

# Madagascar for Real



*Furcifer pardalis* near the Bemarivo River north of Sambava. (David Parks photo)

In a grand experiment in evolution some kinds of organisms have radiated to form diverse species in Madagascar, while other kinds are not there at all. Everyone knows about the lemurs which are found only in Madagascar, but it is also the world center for chameleons, the only home for five families of birds and nine families of plants, and much more.

This male Panther Chameleon was green and black when first seen but changed to yellow and red in a minute or two after being disturbed