

# Biogeography of Eastern African Dermaptera

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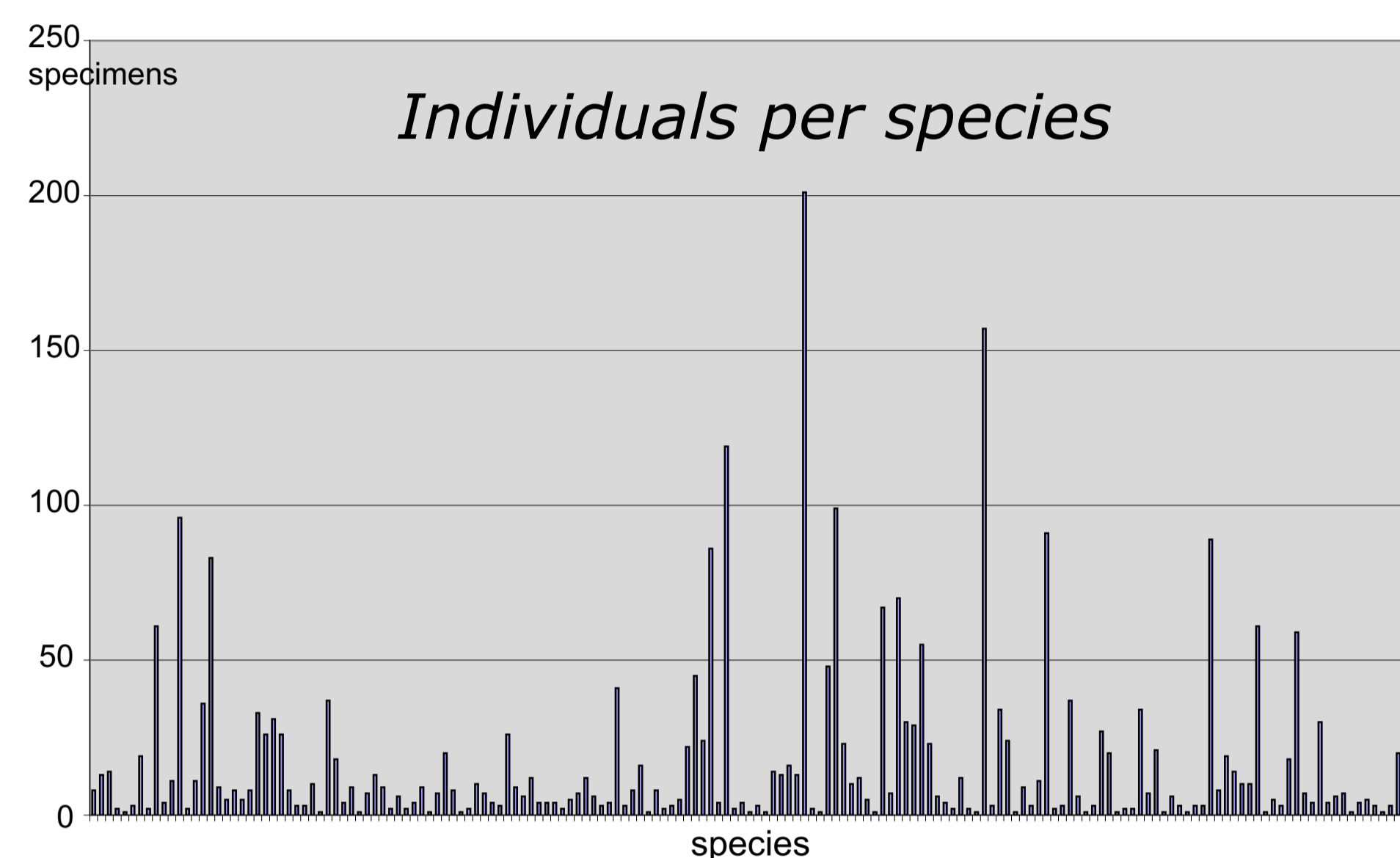
Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart  
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The Dermaptera fauna of Eastern Africa is examined based on an extensive literature survey, research in several museum collections and specimens provided by colleagues. These data were taken to critically examine the base for this faunistic work and the validity of statements such as 'endemic', 'rare' and 'widely distributed'.

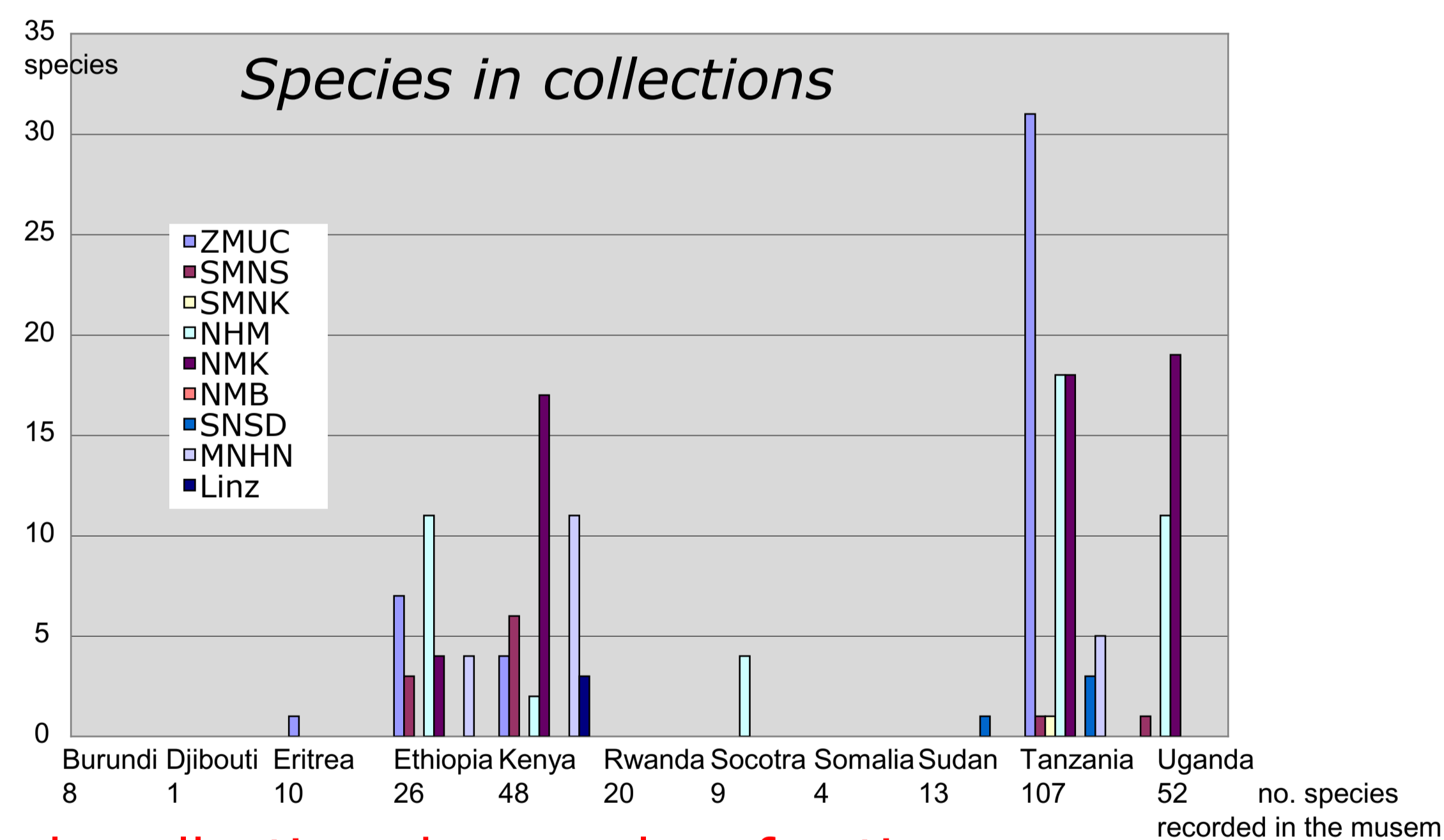
**A total of 167 species with 2932 individuals were traced and registered for the whole region.**

It was also examined how exhaustive collections and expeditions cover a local fauna.



For 19 species (11.4 %), only one individual for the whole region could be traced in the literature and the collections.

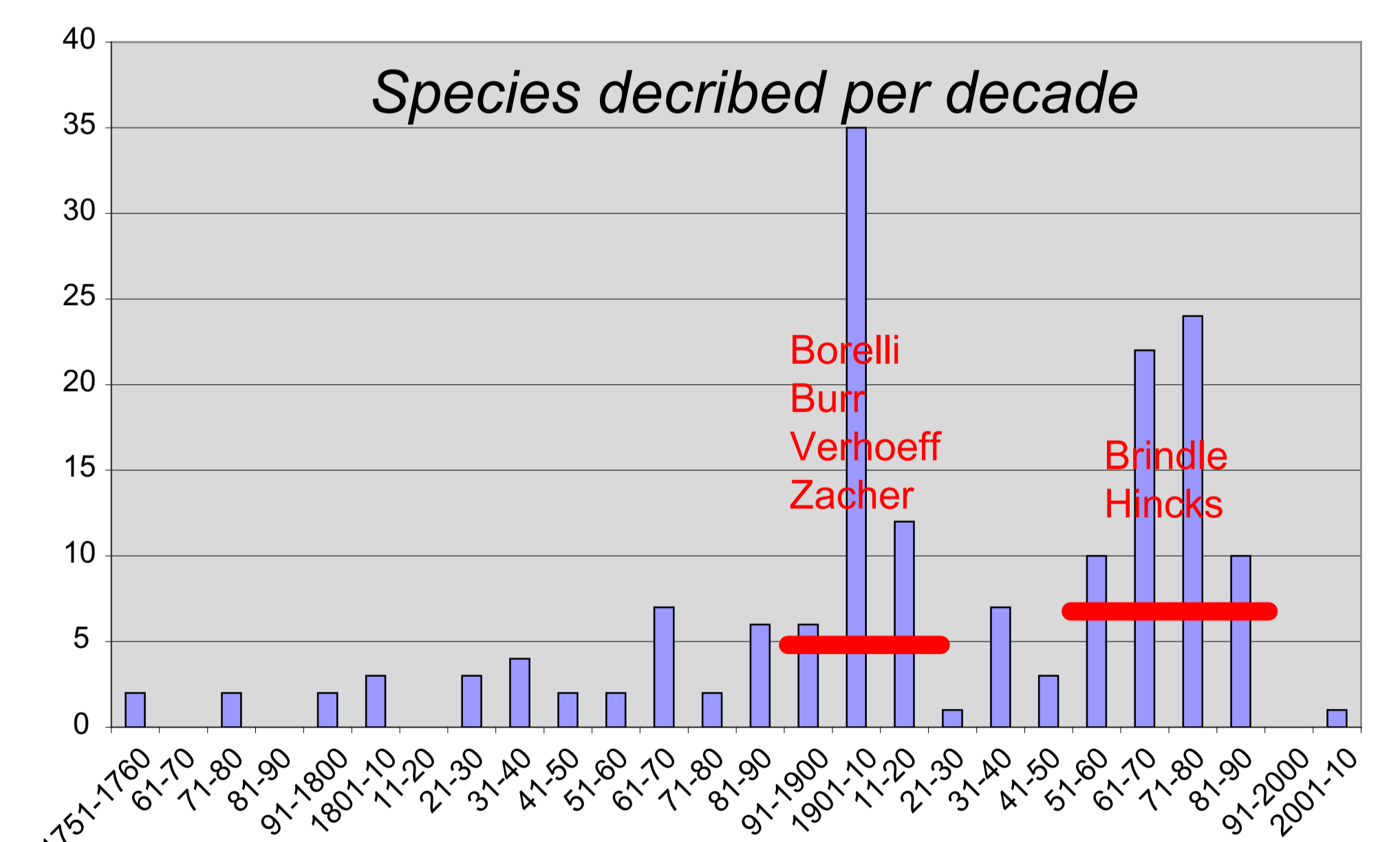
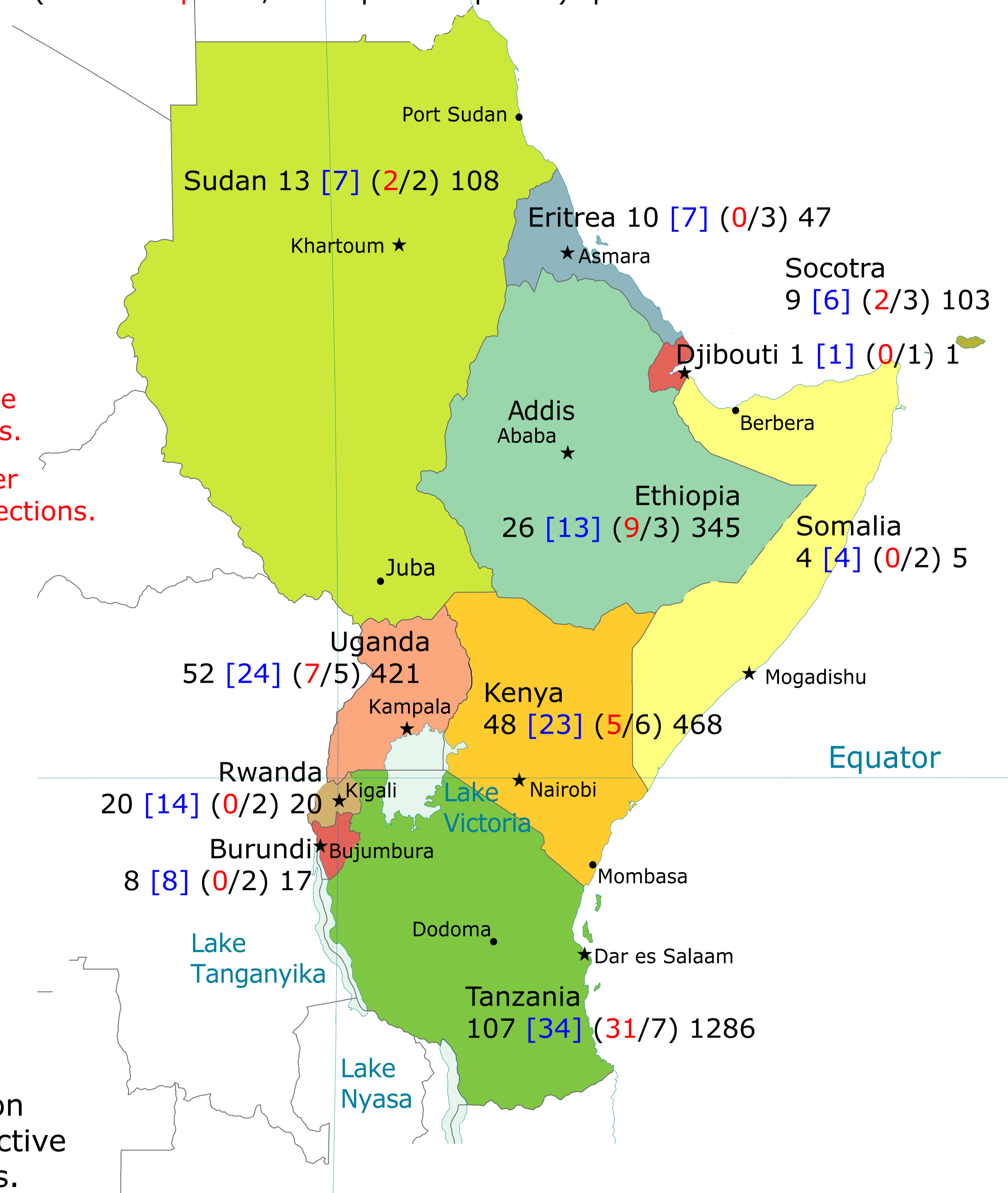
For another 67 species (40 %) only one individual per country could be traced in the literature and the collections.



Single collections have only a fraction of Eastern African fauna.

Most of the **23 (1879-1975) expeditions** to the region found 10 % or less of the species occurring in the respective country. The best result was 36 % of the known species.

**Species numbers and composition in Eastern Africa**  
 Country number of species [genera]  
 (endemic species/cosmopolitan species) specimen records



This graph nicely shows how closely the active life of major Dermapterologists correlates with the number of species described.

*The data show that*

Complete inventories must be based on::  
 many collections  
 extensive literature survey  
 and new collecting.

Expeditions detect a limited number of species:: fresh specimens of all species are difficult to obtain.

Sound statements on abundance:: impossible.

## Sources

2932 records (2342 records from collections + 70 records from new collecting + 520 records from 103 publications) for single individuals of Dermaptera were available. The collections of following museums were examined: MNHN, Paris, NHM, London, NMB, Basel, NMK, Nairobi, OÖLM, Linz, SMNK, Karlsruhe, SMNS, Stuttgart, SNSD, Dresden and ZMUC, Copenhagen. T Basedow, Giessen, HG Schabel, Stevens Point, USA, and T Wagner, Koblenz kindly provided additional specimens which they collected in the region on various occasions.

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