

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.

This comprehensive dataset, derived from an extensive synthesis of 127 rodent trapping studies across 14 West African countries spanning almost six decades, provides a valuable resource for understanding the dynamics of rodent-associated zoonotic pathogens in the region. The careful combination of occurrence data and pathogen screening results for small mammals addresses taxonomic and spatial biases prevalent in existing databases. By adopting the Darwin Core Standard, the dataset offers a standardized format enhancing its compatibility and potential for integration with broader biodiversity databases. This study provides a foundation for improved modeling and public health interventions in West Africa and beyond. I have minor suggestions for improving the manuscript:

It is suggested to add a sentence in the abstract regarding the practical relevance of this dataset for public health and biodiversity conservation in West Africa. A detailed and comprehensive description of the methods is provided, which is excellent. However, it would be helpful to mention whether specific criteria were used for the inclusion or exclusion of studies and whether potential biases were addressed. The section on reuse potential is strong, but it is suggested to add specific examples of how researchers might utilize this dataset in future investigations.