

Publication

Amphibian Diversity in Shimba Hills National Reserve, Kenya: A Comprehensive List of Specimens and Species

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4190574

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Year 2017

Title Amphibian Diversity in Shimba Hills National Reserve, Kenya: A Comprehensive List of Specimens and Species

Journal Journal of East African Natural History

Volume 106

Number Part 1

Pages / Article-Number 19-46

We present the first annotated amphibian checklist of Shimba Hills National Reserve (SHNR). The list comprises of 30 currently known amphibians (28 anurans and two caecilians), which includes 11 families and 15 genera. In addition, individual records per species, distribution in the reserve and brief remarks about the species are presented. The checklist is based on information from museum collections, field guides, unpublished reports and newly collected field data. We are able to confirm the presence of two Eastern Afromontane species in the SHNR: Scolecomorphus cf. vittatus and Callulina cf. kreffti. The latter has not been recorded since the original collection of a single specimen over 50 years ago. SHNR contains the highest number of amphibian species of any known locality in Kenya (about 30% of the country's total number); therefore it is of national conservation importance. Finally, we briefly discuss the biogeography of the SHNR and its connections to nearby biogeographic regions.

Publisher National Museums of Kenya

ISSN/ISBN 0012-8317

edoc-URL http://edoc.unibas.ch/59138/ Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.2982/028.106.0104 ISI-Number BCI:BCI201800044971 Document type (ISI) Article