

A northward extension of known range for Broad-striped Vontsira *Galidictis fasciata*

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Abstract

A Broad-striped Vontsira *Galidictis fasciata* was seen in 1996 in Marojejy National Park, north-eastern Madagascar, extending the species's known range northwards about 100 km.

Keywords: endemic, Eupleridae, Madagascar, Marojejy National Park

Fihitarana mianavaratra ny toerana fantatra fa habitana ny Vontsira Fotsy *Galidictis fasciata*

Famintinana

Nahitana Vontsira Fotsy *Galidictis fasciata* tamin'ny 1996 tao amin'ny valan-javaboary ny Marojejy ao amin'ny faritra avaratra atsinanan'i Madagasikara. Io fandinihana io dia manitra ny toerana fantatra fa misy ity biby ity mianavaratra eo amin'ny 100 kilometra eo ho eo.

The nocturnal Broad-striped Vontsira *Galidictis fasciata* (Eupleridae), endemic to Madagascar and categorised as Near Threatened on *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (IUCN 2012), is known from Makira, at around 15°15'S, 49°35'E (Goodman 2012), south along the length of the island's eastern rainforest belt as far as its southern limit at Andohahele (Goodman 1999) and Tsitongambarika (Ravoangy *et al.* 2011). Goodman (2003) stated that the species had not, by that time, been definitely recorded further north than Mananara-Nord, and that in particular there was no firm evidence of its occurrence around the forests of the Andapa Basin. In Marojejy National Park, east of the Andapa Basin, reports from local people (including the then forest guard of the protected area's southeast sector) indicated that an animal with the Malagasy name 'vontsira fotsy', a nocturnal carnivore with white or whitish coloration, was 'rare' (Duckworth & Rakotondraparany 1990). This note confirms this species's presence in Marojejy National Park.

At 04h15 on 13 October 1996, I was in 'Camp 1' (14°26'12"S, 49°46'30"E: Goodman 2000) in primary lowland rainforest, at 450 m above sea level, about to start walking to bird survey point-count sites in the southeast sector of Marojejy National Park (see Safford & Duckworth (1990) and Goodman (2000) for more details on the ecology and other fauna and flora of Camp 1 and Marojejy as a whole). I saw a small carnivore with bright red eye-shine and a white tail appear about 10 m from me in the light of my head-torch. It was smaller than Ring-tailed Vontsira *Galidia elegans*, which I had already seen on many occasions in Marojejy and elsewhere, but of similar overall form. A closer but brief view when the animal halted showed that the body was widely and longitudinally striped black on a pale greyish background, with a white tail about half the length of the body, held upwards. The animal ran quickly away after perhaps 30 seconds in view, the tail held horizontally.

This record was omitted from the account of the 1996 study (Goodman 2000) through my mistake. There is no possi-

bility of confusion with any other Malagasy rainforest species, native or otherwise, given the white tail, nocturnal behaviour and body striped black and pale-grey. The similar Grandidier's Vontsira *G. grandidieri* is only known from dry forest in the far southwest of Madagascar (Goodman 2012).

This extends the known distribution of the species northwards about 100 km, from Makira to almost the northeastern limit of eastern rainforest. This sighting is within the known altitudinal range (0–1,500 m) of the species (Goodman 2012).

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