

Review of: "A Dataset of Small-Mammal Detections in West Africa and Their Associated Micro-Organisms"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The purpose of the work is to introduce a database of rodent distribution in West Africa based on the synthesis of 127 rodent trapping studies, with special detail on potentially associated zoonotic agents. The RShiny web application is the main novelty of the paper. The website offers a very complete and visually appealing way to explore the compiled database. Finally, according to the authors, this database can be eventually useful to guide the study of the novel pathogen emergence in the region.

My comments on the manuscripts are:

- The title is misleading given that the paper is specifically focused on rodents and does not include other small mammal groups.
- "Data were extracted from eligible studies using a standardised tool that was piloted on five randomly selected studies." This should be further explained.
- There is a missing section in what are the main conclusion of the database, what countries have the better coverage, what countries lack data, which are the main pathogens detected, which biases were detected in the study, etc.
- The conclusions of the paper feel incomplete. There is no mention of how the database will be updated in time with new studies or what new features the authors consider that will be included in the future.
- Is necessary a general review of the grammar but most of the writing. The phrasing is not clear in what the study wants to achieve becoming very confusing in several parts of the text.