

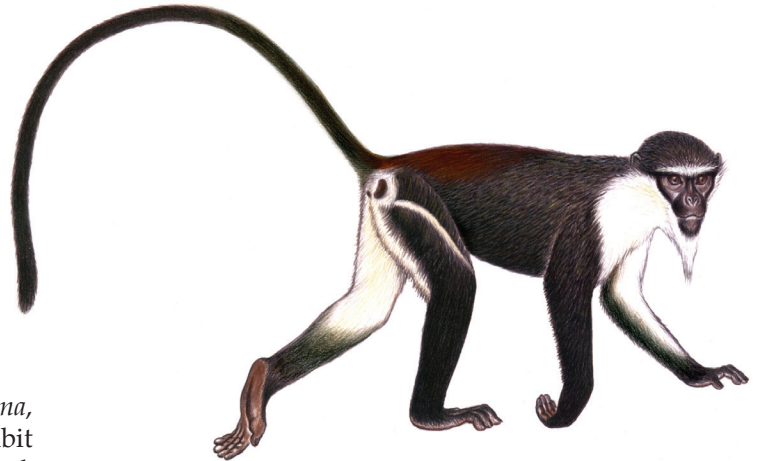
Roloway Guenon

Cercopithecus diana roloway (Schreber, 1774)

Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

(2002, 2006)

W. Scott McGraw and John F. Oates



There are two subspecies of *Cercopithecus diana*, both highly attractive, arboreal monkeys that inhabit the Upper Guinean forests of West Africa (Grubb *et al.* 2003). The roloway subspecies is distinguished by its broad white brow line, long white beard and yellow thighs. Groves (2001) considers the two subspecies to be sufficiently distinct to be regarded as full species. Of the two forms, the roloway, which is known from Ghana and eastern Côte d'Ivoire, is more seriously threatened with extinction. In fact, along with the white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*) and Miss Waldron's red colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*), it is among the three most endangered monkeys of the Upper Guinea forest block and a target species of the relentless bushmeat trade (Oates 1996).

As primatologists have searched the forests of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire for evidence of living red colobus, they have also documented the continued decline of both the roloway guenon and white-naped mangabey, which seem to be found in (or absent from) many of the same forests (Struhsaker and Oates 1995; Oates *et al.* 1996/1997; McGraw 1998a; Koné 2004; Oates 2006). In Ghana, roloway guenons have been steadily extirpated from both unprotected and protected areas (for example, Bia National Park) and the monkey is nearing extinction in that country, if it has not disappeared already. Several recent surveys have failed to find roloways in any reserves in western Ghana. It is possible that the Ankasa Conservation Area still contains a few roloway individuals (Magnuson 2003), but in 2006 a wildlife guard reported to J. F. Oates (unpubl.) that he had not seen the monkey for several years. Careful surveys of Ankasa and Bia Conservation Areas and Cape Three Points Forest Reserve in 2007-2008 by West African Primate Conservation Action did not locate any roloways, but unconfirmed reports of their continued survival at Ankasa were received (S. Gatti pers. comm.). A thorough survey of the Dadieso Forest Reserve (where the monkey was also reported in the recent past) should be a high priority.

In neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, the Roloway guenon is not known from any protected areas and

the monkey's status is equally dire. Surveys made ten years ago documented roloways in two forests, the Yaya Forest Reserve and the Tanoé forest adjacent to the Ehy Lagoon (McGraw 1998b, 2005; Koné and Akpatou 2005). Hunters had also reported small numbers of roloways in the Parc National des Iles Ehotilé (Koné and Akpatou 2005). Subsequent surveys of eighteen areas made between 2004 and 2006 confirmed the presence of roloways only in the Tanoé forest (Gonedélé Bi *et al.* 2008). This evidence suggests that the roloway monkey may have been eliminated from at least two forest areas (Parc National des Iles Ehotilé, Yaya Forest Reserve) within the last decade and that the guenon's distribution in Côte d'Ivoire is now restricted to the Tanoé forest (Koné and Akpatou 2005). In 2007, local informants reported the presence of roloways in the Dassioko, Niouniourou, Port Gautier, Mabi and Yaya forest reserves, however surveys of these areas yielded no direct evidence of their presence (G. Campbell pers. comm.). If roloways have been eliminated from Ghana's Ankasa Conservation Area, then the Tanoé forest could be a final refuge for this guenon. This wet forest also harbors one of the few remaining populations of white-naped mangabeys in Côte d'Ivoire and, perhaps, a small number of Miss Waldron's red colobus. The Tanoé forest is under direct threat from a large palm oil company (PALMCI) and several organizations (CEPA, WAPCA) are lobbying against the company and have sponsored local awareness campaigns (Koné 2008). As the potential last refuge for roloways, white-naped mangabeys, and Miss Waldron's red colobus, the protection of the Tanoé forest should be the highest conservation priority.

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