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Madagascar Terrestrial Camera Survey Database 2021: A collation of protected forest camera surveys from 2007–2021

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Abstract: Madagascar is a threatened global biodiversity hotspot and conservation priority, yet we lack broadscale surveys to assess biodiversity across space and time. To fill this gap, we collated camera trap surveys, capturing species occurrences within Madagascar into a single standardized database. This dataset includes nine distinct protected areas of Madagascar and encompasses 13 subprojects, 38 camera arrays, 1156 sampling units (independent camera site per survey) within two important biodiversity eco-regions: western dry deciduous forest, and eastern humid rainforest. Camera surveys were conducted from June 2007 to January 2021. The final dataset includes 17 unique families of mammals (Bovidae, Canidae, Cheirogaleidae, Daubentoniidae, Equidae, Eupleridae, Felidae, Hominidae, Indriidae, Lemuridae, Lepilemuridae, Muridae, Nesomyidae, Pteropodidae, Soricidae, Suidae, Tenrecidae) comprising 45 species and 27 unique families of birds (Accipitridae, Acrocephalidae, Alcedinidae, Bernieridae, Brachypteraciidae, Caprimulgidae, Cisticolidae, Columbidae, Coraciidae, Corvidae, Cuculidae, Dicruridae, Mesitornithidae, Monarchidae, Motacillidae, Muscicapidae,

Numididae, Phasianidae, Rallidae, Sarothruridae, Strigidae, Sturnidae, Sulidae, Threskiornithidae, Upupidae, Vangidae, Zosteropidae) comprising 58 species. Images were processed and verified by individual project dataset creators and camera operation and species tables were then collated. The final product represents the first broad-scale freely available standardized formal faunal database for Madagascar. Data are available through this publication and at DOI:10.5281/zenodo.5801806. These data will be useful for examining species- and community- level trends in occurrence across space or time within Madagascar and globally, evaluating native and invasive species dynamics, and aid in determining species conservation status and planning for at-risk species. There are no copyright restrictions; please cite this paper when using the data for publication.

Key words/phrases: camera trap, Eupleridae, forest fauna, lemur, Madagascar, subtropical rainforest, subtropical deciduous forest

Open Research: Data are available as Supporting Information and are also available in Zenodo at: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5801806>

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