

An Island Set Apart

One hundred sixty million years ago, the ancient landmass of Gondwanaland broke apart into what eventually became the present continents of Africa, South America, Antarctica, and Australia, along with the sub-continent of India and Madagascar. As the land was divided, so too were all the families of plants and animals living there; only a few of the species that later evolved managed to migrate across the Mozambique Channel from Africa. One way or the other, the species that did end up marooned on the island of Madagascar had plenty of time and opportunity to diversify.

The reptiles and amphibians did this particularly well: over 800 species have thus far been described from Madagascar, and several hundred more have been identified but not yet assessed and scientifically named. So great are the numbers, and so frequently do researchers discover new species, that the classification of Madagascar's herpetofauna is in a constant state of flux. Of Madagascar's reptiles, over 90% are endemic, while for the amphibians the number is very close to 100%.

In Marojejy National Park, on the mountainous eastern escarpment of northern Madagascar, 84 species of reptiles and 74 species of amphibians have been inventoried to date. This represents nearly 20% of the total herpetofaunal species known in Madagascar, and is the highest diversity of reptiles currently known in any protected area in Madagascar. Twenty of these species are endemic to Marojejy — found nowhere else.

Clearly, Marojejy National Park plays a critical role in protecting Madagascar's remarkably high levels of biodiversity and endemism. But adequate protection requires more than just setting aside isolated fragments of rainforest. Current protected areas must be linked to allow species dispersal and genetic exchange, and local residents must be educated about the unique and remarkable life forms that these forests hold. Several non-governmental organizations, including the [Lemur Conservation Foundation](#) and [Duke Lemur Center SAVA Conservation](#), have been working towards these ends, and we are encouraged that their efforts are showing positive results, protecting the astounding biological richness of Marojejy and all of Madagascar.

Access: Access into Marojejy National Park is via trail starting from the village of Manantenina, 60 km from Sambava along the road to Andapa. A permit and guide are required for entry; these are available at the visitor center in Manantenina.



Facilities: Three beautifully-sited and well-maintained camps are available at different elevations along the trail within the park. The camps all have cabins equipped with beds and bedding, as well as covered cooking and dining areas. Tent camping is also possible at several locations in the park.

Seasons: The park is open year-round, but the best times to visit are from April to May and September to December, when it is less rainy.

Surrounding Area: The SAVA region of northeastern Madagascar hosts a number of other beautiful and biologically-interesting areas, including Masoala National Park, Nosy Mangabe and Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserves, and a number of excellent private reserves.

Further Information: For more in-depth information and photos, please visit the marojejy.com website or email info@marojejy.com.

The Reptiles and Amphibians of Marojejy



Boophis sp.

photo: Éric Mathieu



**Marojejy National Park
Madagascar**

November 2023



Reptilia (84 species)

Chamaeleonidae (Brookesiinae)

Brookesia betschi
Brookesia griveaudi
Brookesia karchei * †
Brookesia minima †
Brookesia vadoni †
Palleon lolontany

Chamaeleonidae (Chamaeleoninae)

Calumma boettgeri
Calumma cucullatum †
Calumma guillaumeti
Calumma jeju * †
Calumma malthe
Calumma marojejense
Calumma nasutum
Calumma peyeri †
Furcifer pardalis
Furcifer timoni *
Furcifer willsii

Gekkonidae

Blaesodactylus antongilensis
Ebenavia inunguis
Geckolepis maculata
Lygodactylus bivittis †
Lygodactylus miops
Paroedura gracilis
Phelsuma dorsivittata
Phelsuma grandis
Phelsuma guttata
Phelsuma laticauda
Phelsuma masohoala †
Phelsuma pusilla
Phelsuma quadriocellata
Uroplatus alluaudi
Uroplatus giganteus †
Uroplatus lineatus
Uroplatus sp. 1
Uroplatus sp. 2 †
Uroplatus sikorae

Gerrhosauridae

Zonosaurus madagascariensis
Zonosaurus rufipes
Zonosaurus subunicolor †

Scincidae (Scincinae)

Amphiglossus astrolabi
Brachyseps frontoparietalis
Brachyseps macrocerus

Brachyseps punctatus
Brachyseps spilostichus *
Flexiseps crenni
Flexiseps mandokava †
Flexiseps melanurus
Flexiseps ornateps
Madascincus minutus
Madascincus mouroundavae
Madascincus nanus †
Madascincus stumpffi
Paracontias hildebrandti
Paracontias holomelas
Pseudoacantias angelorum * †

Scincidae (Mabuyinae)

Trachylepis gravenhorstii

Sanziniidae

Sanzinia madagascariensis

Pseudoxyrhophidae

Alluaudina bellyi
Compsophis boulengeri
Compsophis infralineatus
Compsophis laphystius
Compsophis vinckei †
Dromicodryas quadrilineatus
Elapotinus picteti
Ithycyphus blanci
Ithycyphus perineti
Leioheterodon madagascariensis
Liophidium rhodogaster
Liophidium torquatum
Liopholidophis doliocercus
Liopholidophis grandidieri †
Liopholidophis oligolepis *
Liopholidophis rhadinaea
Lycodryas gaimardi
Lycodryas granuliceps
Pararhadinaea melanogaster †
Parastenophis betsileanus
Phisalixella arctifasciata
Pseudoxyrhopus heterurus
Pseudoxyrhopus microps
Pseudoxyrhopus tritaeniatus
Thamnosophis epistibes
Thamnosophis stumpffi †

Typhlopidae (Madatyphlopinae)

Madatyphlops ocularis

Amphibia (74 species)

Mantellidae (Boophinae)

Boophis (*Boophis*) *Ca 28*
Boophis (*Boophis*) *albilabris*
Boophis (*Boophis*) *anjanaharibeensis* †
Boophis (*Boophis*) *axelmeyeri*
Boophis (*Boophis*) *englaenderi* * †
Boophis (*Boophis*) *entingae*
Boophis (*Boophis*) *madagascariensis*
Boophis (*Boophis*) *marojejensis*
Boophis (*Boophis*) *roseipalmatus*
Boophis (*Boophis*) *septentrionalis*
Boophis (*Boophis*) *ulfunni* * †
Boophis (*Boophis*) *vittatus* †
Boophis (*Sahona*) *tephraeomystax*

Mantellidae (Laliostominae)

Aglyptodactylus inguinalis

Mantellidae (Mantellinae)

Blommersia grandisonae
Gephyromantis (*Asperomantis*) *ambohitra* †
Gephyromantis (*Asperomantis*) *tahotra* †
Gephyromantis (*Duboisimantis*) *granulatus*
Gephyromantis (*Duboisimantis*) *leucomaculatus*
Gephyromantis (*Duboisimantis*) *luteus*
Gephyromantis (*Duboisimantis*) *moseri*
Gephyromantis (*Duboisimantis*) *redimitus*
Gephyromantis (*Duboisimantis*) *schilfi* * †
Gephyromantis (*Duboisimantis*) *tandroka* * †
Gephyromantis (*Duboisimantis*) *tohatra* *
Gephyromantis (*Laurentomantis* *incert.*) *klemmeri* †
Gephyromantis (*Laurentomantis*) *ranjomavo* * †
Gephyromantis (*Laurentomantis*) *striatus* †
Gephyromantis (*Phylacomantis*) *pseudoasper*
Gephyromantis (*Vatomantis*) *lomorina* * †
Gephyromantis (*Vatomantis*) *rivicola* †
Guibemantis (*Pandanusicola*) *Ca 15*
Guibemantis (*Pandanusicola*) *liber*
Guibemantis (*Pandanusicola*) *milingilingy*
Guibemantis (*Pandanusicola*) *pulcher*
Mantella laevigata

Mantella manery †
Mantella nigricans
Mantidactylus (*Brygoomantis*) *Ca 16*
Mantidactylus (*Brygoomantis*) *bellyi*
Mantidactylus (*Brygoomantis*) *betsileanus*
Mantidactylus (*Chonomantis*) *charlotteae*
Mantidactylus (*Chonomantis*) *melanopleura*
Mantidactylus (*Chonomantis*) *opiparis*
Mantidactylus (*Hylobatrachus*) *Ca 52*
Mantidactylus (*Mantidactylus*) *guttulatus*
Mantidactylus (*Ochthomantis*) *Ca 43*
Mantidactylus (*Ochthomantis*) *Ca 62*
Mantidactylus (*Ochthomantis*) *femoralis*
Spinomantis aglavei
Spinomantis peraccae
Spinomantis tavaratra †

Microhylidae (Cophylinae)

Cophyla occultans †

Microhylidae

Platypelis barbouri
Platypelis grandis
Platypelis ravus * †
Platypelis tsaratananaensis †
Platypelis tuberifera
Plethodontohyla guentheri * †
Plethodontohyla notosticta
Plethodontohyla ocellata
Rhombophryne botabota †
Rhombophryne coudreaui
Rhombophryne minuta †
Rhombophryne nilevina
Rhombophryne savaka †
Rhombophryne serratopalpebrosa * †
Rhombophryne vaventy * †
Stumpffia Ca 7
Stumpffia achillei *
Stumpffia diutissima *
Stumpffia grandis
Stumpffia roseifemoralis * †
Stumpffia tridactyla

References:

- Goodman, S.M. (ed.). 2022. *The New Natural History of Madagascar*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
 Goodman, S.M., Raherilalao, M.J. & Wohlhauser, S. (eds.). 2020. *The terrestrial protected areas of Madagascar: Their history, description, and biota*. Association Vahatra, Antananarivo.