

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 work is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of mammal species, their precise distribution and the real potential association as a reservoir of agents of some zoonoses.

It is necessary to make some modifications for its improvement. In the first place, to refine concepts in the introduction, such as the following, to gather rodents within the term "rodent vectors of zoonoses", leads to ask on which support it is assumed that rodents are vectors, if up to now the concept of vector has been limited to invertebrates, although it is a concept that in biology requires revision and expansion, it is still maintained. Please correct or argue.

Since the results are restricted from the inclusion criteria to rodent groups, I suggest reviewing the relevance of the title chosen.

In order to reinforce the introduction, I suggest mentioning the role of some rodents in other agents such as babesiosis or leishmaniasis in Africa, to further contextualize the role of rodents in the transmission cycles of several zoonoses, (Bloch EM, Kasubi M, Levin A, Mrango Z, Weaver J, Munoz B, West SK. *Babesia microti* and Malaria Infection in Africa: A Pilot Serosurvey in Kilosa District, Tanzania. *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 2018 Jul;99(1):51-56. doi: 10.4269/ajtmh.18-0012; DA, Wilson M, Kweku M. A review of leishmaniasis in west Africa. *Ghana Med J.* 2005 Sep;39(3):94-7).

A better presentation of the results would give greater strength and value to this work. Some of the authors have experience in putting the results in graphical form. It would be advisable to view graphically the large data reviewed, which in the end is all referred to a grouping within a single region of Africa and only in a single pathogenic group such as viruses.

It would be friendlier to show with other strategies, than the deep dive into the complementary data (which logically should be shown), the results of this valuable systematic review and how it cures the biases that the authors have referred to in other works of similar interest. I suggest better drafting and design of presentation of the results.

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I suggest reinforcing more in the discussion of the findings of the data, and its importance to define the role of rodents as reservoirs of zoonoses, and given that the final data is restricted to the habitat with high anthropogenic influence, from where I understand.

The role as landscape elements and risk for jumps between hosts, of the etiological agents located within rodents, should be highlighted