



Universität
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Research Project

Crossroads of two global biodiversity hotspots

Third-party funded project

Project title Crossroads of two global biodiversity hotspots

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The Shimba Hills (SH) of Kenya is one of the largest patches of remaining coastal forests positioned forests in East Africa. It is floristically known to support about 280 endemic plant species, relatively high compared to others of similar size. Currently the SH are categorized as part of the coastal forest, however biogeographically there are suggestions of a more complex history. From old and current collection of its reptiles and amphibians it harbours species associated to the eastern Afromontane forests and coastal forests, both key global biodiversity hot spots in their own rights. Despite this “crossroad” position (see Figure 1) no study has been conducted to verify its actual biogeographical affiliation and what the historical patterns of species that occupy these regions are. Our study aims at conducting a comprehensive study of the diversity of amphibians of the Shimba Hills and to use this to understand the biogeographical history of the region. Understanding the biogeographical history will also help towards effective conservation management across this area – promoting the forest habitats – found within the savanna dominated National Park of the Shimba Hills.

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