

SMALL CARNIVORE CONSERVATION

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Editorial:**Global Small Carnivore Conservation: geographical distribution of small carnivore research**

Small Carnivore Conservation (SCC) is one of the main outlets for publication of small carnivore research on ecology, taxonomy and conservation globally (González-Maya & Schipper 2015, Ramírez-Chaves *et al.* 2016). Across its long history, first published in 1989, SCC has promoted the dissemination of quality and critically needed information for advancing small carnivore research and ultimately supporting their conservation (González-Maya & Schipper 2015). However, small carnivore research has not been homogeneously or simultaneously developed across the globe, and some geographic focus has dominated not only publication but in general research on this important, yet still neglected group across the world.

On the 29 years-history of SCC, contributions have been geographically-biased distributed to certain regions, probably as a result of editorial management, composition of the IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group, and even due to underlying political and economic reasons. We reviewed the origin of the 591 contributions published so far in the journal, including this volume, and assessed origin according to continent, country and year, as an indicator of research efforts and publication of the group globally, and aiming to help promote contributions from those areas poorly represented in our journal. Considering small carnivores are present in almost all continents and countries, we believe the origin of manuscripts published in SCC along its history might reflect countries and regions with higher need of small carnivore research and likely conservation efforts.

Of the 591 papers published to date, Asia is the continent with the largest contribution (42%), followed by Europe and Africa (13%), North America (including Central America; 6%), South America (5%), and Global papers (4%; Figure 1). In total, 70 countries (and three former countries) have papers published, dominated by India with the largest number of contributions (16.9%), followed by Indonesia (6.8%), Colombia (4.7%), and Malaysia (4.6%), with a mean (\pm SD) number of papers on all countries of 5.7 ± 10.1 (3.9 ± 4.4 for the countries excluded from the previous list). A largest number of contributions from India might be reflecting the sympatry of several small carnivores in the country (Kalle *et al.* 2013).

In temporal terms, the largest number of papers was published in 2013, with most global papers published between 2012 and 2014; most papers for Africa were published in 2014 (Special issue), while the largest number of papers for Asia was published in 2014, for Europe in 1993, and North and South America in 2009 (Special issue; Figure 2).

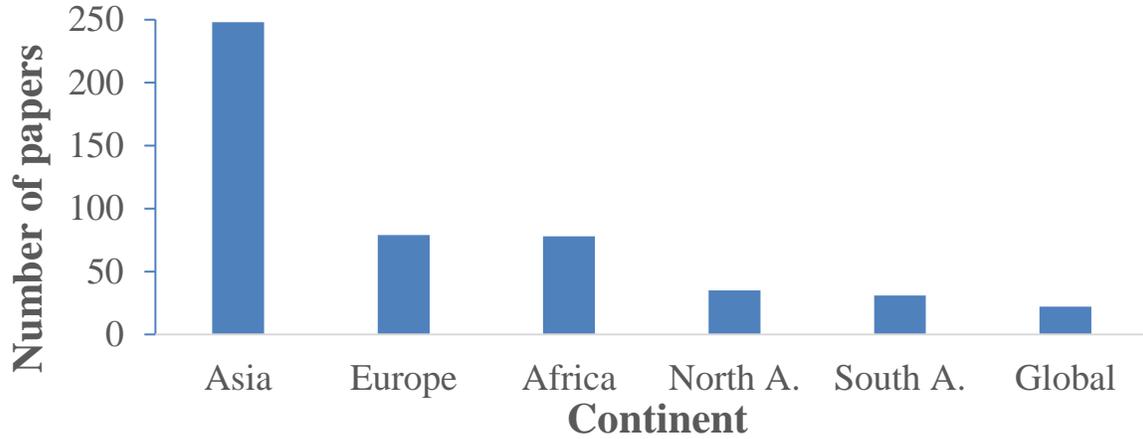


Figure 1. Number of papers published in Small Carnivore Conservation from different continental origin. North A. (includes North America and Central America), South A. (South America).

Spatially, most papers published are concentrated towards Southern Asia. In contrast, Central Asian countries have not been part of SCC contributions (Figure 3). Despite the Special issue published in 2014, African countries are not homogeneously represented on the contributions published in the journal. It is important to highlight that differences in number of countries per continent can bias the continental contribution of papers to SCC (for instance for India). Additionally, this evaluation only shows the role that SCC is playing in promoting knowledge of small carnivore species. Further comparisons on small carnivore richness and general number of publications per area could provide basis for global analyses and research priorities of this charismatic group.

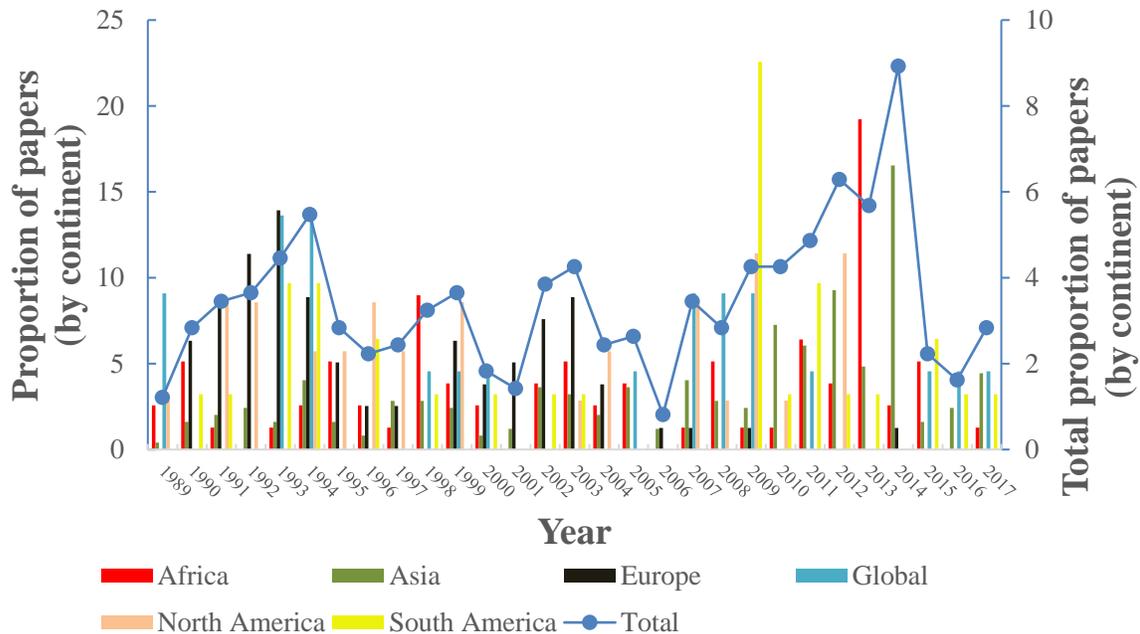


Figure 2. Number of papers published in Small Carnivore Conservation from different continental origin across year of publication. Secondary Y-axis for the Total number of papers published in the journal.

Even when distribution of research (in terms of contributions in SCC) have not been homogeneous both in space and time, previous efforts from multiple editors, and SCSG members, have yielded on a global representation in the journal. Efforts towards promoting contributions from

historically neglected countries, in terms of small carnivore research, seems warranted. Furthermore, exploring those species and geographic locations where priority should be allocated, has been previously proved to be an effective stimulus towards improving small carnivore knowledge and conservation in various countries (Andrade-Ponce *et al.* 2016, Di Minin *et al.* 2016, González-Maya *et al.* 2011). We expect SCC to multiply efforts towards ensuring high quality research on small carnivores globally, as a necessary tool for their appropriate conservation. We call to authors, members of the SCSG, and researchers in general to not only consider SCC for publishing their small carnivore research, but to promote research submission and publication, especially from those areas not represented in the long and prolific history of our journal.

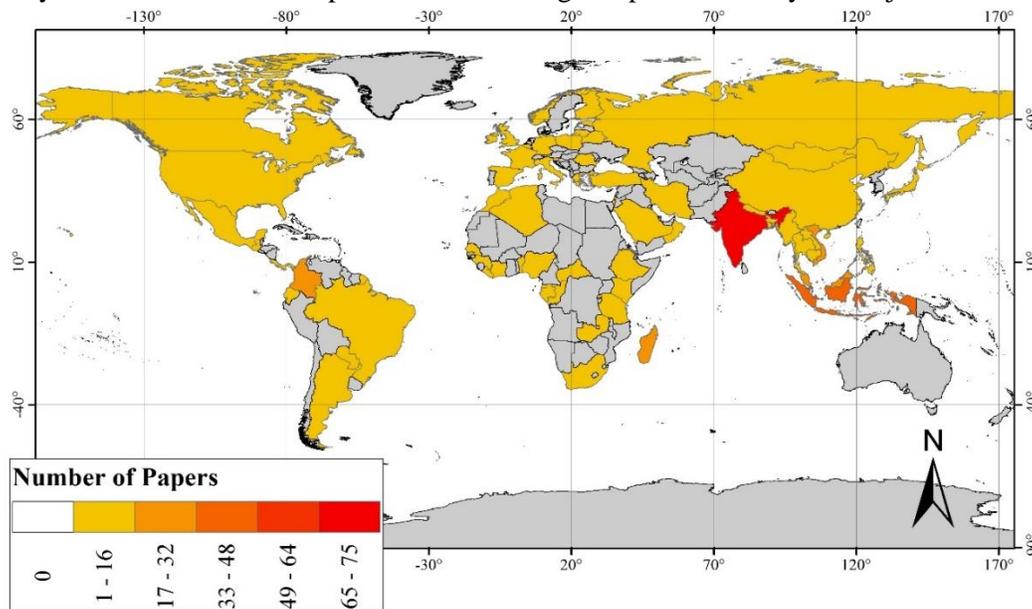


Figure 3. Number of papers published in Small Carnivore Conservation by country.

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José F. GONZÁLEZ-MAYA^{1,2,3} & Héctor E. RAMÍREZ-CHAVES^{1,4}

¹ Editors, Small Carnivore Conservation

² Co-chair - IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group

³ Proyecto de Conservación de Aguas y Tierras, ProCAT Colombia/Internacional, Bogotá, Colombia.

⁴ Departamento de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad de Caldas, Manizales, Colombia.

jfgonzalezmay@gmail.com