona (18.933°S, 47.900°E).

Elliot (1913) described the new genus *Altililemur* for the fat-tailed species, and made *Opolemur* a synonym of *Cheirogaleus*. In addition, he considered Geoffroy’s (1812) names *major*, *medius*, and *minor* to be synonyms of *milii*, *samati*, and *Microcebus murinus* (the gray mouse lemur), respectively. Schwarz (1931) recognized only 2 species, *Cheirogaleus medius* (with *samati* as a subspecies) and *C. major* (with *crossleyi* as a subspecies), in a single genus. He considered *Cheirogaleus minor* and *C. gliroides* to be synonyms of *Microcebus murinus*; *Opolemur thomasi* to be synonymous with *C. medius medius*; *Lemur commersonii*, *C. milii*, *C. typicus*, and *C. adipicaudatus* to be synonymous with *C. major major*;

and *C. melanotis* and *C. sibreei* to be synonymous with *C. major crossleyi*. Tattersall (1982) and Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) recognized 2 species of *Cheirogaleus*—*medius* and *major*—but considered each to be subspecifically monotypic. However, Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) indicated that significant variation in pelage coloration was known from the species, and noted that its geography and taxonomy were poorly understood. Groves (2000) provides a more detailed review of the taxonomic history of *Cheirogaleus*.

Based on museum specimens, Groves (2000) recently redefined the long-held view of *Cheirogaleus* taxonomy by resurrecting 2 taxa (*C. adipicaudatus* and *C. sibreei*), elevating *C. major crossleyi* to a full species, and describing 2 new species: *C. minusculus* and *C. ravus*.

Dwarf lemurs referred to as *Cheirogaleus medius* occur in forests of west, southwest and southern Madagascar from the Bay of Narinda in the northern part of its range to Fort Dauphin (Tolagnaro) in the south (Petter and Petter-Rousseaux 1979; Tattersall 1982). Tattersall (1982) argued that *Cheirogaleus medius samati* did not warrant subspecific status. However, he also mentioned that the taxonomic status of specimens collected in the Sambirano region and in northern and eastern Madagascar was problematic. Following Groves' (2000) revision, 2 species are now recognized within the former *Cheirogaleus medius*. Groves (2000) assigned dwarf lemur specimens from Tabiky (west of Ankazoabo), 170 km east of Tuléar (Toliara), and from Fort Dauphin to *Cheirogaleus adipicaudatus*, and specimens from Beroboka, north of Morondava, Tsidsibon River (west coast), and Ampijoroa to *C. medius*. Based on these findings he concluded that *Cheirogaleus adipicaudatus* occurs in the southern xerophytic bush zone of Madagascar and *C. medius* in the dry forests of western Madagascar.

Harcourt and Thornback (1990), Mittermeier *et al.* (1994, 2006), and Tattersall (1982) reported *Cheirogaleus major* to occur throughout forested areas of eastern Madagascar from Fort Dauphin (Tolagnaro) in the south to Montagne d'Ambre in the north, its range extending westward to include the Tsaratanana Massif and the Sambirano region. Petter *et al.* (1977) acknowledged the presence of *Cheirogaleus major* as far west as the Bongolava region near the Manambolo River, and Thalmann (2000a) reported that a preliminary analysis of the population's taxonomic status has been initiated. Petter *et al.* (1977) also noted a dwarf lemur with more reddish fur north of the Masoala Peninsula but presumed it to be *Cheirogaleus major crossleyi*, arguing that there was insufficient evidence to recognize a distinct subspecies.

Reddish specimens assigned to *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* by Groves (2000) originate from Lac Alaotra, Andasibé, and Vohima (Vohemar), which indicates a distribution mainly inland of *C. major* and extending further north. *Cheirogaleus sibreei* occurs from Ankeramadinika, described as "one day's journey east of Antananarivo," from Imerina (a region that it apparently shares with *C. crossleyi*) and Ampasindava. Of the 2 new species Groves (2000) described, *Cheirogaleus ravus*, the larger iron-gray form, has a small coastal range surrounding the type locality of Tamatave and within the distribution of *C. major*. *Cheirogaleus minusculus*, the smaller iron-gray form, is known only from the type locality, Ambositra, in central western Madagascar, but Groves hypothesized that dwarf lemurs seen in the forests of the Bongolava Massif by Petter *et al.* (1977) and Thalmann and Rakotoarison (1994; Thalmann 2000a) would belong to the species. Photos of a dwarf lemur captured and later released on

the Bongolava Plateau, shown subsequently to Groves by Thalmann, indicate that *Cheirogaleus* from the locality are not *C. minusculus* but an undescribed species.

Groves' (2000) suggestions for the biogeographic distribution of the different forms may need major revision. Morphological and genetic measures of museum specimens and new samples from the field collected in the region of Fort Dauphin, southeastern Madagascar, revealed a very complex biogeographic distribution of 3 distinct morphotypes of dwarf lemurs. On the basis of these measures, Hapke *et al.* (2005) assigned the forms in the Fort Dauphin region to *Cheirogaleus medius*, *C. major*, and *C. crossleyi*. There, the typical western dry forest species, *Cheirogaleus medius*, occurs in evergreen littoral rain forest (>2400 mm rain/yr) east of Fort Dauphin in sympatry with *C. major*. *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* was in a remnant patch of evergreen humid rain forest west of Fort Dauphin, in a region Groves (2000) had assumed to consist of spiny bush. This was unexpected because the specimens Groves described as *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* came from much further north. Combining Groves' (2000) analysis with the information Hapke *et al.* (2005) collected, *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* would occur all along the highland and western part of the eastern rain forest belt whereas *C. major* would be more in the eastern (lowland?) portion of the eastern rain forest. Systematic revision with documented and georeferenced specimens is required to resolve the taxonomy and biogeography of the genus.

Ongoing field work on *Cheirogaleus* indicates that it is highly likely that there will be significant changes in the taxonomy of the genus over the next few years (Groeneveld 2008; Groeneveld *et al.* 2005).

***Phaner* Gray, 1870: Fork-marked lemurs**

Phaner furcifer (de Blainville, 1839): Masoala or eastern fork-marked lemur

Phaner pallescens Groves and Tattersall, 1991: Pale or Western fork-marked lemur

Phaner parienti Groves and Tattersall, 1991: Sambirano or Pariente's fork-marked lemur

Phaner electromontis Groves and Tattersall, 1991: Amber Mountain fork-marked lemur

Phaner is discontinuously distributed throughout Madagascar, and had been viewed as a monotypic genus since its description (as *Lemur furcifer* by de Blainville in 1839). The relatively large, nocturnal cheirogaleid lemurs are very vocal and display a characteristic locomotion, running rapidly along horizontal tree branches and jumping from one to the next without pausing, and performing unusual head-bobbing movements that immediately distinguish them in the field (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006). Groves and Tattersall (1991) examined variations in pelage color and pattern and body size and proportions among geographically distinct populations, which led to the recognition of 4 subspecies: *Phaner furcifer furcifer*, *P. f. pallescens*, *P. f. parienti*, and *P. f. electromontis*. More recently, Groves (2001) acknowledged that they are discrete and elevated them to full species.

Phaner furcifer occurs on the Masoala Peninsula and possibly adjacent portions of the mainland in northeast Madagascar (Groves and Tattersall 1991). According to Mittermeier *et al.* (1994), isolated populations from the Betampona and Zahamena Nature Reserves further south may also be referable to this taxon, if not a new one.

Phaner pallescens occur in western Madagascar along a narrow strip from just south of the Fiherenana River, including the Forêts de Mikea (Ganzhorn and Randriamalina 2004) north to the region of Soalala (Groves and Tattersall 1991). An isolated population of uncertain taxonomic affinity occurs in Andohahela, Parcel II. A specimen from the Namoroka Special Reserve has a larger body and shorter tail than fork-marked lemurs from the Morondava region, and may represent a distinct taxon. *Phaner parienti* occurs in the Sambirano region of northwest Madagascar south of Ambanja, including the Ampasindava Peninsula and extending south to the Andranomalaza River. The larger *Phaner electromontis* evidently has a restricted distribution, being confined largely to the vicinity of Montagne d'Ambre. Mittermeier *et al.* (2006) also noted the presence of *Phaner* in the forests near Daraina, and suggested that it might be another population of *P. electromontis* or perhaps a new species. Subsequent observations by S. M. Goodman (*pers. comm.*) also indicate that it may be yet another species. We follow Groves (2001, 2005) in recognizing the 4 named *Phaner* as distinct species, pending further revisions that are almost certain to include descriptions of new species.

Family Lepilemuridae Gray, 1870

Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) and Groves (2001) placed *Lepilemur* in the Megaladapidae, with 2 subfamilies, Lepilemurinae and Megaladapinae, the latter represented by the extinct genus *Megaladapis*. However, recent analysis of the cytochrome *b* gene from bones of *Megaladapis* suggests that it is an independent long branch within the lemuriform radiation and not the sister group to *Lepilemur* (cf. Yoder *et al.* 1999b). As a result, Groves (2005) placed *Lepilemur* in the Lepilemuridae, attributing the authorship of the family-group name to Gray (1870), following a personal communication from Ian Tattersall, rather than to Stephan and Bauchot (1965) as in Groves (2001). The number of species recognized in the genus has increased considerably in recent years, more so than in any other group of primates; 15 new species were described in 2006 alone.

***Lepilemur* I. Geoffroy, 1851: Sportive or weasel lemurs**

Lepilemur mustelinus I. Geoffroy, 1851: Weasel lemur

Lepilemur microdon (Forsyth Major, 1894): Small-toothed sportive lemur

Lepilemur leucopus (Forsyth Major, 1894): White-footed sportive lemur

Lepilemur ruficaudatus Grandidier, 1867: Red-tailed sportive lemur

Lepilemur edwardsi (Forbes, 1984): Milne-Edwards' sportive lemur

Lepilemur dorsalis Gray, 1870: Nosy Be or Gray-backed sportive lemur

Lepilemur septentrionalis Rumpler and Albignac, 1975: Northern sportive lemur

Lepilemur ankaranensis Rumpler and Albignac, 1975: Ankarana sportive lemur

Lepilemur aeeclis Andriaholinirina *et al.*, 2006: Antafia sportive lemur

Lepilemur randrianasoli Andriaholinirina *et al.*, 2006: Randrianasolo's sportive lemur

Lepilemur sahamalazensis Andriaholinirina *et al.*, 2006: Sahamalaza Peninsula sportive lemur

Lepilemur mittermeieri Rabarivola *et al.*, 2006: Mittermeier's sportive lemur

- Lepilemur ahmansonii* Louis *et al.*, 2006: Ahmanson's sportive lemur
Lepilemur betsileo Louis *et al.*, 2006: Betsileo sportive lemur
Lepilemur fleuretteae Louis *et al.*, 2006: Fleurette's sportive lemur
Lepilemur grewcocki Louis *et al.*, 2006: The Grewcock's sportive lemur
Lepilemur hubbardi Louis *et al.*, 2006: Hubbard's sportive lemur
Lepilemur jamesi Louis *et al.*, 2006: James' sportive lemur
Lepilemur milanoii Louis *et al.*, 2006: Daraina sportive lemur
Lepilemur petteri Louis *et al.*, 2006: Petter's sportive lemur
Lepilemur seali Louis *et al.*, 2006: Seal's sportive lemur
Lepilemur tymerlachsoni Louis *et al.*, 2006: Hawks' sportive lemur
Lepilemur wrighti Louis *et al.*, 2006: Wright's sportive lemur
Lepilemur otto Craul *et al.*, 2007: Otto's sportive lemur
Lepilemur scottorum Lei *et al.*, 2008: The Scott's sportive lemur

Lepilemur is a genus of medium-sized, nocturnal lemurs occurring in virtually all forested areas of Madagascar's periphery. They usually weigh less than 1 kg, and are vertical clingers and leapers, with long lower limbs compared to their trunk and forelimbs. In appearance, *Lepilemur* could be confused with the indriid *Avahi*, but they are usually smaller, have more prominent ears, and lack the highly visible white patches on the back of the thighs that are so typical of *Avahi*.

Schwarz (1931) and Hill (1953) recognized only 2 species of *Lepilemur*: *L. mustelinus* from the eastern forests and *L. ruficaudatus* from western and southern Madagascar, the latter with 2 subspecies, *ruficaudatus* and *leucopus*. Petter and Petter-Rousseaux (1960) subsequently recognized a single species, *mustelinus*, with 5 subspecies (*mustelinus*, *microdon*, *ruficaudatus*, *leucopus*, and *dorsalis*). Petter *et al.* (1977) later increased the number of species to 7—*dorsalis*, *edwardsi*, *leucopus*, *microdon*, *mustelinus*, *ruficaudatus*, *septentrionalis*—with the last having 4 subspecies (Rumpler and Albignac 1975). Groves (2001) noted that 2 of the subspecies of *Lepilemur septentrionalis* are not geographically separate, as is required for subspecies, and reduced the number to 2: *L. s. septentrionalis* (with *sahafarensis* Rumpler and Albignac, 1975, as a junior synonym) and *L. s. ankaranensis* (with *andrafiamenensis* Rumpler and Albignac, 1975, as a junior synonym).

Tattersall (1982) followed the classification of Petter and Petter-Rousseaux (1960), recognizing only 1 species, *Lepilemur mustelinus*, but with 6, not 5, subspecies (*dorsalis*, *edwardsi*, *leucopus*, *mustelinus*, *ruficaudatus*, *septentrionalis*), adding the forms *edwardsi* and *septentrionalis*, but not recognizing *microdon*. However, a cytogenetic study by Andriaholinirina *et al.* (2005) confirmed that the karyotype of *L. microdon* differed from those of all other members of the genus, and as such its status as a distinct species. Jenkins (1987) later recognized the 7 species Petter *et al.* (1977) proposed, but no subspecies, an arrangement followed by Mittermeier *et al.* (1994). On the basis of cytogenetic and molecular data, the subspecies of *Lepilemur septentrionalis* listed by Groves (2001) was elevated to species: *L. ankaranensis* (cf. Ravaoarimanana *et al.* 1999, 2004; Rumpler *et al.* 2002). Groves (2005) and Mittermeier *et al.* (2006), therefore, listed 8 species of sportive lemurs, all of them cytogenetically distinct (Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2005; Rumpler and Albignac 1978; Rumpler *et al.* 2001; Thalmann and Ganzhorn 2003;). Since these publications, 3 molecular genetic studies (Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2006a;

Louis *et al.* 2006b; Rabarivola *et al.* 2006) have added a further 15 species, making it, with 23 species, the most diverse lemur genus.

The geographic distribution and the distinction between *Lepilemur microdon* and *L. mustelinus* given in the field guide by Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) were incorrect. According to Petter *et al.* (1977), *Lepilemur microdon* occurs in the humid forests of southeastern Madagascar, ranging from the Onibe River at the northern extent of its range south to near (west of) Tolagnaro (Fort Dauphin). Groves (2001), citing Jenkins (1987), contended that *L. microdon* occurs in southeastern Madagascar from 18°S to 24°50'S, and is sympatric with *L. mustelinus* south of Toamasina (Tamatave). North of the Onibe River up to the forests of Tsaratanana and Andapa, *Lepilemur microdon* is replaced by *L. mustelinus* (cf. Petter *et al.* 1977). Groves (2001), again citing Jenkins (1987), identified the distribution of *Lepilemur mustelinus* as extending from 13°45'S in the north, which is in agreement with Tattersall (1982), but only as far south as 20°S, ca. 500 km north of Tolagnaro (Fort Dauphin). *Lepilemur mustelinus* is a relatively large member of the genus, essentially brown and often with a grayish head. Its diploid chromosome number is 34 (Rumpler and Albignac 1978; Rumpler *et al.* 1986). *Lepilemur microdon* differs from *L. mustelinus* in having a redder-brown dorsal surface, a dark and more pronounced median dorsal stripe, and yellower flanks, as well as smaller cheek teeth and a white patch of fur on the neck extending laterally (Petter *et al.* 1977; N. Andriaholinirina, *pers. comm.*). The diploid chromosome number of *Lepilemur microdon* is 24 (Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2005).

Lepilemur leucopus is a smaller, lighter-colored, larger-eared, longer-tailed member of the genus, and has a diploid chromosome number of 36 (Petter *et al.* 1977). It occurs in the dry Didiereaceae bush and gallery forests of southern and southwestern Madagascar as far north as the Onilahy River (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994; Petter *et al.* 1977; Sussman and Richard 1986; Tattersall 1982).

Lepilemur ruficaudatus is intermediate in size between the smaller *L. leucopus*, with which it shares prominent ears, and the larger *L. mustelinus* and *L. microdon* (cf. Groves 2001), and is distinguished from other members of the genus by its reddish tail. It has a diploid chromosome number of 20. *Lepilemur ruficaudatus* was formerly believed to have a large range in western Madagascar: the Onilahy River marking the southern boundary and the Betsiboka River the northern boundary (Bachmann *et al.* 2000; Mittermeier *et al.* 1994; Tomiuk *et al.* 1997; Zaramody *et al.* 2005). Thalmann (2000b) indicated it might be sympatric in Bemaraha with an undescribed form of *Lepilemur*. Andriaholinirina *et al.* (2006a, b) later described *Lepilemur randrianasoli* from Bemaraha, but without mentioning whether *L. ruficaudatus* occurred there also. Pastorini *et al.* (2003) suggested that the forms either side of the Tsiribihina River were different species. Andriaholinirina *et al.* (2006a) confirmed their suspicion, describing *Lepilemur randrianasoli* as occurring north of Tsiribihina River, possibly to the Manambaho or Mahavavy du Sud rivers. The range of *Lepilemur ruficaudatus* is possibly now limited to the south of the Tsiribihina River, south to the Onilahy River, where it is replaced by *Lepilemur leucopus* (cf. Mittermeier *et al.* 2006).

Lepilemur edwardsi is slightly smaller and longer-tailed than *L. ruficaudatus*, and occurs to its north in western Madagascar (Petter *et al.* 1977). New data suggest that the southern limit of its distribution is the Betsiboka River, from which it extends

north as far as the Bay of Mahajamba (Zaramody *et al.* 2005). Previous reports of *Lepilemur edwardsi* south to the Tsiribihina River might be based on erroneous sampling (Petter *et al.* 1977; Tattersall 1982). The diploid chromosome number of *L. edwardsi* is 22. Molecular data based on 3 individuals suggest that *Lepilemur edwardsi* could be split into 2 full species north and south of the Betsiboka River (Pastorini *et al.* 2003). Andriaholinirina *et al.* (2006a) described *L. aeeclis* from the north of the Betsiboka River.

Lepilemur dorsalis is a small sportive lemur, with small ears and a very long tail (Groves 2001). Its range was thought to extend from the Sambirano region of northwestern Madagascar, including the Ampasindava Peninsula and the islands of Nosy Be and Nosy Komba (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006). To the south it occurs as far as the Ankarafa Forest on the Sahamalaza Peninsula (Randriatahina and Rabarivola 2004). However, in their description of *Lepilemur sahamalazensis*, Andriaholinirina *et al.* (2006a) restrict *L. dorsalis* to Nosy Be, Ambanja and regions north of the Sambirano River, probably to the Mahavavy du Nord River, and the range of *L. ankaranensis*. *Lepilemur sahamalazensis* and *L. dorsalis* are the only sportive lemurs to have a diploid chromosome number of 26 (Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2006a).

Lepilemur ankaranensis, slightly larger and even longer-tailed than *L. dorsalis*, is the most northerly member of *Lepilemur*. Forms occurring in both dry deciduous and humid forests that extend from Montagne d'Ambre southward to the Mahavavy River near Ambilobe and eastward at least as far as the Manambato River, and probably to the Fanambana River, north of Sambava, have been assigned to this taxon. The diploid chromosome number for the species ranges from 36 to 38 (Ravaoarimanana *et al.* 2004; Rumpler *et al.* 2001). Andriaholinirina *et al.* (2006a) found that *Lepilemur ankaranensis* was more closely related to *L. dorsalis* than to *L. septentrionalis*.

Lepilemur septentrionalis is restricted to the small dry deciduous forests of Sahafary, Madirobe and Andrahona, north of the Irodo River. The diploid chromosome number for the species ranges from 34 to 36 (Ravaoarimanana *et al.* 2004; Rumpler *et al.* 2001).

Andriaholinirina *et al.* (2006a) conducted a comparative cytogenetic and molecular genetic (cytochrome *b* gene; 1140 base pairs) study of the 8 sportive lemurs recognized by Groves (2005) and Mittermeier *et al.* (2006), focusing particularly on their taxonomy and phylogenetic relationships. They confirmed the validity of the 8 species, but identified what they referred to as “cryptic speciation events” within *Lepilemur ruficaudatus* (3 genetically distinct populations; one north, the other south of Tsiribihina, and a third south of Betsiboka) and *L. dorsalis* (one from Sahamalaza, the other from Ambanja/Nosy Be), which resulted in the description of a further 3 species. *Lepilemur aeeclis* is now the sportive lemur that occurs between the Betsiboka and Mahavavy du Sud rivers, and possibly south of the latter. *Lepilemur randrianasoli* occurs from the type locality of Andramasay, Province of Toliary, and Bemaraha, western Madagascar, with the Tsiribihina River probably marking the southern limit and the Manambaho or Mahavavy du Sud rivers possibly marking the northern limit to its range. *Lepilemur randrianasoli*, *L. aeeclis*, and *L. ruficaudatus* share the same diploid chromosome number of 20 (Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2005, 2006a). The diminutive *Lepilemur sahamalazensis* is the form on the Sahamalaza Peninsula, Province of Mahajanga, with the Sambirano River being the likely northern boundary to its range and the Maevarano River the southern limit.

Further research on the lemurs of the Ampasindava Peninsula in the northwest resulted in the discovery of an enclave of sportive lemurs (diploid chromosome number $2n = 24$) within the range of *L. sahamalazensis*. (Note that the map [Fig. 1] of Rabarivola *et al.* [2006] has evidently switched the ranges depicted for *Lepilemur dorsalis* and *L. sahamalazensis*.) Rabarivola *et al.* (2006) described the lemurs with the name *Lepilemur mittermeieri*. The full extent of their range is unknown, but restricts even further that of its sister species, *Lepilemur sahamalazensis*.

Another major study of the diversity of the genus, using molecular genetics and morphological analyses, resulted in the description of 11 more species (Louis *et al.* 2006b). Three of them are from the northwest. *Lepilemur tymerlachsoni*, a light brownish-gray sportive lemur, was described as the form on the island of Nosy Be, formerly thought to be the domain of *L. dorsalis*, which is now restricted to the mainland. *Lepilemur ahmansoni* occurs west of the lower Mahavavy du Sud River; it is smaller than *L. aeeclis*, mainly dark gray, but with a reddish-brown color on the back. Its range limits with *Lepilemur randrianasoli* to the south of it are uncertain. The large (1.1 kg) *Lepilemur grewcocki* from the Anjigmangirina Classified Forest, Province of Mahajanga, occurs north of the Mahajamba River and south of Maevarano and Sofia rivers, an area thought to have been occupied by *L. edwardsi*.

Two of the species Louis *et al.* (2006b) described are from the northeast. The light chocolate-brown to reddish-brown *Lepilemur seali* from Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve, Province of Antsiranana, occupies the northern part of the range formerly attributed to *Lepilemur mustelinus*. In discussing the range of *Lepilemur ankaranensis*, Mittermeier *et al.* (2006) suggested that the form in Daraina was a distinct species. Louis *et al.* (2006b) found it was, and named it *Lepilemur milanoii*, which is reddish brown on the back and grayish-white on the venter. Louis *et al.* (2006b) recorded DNA sequences identical to those of the latter species within the range of *Lepilemur ankaranensis*, and the potential sympatry needs further investigation.

Louis *et al.* (2006b) described 2 new forms from the southwest. *Lepilemur hubbardi* occurs in the Zombitse National Park, Province of Toliara, south of the middle Mangoky River, within the range formerly believed to have belonged to *L. ruficaudatus*. *Lepilemur petteri* occurs farther south, south of the Onilahy River at Beza-Mahafaly, in a part of the range previously ascribed to *L. leucopus* (cf. Mittermeier *et al.* 2006).

The remaining 4 of the species described by Louis *et al.* (2006b) occur in the southern and southeastern forests. The large *Lepilemur betsileo* from Fandriana Classified Forest, Province of Fianarantsoa, occurs between the Mangoro and Namorona rivers. *Lepilemur fleuretae* occurs in the Andohahela National Park in the Manangotry region between the Mandrare River (in the west) and the Mananara River (in the north). *Lepilemur jamesi* occurs south of Manampatrana River and north of the Mananara River. Louis *et al.* (2006b) collected it in Manombo Special Reserve. A comparative cytogenetic and molecular study by Andriaholinirina *et al.* (2006b) confirmed the distinctiveness of *Lepilemur jamesi*, and aligned it most closely to *L. mustelinus* even though the 2 species are separated geographically by *L. microdon*. Finally, the type locality of *Lepilemur wrighti* is Kalambatritra Special Reserve, Province of Toliara, and Louis *et al.* (2006b) believe that it ranges from the west of the Mananara River and north of the Mandrare River (Rabeson *et al.* 2006).

Craul *et al.* (2007) described 2 species of *Lepilemur*: *Lepilemur otto* from Ambodimahabibo and *L. manasamody* from Ambongabe, Province of Mahajanga, Madagascar. They suggested that the latter may be a junior synonym of *Lepilemur grewcocki* Louis *et al.*, 2006, as did Zinner *et al.* (2007). Lei *et al.* (2008) described *Lepilemur scottorum* from the Masoala National Park, Province de Antsiranana.

As listed by Tattersall (1982), Jenkins (1987), and Groves (2001), several mainly 19th century nomina have in the 20th century been relegated to synonymy, and appear to have been overlooked in recent revisions. It is essential that all the type specimens be examined, and if possible DNA extracted from them by Ancient DNA specialists to determine whether all currently-used names are indeed applicable to the populations to which they have become restricted, and whether any of the supposed older synonyms actually represent earlier names for some of the recently described species.

The recent documentation of the extraordinary genetic diversity of *Lepilemur* has major consequences for understanding the conservation status of the 8 species described and illustrated in Mittermeier *et al.* (2006). *Lepilemur edwardsi* and *L. dorsalis* in the northwest, and most especially *L. ruficaudatus* of the western dry forests, *L. leucopus* in the south, and *L. microdon* and *L. mustelinus* of the eastern forests, have as a result of these discoveries, very much smaller geographic ranges. Notable is the diversity in the far north of Madagascar and, with their minute ranges, conservationists should consider *Lepilemur septentrionalis*, *L. ankaranensis*, *L. dorsalis*, *L. milanoii*, *L. mittermeieri*, *L. tymerlachsoni*, and *L. sahamalazensis* among the most endangered primates in the world.

Having said this, it should be noted that Zinner *et al.* (2007) question the validity of several of the newly described *Lepilemur* spp. Their genetic analyses revealed genetic distances between some of the newly named species that are within the intraspecific instead of interspecific variation. Zinner *et al.* (2007) examined conflicting results for the sportive lemurs in northwest Madagascar, those within the range of what was once considered to be *Lepilemur dorsalis*. Because the type localities of *Lepilemur dorsalis* Gray, 1870 and *L. grandidieri* (Forsyth Major, 1894) were both “Northwest Madagascar,” the proper name of 1 or 2 of the new species from the region (*sahamalazensis*, *grewcocki*, *mittermeieri*, *tymerlachsoni*) could be either of them. Researchers have not identified the true *dorsalis*, as such, and have made no attempt to identify *grandidieri*, formerly a junior synonym of *dorsalis*. Genetic analyses of the holotypes of *dorsalis* and *grandidieri* are needed to resolve this. Therefore, Zinner *et al.* (2007) indicated that *tymerlachsoni* or *mittermeieri* might be junior synonyms. They also indicated that *Lepilemur manasamody* Craul *et al.*, 2007 is probably a junior synonym of *L. grewcocki* Louis *et al.*, 2006 — sampling sites were <2 km apart, with no evident geographic barrier — but “further testing is necessary” (p.55). Under any circumstance, Zinner *et al.* (2007, p. 55) concluded that “the number of species in NW Madagascar is rather less than it had seemed to be as of May, 2007.”

Family Lemuridae Gray, 1821

The Lemuridae contains 5 living genera: *Lemur*, *Eulemur*, *Varecia*, *Haplemur*, and *Prolemur* and the extinct genus *Pachylemur*. Molecular data confirm the inferences from morphology that *Lemur* and *Haplemur* are sister genera and form an exclusive

clade. The Lemuridae range in body mass from 700 g to 4.5 kg. Forelimbs are slightly shorter than hind limbs, and typical locomotor patterns include quadrupedalism and leaping. Groves (2001) noted that all of the Lemuridae have at least spotty pigmentation of the ocular fundus, which tends to obscure the golden shine produced by the tapetum lucidum (Pariente 1970).

***Hapalemur* I. Geoffroy, 1851: Bamboo or gentle lemurs**

Hapalemur griseus (Link, 1795): Gray bamboo lemur

Hapalemur occidentalis Rumpler, 1975: Western bamboo lemur, Sambirano bamboo lemur

Hapalemur alaotrensis Rumpler, 1975: Lac Alaotra bamboo lemur

Hapalemur meridionalis Warter *et al.*, 1987: Southern bamboo lemur

Hapalemur aureus Meier *et al.*, 1987: Golden bamboo lemur

Hapalemur gilberti Rabarivola *et al.*, 2007: Gilbert's bamboo lemur

Though it is clear that the genus *Hapalemur* belongs in the Lemuridae, uncertainty remains regarding its relationship to the other genera. Behavioral and genetic evidence as well as morphology indicate that *Hapalemur* forms a clade with *Lemur* to the exclusion of *Eulemur* (cf. Groves 2001; Macedonia and Stanger 1994; Montagnon *et al.* 1993; Yoder 1997). We recognize 5 species of *Hapalemur*. All are medium to small, have moderately long hind limbs, prefer vertical resting postures, and leap readily between closely-spaced vertical supports. All have relatively blunt faces with short muzzles. Coloration is essentially gray, and activity occurs around dusk (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994). As in *Lemur*, *Hapalemur* has brachial and antibrachial glands (Affolter 1938; Ralison 2004). Groves (2001) recently removed the greater bamboo lemur, formerly known as *Hapalemur simus*, and returned it to its own genus, *Prolemur*.

Tattersall (1982) described some minor confusion in the taxonomic history of *Hapalemur griseus*. He listed 3 subspecies: *griseus*, *occidentalis*, and *alaotrensis*. The nominate subspecies corresponds to 1 of the 2 species given by I. Geoffroy in 1851, the other being *Hapalemur olivaceus*. The former was based on his father's *Lemur griseus* (E. Geoffroy, 1796), a species that had actually been given the same name a year before by Link, based on the same specimen. Subsequent authors tended to regard *Hapalemur olivaceus* as a junior synonym. Rumpler (1975) established *occidentalis* and *alaotrensis* as subspecies in advance of the publication by Petter *et al.* (1977), which also described *alaotrensis* as a new subspecies of *griseus* and credited Rumpler and Albignac (1973) with the description of *Hapalemur griseus occidentalis*. Warter *et al.* (1987) added the subspecies *meridionalis* based on cytogenetic studies of specimens from extreme southern Madagascar.

Groves (2001) elevated both *occidentalis* and *alaotrensis* to full species, retaining only *griseus* and *meridionalis* as subspecies of *Hapalemur griseus*. Subsequent cytogenetic and molecular studies based on cytochrome *b* and 12S mtDNA, covering samples extending from the north to the south of eastern Madagascar carried out by Fausser *et al.* (2002), Rumpler *et al.* (2002), and Pastorini *et al.* (2002) did not confirm the arrangement, but instead regrouped *Hapalemur occidentalis* as a subspecies of *H. griseus*. Rumpler *et al.* (2002) also reported an extension to the range of *Hapalemur griseus occidentalis* to the east at least as far as Maroantsetra and even as far as the National Park of Zahamena (C. Rabarivola, *pers. comm.*).

Rumpler *et al.* (2002) identified two new variants in the area of Ranomafana-Kianjavato, within what Groves (2001) considered to be *H. griseus*. These *H. griseus* ssp.1 and ssp.3 were characterized by their karyotypes, which deviated from what is considered normal for *H. (g.) griseus*, and there was a “hybrid” karyotype between them in addition. They also identified a further new karyotype, which they called ssp.2, in an individual from Tsimbazaza Park Zoo. More recently, Rabarivola *et al.* (2007) have identified “ssp.2” in the wild, in two specimens from Beanamalao, describing it as a new subspecies, *H. g. gilberti*, and united Rumpler *et al.*’s (2002) “sspp.1 & 2” into a second new subspecies, *H. g. ranomafanensis*. Inspection of the characters ascribed to these two new taxa suggests to one of us (CPG) that the first of these differs clearly (on the available evidence) from other *Hapalemur*, and should rank as a distinct species, *Hapalemur gilberti*, although the second needs more careful investigation to determine whether it is truly distinct from *H. griseus* or simply denotes populations of the latter possessing chromosome polymorphism. In any case, the range of the true *H. griseus* appears now more restricted than was previously described.

The very short genetic distances found between *H. g. alaotrensis* and *H. g. griseus* by Fausser *et al.* (2002), and Pastorini *et al.* (2002) were considered by the latter, who assumed a form of what is now called the Genetic Species Concept (see above), to support combining these two groups into a single subspecies. Considering the significant differences in body size and the differences in the content of heterochromatin found in both karyotypes, however, Fausser *et al.* (2002) and Rumpler *et al.* (2002) proposed maintaining both as separate subspecies, and as according to the available evidence the Alaotra taxon is diagnosably distinct, we maintain it as a full species. In Rumpler *et al.*’s analyses all *H. g. meridionalis* cluster together and are separated from the other *H. griseus* subspecies by distances in the range of those observed between species. They therefore, again assuming a Genetic Species Concept, proposed raising this group to specific rank as *H. meridionalis*.

Hapalemur griseus occurs throughout the remaining forests of eastern Madagascar from the Tsaratanana Massif and an area south of Maroantsetra in the far north to Fort Dauphin in the far south (Tattersall 1982). The relatively continuous distribution is broken only around Lac Alaotra where *Hapalemur alaotrensis* occurs. *Hapalemur meridionalis* is known only from the region between Fort Dauphin and Andohahela; Rabarivola *et al.* (2007) recorded what they identified as a hybrid between it and their new subspecies *H. g. ranomafanensis* from Atsimo, just to the south of Ranomafana, so this may mark the boundary between them. *H. meridionalis* evidently differs from *H. griseus* by being darker/more reddish in color and having a shorter tail (Warter *et al.* 1987; Mittermeier *et al.* 1994; Groves 2001; Fausser *et al.* 2002), but more morphological data, in addition to further karyotype data, are urgently needed for the geographic limits of *H. meridionalis* and *H. griseus* to be satisfactorily worked out.

Hapalemur occidentalis occurs in several widely separated forested regions of western Madagascar, including the Sambirano region from south of Maromandia north through Beramanja, and the Antsalova/Lake Bemamba region between Maintirano and Belo-sur-Tsiribihina (Mutschler and Tan 2003; Tattersall 1982). Hawkins *et al.* (1990) also reported a population of what might be *Hapalemur occidentalis* from the Ankarana Massif in the far north, but its taxonomic status has

yet to be confirmed. However, Rumpler *et al.* (2002) described a karyotype characteristic for *Hapalemur occidentalis* near Maroantsetra, while Rabarivola *et al.* (2002) found the same karyotype in the *Hapalemur* from the Zahamena National Park. The mtDNA analyses agreed with the cytogenetic data suggesting a large extension of *Hapalemur occidentalis* in the eastern region. *Hapalemur occidentalis* differs in diploid chromosome number ($2n=58$) from *H. griseus* and *H. alaotrensis* ($2n=54$; Rumpler and Albignac 1973).

Hapalemur alaotrensis, significantly larger than either *H. griseus* or *H. occidentalis* (cf. Tattersall 1982; Vuillaume-Randriamanantena *et al.* 1985), occurs only in the reed beds surrounding Lac Alaotra, the island's largest lake in east-central Madagascar. Apparently, it also previously occurred at Andilamena ca. 60 km north of Lac Alaotra, but any populations there were extirpated after the completion of 2 hydroelectric projects in the late 1950s (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994).

Hapalemur aureus is similar in size to *H. alaotrensis* and is distinguished from other members of the genus by having a golden-yellow face ring that extends to the cheeks and throat. Molecular data strongly support it being a full species (Pastorini *et al.* 2002). Its diploid chromosome number is 62 (Rumpler *et al.* 1991). *Hapalemur aureus* was discovered in 1986 (Meier and Rumpler 1987; Meier *et al.* 1987) in rain forests of southeastern Madagascar that were subsequently made part of Ranomafana National Park. Its range has been extended south since then to include portions of the Andringitra National Park as well as the corridor between the 2 reserves (Goodman *et al.* 2001; Rakotondravony and Razafindramahatra 2004; Sterling and Ramarason 1996) and possibly northeast to the region of Betsakafandrika (Lehman and Wright 2000). It is sympatric with *Hapalemur griseus* throughout its limited range. The diet of *Hapalemur aureus* consists largely of new shoots of the giant bamboo (*Cephalostachium viguieri*) (Meier *et al.* 1987; Tan 1999; Wright *et al.* 1987).

***Prolemur* Gray, 1871: Greater bamboo lemur**

Prolemur simus (Gray, 1871): Greater bamboo lemur; broad-nosed gentle lemur

Tattersall (1982) synonymized *Prolemur* with *Hapalemur*, but Groves (2001) pointed to a long list of differences in craniodental features, originally presented by Vuillaume-Randriamanantena *et al.* (1985), that he believed were sufficient to distinguish *Prolemur* as a separate genus. Cytogenetic data provided by Rumpler and Dutrillaux (1978) evidently support this view, as do behavioral data from Stanger-Hall (1997) and Macedonia and Stanger (1994) that demonstrate that *Prolemur* is less closely related to either *Hapalemur* or *Lemur* than *Hapalemur* and *Lemur* are to each other. We therefore place *simus* in a monotypic genus, for which the name *Prolemur* Gray, 1871 is available.

Prolemur simus is much larger than any member of *Hapalemur*, although it is similarly colored. Evidence from subfossil remains indicates that it was once widespread in Madagascar (Godfrey and Vuillaume-Randriamanantena 1986; Godfrey *et al.* 2004; Tattersall 1982; Wilson *et al.* 1988). Today the species survives in forests of eastern Madagascar in the regions of the Andringitra National Park, Ranomafana National Park, and the corridor between the 2 parks, in Karianga, northwest of Manombo (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994; Sterling and Ramarason 1996; E. E. Louis, *unpubl. data*). Its range has been extended from the southern localities at least to the central part of the eastern rain forest in the region of Andasibe/Perinet

around the Torotorofotsy marshes and in the forest of Maromizaha (Dolch *et al.* 2004, 2008; Rakotosamimanana *et al.* 2004; Wright *et al.* 2008). In this region, some individuals lack the characteristic tufted ears, even though they are larger in size than *Hapalemur griseus* (cf. Johann 1997).

Lemur Linnaeus, 1758: Ring-tailed lemur

Lemur catta Linnaeus, 1758: Ring-tailed lemur

Lemur, as originally proposed by Linnaeus in the 10th edition of his *Systema Naturae* (1758), contained 3 species: *L. catta* (the ring-tailed lemur), *L. tardigradus* (the slender loris, now a member of the Lorisidae), and *L. volans* (the Philippine colugo, a member of Dermoptera). Until the late 1980s, *Lemur* included 6 species: *catta*, *coronatus*, *fulvus*, *macaco*, *mongoz* and *rubriventer*. However, analyses by Simons and Rumpler (1988) and Groves and Eaglen (1988) established *Lemur catta* as a monotypic taxon and placed the others in a separate genus, *Eulemur*.

Lemur catta is the only surviving semiterrestrial, diurnal lemur in Madagascar. It is unquestionably the best known, most intensively studied, and the easiest lemur to identify owing to the prominent black-and-white bands along the entire length of its long tail (Jolly 2004). It is a medium-sized species with an adult body mass of ≤ 2.2 kg. The back is gray to rosy brown, the limbs and haunches are gray, and the crown and the neck are dark gray. The underside is white. The face is white except for dark triangular eye patches and a black nose. The ears are angular with white hair on top. Both sexes possess distinctive antebrachial glands above the wrist, which are used for scent-marking. In males, the glands are overlaid with a horny spur. In addition, there is a voluminous sebaceous brachial gland, as in *Hapalemur* (cf. Andriamiandra and Rumpler 1968; Ralison 2004).

Ring-tailed lemurs live in a wide variety of habitats in south and southwestern Madagascar. Their range extends west from Fort Dauphin, near the southern tip of the island, as far north as the Marofihitse Forest/Kirindy-Mitea, ca. 60 km south of Morondava on the central western coast (Goodman and Raselimanana 2003; Sussman *et al.* 2003; Zinner *et al.* 2001). An additional population occurs on the Andringitra Massif on the southeastern plateau (Goodman and Langrand 1996). Goodman and Langrand (1996) noted that the Andringitra population occurs at higher elevations (ca. 2000 m) than other populations of *Lemur catta*, and that individuals are darker and have fewer tail rings. Yoder *et al.* (1999a) suggested that, though ecologically distinct, the population did not represent a distinct species. However, along with Groves (2001), they offered this as evidence for possible subspecies within *Lemur catta* and suggested that further research is needed.

Eulemur Simons and Rumpler, 1988: True lemurs

Eulemur macaco (Linnaeus, 1766): Black lemur

Eulemur flavifrons (Gray, 1867): Sclater's lemur

Eulemur fulvus (É. Geoffroy, 1812): Brown lemur

Eulemur sanfordi (Archbold, 1932): Sanford's lemur

Eulemur albifrons (É. Geoffroy, 1796): White-fronted lemur

Eulemur rufus (Audebert, 1799): Red lemur

Eulemur rufifrons (Bennett, 1833): Red-fronted lemur

Eulemur collaris É. Geoffroy, 1812: Red-collared lemur

Eulemur cinereiceps (Grandidier and Milne Edwards, 1890): Gray-headed lemur

Eulemur coronatus (Gray, 1842): Crowned lemur

Eulemur rubriventer (I. Geoffroy, 1850): Red-bellied lemur

Eulemur mongoz (Linnaeus, 1766): Mongoose lemur

Simons and Rumpler (1988) resurrected the name *Eulemur*, first published by Haeckel in 1895, and used it for all the species and subspecies other than *Lemur catta* that previously had been included in *Lemur*. As defined by Simons and Rumpler, it included the species *fulvus* (with 6–7 subspecies), *macaco* (with 2 subspecies), *coronatus*, *rubriventer*, and *mongoz*. As many as 7 subspecies have been recognized for *Eulemur fulvus*, including *fulvus*, *rufus*, *albifrons*, *cinereiceps* (formerly *albocollaris*), *collaris*, *sanfordi*, and *mayottensis*. The last-mentioned is a population established outside Madagascar on islands of the Comores, most likely by human-assisted introduction (Tarnaud and Simmen 2002; Tattersall 1982). Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) considered the introduced Mayotte populations to be *Eulemur fulvus fulvus*, and did not recognize them as a distinct taxon. Most other authors agree, backed up by genetic data (Pastorini *et al.* 2000). Recent field observations by Mittermeier indicate that the population is more than likely a hybrid swarm, with great variety in the phenotypes of the individuals at several field sites. Probably the origin of the population included representatives of *Eulemur fulvus* and other members of the group. Most recently, Groves (2001) elevated all *Eulemur fulvus* ssp. to full species, based on their distinct external appearances and craniodental characters (Tattersall and Schwarz 1991), as well as recent evidence for unique DNA sequences in *E. collaris* and *E. albocollaris* (cf. Djlelati *et al.* 1997; Wyner *et al.* 1999). Johnson *et al.* (2008) concluded that *albocollaris* is a junior synonym for *cinereiceps*. We follow the arrangement here and replace *albocollaris* by *cinereiceps*.

All *Eulemur* species are medium-sized (body mass 1.2–2.5 kg), largely employ quadrupedal locomotion, and have cathemeral activity patterns. With the exception of *Eulemur fulvus*, all also exhibit sexual dichromatism (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994). *Eulemur* spp. occur in almost all forested areas of Madagascar except for the spiny forests of the extreme south.

After the elevation of all former *Eulemur fulvus* ssp. to species (Mittermeier *et al.* 2006), *E. macaco* remained the only member of the genus to have two subspecies: *E. m. macaco* and *E. m. flavifrons*. Taking into account the consistency of the morphological differences between black lemurs and blue-eyed black lemurs, the retention of the taxonomy seems questionable. We note in addition, for those inclined to follow a form of the Genetic Species Concept, that the pairwise genetic distances between *Eulemur macaco macaco* and *E. m. flavifrons* are 68–72 bp, which is in the same range as that between the former *Eulemur fulvus* subspecies (29–90 bp, according to Pastorini 2000). Moreover, whereas earlier authors suggested a geographical cline in subspecific traits over a relatively large area of their distributional limits (Meyers *et al.* 1989; Rabarivola *et al.* 1991), more recent surveys suggest that the zone of hybridization between the 2 taxa is restricted to the northeastern part of the distribution of *Eulemur macaco flavifrons* (cf. Andrianjakarivelo 2004; Schwitzer *et al.* 2005, 2006). Based on the findings, and to restore a consistent taxonomy of *Eulemur*, we consider them to be full species.

Eulemur macaco occurs mainly in the Sambirano region of northwestern Madagascar, the northern limit to its distribution being the Mahavavy du Nord

River and the southern limit the Sambirano River (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994). The western part of its range includes the Ampasindava Peninsula, the islands of Nosy Be, Nosy Komba and Nosy Tanikely (where it has been introduced), and the dry forests along the coast northeast of Ambanja, including the peninsula leading to Nosy Faly. The eastern limit is probably high on the Tsaratanana Massif. *Eulemur macaco* is sympatric with *E. fulvus* in the Galoka and Manongarivo Mountains (Meyers *et al.* 1989; Tattersall 1976a). Males of the species are entirely black, and females have a dark dorsal coat that lightens to a deep rust or brown on the sides of the back. The female's face, extremities, and often the tail, are dark. The ears are lavishly tufted with long hair, and both sexes have rust-colored to brown eyes.

Eulemur flavifrons occurs south of the Andranomalaza River near Maromandia southward to the Maevarano River near Befotaka, with the Sandrakota River being the eastern border of its range (Andrianjakarivelo 2004; Randriatahina and Rabarivola 2004). *Eulemur flavifrons* is distinguished from *E. macaco* by its grayish to blue eyes and nontufted ears in both sexes; female *E. flavifrons* have a characteristic white forehead and also tend to be lighter colored than female *E. macaco*.

Populations of what has been described as a variant of *Eulemur macaco* occur on the southwestern border of the range of the species, ca. 12 km north of Maromandia (Schwitzer *et al.* 2006). The ear tufts of both sexes are not as pronounced as in the *Eulemur macaco* that Koenders *et al.* (1985a, b) and Meyers *et al.* (1989) depicted, and in the females the head is, except for the black face, completely white. The individuals are homogeneous in coloration across groups and forest fragments, which makes it unlikely that they are hybrids. Investigations of these populations are needed, and it seems likely that they may be an undescribed taxon.

Recognizing all members of *Eulemur fulvus* as species, *E. fulvus* is the only member of the genus in which males are essentially indistinguishable from females. Both sexes are brown to gray-brown dorsally and have light beards and dark faces. *Eulemur fulvus* has a disjunct distribution. According to Tattersall (1982), it occurs in ≥ 3 distinct regions: in northwestern Madagascar, north of the Betsiboka River from south of Ambato-Boeni to Analalava; in the north, in a small area east of the Galoka Mountains, south of Beramanja; and in the east, south of Lac Alaotra and around Andasibe. Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) also suggested that the species may hybridize with *Eulemur albifrons* in some areas of eastern Madagascar. Evans *et al.* (1995) confirmed the presence of *Eulemur fulvus* in the Ambatovaky Special Reserve. Schmid (2000) reported *Eulemur (fulvus) fulvus* from the area between Mantadia and Zahamena, whereas Britt *et al.* (1999; Britt 2002) listed *E. (f.) albifrons* in the region of Betampona, south to Zahamena. Thus, the 2 taxa occur either sympatrically or parapatrically.

Eulemur sanfordi inhabits the northern part of Madagascar. The Mahavavy River is evidently the southwestern limit of its range, and the Manambato River the southeastern limit (Meyers and Ratsirarson 1989; Petter and Petter-Rousseaux 1979; Petter *et al.* 1977). In the northern part of its range, *Eulemur sanfordi* appears to be restricted to the immediate area of Montagne d'Ambre, Ankarana, and Analamerana, ranging south to Daraina (Tattersall 1982; E. E. Louis, *unpubl. data*). Throughout its range, *Eulemur sanfordi* appears to be sympatric with *E. coronatus* (Meyers and Ratsirarson 1989). The most notable characters of the species are light-colored ear tufts and beards, which together give the appearance

of a mane, that is prominent in males. Female *Eulemur sanfordi* can be difficult to distinguish from female *E. albifrons*.

According to Tattersall (1982), *Eulemur albifrons* inhabits the humid forests of eastern Madagascar, with the southern limit of its range appearing to be near Tamatave along the coast and south of the Ivindro River (Goodman and Ganzhorn 2004), and to the north it reaches to the Fanambana River along the coast, near Vohémar, and extends as far west as the Marojejy Massif, north of Andapa. *Eulemur albifrons* have been caught at Marojejy, Anjanaharibe-Sud, Masoala, and Betampona, but they are also reported at Mananara-Nord; the population at Betampona is considered by some to have been introduced. However, others suggest a less northerly limit, only as far as the Bemarivo River, near Sambava, but perhaps a more westerly extension to the Tsaratanana Massif (Meyers and Ratsirason 1989; Mittermeier *et al.* 1994). Perhaps connected with its relatively large range, there is considerable morphological variation in *Eulemur albifrons*. Tattersall (1982) mentioned 2 distinct color phases among males: one with a luxuriant white or cream-colored forehead and the other lacking the striking coloration. Female *Eulemur albifrons* do not possess the distinct white forehead and are difficult to distinguish from female *E. fulvus* or *E. sanfordi* based on coloration.

Eulemur rufus occurs in tropical dry lowland forest in the coastal regions of northwestern Madagascar, south from the Betsiboka River to the Tsiribihina River (Groves 2007). Until recently *Eulemur rufifrons* was considered to be a junior synonym of *rufus* (cf. Groves 2005; Mittermeier *et al.* 2006; Petter *et al.* 1977; Tattersall 1982), but both morphological and genetic evidence now argues clearly that *rufifrons* is distinct (Groves 2007; Pastorini *et al.* 2003). It occurs along the west coast south of the Tsiribihina River to the Fiheranana River, near Tuléar, including the Forêts de Mikea (Ganzhorn and Randriamanalina 2004) and has also been sighted south of the river in the forests of Lambomakandro. *Eulemur rufifrons* is the form covering the range formerly ascribed to *E. rufus* in eastern Madagascar (Groves 2007). There they occur as far north as the Mangoro River and the Onive River, as far to the southwest as Ivohibé at the southern end of the Andringitra Massif. Recent studies of *Eulemur* species by Sterling and Ramarason (1996), Johnson and Wyner (2000), and Wyner *et al.* (2002) provide evidence of hybridization zones between *E. rufus* (here considered to be *rufifrons*), *E. collaris* and *E. cinereiceps* (then called *albocollaris*) in the region. Other reports of hybridization among *Eulemur* spp. in the wild concern hybrids between *E. macaco* and *E. (f.) fulvus* (cf. Goodman and Schütz 2000; Schütz 2000) and even *E. mongoz* and *E. fulvus* (cf. Zaramody and Pastorini 2001). O'Connor (1987) also reported a small, introduced population of red-fronted lemurs at the Berenty Private Reserve in southern Madagascar that possibly hybridized there with introduced *Eulemur collaris*. Groves (1974), Albrecht *et al.* (1990), and Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) noted variation between eastern and western populations of the taxon in terms of both color and size. Groves (2001) identified 3 regional forms—eastern, southwestern and northwestern—but differences between the eastern and southwestern forms are relatively slight, and further studies showed that they are substantially the same (*rufifrons*), with the northwestern form being *rufus* as mentioned previously. In the mitochondrial DNA analysis of Pastorini *et al.* (2003), *Eulemur rufifrons* is part of a clade containing *E. albifrons*, *E. sanfordi*, and *E. fulvus*, to which *E. rufus* is a sister-group.

Eulemur collaris occurs in southeastern Madagascar, where it ranges from the Mananara River near Vaingandrano south to Fort Dauphin, but the northern and western limits of its range are not well established (Tattersall 1982). Males are distinguished by a thick, elongated, cream to rufous beard; females also have a reddish beard, but it is significantly shorter than that of the males. Groves (2001) cited the unusually low ($2n=50-52$) and polymorphic chromosome number of this species (Buettner-Janusch and Hamilton 1979), and also the differences in fixed DNA sequences from other members of the genus demonstrated by Wyner *et al.* (1999).

There has been confusion about the taxonomic distinctness and naming of *Eulemur cinereiceps*, the resurrected priority name for the taxon intermittently described as *E. albocollaris* (cf. Johnson *et al.* 2008). Groves (2005) listed the little known, and evidently extremely rare, gray-headed lemur, *Eulemur cinereiceps*, first described as a variant of *Lemur mongoz*. The type locality is Farafangana, and it is known also from Solohy. Groves (2005) noted that the 2 known specimens in the Paris Museum are somewhat different and unlike any other known taxon. Groves (2001) discussed the specimens and compared their pelage color patterns with those of other *Eulemur* spp. The 19th century illustration and photographs of the 2 mounted specimens are in Mittermeier *et al.* (2006), along with a photograph of a captive animal taken by R. A. Mittermeier in Farafangana in 2005. Johnson *et al.* (2008) examined the validity or otherwise of *Eulemur cinereiceps*. Via field surveys and molecular genetic analyses, they (tentatively) concluded “that *E. cinereiceps* does not exist as a separate taxon from *E. albocollaris*” (p.384), which Rumppler (1975) described as *Lemur fulvus albocollaris*. Accordingly, Johnson *et al.* (2008) presented the case that *albocollaris* Rumppler, 1975 is a junior synonym. *Eulemur cinereiceps* has a very restricted range in southeastern Madagascar. Groves (2001) noted that the taxon has been set apart from other members of *Eulemur fulvus* based on its karyotype ($2n=48$; Petter *et al.* 1977). It is also distinctly different from *Eulemur collaris* and *E. fulvus* with respect to molecular genetics (Wyner *et al.* 1999). The southern limit of its distribution is probably the Mananara River. Though Tattersall (1982) suggested that the Faraony River was the northern limit of its poorly surveyed range, Mittermeier *et al.* (1994) indicated that the species occurs only as far north as the Manampatrana River; much more conservative and ca. 150 km south of the Faraony. Recent studies by Sterling and Ramarason (1996), Johnson and Wyner (2000), Johnson (2002), and Wyner *et al.* (2002) provided evidence of *Eulemur cinereiceps* north of the Manampatrana River, as well as hybridization zones with *E. collaris* and *E. rufus* to the southeast of Andringitra National Park. Obviously rivers do not coincide with the distributional limits of the taxa (Goodman and Ganzhorn, 2004; Irwin *et al.* 2005). Even according to the pre-Groves taxonomy the 2 southern species of the *Eulemur fulvus* group (*E. cinereiceps* and *E. collaris*) seem genetically distinct enough from the other *E. fulvus* to warrant the status of distinct species (Djlelati *et al.* 1997; Wyner *et al.* 1999).

Tattersall (1982) indicated that the range of *Eulemur mongoz* has been more widely misquoted than that of any other lemur. It is native to northwestern Madagascar, but populations have been introduced to the islands of Mohéli and Anjouan in the Comores (Tattersall 1976b, 1977). On Madagascar, it occurs on both sides of the Betsiboka River, extending west to just south of Mitsinjo and north at

least to the Bay of Narinda. The exact limits of its distribution remain poorly known because forests within its range are highly fragmented. Male *Eulemur mongoz* are gray-brown and darker than females, and also have a rufous beard that females lack. Though Groves (1974) and Petter *et al.* (1977) noted slight color differences between the Madagascar and Comores populations of the species, they may not be consistent and so would not warrant distinct taxonomic status.

Eulemur coronatus occurs in northern Madagascar. According to Tattersall (1982), it is the only lemur in the dry forests of the arid Cap d'Ambre. The southern limits of its range reach the Ankarana Massif in the west, between Ambilobé and Anivornao Nord, and the Fanambana River in the east, near Vohémar. Both sexes of *Eulemur coronatus* have a V-shaped marking pointed forward on the head, orange in females, black in most males, which gives the species the common name of crowned lemur.

Eulemur rubriventer inhabits forests of mid-altitude in eastern Madagascar, the Tsaratanana Massif, the northern limit of its range, and the southern end of the Andringitra Massif near Ivohibé which is the southern limit (Goodman and Ganzhorn 2004; Irwin *et al.* 2005; Jolly *et al.* 1984; Petter and Petter 1971; Tattersall 1982). Recent surveys failed to locate the species south of the Manampatrana River (Irwin *et al.* 2005), where it had been seen previously (Petter *et al.* 1977). It seems to occur at low densities throughout its range. The body pelage of *Eulemur rubriventer* is thick, long, and a rich dark chestnut brown. The ears are generally hidden by the fur. The face is dark and a patch of naked skin below each eye shows a pale teardrop pattern, which is particularly prominent in males. Geographic variation in the general pattern of coloration might indicate the existence of subspecies (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994).

Varecia Gray, 1863: Ruffled lemurs

Varecia variegata variegata (Kerr, 1792): Black-and-white ruffed lemur

Varecia variegata editorum (Osman Hill, 1953): Southern ruffed lemur

Varecia variegata subcincta (A. Smith, 1833): White-belted ruffed lemur

Varecia rubra (É. Geoffroy, 1812): Red ruffed lemur

Varecia includes the largest of the living quadrupedal lemurs. They are clearly recognized by their striking coloration, luxuriant pelage, long faces, and raucous, loud calls. They inhabit the rain forests of eastern Madagascar from the Mananara River, south of Farafangana, north to the Masoala Peninsula. Two distinct taxa have always been recognized, the black-and-red *rubra* from the Masoala Peninsula and the black-and-white *variegata* from the central portion of the eastern rain forests; until the early 1990s they were considered to be subspecies of the single species *Varecia variegata*. Researchers have noted, discussed, and named many color variants, especially for *Varecia variegata* (cf. Ceska *et al.* 1992; Petter *et al.* 1977; Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006; Tattersall 1982, 1985), without resolution as to their taxonomic status. In particular, the validity of several subspecies proposed for *Varecia variegata* remains an open question, and has been hampered by the lack of information on geographic distribution and possible genetic differences between the forms. For example, Vasey and Tattersall (2002) examined variation in *Varecia variegata* in some detail, but concluded that the variants are not geographically exclusive, and therefore could not be considered subspecies. However, recent genetic

studies by Louis *et al.* (2005) have indicated that 3 distinct evolutionarily significant units exist within *Varecia variegata*, and have reaffirmed the distinctiveness of *Varecia rubra*.

Groves (2001) recognized *Varecia rubra* and *Varecia variegata* as distinct species and resurrected 2 subspecies, *V. v. editorum* and *V. v. subcincta*, based on differences in pelage coloration that he felt corresponded to distinct geographic populations. His proposal seems in part to have been vindicated by the new genetic findings. We follow Groves and recognize 3 subspecies of *Varecia variegata*, with the following distributions along the Malagasy east coast. 1) *Varecia v. subcincta* is the northernmost of the *V. variegata* subspecies. Its range extends from the Antsaribe River (in the region of Maroantsetra) south to the Anove River (between Soanierana Ivongo and Mananara). 2) The Anove River (between Soanierana Ivongo and Mananara) is the northern limit of the known current range of *Varecia variegata variegata*. The southern limit is in the region of the Betampona Strict Nature Reserve and Zahamena National Park between Tamatave and Fenoarivo. 3) The known current range of *Varecia variegata editorum* extends from the forests of Mantadia National Park in the north to the Manombo Special Reserve in the south. We note that the type locality of the subspecies is given by Hill (1953) as “Ambatondrazaka, south of Lac Alaotra,” which would be well north of the current known distribution and where today *Varecia* probably no longer occurs. However, researchers have not yet screened the remaining forests west of Tamatave, and it may well be that the subspecific range extends further north or that the ranges of *Varecia variegata variegata* and *V. v. editorum* overlap in the region.

Varecia rubra is largely red and black, with small patches of white on the neck, and sometimes on the heels, digits and muzzle. Most of the dorsal body coat is deep rusty red, whereas the ventrum, extremities, tail, inside of limbs, forehead, and crown (excluding ears) are black. As with *Varecia variegata*, variations in pattern exist (Ceska *et al.* 1992; Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006). *Varecia rubra* is restricted to the forests of the Masoala Peninsula near Maroantsetra in northeastern Madagascar (Petter *et al.* 1977).

Further research on the taxonomy and distribution of *Varecia variegata* needs to be among the highest conservation priorities for Madagascar. The species is a preferred target for hunters throughout most of its range, and it seems to depend strongly on undisturbed mature primary rain forest. The range is now very patchy (Irwin *et al.* 2005), and all 3 taxa are ranked as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List (IUCN 2008). Further, we need to determine as soon as possible whether or not still more taxa exist.

Family Indriidae Burnett, 1828

According to Groves (2001), who cited Jenkins (1987), the original family name Indridae is correct, but Opinion 1995 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (2002) conserved and validated the prevalent spelling of Indriidae. Indriidae contains 3 subfamilies: Archaeolemurinae, Palaeopropithecinae, and Indriinae. The first 2 contain only extinct taxa, while the Indriinae contains 3 living genera: *Avahi*, *Indri*, and *Propithecus*. *Avahi* is the relatively small, nocturnal woolly

lemur, while *Indri* and *Propithecus* are diurnal and much larger. All 3 genera are typical vertical clingers and leapers, preferring postures in which the trunk of the body is held vertically, and using their longer hind limbs and powerful thighs to make spectacular leaps between vertical supports.

***Avahi* Jourdan, 1834: Avahi or Woolly lemur**

Avahi laniger (Gmelin, 1788): Eastern woolly lemur

Avahi occidentalis Lorenz, 1898: Western woolly lemur

Avahi unicolor Thalmann and Geissmann, 2000: Unicolor woolly lemur

Avahi cleesei Thalmann and Geissmann, 2005: Cleese's woolly lemur

Avahi peyrierasi Zaramody *et al.*, 2006: Peyrieras' woolly lemur

Avahi meridionalis Zaramody *et al.*, 2006: Southern woolly lemur

Avahi ramantsoavani Zaramody *et al.*, 2006: Ramantsoavana's southern woolly lemur

Avahi betsileo Andriantompohavana *et al.*, 2007: Betsileo woolly lemur

Avahi mooreorum Lei *et al.*, 2008: The Moore's woolly lemur

Avahi contains the only nocturnal members of the family Indriidae. Avahis are small, with masses usually ≤ 1 kg. Prominent white patches on the backs of the thighs contrast with the generally brown coloration and serve as distinguishing field marks. Until quite recently, the genus was considered to contain a single species, *Avahi laniger*, with 2 subspecies: the eastern *A. l. laniger* and the northwestern *A. l. occidentalis* (Tattersall 1982). However, Rumpler *et al.* (1990) elevated both to species, and Thalmann and Geissmann (2000, 2005) subsequently described a third, *Avahi unicolor*, from western Madagascar, and a fourth, *A. cleesei*, from the region of Bemaraha, distinguished from *A. occidentalis* by the lack of a white facial mask and broad dark eye rings, and from both *A. occidentalis* and *A. laniger* by a dark chevron pattern on the forehead (Thalmann and Geissmann 2005). According to Mittermeier *et al.* (1994, 2006) the distribution of *Avahi occidentalis* was discontinuous north of the Betsiboka River in western Madagascar. Thalmann and Geissmann (2000) agree with the southern limit and indicate that the species may extend as far north as the Mahajamba, Sofia, or Maevarano rivers around Ambondro-Ampasy.

The species of western avahi described by Thalmann and Geissmann (2000), *A. unicolor*, is probably restricted to the Sambirano region, including the Ampasindava Peninsula, with either the Andranomalaza or Maevarano rivers forming the southern boundary to its distribution, and the Sambirano River its northern limit. Raxworthy and Rakotondraparany (1988) report it from the western slope of the Manongarivo Special Reserve. The eastern limit to its range may be the western slope of the Tsaratanana Massif.

Cleese's avahi, *Avahi cleesei*, occurs only from the Tsingy de Bemaraha region, north of the Manambolo River. The northern limit to its range is unclear (Thalmann and Geissmann 2005). The eastern woolly lemur, *Avahi laniger*, occurs in eastern rain forest from the region of Fort Dauphin in the south to the Andapa region near Sambava in the north (Petter *et al.* 1977; Tattersall 1982). Fowler *et al.* (1989) and Hawkins *et al.* (1990) also reported it from the Ankarana Massif and west of Anivorano, in extreme northern Madagascar, respectively.

Cytogenetic and molecular genetic analyses (mitochondrial cytochrome *b*) by Zaramody *et al.* (2006) and Andriaholinirina (2006) revealed that the eastern woolly

lemurs, formerly lumped as *Avahi laniger*, could be differentiated into ≥ 3 so-called phylogeographic groups: 1) north of the Mangoro/Onive rivers, 2) south of the Mangoro/Onive rivers, and 3) from the southeast (Manombo and Sainte Luce), which can in turn be separated into distinct clades. Though the exact type locality of *Avahi laniger* is unknown, Zaramody *et al.* (2006) determined that it must have been north of the Mangoro/Onive rivers. Therefore, they considered group 1 to be *Avahi laniger*. They named group 2 from the south of the Mangoro/Onive rivers as *Avahi peyrierasi*, type locality Mahasoarivo (Ranomafana *ca.* 47°26'E, 21°16'S), Province of Fianarantsoa. It occurs in the forests of Manara, Vatoalatsaka, Sangalampona and Ranomafana. They also described group 3 as a new species, with 2 subspecies. *Avahi m. meridionalis*, type locality Sainte Luce (*ca.* 47°11'E; 24°47'S), Province of Toliara, is slightly smaller than *A. laniger* and *A. peyrierasi*, and occurs only from the Andohahela Reserve and the area of Sainte Luce. *Avahi ramanantsoavani* occurs at its type locality, Reserve of Manombo (*ca.* 47°41'E; 23°01'S), Province of Fianarantsoa. Zaramody *et al.* (2006) considered *Avahi ramanantsoavani* to be a subspecies of *Avahi meridionalis*. However, we follow Andriantompohavana *et al.* (2007), who in their review of the molecular phylogeny of the genus, considered it to be a full species.

Andriantompohavana *et al.* (2007) described *Avahi betsileo* from Bemosary Classified Forest, District of Fandriana, Region Amoron'i Mania, Province of Fianarantsoa, Madagascar. Lei *et al.* (2008) described *Avahi mooreorum*, from the Masoala National Park, Province of Antsiranana (*ca.* 15°40'008"S; 49°57'476"E).

***Propithecus* Bennett, 1832: Sifakas and Simponas**

Propithecus diadema Group

Propithecus diadema Bennett, 1832: Diademed sifaka

Propithecus candidus Grandidier, 1871: Silky sifaka

Propithecus edwardsi Grandidier, 1871: Milne-Edward's sifaka

Propithecus perrieri Lavauden, 1931: Perrier's sifaka

Propithecus verreauxi Group

Propithecus verreauxi Grandidier, 1867: Verreaux's sifaka

Propithecus deckenii Peters, 1870: Decken's sifaka

Propithecus coronatus Milne-Edwards, 1871: Crowned sifaka

Propithecus coquereli (Grandidier, 1867): Coquerel's sifaka

Propithecus tattersalli Simons, 1988: Tattersall's sifaka; golden-crowned sifaka

All the sifakas are diurnal, large and long-tailed, and have very long hind limbs relative to the trunk and forelimbs. They move by leaping between vertical supports, propelled by their powerful hind limbs. On the ground they bound along on their hind limbs in an upright position. Until the late 1980s, only 2 species of *Propithecus* were recognized, *P. diadema* and *P. verreauxi*, the former with 5 subspecies and the latter with 4 (Tattersall 1982). Simons (1988) described a third species, *Propithecus tattersalli*, after Ian Tattersall, who had discovered a population in northern Madagascar near Daraina in 1974 and had provisionally ascribed it to *Propithecus diadema candidus*. In the center of their ranges the currently recognized taxa of *Propithecus* are each physically distinctive. Yet, the combination of morphological, cytogenetic, and molecular genetic data yield ambiguous results that allow different classifications of the different taxa.

Groves (2001) suggested that the taxonomic arrangement of only 3 species was ill-advised and merely a legacy of Schwarz's (1931) tendency to lump. Schwarz (1931) placed 9 forms, including *holomelas* Günther, 1875 and *majori* Rothschild, 1894 as subspecies of *P. diadema* or *P. verreauxi*. Lavauden described *Propithecus perrieri* only in 1931, but Hill (1953), following Schwarz's lumping tendency, placed it as a subspecies of *P. diadema* (cf. Groves and Helgen 2007). Groves (2001) as such listed *Propithecus edwardsi*, *P. perrieri*, *P. coquereli*, and *P. deckenii* as full species, and divided the genus into 2 species groups: the *Propithecus diadema* group (*P. edwardsi*, *P. perrieri*, *P. tattersalli*, and *P. diadema* with 2 subspecies, *P. d. diadema* and *P. d. candidus*) and the *P. verreauxi* group (*P. verreauxi*, *P. coquereli*, and *P. deckenii* with 2 subspecies, *P. d. deckenii* and *P. d. coronatus*). Groves (2005) listed them all as species, except for *candidus* (a subspecies of *Propithecus diadema*) and *coronatus* (a subspecies of *P. deckenii*). The taxonomy we adopt here, regarding all as species, is that proposed by Groves and Helgen (2007).

Cytogenetic studies have confirmed the specific status of *Propithecus edwardsi*, with $2n=44$ chromosomes separating it from *P. diadema*, *P. perrieri*, and *P. candidus*, all with $2n=42$ chromosomes (Mayor *et al.* 2004; Rumpler and Albignac 1979; Rumpler *et al.* 1988, 2004). Molecular genetic studies of Mayor *et al.* (2004) have also confirmed the distinction. However, cytogenetic studies do not separate *P. diadema*, *P. candidus*, and *P. perrieri* (Mayor *et al.* 2004; Rumpler *et al.* 2004). Conversely, D-loop sequences and microsatellite analyses combine *Propithecus perrieri* and *P. candidus*, but separate out *P. diadema* (Mayor *et al.* 2004). A discriminant function based on morphological data of the same species (Mayor *et al.* 2004) matched neither the clustering of the genetic analyses nor the clusters proposed by Groves (2001). Cytogenetics and molecular genetics as such give us no clear picture.

However, Groves and Helgen (2007) noted that *Propithecus perrieri* was originally described as a full species, and that its placement as a subspecies of *Propithecus diadema* by Hill (1953) was nothing more than a question of convenience; Groves (2001, 2005) listed it as a species. Groves (2001) maintained *candidus* as a subspecies of *Propithecus diadema* because of the report by Petter *et al.* (1977) that pelage variation in *candidus* approached *diadema*. Later Groves and Helgen (2007) listed *candidus* as a separate species, referring to the results of a comparative study of male throat gland histology by Rumpler and Andriamiandra (1971) and to comparative craniometry. Agreeing with Groves and Helgen (2007), we recognize the 3 distinct and geographically isolated sifakas as species: *Propithecus diadema*, *P. candidus*, and *P. perrieri*, along with *P. edwardsi*.

Researchers have debated the taxonomic status of *Propithecus tattersalli*. Groves (2001) assigned it to the *Propithecus diadema* group, supported by microsatellite analyses that link *P. tattersalli* with *P. edwardsi* (cf. Mayor *et al.* 2004). In contrast, the study of mtDNA by Pastorini *et al.* (2001a, 2003) grouped *Propithecus tattersalli* with the *P. verreauxi* group, and even, assuming a version of the Genetic Species Concept, called into question whether or not it deserved specific status. Independent analyses of mitochondrial DNA (Mayor *et al.* 2004; Pastorini *et al.* 2001a) and clusters based on morphological characteristics (Mayor *et al.* 2004) have confirmed the close link between *Propithecus tattersalli* and *P. coquereli*. The karyotype separates it from all other forms of *Propithecus* (Mayor *et al.* 2004; Rumpler *et al.*

2004). Accordingly, we recognize *Propithecus tattersalli* as a distinct species, and believe that it is best placed with the *P. verreauxi* group.

Within the *Propithecus verreauxi* group the genetic evidence supports Groves and Helgen's (2007) morphological analysis concerning *P. coquereli*, separating it as a distinct taxon that can be considered a species (Mayor *et al.* 2004; Y. Rumpler, *pers. comm.*). Though they maintained them as subspecies, Petter *et al.* (1977) reported on skull differences that clearly separated *Propithecus coronatus* and *P. deckenii* from other members of the *P. verreauxi* group. Groves (2001, 2005) maintained *coronatus* as a subspecies of *Propithecus deckenii* on the basis of the reports of Tattersall (1986) that *deckenii*-like and *coronatus*-like sifakas could be seen in the same areas, and on the observations concerning their geographic ranges by Thalmann and Rakotoarison (1994). Tattersall (in Simons 1988) even thought they might be synonyms. Curtis *et al.* (1998) surveyed the lower Mahavavy du Sud River and were unable to confirm overlap in their ranges, with *Propithecus deckenii* occurring to the west and *P. coronatus* to the east. In a review of the ranges of the 2 forms, Thalmann *et al.* (2002) concluded that they are distinct species according to the Phylogenetic Species Concept, if not under the Biological Species Concept, and Groves and Helgen (2007) also found a clear separation of the 2 in their skull morphology. With *Propithecus tattersalli*, *P. coronatus* has the most distinctive cranium of any of the members of the *Propithecus verreauxi* group.

In contrast to the morphological evidence, molecular data support neither the distinction of *Propithecus deckenii* from *P. verreauxi* nor the distinction of the 2 subspecies within *P. deckenii* (cf. Pastorini *et al.* 2003; Y. Rumpler, *pers. comm.*). Although providing no new data on *Propithecus deckenii* or *P. coronatus*, Mayor *et al.* (2004) list them both as subspecies of *Propithecus verreauxi*, an arrangement also preferred by Yves Rumpler, whose genetic analyses confirm most of the conclusions of Mayor *et al.* (2004) and have been unable, like Pastorini *et al.* (2003), to distinguish *deckenii*, *verreauxi*, and *coronatus*. We fully acknowledge the reservations of Mireya Mayor and Yves Rumpler, but we here follow the morphological and biogeographic arguments of Mittermeier *et al.* (2006) and Groves and Helgen (2007) in concluding that all the currently recognized members of the genus are diagnosably distinct species.

Propithecus diadema is the largest and most colorful member of *Propithecus*. Researchers have reported adult masses of 6–7 kg, which are similar to those of *Indri* (cf. Powzyk and Mowry 2003). The pelage is largely white, with black on the head, back of the neck and the hands and feet, and gold at the base of the tail, on the hindquarters and the limbs. It was one of the most widespread of the sifakas; its distribution in the eastern rain forests extended from the Mangoro River north to somewhere below the Antainambalana River, south of Maroantsetra (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006). However, it now appears to be absent from many areas where it was not difficult to find just a few years ago (K. Glander, *pers. obs.*). Mittermeier *et al.* (2006, illustrated p. 379) reported on a variable but distinctive form from Tsinjoarivo, south-central Madagascar. M. Irwin and K. Glander showed that the Tsinjoarivo sifakas were very variable in appearance (Mittermeier *et al.* 2006), and significantly smaller (average 4963 g, SD±523 g, n=12) than either *Propithecus edwardsi* or *P. diadema* (*unpubl. data*), and also indicated differences in vocalizations (K. Glander, in litt. January 31, 2007). However, cytogenetic studies from an individual captured

at Tsinjoarivo by K. Glander, analyzed at the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species (CRES), San Diego Zoo (Mayor *et al.* 2004), mtDNA evidence (data from 12 individuals; E. E. Louis and M. I. Mayor, *unpubl. data*), and morphological data (from the same 12 individuals; W. Jungers and M. I. Mayor, *unpubl. data*), otherwise failed to provide a case for distinguishing them from *Propithecus diadema* (M. I. Mayor, *in litt.* January 26, 2007). Andriaholinirina (2006), likewise, was unable to find evidence from cytogenetic studies and mitochondrial sequencing that could support the argument that the Tsinjoarivo population was distinct, despite their smaller size and clear differences in the appearances of forms from 4 different areas within the currently recognized range of *Propithecus diadema* (cf. Mittermeier *et al.* 2006): 1) Mantadia/Maromizaha show typical color of *P. diadema* (yellow-gold limbs, slate gray to silvery gray back, light-gray and white face and light gray crown); 2) Andilamena (the forests of Antsahaporetiny, Behorefo, and Ivongo) with a much lighter yellow body, almost white, the gray parts also much lighter, and the nape is slightly darker, almost black, and with white around the face; 3) Zahamena with a dark gray, almost black face and black back; and 4) Anosiben'Ifody, Vatateza, and Ambohimanjaka typically have a black head, with a white band above the eyes, and a very black back (Andriaholinirina 2006; *in litt.* February 12, 2007).

The range of *Propithecus candidus*, a distinctive species covered entirely in long white hair, is restricted to northern Madagascar in a humid forest belt that runs from Maroantsetra to the Andapa Basin and the Marojejy Massif. The Androranga River may be the northwestern range limit within the Tsaratanana Corridor. The Antainambalana River, within the Makira Conservation Site, is currently regarded as the southern limit (Patel and Andrianandrasana 2008; Rasolofoson *et al.* 2007; Tattersall 1982; Wilmé and Callmander 2006).

Propithecus edwardsi, in contrast to *P. candidus*, is almost entirely black or dark chocolate brown, save for white flank patches that sometimes meet across the back. Its range in eastern Madagascar lies south of that of *Propithecus diadema*, the Mangoro/Onive River forming its present northern limit and the Mananara River its southern boundary (Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2004; Tattersall 1982), though no recent survey has confirmed this species south of the Manampatrana River, much farther north than the Mananara River (Irwin *et al.* 2005). Tattersall (1986) suggested that it might have occurred north of the Mangoro in the past, and former inland populations of the species have apparently been extirpated (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994).

A few authors have recognized the subspecies *Propithecus diadema holomelas*, a black form with all black under parts and a dark brown patch at the base of the tail. It was reported during the late 1800s and only from the forests of Nandihizana, ca. 50 km north of Fianarantsoa. Groves (2001) noted that it lacks the white flank patches typical of *Propithecus edwardsi*. Petter *et al.* (1977) argued that it was a melanistic morph of *edwardsi*, though Albrecht *et al.* (1990) found that its skull length was notably smaller (Groves 2001; Groves and Helgen 2007). The molecular data of Andriaholinirina (2006) confirmed the previous results of Petter *et al.* (1977). Tattersall (1986) reported that *holomelas*-like and *edwardsi*-like forms were syntopic, and both Tattersall (1986) and Groves (2001, 2005) considered *holomelas* to be a synonym of *Propithecus edwardsi*, but Groves and Helgen (2007) kept specimens of *holomelas* from Andalusia and Fienerentova separate in their analysis of the cranial morphology of the genus, and confirmed the findings of Albrecht

(1990). Groves and Helgen (2007) indicated that it could in fact be a good species, but further research is needed. Unfortunately, it appears that no *Propithecus* survive today in the forests where researchers recorded *holomelas*. Further surveys are required.

Propithecus perrieri is somewhat similar in coloration to *P. edwardsi*, but its long and silky, shiny, fur is typically black on the back and brownish on the chest and belly. It occurs far to the north in Madagascar in extremely dry forests northeast of the Andrafiarena Mountains and east of Anivorano Nord (Mayor and Lehman 1999; Meyers and Ratsirarson 1989; Petter *et al.* 1977; Ranaivoarisoa *et al.* 2006; Tattersall 1982).

Propithecus tattersalli is a small- to medium-sized sifaka, weighing only about half as much as *P. diadema*. It is mostly white, but with distinctive protruding ears, a cap of golden fur on the head, and gold coloration on the shoulders (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006). The species has a very restricted distribution, occurring in both deciduous and semi-evergreen forest between the Loky and Manambato rivers, its range centered on the northern Madagascar town of Daraina (Meyers and Ratsirarson 1989; Randrianarisoa *et al.* 1999; Tattersall 1982; Vargas *et al.* 2002).

Propithecus coquereli differs from *P. verreauxi* in having extensive maroon-colored patches on the chest, the front of the thighs, and the forelimbs. Otherwise it is also a small- to medium-sized white sifaka. Its distribution includes dry deciduous forested areas of northwestern Madagascar to the north and east of the Betsiboka River. The region of Ambato-Boéni appears to represent its southeastern extent, while the northern limit of its range seems to run from Antsohihy to Befandriana (Tattersall 1982).

Propithecus verreauxi is another small, predominantly white, sifaka. The top of its head is black or chocolate brown. It has the largest range of any member of the genus. Populations occur in southern and southwestern Madagascar, extending from just west of Fort Dauphin in the south to the Tsiribihina River, along the western coast in the central part of the country (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994). *Propithecus verreauxi majori* Rothschild, 1894 exists in the literature, but is now considered nothing more than a color variant (Groves 2001, 2005; Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006).

Propithecus deckenii is restricted to the region between the Manambolo and Mahavavy rivers in coastal western Madagascar (Thalmann *et al.* 1999, 2002). The distribution of *Propithecus coronatus* forms a crescent around *P. deckenii*, extending along the coast south of the Manambolo River, inland to elevations of 500–1000 m, and then back to the coast north and east of the Mahavavy River (Thalmann *et al.* 1999, 2002). The pelage of *Propithecus coronatus* is yellowish to silvery-brown dorsally, dark on the chest, and chocolate brown to black on the crown, forehead, cheeks, and throat. It has a bulbous nose that distinguishes it from other sifakas.

Indri É. Geoffroy and G. Cuvier, 1796: Indri

Indri indri (Gmelin, 1788): Indri

There is only a single species of *Indri*, which is the largest of the living lemurs, with an adult body mass averaging 6–7 kg (reaching ≤ 9 kg) and a head-body length of ≥ 60 cm. In addition to their large size, diurnal *Indri indri* are distinguished from all other lemurs by having vestigial tails. Though the extent and pattern of the black-

and-white coloration may vary, the ears are always black, tufted and prominent. Indri resides in Madagascar's eastern humid forests, ranging from the Mangoro River in the central-eastern part of the country north to near Sambava, but excluding the Masoala Peninsula (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006; Petter *et al.* 1977; Tattersall 1982).

Northern specimens tended to be darker than southern specimens, and Thalmann *et al.* (1993) reported a mixed pattern in the region of Mananara, and Groves (2001, 2005) recognized 2 subspecies, *Indri indri indri* and *I. i. variegatus*, on the basis of this study. *Indri indri indri* from the northern part of the species' distribution, and typical of specimens reported from Anjanaharibe-Sud (Thalmann *et al.* 1993) and Ambatovaky (Evans *et al.* 1995), are almost entirely black. They lack a light occipital patch and light tones on the outer forelimbs and hind limbs, but have a broad face ring. Groves (2001) considered museum specimens from Andapa and Maroantsetra to be this subspecies as well. Groves (2001) suggested that the lighter-colored form, which he listed as *Indri indri variegatus* (Gray, 1872), occurs southward from the region of Mananara. It has a white occipital patch, a white collar extending up to and behind the ears, and the outside of its forelimbs and hind limbs are grayish or whitish, and is the variant in the Analamazaotra Special Reserve at Andasibé (=Perinet). Differentiation between the 2 is not supported by genetic or new morphological evidence (Zaonarivelo *et al.* 2007).

Family Daubentoniidae Gray, 1863

The Daubentoniidae has only 1 living species, *Daubentonia madagascariensis*, the aye-aye. It is separated from all the other lemurs by its highly specialized dentition, including ever-growing incisors, a unique feature among primates; exceptionally large ears; and an elongated middle digit on both hands. The ears and elongated digits are used in the detection and consumption of insect larvae in dead wood (Mittermeier *et al.* 1994, 2006). Schwarz and Tattersall (1985) contended that the aye-aye's closest affinities are with the indriids. A reconstruction of the ancestral karyotype of the lemurs by Warter *et al.* (2005), and the wide-ranging genetic studies of Yoder *et al.* (1996) and DelPero *et al.* (2006) indicate that *Daubentonia* separated long before any other branch of the Lemuriformes.

Remains of a second, much larger, extinct species, *Daubentonia robusta*, occur at a few sites in Madagascar, and it appears that it was the last lemur species to go extinct, having possibly still existed until the 19th century.

***Daubentonia* É. Geoffroy, 1795: Aye-aye**

Daubentonia madagascariensis (Gmelin, 1788): Aye-aye

Daubentonia madagascariensis is a medium-sized lemur, with a head-body length of *ca.* 40 cm, a slightly longer tail, and a mass of *ca.* 3 kg. It is covered in long, coarse, white-tipped black fur, and has the most prominent ears of any lemur. In the 1960s, the species was thought to be on the verge of extinction and down to just a handful of individuals. But in the past 2 decades, survey work has indicated that the aye-aye has in fact the most extensive distribution of any lemur species, and is widespread in both humid and dry forest habitats. It is very sparsely distributed

and occurs only at low densities but, contrary to beliefs as recently as the early 1980s, it is far from being close to extinction (Goodman and Schütz 1999, 2000; Randrianarisoa *et al.* 1999; Simons 1993; Simons and Meyers 2001; Sterling 1998; Thalmann *et al.* 1999). It is possible, even probable, that aye-ayes in different parts of Madagascar could be distinct from each other; unfortunately, there are very few museum specimens outside of Madagascar, so a morphological study is impossible at present. It is essential that field workers should collect dead specimens, and genetic studies around Madagascar should be conducted.

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