Pugu Forest Reserve: biological values and development

Author(s)

K. M. HOWELL

Abstract

The Pugu Forest Reserve, a small 22 km^2 reserve near Dar es Salaam, is one of the last remaining vestiges of lowland coastal forest in Tanzania and contains a unique flora with twelve endemic species and one endemic genus. The Pugu Forest Reserve is the type locality for several species of invertebrates. The herpetofauna of the forest is unusual and recent collections have yielded two species not previously recorded for coastal Tanzania. The forest is the southernmost point in the range of an endemic East African coastal bird, the Sokoke pipit, and a number of bird species with unusual or restricted distributions are found in the forest. The mammals of the forest have not yet been studied in detail but many of the larger species formerly occupying the area are no longer present. It is suggested that the small portions of natural vegetation remaining within the Pugu Forest Reserve should be given total protection under a Nature Reserve conservation status and that this status be extended to a number of natural habitats, not only forests, which are in danger of destruction in Tanzania.