

~~runs from just north of the Manampatrana River south to the Mananara River (Petter and Petter-Rousseaux 1979; Tattersall 1982; Irwin *et al.* 2005). The hybrid zone with *E. f. rufus* is centered on the headwaters region of the Manampatrana River in Andringitra National Park, extending south to the vicinity of Karianga and north to near Ankarimbelo (Irwin *et al.* 2005; S. Johnson unpublished data), and encompassing an area of up to 50% of the range of “pure” *E. albocollaris*. Two isolated populations also occur in the coastal fragments of Manombo Special Reserve and Mahabo Forest near Farafangana. Recent analyses combining ground surveys and Landsat imagery indicate that the total habitat remaining within this species’ range is approximately 700 km², with an estimated remaining population of 7,265 ± 2,268 individuals (Irwin *et al.* 2005). Information regarding the natural history of this lemur comes largely from recent studies conducted at Vevembe Forest, with new long-term studies underway at Manombo and Mahabo.~~

~~The white-collared lemur has a largely frugivorous diet, supplemented with flowers, leaves, and fungi; *Pandanus* spp. flowers are an especially important food late in the dry season (Johnson 2002). The species is cathemeral (active both day and night) throughout the year. Social groups tend to be multi-male/multi-female and regularly exhibit fission-fusion. Selective logging, hunting and the conversion of its habitat to agricultural land are the greatest threats to the survival of the white-collared lemur. It is found in only two protected areas, the Andringitra National Park and Manombo Special Reserve, but the Andringitra population appears to be largely composed of hybrids (CBSG 2002; Wyner *et al.* 2002). Recent research has identified populations in unprotected forests (Vevembe, for example) that could be added to existing parks and reserves (Johnson and Overdorff 1999). The Missouri Botanical Garden is also presently active in managing and upgrading the protected status of the littoral forest of Mahabo. It should be noted that a possible third *Eulemur* species, *E. cinereiceps*, has been suggested to occur within or near the coastal portion of the range of *E. albocollaris* based on variant museum specimens and captive individuals (Groves 2001; Mittermeier *et al.* 2006). However, the weight of current evidence suggests this taxon is either synonymous with *E. albocollaris* or extinct. All surveyed remaining habitats appear to contain either *E. albocollaris* (Manombo and Mahabo, south of Farafangana) or are too small and/or disturbed to support *Eulemur* (for example, Analalava and Sakanany, north of Farafangana); however, exhaustive ground surveys and genetic sampling should be conducted in the region to confirm these findings.~~

~~Steig Johnson & William R. Konstant~~

Silky Sifaka

Propithecus candidus Grandidier, 1871

Madagascar

(2000, 2002, 2004, 2006)

Propithecus candidus is a large, white, rainforest sifaka found only within a small section of northeastern Madagascar. Surveys for these highly social diurnal indriids suggest that they are patchily distributed and occur at low densities within

just a few protected areas: Marojejy National Park, Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve, and (very rarely) the Anjanaharibe and Manandriana portions of Makira Protected Area north of the Antainambalana River. They have been observed primarily in undisturbed forest (except for the Betaolana Corridor) between 700 m and 1,875 m above sea level (Tattersall 1982; Duckworth *et al.* 1995; Schmid and Smolker 1998; Sterling and McFadden 2000; Goodman *et al.* 2003; Rakotonratsimba *et al.* 2007). The behavior and ecology of this species is known mainly from a short study (Kelley and Mayor 2002) and a 14.5-month study at Marojejy National Park (Patel *et al.* 2005; Patel 2005, 2006, 2007, submitted).

The silky sifaka’s diet is highly folivorous, including mature and young leaves. They also eat fruit, flowers, seeds, bark, soil, and roots. Silky sifakas are the flagship species of a newly proposed World Heritage Site (Marojejy National Park) and are the species that most tourists come to view. Their social structure appears variable (pair-living and polygynandrous), with group sizes ranging from 2 to 9 individuals. Home ranges can exceed 40 ha (Patel 2006). They inhabit several types of elevation-specific habitats including primary montane rainforest, sclerophyllous forest, and even low ericoid bush at their highest elevations (Goodman 2000). Their primary conservation threat appears to be hunting (Patel *et al.* 2005). Habitat disturbance, such as slash-and-burn agriculture (“tavy”), logging of precious woods (for example, rosewood) and fuel-wood, also occurs within and adjacent to the protected areas where they are found (Patel submitted). The remaining population may be as low as a few hundred individuals and is unlikely to be larger than a few thousand (Mittermeier *et al.* 2006).

Erik R. Patel, David Meyers & Frank Hawkins

Sahamalaza Sportive Lemur

Lepilemur sahamalazensis Andriaholinirina *et al.*, 2006

Madagascar

(2006)

~~The Sahamalaza sportive lemur (*Lepilemur sahamalazensis*) is one of the numerous lemurs recently described based on genetic and morphometric data (Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2006). Although the range of this medium-sized, nocturnal primate is not precisely known, it is thought to be strictly limited to the Sahamalaza Peninsula in northwestern Madagascar. The peninsula is part of a transition zone between the Sambirano region in the north and the western dry deciduous forest region in the south. The forests in this area contain a mixture of plant species typical of dry forest and some typical of the Sambirano domain (Birkinshaw 2004). *Lepilemur sahamalazensis* depends on these semi-humid forests, of which only a few fragments now remain. Very little is known about the ecology and behavior of the Sahamalaza sportive lemur. During preliminary night observations, individuals were mostly encountered alone or in groups of two. During the daytime, they were found sleeping in tree holes. This suggests that they have a social structure typical for the *Lepilemur* genus, i.e., pair-living animals defending exclusive territories. Encounter rate is high in the forest of Ankarafa (Olivieri *et al.* 2005).~~

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