

Checklist of Tanzanian Species, Version 1 Hulda Gideon, Philibert Nyinondi and Godfrey Oyema (eds), InterPress of Tanzania Ltd, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, Dar es Salaam (2012), 545 pp. ISBN: 978-9987-9485-1-2

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Abstract

Tanzania is among the top biodiversity-rich countries in Africa and a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Yet until recently, there has not been any comprehensive documentation of the species of Tanzania. Before the production of the 'Checklist of Tanzanian Species' by Gideon, Nyinondi and Oyema (2012), information was scattered in published and unpublished works, Web journals, and in the depositories of academic and research institution's libraries, herbaria and museums where it was difficult to access. This book is an important contribution to the documentation of Tanzanian biodiversity. Species accounts in this book are arranged by taxon (species totals in brackets); marine algae (556), amphibians (197), terrestrial arthropods (867), birds (1148), cnidarians (365), echinoderms (144), fishes (1568), fungi (810), mammals (333), water molluscs (159), plants (7714 verified, 953 unresolved names), poriferans (120) and reptiles (355), with individual chapters co-authored by experts from universities, research institutions and knowledgeable practitioners. Although most chapters are well written, some authors did not cross-check the species checklists with international databases, and hence, there are important omissions. Furthermore, the written accounts for several taxa also do not relate closely to species checklist. For example, in the chapter on mammals, the authors discuss the edibility of species and whether a species is pest, but this is not indicated in the species checklist. Similarly, in the mammal and reptile chapters, the proportion of endemic and threatened species are cited, but no attempt is made to identify the threatened or endemic status of individual species. In the mammal chapter, *Equus burchellii* is placed i