

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

Maria da Luz Mathias<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidade de Lisboa

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

## General comments:

In this paper, the authors aim to compile published information on rodent species and their associated pathogens from 14 West African countries. The final dataset incorporates data from trapping studies conducted between 1964 and 2022. The ultimate objective is to furnish additional geographic locations of rodent presence, aiding in estimating the potential for pathogen spillover into human populations. The results are potentially valuable from a 'One Health' perspective.

## Limitations of the paper:

A 'Results' section is absent. It is crucial to include a section summarizing the obtained results. This should encompass details such as the total number of selected papers, the overall count of sampled species, and the number of identified pathogens. While certain details are highlighted in the abstract, it is imperative to insert a dedicated 'Results' section following the 'Methods' section for a comprehensive presentation.

## Other detailed comments:

### Methods:

Several sentences need clarification. For instance:

- Criterium 2:
  - Please elaborate on the relevance of this criterion to information on pathogens.
- Criterion 5:
  - -Clarify the process used to select a 'credible organization'.
  - -Address the level of certainty regarding the taxonomic identification of rodent species.
- Paragraph 'Data were extracted----within the data raw folder': Suggest moving this paragraph to a designated Results section

