



UGANDA 2021

Participants- Tania Fabrega and Carlos Bocos

Uganda has been on my radar for a long time and this year, regarding the circumstances and specially after read Tomer's trip report, Tania and myself decided to book a trip using the same ground agent, Harrier Tours. We were basically following Tomer's footprints although we had less freedom to roam around, due some very last-minute regulations like selective lockdowns, curfews, some issues by the DRC border and many more. Nevertheless, we had a great time and was great to be away again, after all the covid madness that we all have suffered from months to end. This was not an exclusively mammalwatching trip because we also targeted a number of selected birds, had a lot of fun herping around and few nights with more booze than the one i can remember 😊

As we basically visited the same places than Tomer and Alex did, I don't describe the places visited. But here there is a commented list of the observed species

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat (*Eidolon helvum*)- few of them feeding on a fruiting tree, near the Female Hotsprings, Semliki



Hammer-headed Fruit Bat (*Hypsignathus monstrosus*)- few in flight all too brief in Semliki and then awesome views of this great bats at Bigodi, Kibale.



Hammer-headed Fruit Bat and Franquet's Fruit Bat

Franquet's Fruit Bat (*Epomops franqueti*)- regarding the difficulties to separate *Epomops* from *Epomophorus*, the only certain ones we saw were at Semliki, where the CDC guys were mistnetting bats and studying them in hand.

Angolan Rousette (*Lissonycteris angolensis*)- First ones recorded at Kibale Primate lodge, then more at Buhoma and Ruhija.



Angolan Rousette and Little Collared Fruit Bat

Little Collared Fruit Bat (*Myonycteris torquata*)- Just one at Semliki, found night roosting on a branch

Egyptian Rousette (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*)- loads of them at Maramabambo Cave, Queen Elizabeth NP.



Large-eared Slit Faced Bat (*Nycteris CF macrotis*)- One pair night roosting inside an abandoned house near Kibale. Regarding the size, the ears and the species available, only *N. macrotis*, *N. thebaica* and *N. arge* could be real candidates. *N. arge* is pretty much excluded attending at the habitat and looking at the broad, massive head, *N. macrotis* looks right.



Nycteris CF macrotis and Nycteris CF aurita

Andersen's Slit-faced Bat (*Nycteris CF aurita*)- 3 + 4 individuals were roosting inside hollow trees on Semliki, around the old army barracks, along the Kirumia trail. *Nycteris* are always tricky to identify but regarding the available options in the area, their small size, the shape of the tragus and the habitat, *aurita* seems the correct species

Egyptian Slit-faced Bat (*Nycteris CF thebaica*)- some of them roosting inside a small chamber near The Rock, Lake Mburo.



Noack's Leafnosed Bat (*Hipposideros CF ruber*)- Bats showing right size, two lateral leaflets and right shape of tragus were roosting by hundreds inside the Pakuba ruins. Since the *ruber-caffer* complex is a mess, it's safe to place them as *CF ruber*



Hipposideros CF caffer and Hipposideros CF ruber

Sundevall's Leafnosed Bat (*Hipposideros CF caffer*)- Bats showing the right size, two lateral leaflets and the right shape of tragus were commonly found night roosting inside pipe drainages near Pakuba. Since the ruber-caffer complex is a taxonomic mess, it's sure to place them as CF caffer

Benito's Leafnosed Bat (*Hipposideros CF benito*)- we found this monogamous species just once. A single individual was roosting inside an abandoned hut along the Kirumia trail.



Doryrhina-Hipposideros sp - hundreds roosting at the Jacana Lodge, Maramabambo sector of the Queen Elizabeth NP. They resemble *H. beatus* but since that species is

monogamous and never been recorded in such numbers (Always found roosting solitarily, in pairs or with its offspring), better let it go as genus level



Hildebrant's | Eloquent Horseshoe Bats- *Rhinolophus hildebrandii-eloquens* group- We had one encounter with these amazing bats. One was dayroosting inside an abandoned building in Kibale, next to the rangers headquarters.



R. hildebrandtii-eloquens group (Kibale)

Ruwenzori Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus Rwenzori*)- a group of 7 was seen in a small sinkhole near Ruhija then two more inside an abandoned wolfram mine, also near Ruhija



Geoffroy's Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus CF clivusus keiensis*)- around 13 of them found inside an abandoned Wolfram mine near Ruhija were probably the indicated species



Mauritian Tomb bat (*Taphozous mauritus*)- commonly found roosting on shady walls of huts, houses and barracks. First ones at Murchinson Falls



Angolan Free-tailed Bat (*Mops CF condylurus*)- small maternity colony at the Pakuba airstrip, Murchinson Falls. Identification uncertain although few characters indicate *M.condylurus*



Angolan Free-tailed Bat and Dwarf Free-tailed Bat

Dwarf Free-tailed Bat (*Mops CF nanulus*)- several night roosting at Pakuba Lodge reception building. Identification uncertain

Free-tailed Bat sp- dozens roosting inside abandoned buildings inside Queen Elizabeth NP. Any comments about its ID are welcome!!!



Lappet-eared Free-tailed Bat(*Chaerophon CF major*)- Around 20 of these big Molossids were roosting at the entrance of the Ishasa sector of the Queen Elizabeth NP



White-winged Serotine (*Neoromicia tenuipinnis*)- several of these beautiful bats were well seen in the spotlight, at Semliki, sometimes within touching distance.

Rufous Mouse-eared Bat (*Myotis bocagei*)- distinctive orange bat that we saw very well at Semliki, trawling above the water and flying along forest trails, sometimes within touching distance.

Yellow-winged Bat (*Lavia Frons*)- Common on Murchinson Falls, scattered sights elsewhere



Northeast Africa Root Rat (*Tachyoryctes splendens*) - one was observed at Buhoma, on cultivations.



Tropical Vlei Rat (*Otomys tropicalis*): 1-2 individuals seen well at Ride4women, Buhoma, hanging around the gardens.



Ansorge's Brush-furred Rat (*Lophuromys ansorgei*)- a few were hanging around the Ride4women lodge



Albertine Rift Brush-furred Rat (*Lophuromys laticeps*)- only one at the gardens of the Trekkers Tavern Lodge, on Ruhija



Woosnam's Brush-furred Rat (*Lophuromys woosnani*)- only one along the trail to the Mubwindi Swamp, at daytime.



Link Rat (*Deomys ferrugineus*)- one seen at Semliki, around the Female Hotsprings, but all too brief to photograph it.

Rudd's Bristle-furred Rat (*Uranomys ruddi*)- One seen very well on Kibale

Northern Savannah Gerbil (*Gerbiliscus kempii*) - fairly common at Murchinson Falls NP, during the night drives



Savanah Gerbil (*Gerbilliscus validus*) - fairly common on Murchinson



Moonshine shrew (*Crocidura luna*)- many caught on the gardens of the Kibale Forest Lodge.



Dark Shrew (*Crocidura maurisca*)- several caught on the gardens of the Ride4women Lodge



Johnstone's Forest Shrew (*Sylvisorex CF johnstoni*)- One small, very pale shrew was observed during the gorillas tracking, at Buhoma.

Rock Hyrax (*Procavia capensis*)- Seen at Lake Mburo

African Bush Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*)- Common on Murchinson Falls NP, seen at night at Kibale and Queen Elizabeth NP, tracks were seen elsewhere.

Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*)- Seen at Night at Kibale

Eastern Potto (*Perodicticus ibeanus*)- one pair at Bigodi Swamp gave prolonged views and one skittish individual gave just a brief view near Ruhija.



Dusky Galago (*Galago matschiei*)- fairly common in Kibale and Ruhija, lovely animals!



Demidoff's Prince Galago (*Galagoides demidovii*)- Seen on Kibale and Ruhija. Tricky beasts to photograph!



Thomas's Galago (*Galagoides thomasi*)- Seen on Ruhija, at night



Patas Monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*)- common on Murchinson Falls

Vervet Monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*)- common at Lake Mburo, scattered anywhere else near Entebbe

Tantalus Monkey (*Chlorocebus tantalus*)- Some at Queen Elizabeth NP

Red-tailed Monkey (*Cercopithecus Ascanius*)- first ones seen at Semliki, after that seen in Kibale, Buhoma and Ruhija

L'hoest Monkey (*Cercopithecus lhoesti*)- Seen on Kibale, Buhoma and Ruhija

Blue Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis*)- first ones on Semliki

De Brazza's Monkey (*Cercopithecus neglectus*)- Few spotted at Semliki, most of them around the Female Hotsprings but also seen along the Kirumia trail



Dent's Monkey (*Cercopithecus denti*)- few of them seen along the Kirumia trail, Semliki.

Uganda Crested Mangabey (*Lophocebus ugandae*)- Seen on Semliki and Kibale

Olive Baboon (*Papio Anubis*)- widespread

Mantled Guereza (*Colobus guereza*)- widespread

Semliki Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus semlikiensis*)- this one took a good effort. Only two individuals spotted at the end of the day, along the Kirumia trail, Semliki.



Ashy Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus tephrosceles*)- only seen at Kibale, where they were extremely tame and confiding on Bigodi.

Eastern Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*)- Magic encounter with these amazing beasts! A truly lifetime experience! We chose Buhoma instead of Ruhija, mainly because the Ruhija Gorillas often are just five minutes away from the main road! The Gorilla tracking was outstanding!



Common Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)- We joined the Chimp tracking at Kibale, great experience!



Crested Pocurpine (*Hystrix cristata*)- at least 3 roaming around our accommodation at Murchinson Falls. Sadly, quite wary.

Striped Ground Squirrel (*Xerus erythropus*)- Several on Lake Mburo

Carruther's Sun Squirrel (*Funisciurus carruthersi*)- only 3 seen in Buhoma.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel (*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*)- widespread

Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel (*Heliosciurus ruwenzorii*)- just two seen near Ruhija.

Boehm's Bush Squirrel (*Paraxerus boemii*)- first seen at Semliki

Alexander's Bush Squirrel (*Paraxerus alexandri*)- first ones seen at Semliki, where they were fairly common. Scattered sights elsewhere

Bunyoro Rabbit (*Poelagus marjorita*)- this specialty was easy to see at Murchinson Falls NP, specially around the Pakuba Safari Lodge



African Savanna Hare (*Lepus microtis*)- Common at Murchinson Falls and few on Lake Mburo

Lion (*Panthera leo*)- Several at Murchinson Falls

Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)- One-two at Murchinson Falls during the night and then one more at Queen Elizabeth NP

Spot-necked Otter (*Hydryctis maculicollis*)- one individual near Entebbe, when we were heading down to the airport, was the very last mammal of the trip!!!



African Civet (*Civettictis civetta*)- one on the run at Pakuba Lodge, Murchinson Falls

Rusty-spotted Genet (*Genetta maculata*)- Several at Night between Budongo Forest and Murchinson

Common Genet (*Genetta genetta*)- seen at night at Budongo Forest

White-tailed Mongoose (*Ichneuma albicauda*)- a bunch of them at Murchinson Falls.

Banded Mongoose (*Mungos mungo*)- several troops at Murchinson Falls and Lake Mburo

Slender Mongoose (*Herpestes sanguineus*)- Several groups at Murchinson Falls

Dwarf Mongoose (*Helogale parvula*)- Very common at Lake Mburo



Spotted Hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*)- Several at Murchinson Falls and one on Queen Elizabeth NP



Side-striped Jackal (*Lupulella adusta*)- singletons on Murchinson Falls and Ruhija

Common Warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*)- widespread



Giant Forest Hog (*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*)- only one at Queen Elizabeth NP, next to our cottage



Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)- widespread

Plains Zebra (*Equus quagga*)- Very common on Lake Mburo

Rothschild's Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)- common at Murchinson Falls

Eland (*Tragelaphus oryx*) - only at Lake Mburo



Jackson's Hartebeest (*Alcephalus buselaphus*)- common at Murchinson Falls

Topi (*Damaliscus lunatus*)- Only at Ishasa and Lake Mburo

Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*)- Common at Murchinson Falls

African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*)- Common on Murchinson Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP

Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*)- several spotted at Murchinson Falls and one at Lake Mburo



Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*)- only at Lake Mburo, where common

Black-fronted Duiker (*Cephalophus nigrifrons*)- one was observed as long as we wanted during the gorilla tracking at Buhoma



Weyn's Duiker (*Cephalophus weynsi*)- one seen well at Ruhija, near the Mwindi Swamp

Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*)- Widespread

Kob (*Kobus kob*)- Very common at Murchinson Falls, fairly common at Queen Elizabeth

