

Nomenclatural comments on the Rusty-spotted Genet (*Carnivora*, *Viverridae*) and designation of a neotype

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Abstract

The first purpose of this paper is to designate a neotype for *Genetta maculata* (Gray, 1830), a genet belonging to the “*tigrina-pardina*” complex (family VIVERRIDAE) and lacking a type locality. The main aim is to stabilize the classification for this complex and provide a definitive base for naturalists and field workers. The name *G. maculata* (Gray, 1830) is currently less in use than *G. rubiginosa* Pucheran, 1855, but the type specimen of the latter is an individual of another species, *G. thierryi* Matschie, 1902. The second purpose is therefore to conserve the name *G. thierryi* Matschie, 1902 following prevailing usage.

Key words: Nomenclature, taxonomy, *Carnivora*, VIVERRIDAE, *Viverra*, Rusty-spotted Genet, *Genetta maculata*, neotype, *Genetta rubiginosa*, *Genetta thierryi*, Ethiopia

Introduction

Gray (1830, p. 9) described a new species of African genet in his *Spicilegia Zoologica*, naming it *Viverra maculata*, and providing an illustration (t. 9) of the type specimen, which he placed at first in the family FELIDAE Fischer, 1817, subdivision “*Viverrina*”.