

Observations of terrestrial vertebrates at South Coastal Kenya: a short note

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Abstract. In terms of the biodiversity monitoring and conservation, localities of 9 species of reptiles, 26 species of birds, and 9 species of mammals were reported for the coastal area of Kenya (a stripe of about 20 km between the small river of Congo and the harbour to Chale Island).

Key-words: biodiversity, monitoring, coastal Kenya.

Introduction

In terms of the biodiversity monitoring and conservation I report my observations of the terrestrial vertebrates at the coastal area of Kenya in a stripe of about 20 km between Kongo River (a small river S of Mombasa and N of Diani) and the harbour to Chale Island carried out between 26.02.2022 and 05.03.2022.

Material and Methods

All observations were conducted at the sea level or close to the shore. Most species were photographed and the photos were uploaded to iNaturalist social network. Some species identifications were considered by discussions via the mentioned social network. Also the field guides of Withers & Hosking (1996), Spawls *et al.* (2006) and Stevenson & Fanshawe (2020) were used.

Results and Discussion

Reptilia (Fig. 1)

Agama lionotus Boulenger, 1896: 04.03.2022, 4°15'32.6"S 39°35'42.9"E, grassland among scattered trees, mainly *Adansonia digitata* at Congo River estuary, 2 juv.; 04.03.2022, 4°20'04.2"S 39°34'10.9"E, hotel yard, Diani Beach, 2 juv., 1 ad. ♂.

Cryptoblepharus africanus (Sternfeld, 1918): 28.02.2022, 4°26'17.5"S 39°32'03.7"E, coastal rocks near Chale Island, 1 ad.; 01.03.2022, 4°20'12.4"S 39°34'10.2"E, Diani Beach, on rocks, 1 ad.

Hemidactylus mabouia (Moreau De Jonnés, 1818): 26.02.2022, 4°20'11.9"S 39°34'08.1"E, in a hotel terrace near a lamp, 1 ad.; 03.03.2022, 4°20'10.7"S 39°34'08.0"E, on walls of a hotel, Diani Beach, 3 ad.; 05.03.2022, 4°19'53.1"S 39°34'00.6"E, abandoned building in a coastal forest, near Diani Road, 1 ad.

Hemidactylus platycephalus Peters, 1854: 04.03.2022, 4°20'04.2"S 39°34'10.9"E, hotel yard, on a wall of a building, Diani Beach, 1 ad.

Hemidactylus turcicus (Linnaeus, 1758): 05.03.2022, 4°19'53.1"S 39°34'00.6"E, abandoned building in a coastal forest, near Diani Road, 1 ad.

Lygodactylus mombasicus Loveridge, 1935: 27.02.2022, 4°15'38.7"S 39°35'52.5"E, at the estuary of Congo River, scattered trees and bushes, on *Adansonia digitata*, 1 ad.; 03.03.2022, 4°20'12.1"S 39°34'09.6"E, yard of a hotel, on wooden construction, 1 juv.

Trachylepis maculilabris (Gray, 1845): 26.02.2022, 4°20'12.5"S 39°34'00.5"E, coastal forest, in a resort yard, among leaf litter, 1 ad.; 04.03.2022, 4°20'03.9"S 39°34'05.3"E, coastal forest, in a resort yard, among leaf litter, 1 ad.

Varanus niloticus (Linnaeus, 1766): 26.02.2022, 4°20'14.0"S 39°34'05.2"E, coastal forest, in a resort yard, near water shaft, 1 ad.; 27.02.2022, 4°20'12.2"S 39°34'07.7"E, in a resort yard, in a fishpond, 1 juv.; 03.03.2022, 4°20'09.5"S 39°34'09.0"E, in a resort yard, near a fishpond, 1 juv., all at Diani Beach area.

Serpentes indet. (cf. *Boaedon fuliginosus* (Boie, 1827)): 01.03.2022, 4°20'20.7"S 39°34'06.2"E, bushes and rocks near a coastal forest, Diani Beach, 1 ex.; 04.03.2022, 4°20'01.5"S 39°34'03.5"E, coastal forest, in a resort yard, Diani Beach, 1 ex.

Aves

Andropadus importunus (Vieillot, 1818): 28.02.2022, 4°20'12.5"S 39°34'05.8"E, W of Diani Beach, dry scrubs and scattered trees, 1 ex.

Ardea alba Linnaeus, 1758: 28.02.2022, 4°26'18.3"S 39°31'59.1"E, north of Chale Island, at low tide, 2 ex.

Ardea cinerea Linnaeus, 1758: 28.02.2022, 4°26'18.3"S 39°31'59.1"E, north of Chale Island, at low tide, 1 ex.; 01.03.2022, 4°20'17.2"S 39°34'10.2"E, Diani Beach, 1 ex.

Ardea melanocephala Children & Vigors, 1826: 01.03.2022, 4°22'49.1"S 39°32'37.3"E, in the yard of "Bora Bora" wildlife sanctuary, 1 ex.

Burhinus vermiculatus (Cabanis, 1868): 01.03.2022, 4°22'49.1"S 39°32'37.3"E, in the yard of "Bora Bora" wildlife sanctuary, on a small artificial island in a pond, 3 ex.

Bycanistes brevis (Friedmann, 1929): 26.02.2022, 4°20'08.9"S 39°34'06.3"E; 27.02.2022, 4°20'09.4"S 39°34'06.1"E; 01.03.2022, 4°20'19.7"S 39°34'00.5"E, forested areas near or in a hotel yard, observations of pairs.

Camaroptera brachyura (Vieillot, 1821): 02.03.2022, 4°20'07.5"S 39°34'01.4"E, forest in a hotel yard, 1 ex.

Centropus superciliosus Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1829: 04.03.2022, 4°15'33.4"S 39°35'45.4"E, at the estuary of Congo River, 1 ex.

Ceryle rudis (Linnaeus, 1758): 01.03.2022, 4°22'49.1"S 39°32'37.3"E, in the yard of "Bora Bora" wildlife sanctuary, 1 ex.

Charadrius hiaticula Linnaeus, 1758: 03.03.2022, 4°20'44.8"S 39°33'57.1"E, Diani Beach coastal area, 12 ex.

Ciconia episcopus (Boddaert, 1783): 28.02.2022, 4°26'18.3"S 39°31'59.1"E, north of Chale Island, at low tide, 2 ex.; 01.03.2022, 4°22'49.1"S 39°32'37.3"E, flying above the yard of "Bora Bora" wildlife sanctuary, 1 ex.

Colius striatus (Gmelin, 1789): 04.03.2022, 4°15'33.4"S 39°35'45.4"E, at the estuary of Congo River, 3 ex.

Coracias caudatus Linnaeus, 1766: 03.03.2022, 4°20'49.1"S 39°33'54.1"E, small patch of bushes and trees at Galu Beach, 1 ex.

Corvus splendens Vieillot, 1817: frequently observed in numbers at the area.

Cypsiurus parvus (Licht., 1823): between 28.02-05.03.2022, at Diani Beach, common in the area.

Dicrurus adsimilis (Bechstein, 1794): 03.03.2022, 4°20'49.1"S 39°33'54.1"E, small patch of bushes and trees at Galu Beach, 3 ex.

Egretta garzetta (Linnaeus, 1766): 28.02.2022, 4°26'18.3"S 39°31'59.1"E, north of Chale Island, at low tide, 1 ex.

Gypohierax angolensis (Gmelin, 1788): 28.02.2022, 4°26'18.3"S 39°31'59.1"E, north of Chale Island, at low tide, 5 ex.; 01.03.2022, 4°19'52.4"S 39°34'15.9"E, Diani Beach coastal area, 1 ex.

Haliaeetus vocifer (Daudin, 1800): 28.02.2022, 4°26'18.3"S 39°31'59.1"E, north of Chale Island, at low tide, 1 ex.

Halcyon chelicuti (Smith-Stanley, 1814): 04.03.2022, 4°15'33.4"S 39°35'45.4"E, at the estuary of Congo River, 1 ex.

Motacilla aguimp Temminck, 1820: 01.03.2022, 4°20'12.4"S 39°34'09.8"E, at a pool in a hotel yard, 1 ex.; 03.03.2022, 4°20'16.6"S 39°34'09.5"E, at the sandy beach area, both at Diani Beach coastal area.

Muscicapa striata Pallas, 1764: 01.03.2022, 4°22'49.1"S 39°32'37.3"E, in the yard of "Bora Bora" wildlife sanctuary, 1 ex.

Mycteria ibis (Linnaeus, 1766): 28.02.2022, 4°26'18.3"S 39°31'59.1"E, north of Chale Island, at low tide, 2 ex.

Ortygornis sephaena (Smith, 1836): 04.03.2022, 4°15'37.6"S 39°35'48.6"E, south of the estuary of Congo River, dry grasses and bushes with scattered trees, 1 ex.

Ploceus bojeri (Cabanis, 1869): 01.03.2022, 4°22'49.1"S 39°32'37.3"E, in the yard of "Bora Bora" wildlife sanctuary, a small colony on a tree at a pond.

Pycnonotus barbatus (Desfontaines, 1789): 27.02.2022, 4°19'53.5"S 39°34'00.5"E, coastal forest, 1 ex.; 01.03.2022, 4°22'49.1"S 39°32'37.3"E, in the yard of "Bora Bora" wildlife sanctuary, 1 ex.

Threskiornis aethiopicus (Latham, 1790): 28.02.2022, 4°26'18.3"S 39°31'59.1"E, north of Chale Island, at low tide, 5 ex.

Mammalia

Cercopithecus mitis Wolf, 1822: the following areas were with constant presence of the species: 4°20'11.8"S 39°34'05.1"E, forest in a hotel yard (at least two groups); 4°20'20.0"S 39°34'03.4"E, forest at the coast, between hotels; 4°19'52.4"S 39°34'01.2"E, forest near Diani Road.

Chlorocebus pygerythrus (F. Cuvier, 1821): 27.02.2022, 4°15'38.9"S 39°35'52.4"E, one group on a yard fence and on *Adansonia digitata*, near the estuary of Kongo River.

Colobus angolensis Sclater, 1860: groups observed: 27.02.2022, 04.03.2022, 4°20'10.9"S 39°34'08.4"E, forest in a hotel yard; 27.02.2022, 4°15'36.5"S 39°35'53.6"E, on trees at the beach at the estuary of Congo River.

Heliosciurus undulatus (True, 1892): 01.03.2022, 4°20'20.0"S 39°34'03.4"E, forest at the coast, between hotels, 1 ex.; 02.03.2022, 4°20'12.5"S 39°34'10.0"E, on a tree near a pool in a hotel yard, 1 ex.; 04.03.2022, 4°20'06.3"S 39°34'04.3"E, forest in a hotel yard, 1 ex.

Neotragus moschatus (Von Dueben, 1846): 4°20'07.2"S 39°34'01.5"E, constant presence of a small group in the forest of a hotel yard.

Otolemur garnettii (Ogilby, 1838): 27.02.2022, 4°20'10.4"S 39°34'07.6"E, forest in a hotel yard, 1 ex.

Papio cynocephalus (Linnaeus, 1766): 27.02.2022, 4°19'54.0"S 39°34'00.5"E, forest near Diani Road, 1 large male and 1 female with young; 28.02.2022, 4°26'16.3"S 39°32'08.7"E, at the Chale Harbor, one group; 01.03.2022, 4°19'50.5"S 39°34'17.1"E, Diani, at the beach, one group.

Paraxerus palliatus (Peters, 1852): 27.02.2022, 4°20'13.6"S 39°34'03.6"E, forest in a hotel yard, 1 ex.; 04.03.2022, 4°20'07.9"S 39°34'04.8"E, forest in a hotel yard, 3 ex.

Pteropodidae indet.: a group of unidentified fruit bats was observed on 03.03.2022, 5:50 h, 4°20'11.8"S 39°34'06.7"E, feeding in a forest in a hotel yard.

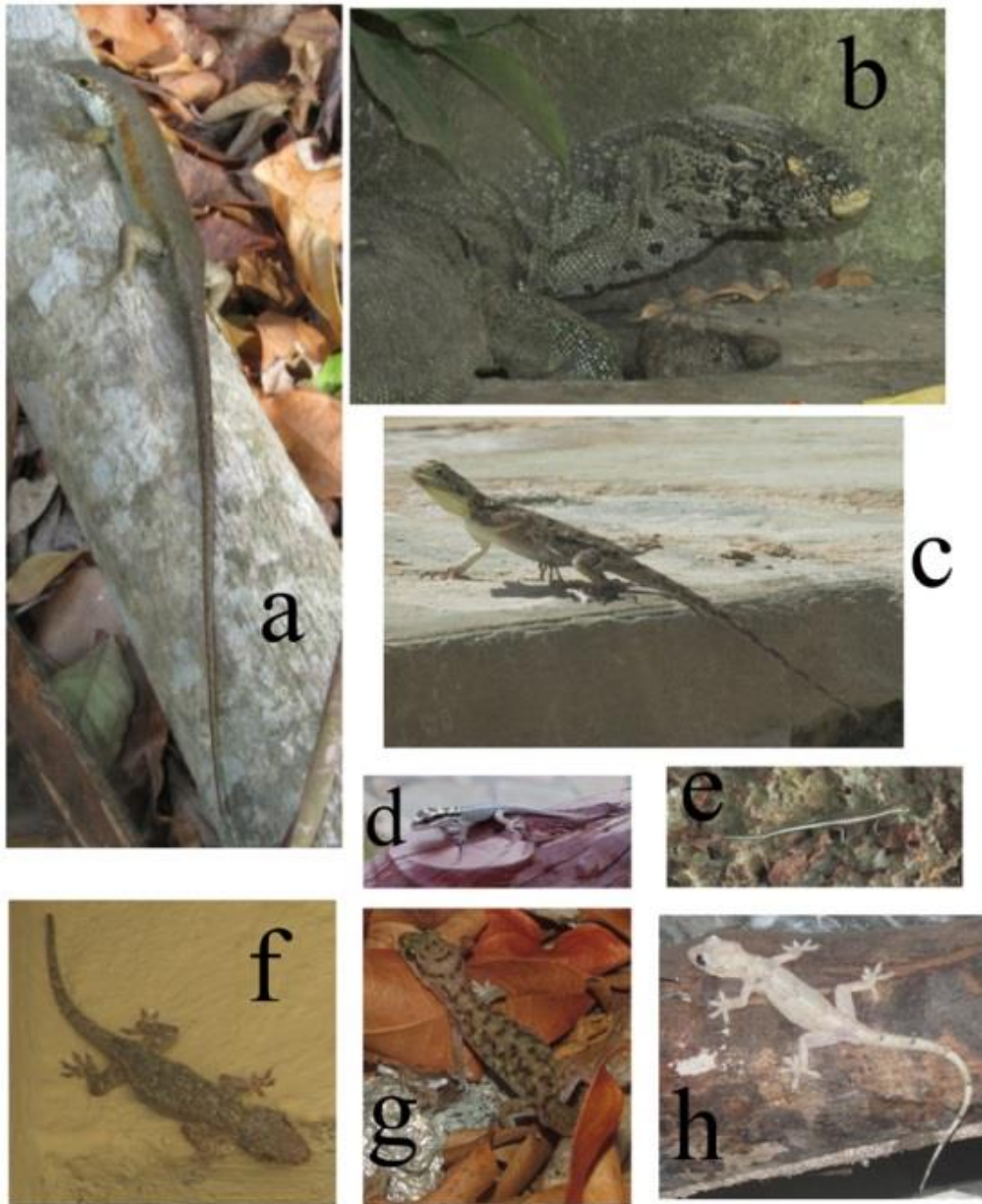


Fig. 1. Reptile species observed: a - *Trachylepis maculilabris*, b - *Varanus niloticus*, c - *Agama lionotus*, d - *Lygodactylus mombasicus*, e - *Cryptoblepharus africanus*, f - *Hemidactylus platycephalus*, g - *H. turcicus*, h - *H. mabouia* (d, photo: Julia Georgieva, all the rest D. Georgiev).

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