

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of the Udzungwa forest partridge (*Xenoperdix udzungwensis*) in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

Denmark.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Galliformes
13. Family: Phasianidae
14. Species: *Xenoperdix udzungwensis* (Dinesen *et al.*, 1994)
15. Common Names: English: Udzungwa forest partridge
French:
Spanish:

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: This new and very distinctive perdicine bird was discovered in July 1991 during fieldwork in montane evergreen forests in the Udzungwa Mountains, east of Iringa town, Tanzania (Dinesen *et al.* 1993, 1994). On 3 July 1991 a flock was observed of 4-5 peculiar francolin-shaped birds which did not correspond to known species. This species was later found to be locally common; altogether 246 birds have been seen on 85 occasions in the Ndundulu Mountains and Nyumbanitu Mountains from July 1991 to April 1992, and this has been supplemented with other observations in 1993.

The species is still known only from the Ndundulu Mountains (the type locality) and nearby Nyumbanitu Mountains, both sites located in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania (see map). The species has not been recorded in the well studied Mwanihana or the Udzungwa Scarp Forests along the wet southeastern edge of the highland (Fig. 1) (Jensen & Brøgger-Jensen, 1992; Stuart, Jensen & Brøgger-Jensen, 1987; Moyer & Lovett, in press), and may therefore be absent from these parts. Even though the species could possibly inhabit a few small habitat islands outside the Ndundulu and Nyumbanitu Forests, the total range may include only a few hundred square kilometers of forest.

In the Ndundulu Mountains the altitudinal range of the species was 1350-1900 m. The altitudinal range of this forest is 1350-2400 m. The whole forest ranges longitudinally from 36°27' E to 36°42' E and latitudinally from 7°39' S to 7°51' S, and covers 240 km². It is separated from the Mwanihana Forest by 15-20 km of grassland. In the Nyumbanitu

Mountains the species was found only between 1500 and 1750 m, but this forest was not as thoroughly investigated as the former. The altitudinal range of the investigated part of the forest is 1350 to 2100 m. It ranges longitudinally from 36°19' E to 36°26' E and latitudinally from 7°47' S to 7°54' S, and covers 55 km². The forest on Nyumbanitu Mountains is separated from the forest on Ndundulu Mountains by at least 5 km of grassland.

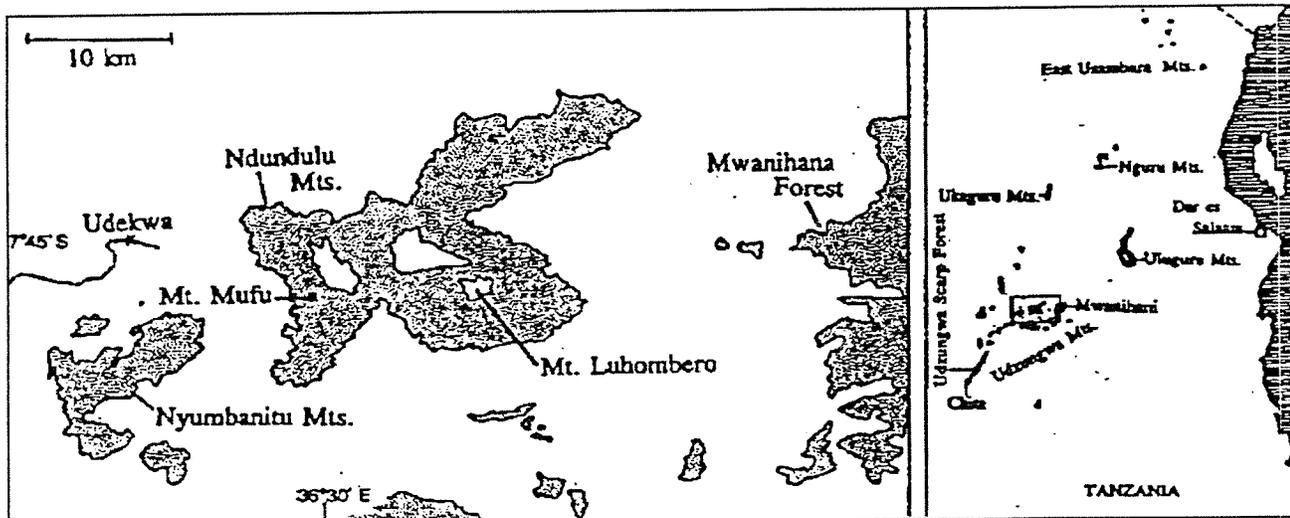


Figure 1. Map showing the position of the Ndundulu Mountains and Nyumbanitu Mountains, the presently known range of the Udzungwa forest partridge. To the right, the extension of montane forests in Tanzania, the rectangle showing the position of the left map. (Shaded areas on left map are forest areas).

22. Population: The species is easy to detect and was found to be locally common within the forest of the Ndundulu Mountains and expected to be so in Nyumbanitu Mountains as well. Considering the extremely small distribution range, the total population was earlier considered not to exceed 5000 individuals. During fieldwork in autumn 1993 (J. Komen, pers. comm.) and January-February 1994 (L. Hansen and J.O. Svensen, pers. comm) the species was not seen although it was heard. In view of these findings together with information on an intensive use of snares in the area it is probable that the status of the species already has changed so that the species is now very rare.
23. Habitat: The Udzungwa forest partridge was seen exclusively within habitat classified by Pócs (1976) as montane and submontane evergreen forest. The vegetation of the West Kilombero Forest Reserve has been described by Hall (1986) and Moyer (1992). Most observations are from different parts of the forest interior, from ridges as well as steep slopes and more flat parts, especially where an open understorey occurs. However, in April 1993 evidence was obtained that the bird may leave the forest to feed on ripe grass seeds in adjacent grassland.

The two forest localities are situated west of the newly established Udzungwa Mountains National Park but within the West Kilombero Scarp Forest Reserve. Although small cultivated fields (shambas) occur right up to the northern edge of the Nyumbanitu Mountains, the human impact on the area is slight.

However, this situation may change rapidly. The future population pressure on the habitat is difficult to predict. The area of distribution of the species is so small that any further fragmentation of the habitat will cause a high risk of extinction.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: No people live near the forests. At the time of the discovery of the species a few people may have used snares and collected some minor forest products. Small-scale logging was found to take place in April 1993 in the Ndundulu Mountains.

During the last two years an intensive use of snares has been observed in the area.

32. Legal International Trade: So far, three collected specimens have been transported to Denmark (Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen) and one of these have later been returned to University of Dar es Salaam. No other international transportation is known to have taken place.

33. Illegal Trade: No information is available.

34. Potential Trade Threats

An interest in obtaining specimens of Udzungwa forest partridge could rapidly arise. Since the first news about the species started to circulate, there has been a considerable attention to it. So far, this has been mainly from persons with an scientific interest in the bird.

Letters have been received indicating a great interest in setting up new studies in the area (which partly duplicate ongoing activities). In view of the fact that the Udzungwa forest partridge is a highly distinctive form, placed in a genus of its own, and furthermore fairly easy to find and capture, and handsome, one may fear that there will soon also appear an interest from the pet trade.

An increasing number of foreign visitors has during the last two years been observed in the villages near the area.

The Ndundulu and Nyumbanitu Mountains may, once known in the ornithophilous community, attract great attention because of an extraordinary concentration of rare species (Dinesen *et al.* 1993). According to the scoring system used in Collar & Stuart (1988), this area is now the third-highest priority for the conservation of birds in Africa.

341. Live Specimens: Will be of interest to particular private collectors.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Skins and stuffed specimens will be of interest for museums and private collectors.

4. Protection Status

41. National: No measures taken so far. Technically, the Ndundulu and Nyumbanitu forests are "protection forests" where no exploitation of natural resources are supposed to take place. The remoteness of the area assists in the protection of the area.

42. International: None.

43. Additional Protection Needs: Control to stop possible illegal international trade is required.

5. Information on Similar Species

The species can not easily be confused with any other perdicine bird. According to a thorough phylogenetic analysis, it is not closely related to other African perdicine birds (usually all referred to the genus *Francolinus*). Its closest relatives appear to be hill-partridges (*Arborophila*) of the Indo-Malayan region.

DIAGNOSIS: A small-sized (220-239 g) perdicine bird with a moderately short tail with 14 rectrices, rounded wings, a red, rather small bill with moderately hooked upper mandible like that of the smaller francolins and partridges; and yellow legs without spurs. Diagnostic features are olive-brown upperparts with rufous bars margined with black. Inner vanes of the humerals are chestnut with broad black bars. A black forehead interrupts the anterior supercilium. Underparts below the throat are grey with large round black spots centrally on most feathers. Characters shared with certain species of *Arborophila* comprise rufous sides of head; rufous throat demarcated from grey breast and sides by a thin black-and-white necklace; the grey colour of breast and sides grades into white on lower belly, olive-grey on flanks and under tail-coverts, these latter parts with black marks centrally and white to rufous tips on most feathers; winglinings with a contrasting pattern of blackish and white. However, the Udzungwa forest partridge does not share the vestigial tail of *Arborophila*, and instead shows similar chestnut outer tail-feathers with broad black subterminal bar as certain *Francolinus* species.

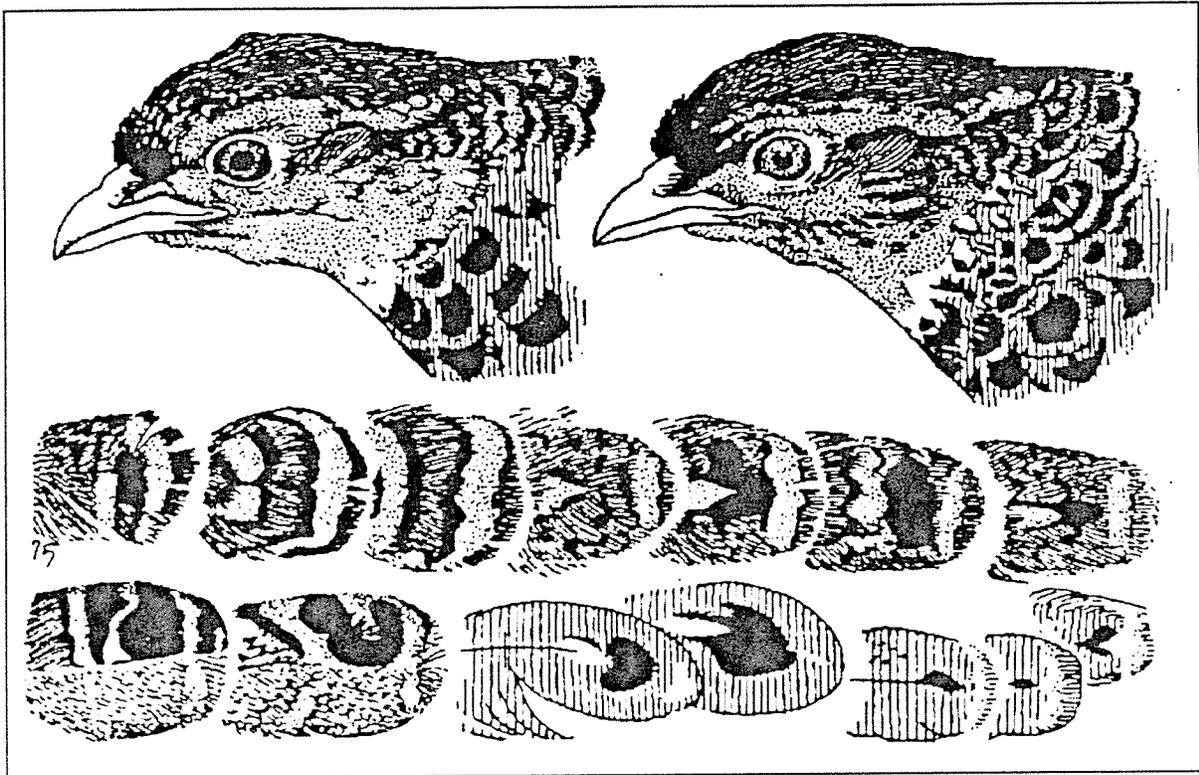


Figure 2. Portraits of the holotype and the paratype of Udzungwa forest partridge, showing variation in the amount of black spotting on the orange "face", and patterns of some typical feathers: upper row dorsal feathers (left to right) from nape to rump; lower row (left to right) two tertials, two feathers of the upper side and three under tail-coverts. Stippling, orange-brown to chestnut colour; vertical shading, grey colour; dense shading, olive-brown colour.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None.

7. Additional Remarks

Few of the African perdicine birds, currently in the genus *Francolinus*, inhabit montane evergreen forest. Two forest species, Latham's forest francolin (*F. lathamii*) and Nahan's francolin (*F. nahanii*), inhabit lowland rainforest up to 1400 m (Urban *et al.* 1986). The scaly francolin *F. squamatus* was found to live sympatrically with *X. udzungwensis* along the lower forest edge (1350-1400 m) but *F. squamatus* was confined to the surrounding grassland and the forest edge. In other forests of the Udzungwa Mountains, only the scaly francolin has been recorded (along the forest edges).

Udzungwa forest partridges were usually seen walking slowly on the forest floor mainly in small, close flocks. Piping contact calls were often heard, especially when anxious. The birds were not shy and would forage as close as 3 m to a person sitting on the forest floor. If approached, they normally escaped running through the understorey and did not fly even when pursued. If disturbed suddenly, the birds flew but drop into cover after less than 10 m. The feeding behaviour resembles that of other perdicines. Roosting is in trees. The flock size ranged from single individuals to flocks of 8 birds, with the largest flocks seen between July and September (3.4 ± 0.3 , $n=40$; against 2.8 ± 0.4 , $n=28$, in December to January). The explanation could be that the birds breed in the last period (which is the rainy season) and therefore segregate in pairs. Adults with chicks have been seen in November and December.

8. References

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