

## Northern Sportive Lemur

*Lepilemur septentrionalis* Rumpler and Albignac, 1975  
Madagascar  
(2008)

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The northern sportive lemur (*Lepilemur septentrionalis*) was originally described based on cytogenetic and morphometric characteristics (Rumpler and Albignac 1975, see also Rumpler *et al.* 2001). Its taxonomic status has been supported by more detailed cytogenetic, morphogenetic and especially molecular data (Rumpler *et al.* 2001; Ravaorimanana *et al.* 2004; Andriaholinirina *et al.* 2006), and accepted in recent taxonomic revisions of primates (Groves 2001, 2005) and lemurs (Mittermeier *et al.* 2006, 2008). It is believed to be strictly limited to a few small patches of dry forest in the far north of Madagascar, just to the south of Antsiranana on the east coast. Mittermeier *et al.* (2006) list the following localities: very small remnant forest patches near the villages of Madirobe and Ankarongana in the Sahafary region, and in the immediate vicinity of Andrahona, a small mountain about 30 km south of Antsiranana, east of Route Nationale 6 (observations by Yves Rumpler, Russell A. Mittermeier).

It is nocturnal, spending the day sleeping in tree holes, and very little is known about its ecology and behavior. Total numbers are unknown but, taking into account the limited distribution of *L. septentrionalis* in the forests of Sahafary, Andrahona and Andranomadiro, there are probably only about 100-150 individuals remaining. Tree-felling for charcoal continues at an alarming rate and the animals suffer from hunting. Surveys of five areas in 2007 provided the following population estimates: 1) Area of Andrahona (forest patches and gallery forests of Andrahona, Analajanana, and Analanjavavy)—20 individuals in the entire area; 2) Area of Ankarakataova (forests of Ankarakataova Be and Ankarakataova kely)—none found; and 3) Area of Sahafary (degraded forest patches in Western Sahafary, Sahafary East, Sahafary North, Andravina, Sahandrano, Andranomadiro, and Analalava)—about 100 individuals. None of these areas is protected.

The combination of a very small range containing little and rapidly decreasing suitable habitat with high pressure from hunting makes this species especially threatened. A consortium of the Association Européenne pour l'Etude et la Conservation des



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