

CONGO NETWORK

Workshop Kisangani
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CSB-UNIKIS

The importance of biological collections

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- **Biological collections: a prerequisite for Biodiversity research**

Taxonomy is based on 'types'

Reliable species identifications (and the discovery of undescribed species) are based on reliably identified reference specimens

Questions on ecosystem function are best addressed by information rich specimen collections

- **Biological collections: of little or no use when**

They are unavailable, inaccessible, poorly documented, damaged, and NOT available via the internet.

GBIF (The Global Biodiversity Information Facility: data portal for biodiversity data (<http://www.gbif.net/>) since 2004

Provides rapid access to distributed biodiversity data resources from all over the world.



Search

Search for name: haplochromis gracilior Submit Country/Territory: All countries

Selecting a country limits results to those taxa which specimen/observation records show have been identified from the country concerned.

- Search by scientific name (any rank) Find names starting with search string (minimum 3 characters)
Search by common name in any language Find names containing search string (minimum 3 characters)
Search by English name Find exact matches

Names matching search string: "haplochromis gracilior%"

Table with 3 columns: Species, Haplochromis gracilior Boulenger, 1914, Animalia

African Rodentia



[Home](#) [Taxa](#) [Search](#) [About](#)

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Welcome to African Rodentia website

African rats and mice adversely affect the lives of millions of Africans. These small mammals not only destroy crops, but also damage stored foods and several species are known reservoirs and vectors for several human diseases. ([more](#))



The extensive African Rodentia specimen and tissue collections of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the University of Antwerp (UA) provide taxonomical, ecological, geographical and genetic information, as well as measurements and data on parasitic and viral infections. The scientific importance of these collections is that – although numerous

African rats and mice have been described over the last 150 years – many species descriptions are based on very few specimens. The aim of this project and website is to make our collections accessible to a wider public. While working on the different databases we decided to include not only the Muridae, but the other African rodent families as well.

The website provides an advanced search function, which allows you to access all the information we have about every [specimen](#), [family](#), [genus](#) and [species](#) in our database. For most of the species, detailed information such as photos, original species descriptions and literature is available as well.

All the specimen information can be exported, but you'll have to register to access this functionality. This collection is also provided to [GBIF](#), which you can access [here](#).

For more information, [contact us](#).

Statistics

Some statistics on the data of the database

specimens	: 113858
families	: 19
genera	: 98
species	: 345
measurements	: 1009864
sequences	: 1438
photos	: 917
localities	: 4386
last update	: 16/06/2008

See this collection in [GBIF](#).



Taxonomy

Bookmark this page

The form updates itself automatically. Click [here](#) to reinitialize it.

Family -- ALL --

Genus -- ALL --

Species -- ALL --

Distribution & Ecology

Country ALL

Locality ALL

Gender ALL Habitat ALL

Altitude from: till:

Latitude from: till:

Longitude from: till:



Specimen information

Collector

Country
ALL

Locality
ALL

Gender Habitat
ALL ALL

Altitude
from: till:

Latitude
from: till:

Longitude
from: till:



Specimen information

Collector
ALL

Determinator
ALL

Date collected
ALL till: ALL

Determination accuracy
ALL

Basis of record
 Preserved Observation Ghost

Extra (check to apply a filter)

<input type="checkbox"/> Type specimen available	<input type="checkbox"/> Sequenced
<input type="checkbox"/> Picture available	<input type="checkbox"/> Tissue sample taken
<input type="checkbox"/> Skull measurements available	<input type="checkbox"/> "PA" tested on parasites
<input type="checkbox"/> Other measurements available	<input type="checkbox"/> "VI" tested on viruses
<input type="checkbox"/> Information on sexual condition available	<input type="checkbox"/> "CH" karyotyped specimen

Search

1 taxa found

Family	Name	Total
Muridae	<i>Lophuromys dudui</i>	1185
		1185

Specimens

- Show specimens table (1185 specimens)
- Show specimens map (1137 specimens)

The map can take some time to load, especially with a high number of specimens. For performance reasons it is possible that all items are not displayed, they will be shown if you zoom in.



Latitude: 7.652927311272736 | Longitude: -30.146484375

Number of specimens found at this place

- 0 - 10
- 10 - 50
- 50 - 100
- 100+

Click the icons on the map for more detail.

- **Online databases allow strategic planning**

Allow to detect gaps in knowledge

Allows efficient use of resources implies planning and international collaborations



Presentation of Dries LAUWERS