

Madagascar for Real



Galidia elegans in dry forest in the Ankarana Reserve. (David Parks photo)

All of the 100 or so species of native land mammals in Madagascar are found nowhere else. The familiar large mammal groups of Africa (hoofed animals, cats, elephants), are absent, the only near exception being the recently extinct pygmy hippopotamus.

The Striped Mongoose, *Galidia elegans*, is common and active in daylight, so it is the most frequently seen carnivore. It is somewhat smaller than a house cat. All eight Malagasy carnivores are related to mongooses.



Common Tenrec, *Tenrec ecaudatus*, near Ft. Dauphin/Iolagnaro. (David Parks photo)

Tenrecs are a group of about two dozen species of insectivores found only in Madagascar. The Common Tenrec shown here is the largest insectivore and produces up to 32 offspring in one litter, the record litter size among mammals.