CONGO NETWORK

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Biodiversity of Cercopithecidae primates of the Congo basin : taxonomic status and Ecology of conservation

BY

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Problematic

Cercopithecidae of the Congo basin

Biodiversity assessment

Possible two levels of perception

1) Endemic species, principaly semi- terrestrials, monotypic

2) Important variety (> 40 sub-species) among arboreal species.

Polytypics taxons with a large distribution.

Loss and maintaining of biodiversity

1) Bush meat and anthropogenic pressure

2) Conservation ecology

Biodiversity assessment : taxonomic status

1) The 4 endemic species

Left bank of Congo Riv.

- **Semi terrestrials, monotypic**
- **Restricted distribution area**
- **Specific type of habitat**
- **Extinction risk (UICN)**
- **Few or no ecological data**
- **Taxonomic status revision:** case of du *C. dryas et C. h. kahuziensis.*

Right bank of Congo Riv.

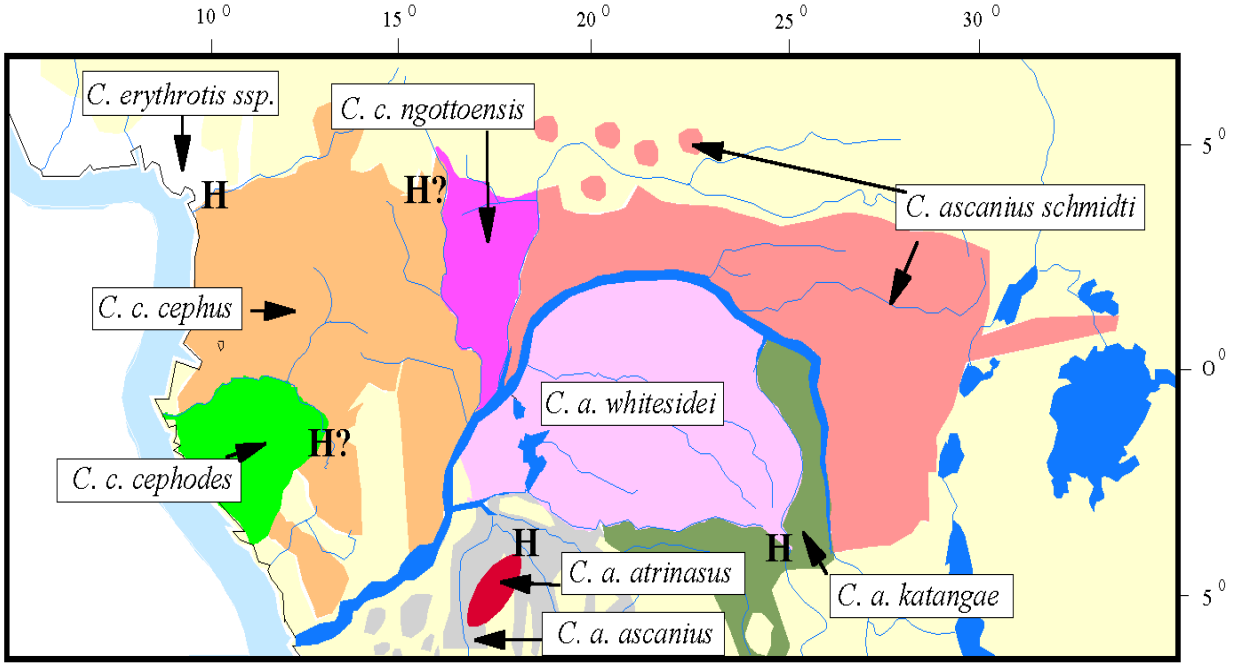
Biodiversity assessment : taxonomic status

2) subspecific variety

Arboreal species, polytypic

Spectacular diversity (>40 subspecies described for the Congo basin)

Important distribution area



Biodiversity assessment: Taxonomic status

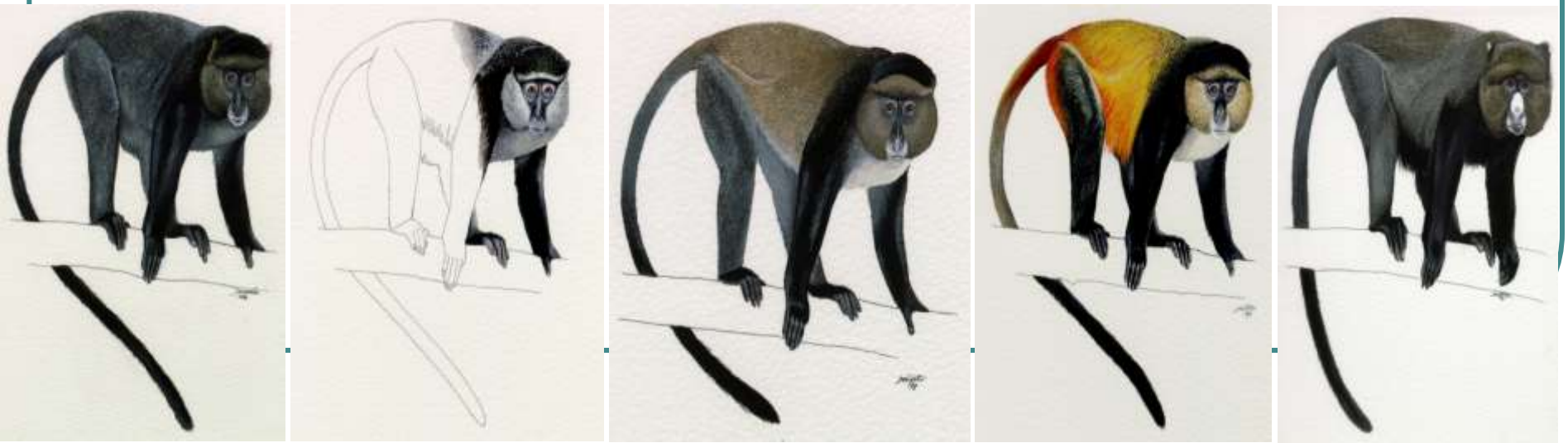
2) The polytypic species

taxonomic descriptions based on external morphological characteristics (phenetics)

What is the importance of these taxons in terms of biodiversity ?

Low Forest

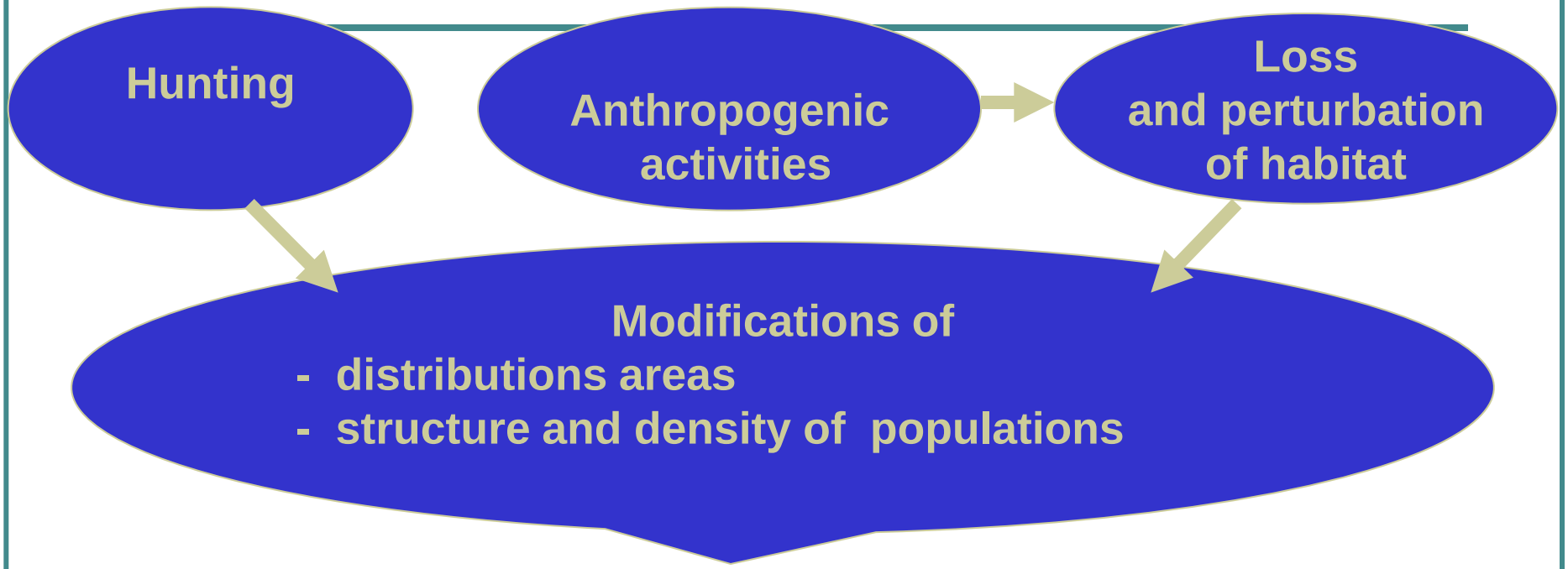
Transition and mountain forest



Loss and maintaining of biodiversity

(4 key endemic species)

Bush meat and anthropogenic pressure



Conduct taxonomic and ecological research simultaneously to value the importance and actualize the conservation status of the species.

Objectifs

Global objectif

Knowledge and valorisation of Congo basin Primates biodiversity

Specific objectifs

1° - Biodiversity evaluation

- To test the variability (phenetic & genetic) among the polytypic complex taxa *cephus/ascanius and C.mitis*
- Revise the taxonomic status of *C. dryas and C.h. Kahuziensis*

2° Loss and maintaining of biodiversity

- Assess the conservation status (4 endemic species)

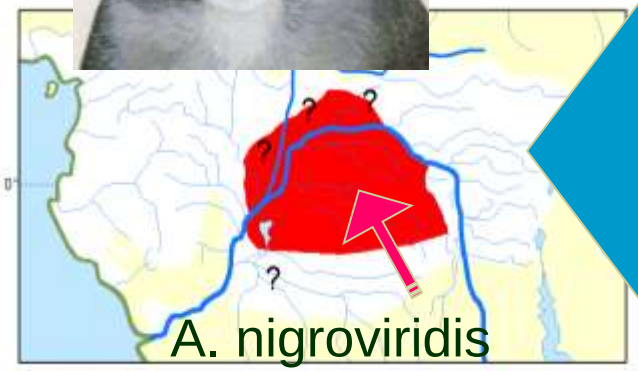
3° Recommandations

- Reports and publication of the results

Two research sites

right bank of the Congo, River in KBNP

C. hamlyni, C. lhoesti sympatics



left bank of the Congo near Wamba,

C. dryas and *A. nigroviridis* presence is confirmed

Methodology

1) Taxonomic status

- confirm the presence of rest populations
- improve the knowledge of the distribution area
- define the status of *C.dryas*
- analyse the polymorphism (external morphological characteristics and genetics)
- find again the cryptics species
- phylogeny

Methodology

2) Loss and maintaining of biodiversity

The 4 endemic species

density and structure (population level)

relative abundance (population level)

posters for hunters and peasants

Surveys of bush meat on markets

Expected results

Taxonomy

- **Evaluation of Cercopithecidae biodiversity**
- **New data for the cryptic species**
- **Evaluation of the genetic diversity of the subspecies**

Ecology of conservation

- **Analysis of the present status of endemic species:** density, structure and relative abundance
- **Consequences of hunting, anthropogenic activities**

Tools and communication

- **Availability of an actualized data bank**
- **Reports and scientific publications**


Thank you for your attention

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