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CORRIGENDUM

“A road kill of the Ethiopian Genet *Genetta abyssinica* along the Addis Ababa–Dira Dewa Highway, Ethiopia” by Mundanthra BALAKRISHNAN and AFEWORK Bekele (2008, *Small Carnivore Conservation* 39: 37–38).

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ባለፈው እትመት በትናንሽ ሥጋበል እንሰሳት እንክብካቤ ላይ የወጣው (2009 ቁ.39) በባላክሪሽናንና በቀለ (2001) የተባራራው በመኪና መንገድ ላይ ተገድሎ የተገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ገነት ሽለምጥማጥ ተብሎ ነበር። በሥዕል አንድ ላይ የተገለጸው የኢትዮጵያ ነጠብጣባዊ ገነት ተብሎ ይስተካከል።

In the previous issue of *Small Carnivore Conservation* (2009, vol. 39), Balakrishnan & Afework (2008) illustrated a road-killed specimen identified as an Ethiopian Genet *Genetta abyssinica* Rüppell, 1836 (Fig. 1, p. 37) and kept at the Zoological Natural History Museum, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (specimen accession number: ZNHM – AAU M2008 – 108). Although some diagnostic, coat pattern traits corresponding to the species were given (p. 38), the skin illustrated in Figure 1 undoubtedly corresponds to a specimen of Common Small-spotted Genet *Genetta genetta* (Linnaeus, 1758). Here follows a series of diagnostic traits that can be observed from the figure and that characterise the latter species. These contradict the description of the skin made by Balakrishnan & Afework (2008): (i) the tip of the tail, which is slightly cut, appears bright, (ii) the first two longitudinal rows of dorsal spots show important (first row) to weak (second row) coalescence, never forming continuous stripes, (iii) the coat of legs exhibits dark areas, (iv) a well-visible “dirty” stripe longitudinally crosses the rings of the upper part of the tail, and (v) hairs on tail are long, resulting in a confused “black and white” annealing pattern on the upper part of the tail. As a consequence of this re-identification, ZNHM should be considered as not holding any specimens of *Genetta abyssinica* in its collections.

Recently, an interactive identification key for Genettinae was developed and made available to assist a wide spectrum of

biodiversity actors in the sometimes difficult identification of genets (Gaubert et al. 2008; accessible at: <http://lis.snv.jussieu.fr/apps/xper/data/genettes/web/index.html.en>). We encourage field survey reports to base their species identification on this updated taxonomic tool, which among other things provides a series of illustrated material and descriptive lists of character traits for each species. Any feedbacks on the practical aspects of this identification key are welcome to improve the utility of this tool.

References

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