

## A short note on vertebrates observed at Michamwi Peninsula, Unguja Island (Tanzania)

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**Abstract.** This case study presents new distribution data on 37 vertebrate species (1 fish, 4 lizards, 1 snake, 3 mammals, and 28 birds). All were registered at the area of North-West coast of Michamwi Peninsula.

**Key words:** fauna, Zanzibar Archipelago, Africa.

In this note I report on some vertebrates recorded at the Michamwi Peninsula, east coast of Unguja Island (Zanzibar) at the Michamwi Peninsula. Even the higher fauna of this island is relatively well studied (Pakenham 1983, 1984; Goldman & Walsh 2002, 2019; Goldman, & Winther-Hansen 2003; Perkin 2004, etc.), every report is considered important and with a conservation value (Goldman & Walsh 2002, 2019; <https://www.inaturalist.org/>). The species (terrestrial species and one amphibious fish) were registered occasionally during a Psocoptera and Mollusca study, between 27.2.2021 and 6.3.2021 at the area of Michamwi village. Some of the vertebrates were just observed, and some were also photographed (Tables 1-2, Figs. 1-3). One camera trap was set for a several nights too. For most of the species GPS coordinates and habitat data was also recorded.

**Table 1.** Species list of the observed fish, reptiles and mammals.

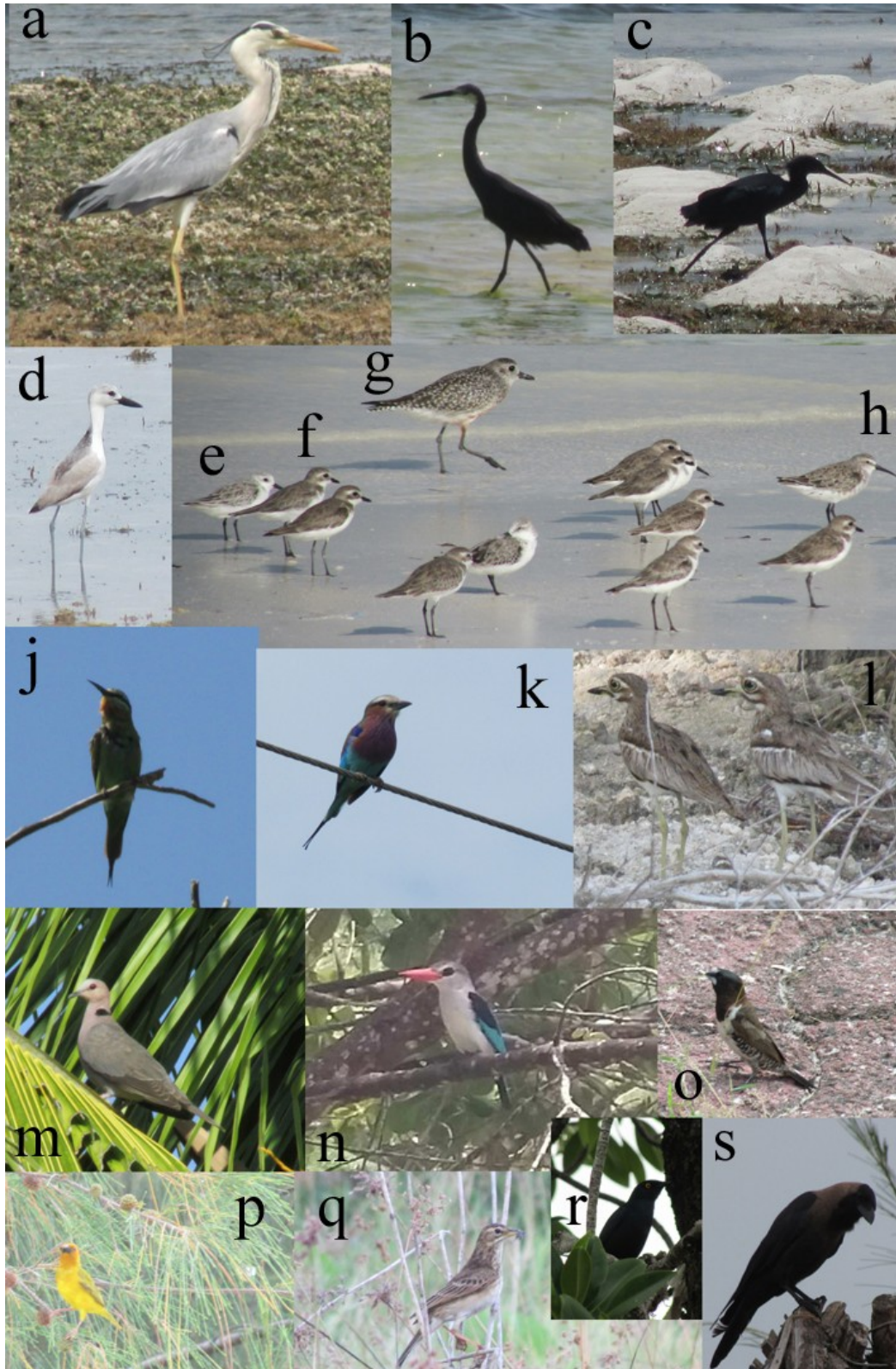
| Species  | Notes  |
|--|--|
| <b>Actinopterygii</b>                                    |  |
| <i>Periophthalmus argentilineatus</i> Valenciennes, 1837 | 28.2.2021, 3 ex. in a mangrove at the mouth of the river south Michamwi Kae Beach, S06 08 45 E39 29 23. Recorded at Chwaka Bay south of this locality by Kruitwagen <i>et al.</i> (2006).                                    |
| <b>Reptilia</b>  |  |
| <i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i> (Moreau De Jonnés, 1818)     | 27.2.2021, 1 ex. at a hotel room terrace, S06 08 23 E39 29 25; 28.2.2021, 1 ex. observed on a concrete wall of a yard, S06 08 24 E39 29 33.  |
| <i>Hemidactylus platycephalus</i> Peters, 1854           | 6.3.2021, 1 ex. in a hotel room, S06 08 23 E39 29 25.  |
| <i>Trachylepis striata</i> (Peters, 1844)                | 28.2.2021, 1 ex. on a concrete wall at the beach, S06 08 32 E39 29 22, and many other observations, common in the area.  |
| <i>Cryptoblepharus africanus</i> (Sternfeld, 1918)       | 2.3.2021, many specimens at a rocky beach, S06 08 32 E39 29 22 .   |
| <i>Psammophis orientalis</i> Broadley, 1977              | 3.3.2021, 1 ex., roadkill, on the road Michamwi - Pingwe, S06 08 41.1 E39 29 56.0.   |
| <b>Mammalia</b>  |  |
| <i>Herpestes sanguineus</i> (Rüppell, 1835)              | 27.2.2021, 1 ex., camera trap near mangrove forest, S06 08 44.3 E39 29 21.2; 1.3.2021, 1 ex., observed on the road Michamwi-Pingwe, S06 08 41.2 E39 29 56.0; 4.3.2021, 1 ex. observed among bushes, S06 08 20.8 E39 29 28.8. |
| <i>Paraxerus palliatus</i> Peters 1852                   | 3.3.2021, 1 ex., on a wall of a hotel, among bushes and trees, S06 08 28.3 E39 29 29.3.  |
| <i>Paragalago zanzibaricus</i> (Matschie, 1893)          | 4.3.2021, 2 ex., observed on a coconut palm and bushes near the tidal zone, during night at 5.45h, S06 07 58.5 E39 29 34.3. According Perkin <i>et al.</i> (2020) it is a new locality of this species.                      |

**Table 2.** Species list of the birds observed.

| Species   | Notes   |
|---|---|
| <i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)                  | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Egretta ardesiaca</i> (Wagler, 1827)                   | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Ardea cinerea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)                     | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Ardea melanocephala</i> Children & Vigors, 1826        | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i> (Cabanis, 1868)              | 27.2.2021, 3 ex., bushes near a mangrove forest, S06 08 44.3 E39 29 21.2; 4.3.2021, 4 ex., sands and bushes, tidal zone, S06 07 58.5 E39 29 34.3. |
| <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)              | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Linnaeus, 1758                | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Charadrius mongolus</i> (Pallas, 1758)                 | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Dromas ardeola</i> Paykull, 1805                       | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)                 | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)                | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Calidris alba</i> (Pallas, 1764)                       | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Calidris minuta</i> (Leisler, 1812)                    | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> (Pontoppidan, 1763)            | 27.2-6.3.2021, at low tide, Michamwi Beach.   |
| <i>Streptopelia capicola</i> (Sundevall, 1857)            | 2.3.2021, 1ex., bushes and trees, S06 08 20.8 E39 29 28.8.  |
| <i>Columba delegorguei</i> (Delegorgue, 1847)             | 27.2.2021, 1ex., mangrove forest, S06 08 45.5 E39 29 22.9; 2.3.2021, 1ex., bushes and trees, S06 08 20.8 E39 29 28.8.                             |
| <i>Centropus superciliosus</i> Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1828 | 3.3.2021, 1 ex., among bushes and trees, S06 08 28.3 E39 29 29.3.   |
| <i>Halcyon senegaloides</i> Smith, 1834                   | 2.3.2021, 1 ex., on a tree in a hotel yard, S06 08 24.7 E39 29 29.0.  |
| <i>Merops persicus</i> Pallas, 1773                       | 2.3.2021, 5 ex., bushes, tidal zone, S06 07 39.4 E39 29 28.2.   |
| <i>Coracias caudatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)                 | 1.3.2021, 1 ex., on a wire, near the road Michamwi-Pingwe, S06 08 41.2 E39 29 56.0.   |
| <i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i> Rüppell, 1840                   | 27.2.2021, 1 ex., bushes near mangrove forest, S06 08 44.3 E39 29 21.2.   |
| <i>Muscicapa striata</i> (Pallas, 1764)                   | 6.3.2021, 1 ex., among trees of a hotel yard, S06 08 23.3 E39 29 25.1.  |
| Nectariniidae sp.   | 28.2.2021, 1 ex., on a pine tree in a hotel yard, S06 08 23.3 E39 29 25.1.  |
| <i>Spermestes cucullata</i> (Swainson, 1837)              | 1.3.2021, 1 ex., on a pathway in a hotel yard, S06 08 24.8 E39 29 27.0.   |
| <i>Ploceus subaureus</i> (Smith, 1839)                    | 28.2.2021, a small colony on a coconut palm, in a hotel yard, S06 08 30.5 E39 29 23.5.  |
| <i>Passer domesticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)                 | 28.2.2021, 1 ex., bushes near a mangrove forest, S06 08 44.3 E39 29 21.2; 1.3.2021 many ex., in a hotel yard, S06 08 24.8 E39 29 27.0.            |
| <i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i> Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1828 | 28.2-6.3.2021, 1 ex., in a hotel yard, S06 08 24.8 E39 29 27.0; 28.2.2021, 1 ex., bushes near a mangrove forest, S06 08 44.3 E39 29 21.2.         |
| <i>Corvus splendens</i> (Vieillot, 1817)                  | 28.2-6.3.2021, many specimens observed in the whole area.   |

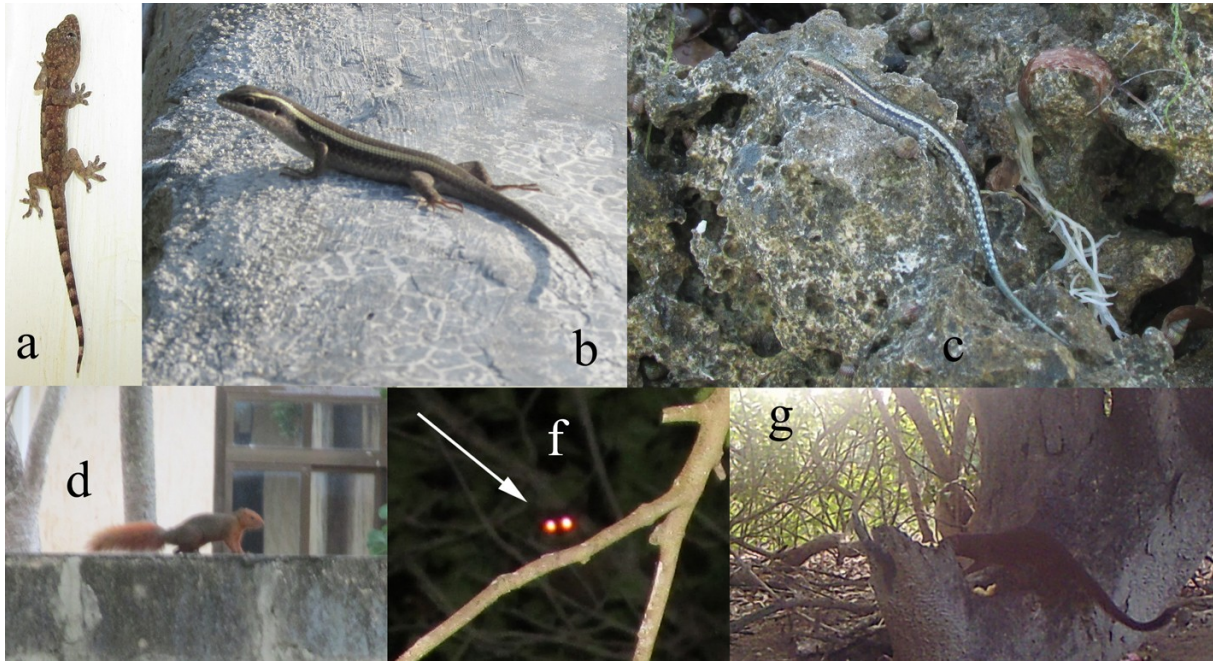


**Fig. 1.** *Periophthalmus argentilineatus* at the mangrove forest, S of Michamwi Beach. Photograph: D. Georgiev.



**Fig. 2.** Photographs of some of the bird species: a - *Ardea cinerea*, b - *A. melanocephala*, c - *Egretta ardesiaca*, d - *Dromas ardeola*, e - *Calidris alba*, f - *C. minuta*, g - *Pluvialis squatarola*, h - *C. ferruginea*, j - *Merops persicus*, k - *Coracias caudatus*, l - *Burhinus vermiculatus*, m - *Streptopelia capicola*, n - *Halcyon senegaloides*, o - *Spermestes cucullata*, p - *Ploceus subaureus*, q - *Anthus cinnamomeus*, r - *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*, s - *Corvus splendens*. Photographs: D. Georgiev (a-m; o-s), V. Ivanova (n).





**Fig. 3.** Some reptiles and mammals recorded: a - *Hemidactylus platycephalus*, b - *Trachylepis striata*, c - *Cryptoblepharus africanus*, d - *Paraxerus palliatus*, e - *Paraxerus palliatus*, f - *Paragalago zanzibaricus*, g - *Herpestes sanguineus* (camera trap photograph). Photographs: D. Georgiev.

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