

Madagascar's Lemurs

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 October - 3 November 2017



Golden Bamboo Lemur



Chabert's Vanga



Blue Coua

Report and images by Eric Barnes



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Introduction

Madagascar is simply one of the most spectacular wildlife destinations on the planet. An early breakaway from the Earth's single landmass Gondwanaland over 130 million years ago has put its castaways in a unique position to evolve to fill its varied habitat. From the wet rainforest of the east to the Spiny Forests of the west, and a host of other niche environments, its fauna and flora has achieved an extreme state of endemism to the extent that more than 80% is not found naturally in any other country.

This two-week tour took us to some of the great national parks Madagascar has to offer: Ranomafana, with its Golden Bamboo Lemurs only discovered in 1986 and Greater Bamboo Lemurs believed to be extinct until 1986; the Spiny Forest, home to the Long-tailed Ground Roller, Sub-desert Mesite with its strange freezing defence, and tree climbing Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec; Andisebe–Mantadia, home to the iconic Indri; and Zombitze with its own Sportive Lemur and Apert's Tetracka. We saw all this and much more, in a land where wildlife is holding on in the small pockets of habitat that remain.

Large areas have been deforested and this continues with the entrenched slash and burn policy of the inhabitants, who somehow cling on to an existence on next to nothing. Ecotourism is one of their salvations and our presence and interest in their wildlife contributes to promoting the importance of their roles as stewards for their extraordinary wildlife.

Day 1

Friday 20th October

After arriving from a number of UK airports and elsewhere at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, most group members met Eric and enjoyed a meal with new found friends before disbanding around 9pm in preparation for their Lemur-mathon.

Day 2

Saturday 21st October

We were pleasantly surprised by the continental breakfast and met in the foyer at 7.45am for our trial through Charles de Gaulle Airport. The queues were long and the Canadian members of our group were particularly slowed down in the 'all passports' queue. The Brits however were making the most of it pre-Brexit. A House Sparrow at our gate was the last familiar bird for some time. Our Air France flight was smooth and touched down as planned around 10.30pm.

Once at Tana we collected our luggage, left the airport around 12.30am and were in our hotel rooms by 1am. Madagascan Fodies twittered from their roost and a large hawk-moth was rescued.

Day 3

Sunday 22nd October

Lemur Park and drive to Antsirabe

A dawn chorus of Madagascan Fodies echoing around the courtyard and singing Madagascan Wagtails were enough to get some people up before their alarms. Madagascan Bulbuls darted between the feeding flowers

below the radar of the Common Mynahs. A few Black-crowned Night Herons went over and one attempted to roost in the car park. Outside the gates of Le Combava Hotel birding included mixed groups of Squacco Herons, Western Cattle Egrets, Great Egrets and Dimorphic Egrets, distant Malagasy Black Swifts and a couple of Malagasy Kestrels. Breakfast was taken at 8.30am and Eric was delighted to add an endemic to his slowly enlarging list of birds inside restaurants, even if it was only a Madagascar Fody.

We struggled a little to get away and eventually arrived at the Lemur Park around 11am. We were fortunate to have Marc guide us through the rehabilitation centre. We set off down the trail by a huge disused Hamerkop nest. We had great telescope views of three Oustalet's Chameleons, followed by our first Lemurs in Madagascar; albeit ones that were rescued and being rehabilitated. Common Brown and Ring-tailed Lemurs were keeping their distance in the thick of some bamboo, but they were only teasing us. We eventually had the most outrageous views of five species including playful Crowned Sifakas and a group of Coquerel's Sifakas which took an interest in Eric's camera gear!

We started heading towards lunch but were slowed down by telescope views of Madagascar Bee-eaters and a male Souimanga Sunbird. Lunch portions were huge. A small endemic female dragonfly *Palpopleura vestita* was scoped with desert to make up for the lunchtime bird shortage.

We got back on the bus around 2pm for our long drive to Antsirabe. Many snoozed on the journey which was broken up with a couple of short stops, the best being a lay-by where we scurried back for the telescope to identify some distant Madagascar Mannikans and a lovely male African Stonechat. The sun set as we approached Antsirabe and we were glad to get to our hotel for a wash before a delicious meal at La Residence Camelia.

During the evening we had to change our plan for tomorrow's lunch stop because 'bandit' problems had shut down the Ialatsara Forest Camp. We therefore had to organise packed lunches, which complicated things as supplies couldn't be obtained for an early departure. We rearranged to meet at 7.30am for an 8am baguette delivery.

Day 4

Monday 23rd October

Drive to Ranomafana

The hotel gardens provided a lovely breeding plumage male Madagascar Fody. Those that were up a little earlier spotted Madagascar Brush Warbler, Common Jery and Pied Crow.

The long drive ahead was punctuated by a photo stop for some zebu pulling a plough, and a comfort stop with a pet Helmeted Guineafowl, Madagascar Bee-eaters and a pair of nesting Madagascar Kestrels. About noon we arrived at our picnic site at Ankazo Mivady for lunch. The baguettes were substantial meals, and the vegetarian option was a very agreeable grated carrot, onion and courgette mix, flavoured with turmeric and ginger.

The surrounding pool held several large Emperor-type dragonflies, Azure Skimmer and Scarlet Darter. A singing Souimanga Sunbird was watched through the telescope and a Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo called for a mate. The fees were paid for the entrance to the forest trail in the hope of finding our first wild lemurs. Brian spotted an orange ground-dwelling bird, but it was not relocated. Whilst looking, a female Forest Fody put in an appearance.

It was difficult on the narrow forest trail with 15 people. The Crab Spiders were interesting but difficult to photograph. A disused Madagascan Buzzard's nest, an uncooperative Madagascan Paradise Flycatcher and a couple of Madagascan Brush Warblers were looking like they might be the highlights until Eric, at the back, paused to take a photograph of an unidentified group of butterflies. He moved on but found himself well and truly detached from the rest of the group!

Thankfully, with the aid of his map, he traced back his steps and was within 20 metres of the main road when he met up with a one-man search party. He was soon back at HQ waiting for the rest of the group to complete the longer version of the walk. Once reunited, Sandra's eye was caught by first one gorgeous terrestrial Jewel Chameleon, and then a second; the only ones of the trip. As we headed back to the bus a small flock of Red-billed Teal appeared, and then a flyover Madagascan Buzzard.

We were back on the bus around 2pm for the rest of the long drive to Ranomafana. The route took us through areas showing evidence of the slash-and-burn agricultural style that decimates the landscape. We stopped for fuel and a look at a small egret. We pressed on, arriving at Namorana waterfall around 5.10pm. We were pushed for time but keen to find the Madagascan Bright-eyed Frog. Brian miraculously found one tucked up in a crevice about 20 centimetres off the road level.

Malagasy Black Swifts and Mascarene Martins wheeled above us as the sun dropped behind the hill. We headed on to the hotel where we were greeted by a dozen African Palm Swifts and a mango and grenadine cocktail.

Day 5

Tuesday 24th October

We were chomping at the bit to get into the field, stretch our legs and finally see a wild Lemur. Breakfast at 5am and we got to the park a little before it opened at 6am, having picked up our guide and posse of lemur spotters.

A Madagascan Green Sunbird and Rand's Warbler were singing from their territorial posts whilst the spotters dissipated into the forest. Once we were on the trail, a gorgeous Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher greeted some of us. The spotters started to ring through their targets and it wasn't long before we were in the middle of a group of Golden Bamboo Lemurs. The foraging party even got down on to the path to about 15 metres at one stage. What an amazing sighting which, for many, was their first wild Lemurs ever – a species restricted globally to this reserve! But we didn't have time to rest on our laurels; Milne-Edwards' Sifakas had been located and we didn't want to miss out on those.

As we headed towards the Sifakas we crossed paths with four Red-fronted Brown Lemurs. The photographic conditions were difficult under the canopy but we had good views. Upwards and onwards we headed. We arrived a little short of breath but were pleased to have great views of the Milne-Edwards' Sifakas. They were in the vicinity of some fruiting trees and were not in any hurry to leave. It was a delight to see the family party at ease with us; feeding and with a youngster. Extraordinary – three species of rare lemurs and it was barely 7.20am!

As we reached the ridge a group of four Red-bellied Lemurs showed by the path. We headed towards a viewing point and the lucky few at the front of the group connected with a couple of Eastern Red Forest Rats and then a pair of Pitta-like Ground Rollers. At the viewing platform a Madagascan Blue Pigeon was scoped briefly. News soon broke of Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs, so off we went. They were viewed from a steep slope and were

in so much better condition than the ones we saw at the Lemur Park. A Greater Vasa Parrot flew over, and the lemurs gave a guttural call in response to a distant buzzard.

As we headed back we bumped into the Milne-Edwards' Sifakas again and it was delightful to see the small baby hopping around practicing his gymnastics. On the way to the bus Madagascar Turtle Dove and the Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo sang their songs. Another Madagascar Blue Pigeon showed for all and a nesting Spectacled Tetraka posed. A Madagascar Brush Warbler called and another Eastern Red Forest Rat showed to the tail end of the group. Just when we thought it was all over, a white-phase Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher appeared and a couple of Long-billed Bernieria flitted through. What a morning it had been: five lemurs and we were done and dusted for the morning by 10.30am!

A pleasant lunch and short siesta was on the cards and taken up by most. Around 3.15pm we set off once again for the same trail. This was not the original plan but Barku had tracked down our missing Greater Bamboo Lemurs and was keeping them under guard until our arrival.

A male Velvet Asity was spotted sitting quietly and it was scoped between the foliage. It was described succinctly by Dave as a jet black dumpy bird with an iridescent green go-faster strip on its head! The front of the group connected with a Ring-tailed Mongoose. We made a bee-line for the Greater Bamboo Lemurs, which were down a steep but dry slope. It apparently hadn't rained in two weeks. The Greater Bamboo Lemurs are critically endangered and obviously different from the Golden Bamboo Lemurs we had seen earlier, with prominent fluffy white ears and lacking the honey hue to the under parts. After enjoying good views, we headed back up to the main path. Barku worked her magic again and produced a Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko. Like a three centimetre dried curled leaf, this amazing creature trumped most of the lemurs in many peoples' minds! It was a mind boggling work of camouflage in this magical wonderland.

At 5.30pm we left the forest trail and headed towards Vohipararan for a night walk. A tiny Nose-horned Chameleon, followed by a Blue-legged Chameleon, were seen. We waited patiently for a Rufous Mouse Lemur, which showed. A pair of O'Shaughnessy's Chameleons announced the end of play and we hurried back for our supper and well deserved rest.

Day 6

Wednesday 25th October

We knew we would never match yesterday's phenomenal experience, but we couldn't resist setting off at the same time. We were a little slicker at getting out the door and arrived at Samalotra trail at 5.50am. The spotters went ahead and the trail was uncomfortably quiet. We changed tactics and an Eastern Red Forest Rat appeared, then a couple of Dark Newtonia, soon followed by a couple of bright green Tsarafidy Madagascar Frogs (previously known as Malagasy Glass Frog). Things distinctly improved after we stood watching a troop of Milne-Edwards' Sifakas, who were clearly unperturbed by us.

We then headed back to the main trail, where a Tylas Vanga was scoped. A calling Hook-billed Vanga pair toyed with us before finally surrendering. We continued on our stroll through the forest trail like children in a sweet shop! A perched Velvet Asity, Pitta-like Ground Roller exploding from the forest undergrowth and weaving between a few of us, Common Sunbird-Asity, Nelicourvi Weaver and a nesting Grey-crowned Tetraka kept up the 'yellow bird' theme. Bouncing gossamer web spiders were mind-bending, and an O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon

gave us ample photographic opportunities. We had more views of Eastern Red Forest Rat and an inquisitive Ring-tailed mongoose. We had planned to leave the forest earlier than yesterday but were held up the multiple distractions. One last effort by a beautiful green Peacock Gecko did manage to slow some of us down before we ground to a halt with a 20+ centimetre Belted Chameleon crossing the road as we headed back for lunch and a siesta.

At 3.30pm we headed back to the outskirts of the park. The spotters went out in search of Painted Frogs and Giraffe-necked Weevils. It wasn't long before we were photographing both these species. The supporting cast was a pair of showy Madagascan Blue Pigeons, a fly-over Madagascan Harrier Hawk, fleeting Chabert's, Tylas and White-headed Vangas, more Souimanga Sunbirds, and an ancient go-cart racer with a Madagascan scythe-like implement that he tried to impale himself on.

Soon it was time to move on and we drove back towards Namorona Falls and worked the road. The highlights were a scoped Forest Rock Thrush, Blue-legged Chameleon, several species of orchid, and a conga-line of caterpillars.

Once again we watched the Rufous Mouse Lemurs, attracted out of the undergrowth by a couple of banana-smearing branches, before heading back and saying goodbye to our excellent guide and spotters.

Day 7

Thursday 26th October

Drive to Isalo

Today was a long drive to Isalo with little entertainment between. We set off promptly at 7am and headed back to Highway 7 via Fianarantsoa. Next stop was Ambalavao, where we watched how paper was made in a traditional fashion, and picked up our lunch. Then we headed to Anja, a community project centred around an expanding population of Ring-tailed Lemurs, now coming close to 400 individuals. Anja is a granite mastiff associated with a river, which forms the centre of the ecosystem in an area parched of water. The Ring-tailed Lemurs were languid in the midday heat, perched in the shade of the Indian Liliac Tree. A few had young and they seemed happy enough to be photographed at close range. The luckiest Oustalet's Chameleon in the world had grasshoppers fed to him on a stick by his ever-attentive human staff.

We drifted back towards the picnic table for our baguette lunch. A Hamerkop was seen from the picnic table and a Madagascan Cisticola called from the surrounding scrub. Soon it was time to continue our long drive towards our next hotel. We stopped at Ihosy for some snacks and Eric insisted on infusing a caffeine drink into our driver Hery. We crossed the Horombe Plateau, hoping for Marsh Owl and Reunion Harrier but neither was seen. To make matters worse, the air conditioning on the bus seemed to stress the engine too much when going uphill and we had to make do without. The temperature was unpleasant but we made it to the rather swish La Jardin du Roy around 5pm.

We met for dinner as White-faced Whistling Duck flew into roost. Some were lucky enough to see Madagascan Hoopoe outside their room, whilst Maggie found a Spiny-tailed Iguanid. Dinner was delicious with a distinctly French twist. A plan was hatched for an early start, as a lightning storm danced in the distance. The heavens opened as we headed towards our room. What would tomorrow bring?

Day 8

Friday 27th October

Isalo

The morning was dry and clear. After a quick hot drink we got in the bus around 6.15am for the drive to Isalo National Park. We drove steadily through the ancient sandstone landscape and picked up our guide, Charles. On the approach road there was a moderate amount of bird activity with a couple of Madagascan Coucals, Grey-headed Lovebirds and a taunting Madagascan Lesser Cuckoo in the car park.

Over the next couple of hours we walked slowly along the well traced path, stopping regularly to see the next wonder. A perched Madagascan Bee-eater, White-throated Rail, a high flying displaying Cuckoo-Roller, and perched Grey-headed Lovebirds in the telescope were the avian highlights. A shed snake skin in a shrub, a Violet Dropwing by the river and a Snout Bug caused some hilarity as there was some corruption of its name in translation. We had very close encounters with Red-fronted Brown and Ring-tailed Lemurs. Unfortunately a few years ago a fire had caused the troop of Verreaux Sifakas to move out and the population was now reduced to one lonesome individual who we could not locate this morning. A nice consolation prize was a pair of roosting Rainforest Scops Owls. We were running late for breakfast and hot-footed it back to the bus, stopping only briefly for a Madagascan Malachite Kingfisher.

We got back a little late for breakfast at 9.45am and Keith managed to sneak in an Alpine Swift before breakfast when everyone was concentrating on the croissants. We had a rest away from the baking sun whilst a Broad-billed Roller hawked around the hotel complex. Other birds seen during siesta time included Madagascan Bee-eaters, Madagascan Hoopoe and Grey-headed Lovebirds.

At 4pm we met for an afternoon stroll amongst the sandstone formations. The now familiar Crested Drongos, Pied Crows and Yellow-billed Kites were out in force. There were several pairs of Madagascan Hoopoe including one making its distinctive purring song. We came across some juvenile Flatid Bugs and a tree plastered with Shield Bugs. A singing Souimanga Sunbird was scoped and Madagascan Coucals seemed to be crawling out of every other bush. We were hoping to do a loop to the Lac Lion, but the stream could only be crossed by traversing a slippery log. Abo proved it could be done without falling in but we decided to take the long way round.

A string of nine Malagasy Pond Herons flew by, followed by two Lesser Vasa Parrots feeding on clay. We eventually got to a very quiet lake but did manage two distant scoped Madagascan Partridges and some Madagascan Mannikins.

Dinner was another culinary delight and the drinks bill was somewhat numbed by the complimentary rum shot.

Day 9

Saturday 28th October

Everyone was ready for a prompt 5am departure. We arrived at Zombitse Forest at 6.30am to meet our guides, Audoin and Anton. As soon as we pulled into the car park there was a perched Cuckoo-Roller! We had an amazing view at close range, through the telescope, of a male with its metallic purple scapular patch shining in the morning sun. We were soon travelling down a small path through the forest, which culminated in front of a White-browed Hawk-Owl: a magnificent view of a wonderful bird! A little further along we tried our luck with

Apert's Tetraka; most of us got untickable views, but a few were lucky. We crossed into another patch of forest and stumbled across a pair of Giant Couas, with their blue facial skin and purplish pink ear coverts. We steamed on to try to see the Zombitse Sportive Lemur before it disappeared into its roosting cavity. Thankfully it showed well but kept ducking into its hole every time a Verreaux's Sifaka showed too much interest in it. A little down the trail we saw a troop of Verreaux's Sifaka with a baby, and most of the group had another view of a second Zombitse Sportive Lemur. It was quite windy and we didn't have much success with the small birds. We did however see a large Standing's Day Gecko warming up in the sun and a Dwarf Grandidiens Gecko. It was soon time to leave this wonderland behind and head towards the spiny forest.

Many of us slept en route and Hery did a sterling job of getting us safely there. We arrived at the arboretum around 11.45am and had an informative tour of the local plants, followed by lunch. We were extremely lucky to gain the benefits of the new metalled road between Toliara and Le Paradisier and in no time we were in our rooms relaxing. Some worked the area and saw Three-banded and Kittlitz's Plovers.

We met for dinner at 7pm, but proceeding were somewhat delayed by a local band and girl group. Phil and the two Daves were seduced into dancing a Madagascan version of the conga. We all avoided the squid curry and Pamela consumed most of Brian's key lemon tart (lemon meringue). Maggie and Desi suffered a little from the after effects of the zebu carpaccio (raw).

Day 10

Sunday 29th October

Early to bed and early to rise seemed to be a recurrent theme. This morning we left for Reniala – the gateway to the Spiny Forest reserve. Thankfully it was only 15 minutes away. We met our guide Bebe who, with his trackers, gave us a very successful although slightly unorthodox morning's birding. He had his own classification for the baobab trees – he named them individually in relationship to their morphological appearance - the Carrot Baobab, Coffee pot Baobab, Rhinoceros Baobab etc. One by one he produced the specialities of the spiny forest. At first the forest appeared quiet but the denizens were not far away. First a pair of Subdesert Mesites frozen in parallel poses! Next a large and beautiful Long-tailed Ground Roller was coaxed into a viewing arena. There was always something to be awed by, whether it was the surreal Boabab trees, densely packed thorny bushes, or a flock of whirling Grey-headed Lovebirds, Chabert's Vanga with their pristine dark blue upperparts, snowy white underparts and powder blue eyering. A Running Coua hopped in front of us allowing close range photographs before scurrying off into the undergrowth. Archbold's and Common Newtonias, Greater Vasa Parrot, Sickle-billed Vanga, Madagascan Paradise Flycatcher and Madagascan Bee-eater kept us on our toes. The hours passed quickly and by 8.30am we had exhausted the available species and headed back for breakfast.

Rest and relaxation was then on the cards, and Sakalava Weavers and Madagascan Bulbuls provided some light entertainment before lunch. We aimed for a 3.30pm start to explore the salt pans. A few of us went out to the nearby pools and connected with Madagascan Bush Lark, and Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers.

We set off on time for the short drive to a cast of common shore birds: Caspian Tern, White-fronted and Kittlitz's Plovers, Black-winged Stilt and Striated Heron. That was till a large dark heron appeared that baffled us initially, but was identified as Humbolt's Heron (now known as Madagascan); what a treat and an unexpected lifer for many. The breeze was strong and despite a reasonable search we were unable to locate a Madagascan Plover. Second best was a delightful White-fronted Plover with a very young fledgling. We had used our time up

and headed back to deliver our dinner order and to pick up those who were saving their energy for the night walk. This did not disappoint.

A Spiny-backed or Warty Chameleon showed in the setting sun. The spotters were keen to show us the Grey Mouse Lemur but we were taken aback when they piled into and round the toilet block. That individual wasn't particularly co-operative but Brian spotted one as we crossed the car park as we were heading back into the spiny forest. We all had decent views and decided against stressing out these cute creatures any further. We were then shown a huge Hissing Cockroach with a body about 13 centimetres in length, and a blue-legged Giant Bush Cricket. A Huntsman Spider, a couple of Big-eyed Snakes, Large-headed Gecko and a Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec made for a pleasant evening beneath the stars and the Baobabs.

We rushed back, albeit a bit later than intended, as no-one wanted to miss out on their chocolate molten cake!

Day 11

Monday 30th October

A nice lie in was earned as we had a 10.30am flight back to Tana. The sun rose over the Mozambique straits for those in beach huts. Subdesert Brush Warblers foraged on the sand and Grey-headed Lovebirds caught the first glow of the African sun. Madagascan Red Fodies and Sakalava Weavers were busy with their daily activities. We settled down for breakfast around 7am, and then headed along the road towards the airport a short distance, when had to stop briefly for a misplaced wallet. Thankfully it was just packed away and we continued without any other hiccups. We said our goodbyes to our excellent driver Hery, who got us safely through our Madagascan adventure to date without any calamities.

After landing in Tana, we continued to Andasibe-Mantadia. The road was windy and riddled with pot holes, so the trip took about four hours and we were pleased to get to the well appointed Varkona Lodge. Dinner portions were huge and the crème caramel looked set to be the best one of the trip.

Day 12

Tuesday 31st October

We opted for the soft option - breakfast at 6am followed by a swift 6.30am exit. We went straight to the Andasibe park HQ and met our guide, the famous Maurice, otherwise known as Professor Dolittle. We quickly got down to business with a small group of Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs, which were a little tricky to photograph in the dense foliage.

A pair of Madagascan Flufftails posed briefly on the path but we failed to entice them out. It started to rain and didn't stop for most of the morning. This didn't stop the team from giving us great views of three new lemurs: Common Brown Lemur, Diademed Sifaka and Indri. Nothing could steal away the atmosphere of Indri howling in the forest. The morning was peppered with lemurs, initially wet and stationary and then, as the rain stopped, they were more active and gave us great views as the other visitors left. The 'Prof' produced a Collared Nightjar from his hat for the audience. As we left the park for lunch a Short-horned Chameleon was a bonus, as was the Madagascan Tree Boa.

We headed to a Chinese restaurant overlooking a creek. It was a phenomenal place to have lunch. The White-throated Rail below us was the first inkling that we were in for more than a meal. Chabert's, Hook-billed and

Blue Vangas all put in an appearance. Judith managed to finally find us a perched Malagasy Malachite Kingfisher. A Striated Heron and a couple of Red-Billed Teal were tucked in round the corner of the pool. A Blue Coua gave us a ridiculous view, and a couple of Ward's Vangas added to the lunch list.

An afternoon walk was planned but only five of us set off on this, whilst the others relaxed in the hotel prior to the night walk. Those that joined the walk did not go unrewarded when a Rainforest Scops Owl showed well in its roost. Pamela's slip off a four-foot embankment could have cost dearly but thankfully she is clearly made of tough stuff. An Eastern Bamboo Lemur ate grass by a stream and 'Prof. Dolittle' chatted with a White-throated Rail.

The afternoon walk was steady and relaxed with scope views of Broad-billed Roller, Madagascan Buzzard and a mixed flock of Nelicourvi Weavers, Tylas Vanga and common passerines. We made a special effort to see a Madagascan Owl roost but it was nowhere to be found, until the 'Prof' produced it through the telescope and we enjoyed nice views as it preened a little. It was nearing 5pm as we drifted to the road to await the bus. A Short-horned Chameleon and deserted Paradise Flycatcher nest were the highlights.

The night walk was well attended and Desi was in top form, spotting a couple of Eastern Woolly Lemurs and then a couple of Parson's Chameleons, followed by a Madagascan Nightjar. The Goodman's Mouse Lemur got away but there was always tomorrow's night walk to try to get us to 17 Lemurs. We were fast running out of time to find Brian's Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher.

We were also running behind on the checklist and this was finally completed between courses during dinner.

Day 13

Wednesday 1st November

After some upset stomachs in the group, everyone was sufficiently recovered this morning to be able to set off for the long bumpy road to Mantadia, in three four-wheel drive vehicles. From Vakona Lodge it took about 80 minutes. There were a few birds en route. A nice flock of Madagascan Blue Pigeons, a Broad-billed Roller, a couple of Greater Vasa Parrots and Madagascan Green Sunbird were the highlights.

The forest was full of potential. We waited patiently at a Scaly Ground Roller nest but nothing appeared. The bird called distantly but didn't appear. Moving on, we came to a pungently scented area, which was the scent marking of a Fossa. Unfortunately we were not able to locate this much sort-after beast.

A few Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs showed well but distantly on a 30-metre high Pandanus tree. We watched them feeding and vocalising. Indri called distantly. There were small mixed flocks of passerines. Forest Fody, Spectacled Tetraka, Crested Drongo, Madagascan White-eye and Madagascan Paradise Flycatcher were out in force. Greater and Lesser Vasa Parrots frequently chattered in the background and Madagascan Lesser Cuckoo continued to taunt us. A large Fire Millipede trundled along on its own course and Desi found us a Stick Insect. The search for Ground Rollers continued to no avail. Diademed Sifakas surprised Keith with their beautiful warm orange and white coat. Once again, these lemurs stayed high in the trees; perhaps they were just less accustomed to humans or perhaps the primary forest trees were just that much taller here. A little further on, Maurice enticed a Red-fronted Coua onto an exposed branch. After watching a second group of Sifakas, we moved towards a Madagascan Crested Ibis nest.

Unfortunately when approaching the nesting site, the adult Ibis took off into the forest, but fortunately two moderately-sized chicks were still visible. A large mixed flock including a male White-headed Vanga feeding on a large insect, Red-tailed Vanga and Tylas Vanga, including one of the western race, showed well. At a nearby lake, we saw Madagascan Little Grebe, Madagascan Swamp Warbler and beautiful Broad-billed Roller. We adjourned for lunch at a nearby picnic site. A few Common Brown Lemurs were viewed in the vicinity.

After lunch the search for a Ground Roller continued, whilst Pamela continued with her recuperation. We watched a nice family of Diademed Sifakas feeding in a rather ungainly posture, and some at the front of the path managed to see a perched Madagascan Lesser Cuckoo. We then braced ourselves for the long bumpy road back to civilisation.

We had a short rest at the hotel before setting off for a night walk around 5.30pm. We started at Andasibe post office, a well-known bat roosting site. As the evening closed in, a Malagasy Kestrel perched near the bat site exit. A Striated Heron was seen flying towards its roost and, eventually, a trickle of Leaf-nosed Bats escaped from the post office.

We moved on to the orchid park. A Parson's Chameleon was a treat, and this was closely followed by Crossley's Dwarf Lemur. Then Eastern Woolly Lemur and a tiny Nose-horned Chameleon were followed by an odd-looking white insect. Despite an intensive search, there was no sign of the resident Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher. A Band-bellied Chameleon and large Lion Moth were the reserve prizes.

Day 14

Thursday 2nd November

It was our last day and we had to make the most of it. Breakfast was at 6.15am with bags ready to go. A Ward's Vanga was singing around the lodge and Mascarene Martins sheltered from the rain. The bus was loaded for a 6.45am departure and at 7.15am we arrived at Andasibe.

Madagascan Turtle Dove was the first to greet us, and a family of Madagascan Flufftails avoided our attention as a Madagascan Tree Boa was in the centre of the path. We moved it to a place of relative safety, but not before a few people gave it a cuddle (strictly to warm it up a little). A frog sp, Pill Centipede and Flatid leaf bugs were all we could unearth in the rain. A few Common Brown Lemurs crossed the path and a male Madagascan Paradise Flycatcher darted around us. It continued to rain steadily and the birding was slow. Indris called and showed. We ended up below a small group of Indri and were mesmerised by their behaviour. A Blue Coua played second fiddle. Eventually we tore ourselves away. The rain continued. We waited by a Madagascan Sparrowhawk nest and eventually it stirred from the depths to stretch its legs.

The rain eventually stopped as we reached Lac Vert. A Madagascan Harrier Hawk flew past being mobbed by a Crested Drongo. A Madagascan Golden Orb Spider provided alternative entertainment. We headed back to the bus and there was a Blue Coua in the car park. We said our goodbye to Maurice and headed off to Feno'nyala for lunch. It started to rain again. A couple of White-throated Rails showed and Indri called; not too distantly but out of view. Chabert's Vanga and Red-billed Teal put in appearances but it was relatively quiet, presumably because of the steady rain.

The meal was good and we then set off about 1pm for Tana. The long ride was broken by a short stop at Marongo River to look for Madagascan Pratincole, but none were available. A couple of Common Sandpipers and Mascarene Martins were the only birds of note.

We arrived in Tana about 5pm and stopped briefly for curiosities and vanilla before checking in at Le Combava to freshen up. A quick scout round the hotel produced the usual sightings. We set off around 10.15pm for the airport to catch our flights home after an amazing two weeks full of incredible wildlife experiences and wonderful company.

Day 15

Friday 3rd November

After our overnight flight to Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, we had connections back to our home airports, where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Species Lists

Lemurs (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only; C = Captive)

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2		
1	Rufous Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>			2	2										
2	Crossley's (Furry-eared) Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>												1		
3	Zombitse Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>								2						
4	Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>										4				
5	Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>			6											
6	Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>			2											
7	Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	C				15	12								
8	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>	C									10	3	4		
9	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur ruffrons</i>			4			6								
10	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>			4											
11	Variiegated Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>	C		3	H								3		
12	Eastern Woolly Lemur (Avahi)	<i>Avahi laniger</i>										2	4			
13	Crowned Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coronatus</i>	C													
14	Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>	C													
15	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>								8						
16	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>										8	8			
17	Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>			6	5										
23	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>										5	H	3		

Other Mammals

1	Fossa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>														Smelt	
2	Ring-tailed Mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>			1	2											
3	Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>									1						
4	Eastern Red Forest Rat	<i>Nesomys rufus</i>			3	2											
5	Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat	<i>Hipposideros commersoni</i>															60

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November													
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2		

Birds

1	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>					8									
2	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	30	5								2				1
3	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		1												
4	Madagascar Partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagarensis</i>						2								
5	Madagascar Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>												1		
6	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					2					1				
7	Madagascar Ibis	<i>Lophotibis cristata</i>												3		
8	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	5	8												8
9	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>									3		1	2	1	
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	12							1						3
11	Malagasy Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola idae</i>							9							
12	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	100	150			10					25				40
13	Humboldt's Heron	<i>Ardea humbloti</i>									1					
14	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	20	12							10					12
15	Dimorphic Egret	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	30	80							2					40
16	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>					1				2	4				2
17	Madagascar Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>				1										1
18	Madagascar Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter madagascariensis</i>											1			1
19	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		10			8	15	20			2				
20	Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>		1	1								2			
21	Subdesert Mesite	<i>Monias benschi</i>									2					
22	Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>											2			
23	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>						2					2	2	3	
24	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>												1		
25	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								3	4					
26	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								1						
27	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								2	1					
28	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								3	8					

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
29	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>								2	3			
30	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>									6			
31	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								6	1			
32	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								6	1			
33	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1											2
34	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								15	3			
35	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									20			
36	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	10											
37	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>									3			
38	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓				✓		✓				
39	Malagasy Turtle Dove	<i>Nesoenas picturatus</i>			H					1	12		2	1
40	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>								4				
41	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>			3	4								10
42	Malagasy Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>			H	H			8	H	2		3	
43	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>									1			
44	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>			1	6							2	1 3
45	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>			H	H								1
46	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>									1			
47	Giant Coua	<i>Coua gigas</i>								2				
48	Madagascar Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>		H	H	1				H			H	1
49	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>		1					2				1	
50	White-browed Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox superciliaris</i>								1				
51	Madagascar Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>											1	
52	Collared Nightjar	<i>Gactornis enarratus</i>											1	
53	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>								1	H	H	1	
54	Madagascar Spinetail	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>											1	1
55	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		12	8	6	15	15	12					
56	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartia melba</i>						2						
57	Malagasy Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>	15	2				2						
58	Cuckoo Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>						1	3					

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November												
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
59	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>							2				2	2	
60	Scaly Ground Roller	<i>Geobiastes squamiger</i>												H	
61	Pitta-like Ground Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>			2	1									
62	Long-tailed Ground Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>									1				
63	Madagascan Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis madagascariensis</i>									1				
64	Malagasy Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis vintsioides</i>			1							2			4
65	Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	4	4				6	10	6					
66	Madagascan Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>													
67	Malagasy Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>													
68	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>			1						2			3	
69	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>			H	1		22				3	8		
70	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>						6		26	8				
71	Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>			1	1									
72	Common Sunbird-Asity	<i>Neodrepanis coruscans</i>				2									
73	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>				2			1			2	1	2	
74	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>				2						1			
75	Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>				2									
76	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>								2					
77	White-headed Vanga	<i>Artamella viridis</i>				2							1		
78	Chabert Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>				2			2	2		6		3	
79	Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>										4			
80	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>				1						1	4		
81	Dark Newtonia	<i>Newtonia amphichroa</i>				3									
82	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>				1			2	2			2	2	
83	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>								1					
84	Ward's Flycatcher	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>										2			1
85	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>			1		2	10	5	10		6	4	2	
86	Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>		H	2	2				3	1	4	8	3	
87	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		10			25	16	10	6	10				8
88	Madagascan Lark	<i>Eremopterix hova</i>	1	1			6		8	5	4				

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
89	Malagasy Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	6	6	4	6		10	10	6	6	15	6	6
90	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	4	20	3	15			12			6	5	6
91	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	8											
92	Malagasy Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>		6	H	4						2	H	
93	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>								1	3			
94	Madagascan Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>											2	
95	White-throated Oxylabes	<i>Oxylabes madagascariensis</i>			H								1	
96	Wedge-tailed Jery	<i>Hartertula flavoviridis</i>				1								
97	Spectacled Tetraka	<i>Xanthomixis zosterops</i>			1							1	2	
98	Appert's Tetraka	<i>Xanthomixis apperti</i>							1					
99	Grey-crowned Tetraka	<i>Xanthomixis cinereiceps</i>				1								
100	Rand's Warbler	<i>Randia pseudozosterops</i>			2	H							H	
101	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>		5				1	3	5			2	2
102	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>								1		2		
103	Madagascan Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>					1	2	2		1			
104	Malagasy White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	8	5	2	2		2				6	8	6
105	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	25	50	3	6	6	14	12	10	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Madagascan Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus albospecularis</i>	2			2		1	4	4		H	2	1
107	Forest Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei</i>				2		1						
108	Madagascan Stonechat	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>	2					1						1
109	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris sovimanga</i>	2	4	H	5		3	4	3	1	4	3	2
110	Malagasy Green Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris notatus</i>		1	1	H						1	1	
111	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>			H	3						4	3	2
112	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>							60	30	6			
113	Red Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	30	4				2			1	2		
114	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia omissa</i>		1									3	2
115	Madagascan Mannikin	<i>Lepidopygia nana</i>	2	1				5	1					2
116	Madagascan Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	6	4	3	2	1					2	2	1
117	Long-billed Bernieria	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>			2							1		

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Reptiles & Amphibians

Frogs

1	Madagascar Bright-eyed Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>		2	1										
2	Malagasy Painted Frog	<i>Mantella madagascariensis</i>				1									
3	Malagasy Glass Frog(Tsarafidy Madagascan Frog)	<i>Mantidactylus pulcher</i>				2						2	1		
4	Mascarene Grass Frog	<i>Ptychadena Mascareniesis</i>				2									

Chameleons

1	Belted Chameleon	<i>Calumma balteatus</i>				1									
2	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>										4			
3	Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>			1	1									
4	Short-nosed Chameleon	<i>Calumma gastrotaenia</i>											1		
5	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>			2	1							1		
6	O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>			2	1									
7	Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>										2	1		
8	Jewel' Chameleon	<i>Furcifer lateralis</i>		2											
9	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	3				1								
10	Spiny-backed or Warty Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>									1				

Lizards, Geckos & Skinks

1	Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Oplurus (Chalerodon) madagascariensis</i>									1				
2	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>					1								
3	Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>						10							
4	Large-headed Gecko	<i>Paroedura bastardii</i>									1				
5	Grandidier's Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus tolampyae</i>								1					
6	Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>			1										
7	Lined Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata lineata</i>			2	4	1	1							
8	Peacock Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>		1	1	1									
9	Standing's Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>								1	1				
10	Elegant Skink	<i>Trachylepis elegans</i>								1					
11	Ornate Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>			1										

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November											
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Snakes

1	Big-eyed Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>										1	2			
2	Madagascar Tree Boa	<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>												1		1

Turtles & Tortoises

1	Bell's Hinge-backed Tortoise	<i>Kinixys belliana</i>	C													
2	Radiated Tortoise	<i>Geochelone radiata</i>	C					C								
3	Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoids</i>	C													

Butterflies

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail, <i>Pharmacophagus antenor</i>	Banded Blue, <i>Papilio oribazus</i>	Citrus Swallowtail, <i>Papilo demodocus</i>
African Monarch, <i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Common Joker, <i>Byblia anvata</i>	<i>Strabena ibitina</i>
African Vagrant, <i>Catopsilia florella</i>	<i>Colotis zoe</i>	White-tipped Blue (poss), <i>Eicochrysops hippocrates</i>

Moths

Sunset Moth, <i>Urania ripheus</i>	Lion Moth sp.	a Hawk-moth
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Other Invertebrates

Violet Dropwing, <i>Trithemis annulata</i>	Azure Skimmer, <i>Orthetrum azureum</i>	Scarlet Darter, <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
a Dragonfly, <i>Palpopleura vestita</i>	Emperor type Dragonfly, <i>c.f. Anax imperator</i>	Hissing Cockroach, <i>Gromphadorhina portentosa</i>
a Black Cockroach	a Stick Insect	Flatid Leaf-bug, <i>Phromnia rosea</i>
Plataspid Shield Bugs, <i>Libyaspis coccinelloides</i>	Snout Bug or Flat-backed Weevil, <i>Zana tenebrosa</i>	Firefly, <i>Lampyridae sp.</i>
Rhinoceros Beetle, <i>Oryctes sp.</i>	Giraffe-necked Weevil, <i>Trachelophorus giraffa</i>	Pill Millipede (Green or Brown), <i>Sphaerotherium sp.</i>
a Large Black Millipede	Madagascar Fire Millipede, <i>Aphistogoniulus sp.</i>	a Scarab Beetle
a Giant Bush Cricket	Madagascar Golden Orb-web Spider, <i>Nephila madagascariensis</i>	"Huntsman" Spider, <i>Holconia sp.</i>
a Crab Spider	Scorpion, <i>Opisthacanthus madagascariensis</i>	

Plants (P = Planted; * = Endemic)

Scientific name	Common name
PTERIDOPHYTES	
Lycophytes	
Lycopodiaceae	
<i>Lycopodium</i> sp.	-
Leptosporangiate Ferns	
Aspleniaceae	
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Spleenwort Family Basket Fern
Osmundaceae	
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern Family Royal Fern
Salviniaceae	
	Water Fern Family a Maiden Hair Fern
GYMNOSPERMS	
Pinaceae	
<i>Pinus kesiya</i>	Conifers Pine Family Khasi Pine
<i>Pinus patula</i>	Mexican Weeping Pine
PRE-DICOTS	
Nymphaeaceae	
<i>Nymphaea nouchali</i> (<i>N. stellata</i>)	Primitive Angiosperms Water-lily Family African Water-lily
EU-DICOTS	
Acanthaceae	
<i>Pachystachys lutea</i> P	True Dicotyledons Bear's-breech Family Lollipop or Golden Shrimp Plant
Anacardiaceae	
<i>Mangifera indica</i> P	Sumach Family Common Mango
Apocynaceae	
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> *	Periwinkle Family Madagascan Periwinkle
<i>Pachypodium rosulatum</i> subsp. <i>rosulatum</i> *	Elephant's Foot
Bignoniaceae	
<i>Jacaranda</i> c.f. <i>cuspidifolia</i> P	Jacaranda
Cactaceae	
<i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i> subsp. <i>mauritiana</i>	Cactus Family Mistletoe Cactus
<i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i> subsp. <i>horrida</i> *	Mistletoe Cactus
Caricaceae	
<i>Carica papaya</i> P	Papaya Family Papaya
Crassulaceae	
<i>Kalanchoe beharensis</i> *	Stonecrop Family Napoleon's Hat
Didiereaceae *	
<i>Alluaudia procera</i> *	Octopus Tree Family -
<i>Didierea madagascariensis</i> *	Octopus tree
Euphorbiaceae	
<i>Euphorbia bevilanensis</i> *	Spurge Family a Crown of Thorns
<i>Euphorbia milii</i> *	Crown of Thorns
<i>Jatropha mahafalensis</i> *	-
<i>Manihot esculenta</i> P	Cassava or Tapioca
Malvaceae	
<i>Adansonia madagascariensis</i> *	Mallow Family Madagascan Baobab
<i>Adansonia rubristipa</i> *	Fony Baobab
<i>Adansonia za</i> *	Baobab

Scientific name

Meliaceae

Melia azedarach

Musaceae

Musa sp. P

Myrtaceae

Psidium guajava P

Pedaliaceae

*Uncarina stellulifera**

Phyllanthaceae

*Uapaca bojeri**

Solanaceae

Brugmansia versicolor P

Strelitziaceae

*Ravenala madagascariensis**

Verbenaceae

Lantana camara

MONOCOTS

Orchidaceae

*Angraecum compactum**

Cynorkis purpurescens

Oeonia rosea

*Vanilla decaryana**

Pandanaceae

Pandanus boivinii (P. Vandamii)*

Poaceae

*Cathariostachys madagascariensis**

Oryza sativa P

Phragmites australis

Saccharum officinarum P

Common name

Mahogany Family

Indian Lilac or Bead Tree

Banana Family

Banana

Myrtle Family

Guava

Sesame Family

-

Leafflower Family

Tapia

Nightshade Family

Angel's Trumpets

Strelitzia Family

Traveller Palm

Verbena Family

Lantana

Monocotyledons

Orchid Family

-

Dancing Ladies

-

a Vanilla Orchid

Pandanus Family

Vandam's Screwpine

Grass Family

Madagascar Giant Bamboo

Rice

Common Reed

Sugarcane



Diademed Sifaka