



A NEW SPECIES OF BOUBOU (MALACONOTIDAE: *LANIARIUS*) FROM THE ALBERTINE RIFT

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ABSTRACT.—We describe *Laniarius willardi*, a new species of boubou shrike (Malaconotidae) from the Albertine Rift of Africa. The most conspicuous, distinguishing morphological feature of the species is a gray to blue-gray iris. This and external morphometric data indicate that *L. willardi* is diagnosable from other black or sooty boubous. Further, *L. willardi* is genetically diagnosable, and its closest relative is the Mountain Sooty Boubou (*L. poensis camerunensis*) from Cameroon. The Crimson-breasted Bush-shrike (*L. atrococcineus*) and the Lowland Sooty Boubou (*L. leucorhynchus*) are together the sister clade to *L. willardi*–*L. p. camerunensis*. *Laniarius willardi* and the geographically codistributed *L. p. holomelas* differ by 11.5% in uncorrected sequence divergence, and elevational data taken from museum specimens suggest the possibility of elevational segregation of the species at ~2,000 m, with *L. willardi* occurring at lower elevations. Our broad sampling of black and sooty boubou taxa indicate that (1) races of Mountain Sooty Boubou (*L. poensis*) do not form a monophyletic clade; (2) *L. p. camerunensis* may represent multiple, nonsister lineages; and (3) at least one race of Fülleborn's Black Boubou (*L. fülleborni usambaricus*) is genetically distinct from other races of that species. Received 16 June 2009, accepted 12 December 2009.

Key words: Africa, boubou, *Laniarius*, Malaconotidae, shrikes.

Une nouvelle espèce de *Laniarius* (Malaconotidae) au Rift Albertine

RÉSUMÉ.—Nous décrivons ici *Laniarius willardi*, une nouvelle espèce de la famille des Malaconotidae vivant au Rift Albertine, en Afrique. Le caractère morphologique le plus remarquable de cette espèce est un iris gris à bleu-gris. Ceci et des données morphométriques externes indiquent que *L. willardi* est différent des autres *Laniarius*. De plus, *L. willardi* est génétiquement différent et son plus proche parent est *L. poensis camerunensis*, au Cameroun. *L. atrococcineus* et *L. leucorhynchus* forment le clade sœur de *L. willardi*–*L. p. camerunensis*. *L. willardi* et *L. p. holomelas*, dont la répartition géographique est similaire, diffèrent de 11,5 % en ce qui concerne la divergence de la séquence corrigée. Les données altitudinales récoltées sur des spécimens de musée suggèrent qu'il existe une possibilité de ségrégation altitudinale des espèces à ~2 000 m, *L. willardi* étant présent à des altitudes plus faibles. Notre vaste échantillonnage de ce taxon indique que (1) les races *L. poensis* ne forment pas un clade monophylétique, (2) *L. p. camerunensis* peut représenter des lignées multiples qui ne sont pas sœurs et (3) au moins une race de *L. fülleborni usambaricus* est génétiquement distincte des autres races de cette espèce.

CLASSIFIED AS A biodiversity hotspot (Mittermeier et al. 2005), the Albertine Rift in East Africa contains more vertebrate species and more vertebrate endemic species than any other region in Africa (Plumptre et al. 2007). The high species richness of birds is attributable, in part, to the fact that a substantial number of taxa reach a distributional limit at the rift (Sinclair and Ryan 2003).

For example, three species of black or sooty boubou shrikes (Malaconotidae), the Lowland Sooty Boubou (*Laniarius leucorhynchus*), Mountain Sooty Boubou (*L. poensis*), and Slate-colored Boubou (*L. funebris*), have ranges that to some extent occur within or border the Albertine Rift. Yet another black *Laniarius* species, Fülleborn's Boubou (*L. fülleborni*), occurs in the nearby Eastern

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Arc Mountains of Tanzania and Kenya, the western extent of the Eastern Afromontane hotspot and another region of high vertebrate endemism (Burgess et al. 2007).

In 1997, T.P.G., C.K., and B.D.M. conducted collections-based field work in the southern region of Uganda, in the Albertine Rift system. Their survey was conducted on privately held property primarily used as a banana plantation, which included the only forest contiguous with the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in the area. During this survey, they collected 4 black *Laniarius* specimens that they were forced to attribute to *L. poensis holomelas* on the basis of size and plumage characteristics. However, these specimens, and an additional Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) specimen collected in Burundi in 1991, were noted as having a unique iris color (gray to blue-gray) unlike that shown for any black *Laniarius* species in field guides (reddish-black to black). We could find no published reports describing blue-gray irides in adults of black *Laniarius* species, which reinforced concerns about the identification of these specimens (Marks et al. 2003).

Further questions related to species limits and taxonomy of black *Laniarius* species are raised by the broader distributions of *L. poensis* and *L. fuelleborni*. The former has a significant geographic disjunction between subspecies in the Albertine Rift and Mt. Cameroon (Fig. 1), and the latter has populations isolated on different mountains of the Eastern Arc, as well as a population in southwestern Tanzania and northern Malawi (Fry et al. 2000). Taxonomically, these two species have been linked; races of *L. poensis* were historically recognized as subspecies of *L. fuelleborni* (Mayr and Greenway 1960). Also, *L. poensis* and *L. fuelleborni* along with *L. leucorhynchus* are considered a superspecies (Fry et al. 2000). However, no phylogenetic study has addressed the relationships among these populations.

We had two goals in the present study. First, we conducted phylogenetic and morphometric analyses to determine whether the gray to blue-gray iris (hereafter “gray”) color reported for 5 *Laniarius* specimens (Marks et al. 2003) represents an unreported geographic variant of a currently described black *Laniarius* species, or whether the unique iris color indicates a cryptic species new to science. Second, our sampling of black *Laniarius* species allowed us to present an overview of phylogenetic relationships and to propose preliminary taxonomic recommendations for the group.

METHODS

Morphology

We sought to address two questions related to morphology. First, is the gray iris variant morphologically distinct from its sister taxon (see below), and second, does morphology distinguish the gray iris variant from other dark *Laniarius* species, particularly those that are sympatric with it? We took morphological measurements from 12 individuals of *L. fuelleborni*, 53 of *L. poensis holomelas*, a combined 9 individuals of *L. p. poensis* and *L. p. camerunensis*, 6 of *L. leucorhynchus*, and 4 of the gray iris variant (the fifth is a skeletal preparation). To the gray iris variant group, we added 9 individuals of *L. p. holomelas* from the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) that, according to specimen labels, exhibited gray irides (no significant morphological differences were found between the two groups; multivariate analysis of covariance [MANCOVA]: $F = 1.527$, $df = 4$ and 7 , $P = 0.293$). Just 5 of the 85 specimens of *L. p. holomelas* housed at the Royal Museum for Central Africa had iris color recorded, and none was gray (G. Voelker pers. obs.); hence, we did not include those in our analyses.

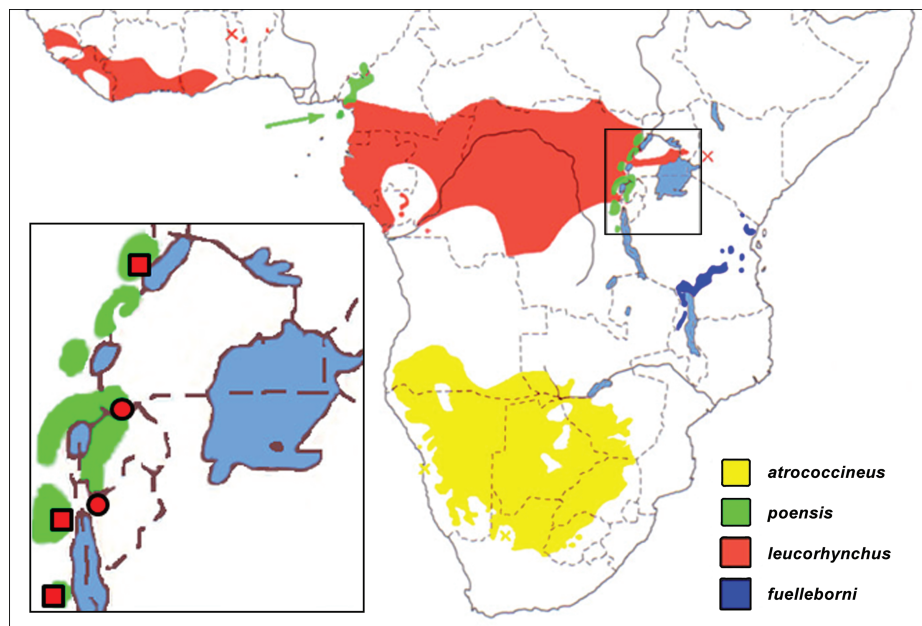


FIG. 1. Distributions of *Laniarius atrococcineus*, *L. poensis*, *L. leucorhynchus*, and *L. fuelleborni*. Light blue indicates lakes. Inset: distribution of *L. willardi*, overlaid on the distribution of *L. poensis*. Red circles indicate general collecting localities of the *L. willardi* type series; red squares indicate general collecting localities of specimens presumed to be *L. willardi* on the basis of iris color and morphology (see text).

All specimens measured were adults, and sexes were combined for analyses. Measurements were taken with digital calipers (by G.V.) and rounded to the nearest 0.1 mm. They included wing chord (WCH), tail length (from point of feather insertion to tip of central rectrix; TAIL), tarsus length (TS), exposed culmen length (CUL), and bill width at anterior edge of nares (BWID). Weights to the nearest 0.1 g were obtained in the field before preparation, using a Pesola spring scale. All measured specimens included herein are housed at the FMNH or the AMNH (Appendix).

Morphological data were analyzed using MANCOVA. Assumptions of multivariate normal error and homogeneity of variances and covariances were met for all analyses performed. *F* ratios were approximated using Wilks's lambda and effect strengths using partial eta squared (η_p^2). To control for multivariate allometry, we used TS as a covariate in the model. Each individual was assigned to one of five groups (corresponding to putative species: *L. fuelleborni*, *L. p. holomelas*, *L. p. poensis* [combined with *L. p. camerunensis*], *L. leucorhynchus*, and the gray iris variant), and "species" was included as the independent variable.

To provide another intuitive measure of effect strengths, we conducted a heuristic discriminant function analysis (DFA) to determine the percentage of specimens that could be correctly classified to the correct species on the basis of morphometric data. To do so, we first removed the effects of allometry by using residuals of a preparatory MANCOVA. In this MANCOVA, morphological traits were used as dependent variables and TS as a covariate.

Molecular Methods and Sequence Alignment

We sequenced mtDNA from a total of 54 individuals of black *Laniarius* species (Appendix), focusing primarily on *L. p. camerunensis* ($n = 2$), *L. p. holomelas* ($n = 25$), *L. fuelleborni* ($n = 15$), and the five FMNH individuals of the gray iris variant. These included samples from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania. We also sequenced 6 individuals of *L. leucorhynchus* (Albertine Rift and west in lowland forest) and 1 of *L. funebris* (Albertine Rift and east in dry forest). Whole genomic DNA was extracted from tissue or museum specimen toepads using the DNeasy tissue extraction kit (Qiagen, Valencia, California). We used polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify the mitochondrial NADH dehydrogenase subunit 2 (ND2) using newly developed primers (L185: GCYGC-TACTAAGTACTTCCTAAC and H790: GTTAGTTCTTGGA-TAATGAGTCA) and previously published primers and protocols (Outlaw et al. 2007, 2010). Automated sequencing was performed with BigDye (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California) and products were run out on an ABI 377 or ABI 3100 sequencer. We used SEQUENCHER, version 4.7 (Gene Codes, Ann Arbor, Michigan), to align 700–1,041 base pairs (bp) of ND2 from each sample except FMNH 95873, from which we obtained only 300 bp. Sequences have been deposited in GenBank under accession numbers HM119437–HM119484.

Phylogenetic Analyses

We included previously published sequences from other *Laniarius* species (obtained from GenBank) in our phylogenetic analysis (Nguembock et al. 2008). These included additional black boubous (*L. fuelleborni* from Tanzania [$n = 2$], *L. poensis* [$n = 2$; one each

from Cameroon and Burundi], and *L. funebris* [$n = 2$]), and 12 additional bush-shrike species.

MODELTEST, version 3.04 (Posada and Crandall 1998), was used to select the most appropriate model of sequence evolution for our data. Hierarchical likelihood ratio tests and Akaike's information criterion identified GTR+I+ Γ as the best-fitting model. Using PAUP* (Swofford 2002), we performed a maximum-likelihood (ML) search using parameters estimated from a log-det neighbor-joining topology. This initial search ran for >16,000 rearrangements, with no changes in likelihood score after 5,000 rearrangements. We reestimated GTR+I+ Γ parameters and ran a second ML search to completion at >230,000 rearrangements. Relationships among major clades did not change between searches.

Support for relationships was assessed using MRBAYES, version 3.1.2 (Huelsenbeck and Ronquist 2001). Four Bayesian analyses were initiated from random starting trees, with four Markov-chain Monte Carlo chains run for 2 million generations and sampled every 100 generations, yielding 20,000 trees each. The first 5,000 trees from each analysis were discarded to help ensure chain stationarity. All remaining trees were combined, yielding a total of 60,000 topologies from which a 50% majority-rule consensus tree was reconstructed. Nodes with posterior probability values ≥ 0.95 were deemed significantly supported. We further assessed node support using ML bootstrap analysis in TREEFINDER (Jobb 2008), using the GTR+I+ Γ model with 2,000 pseudoreplicates.

RESULTS

***Laniarius willardi*, sp. nov.** Voelker & Gnoske
Willard's Sooty Boubou
Gonolek fuligineux de Willard (French name)

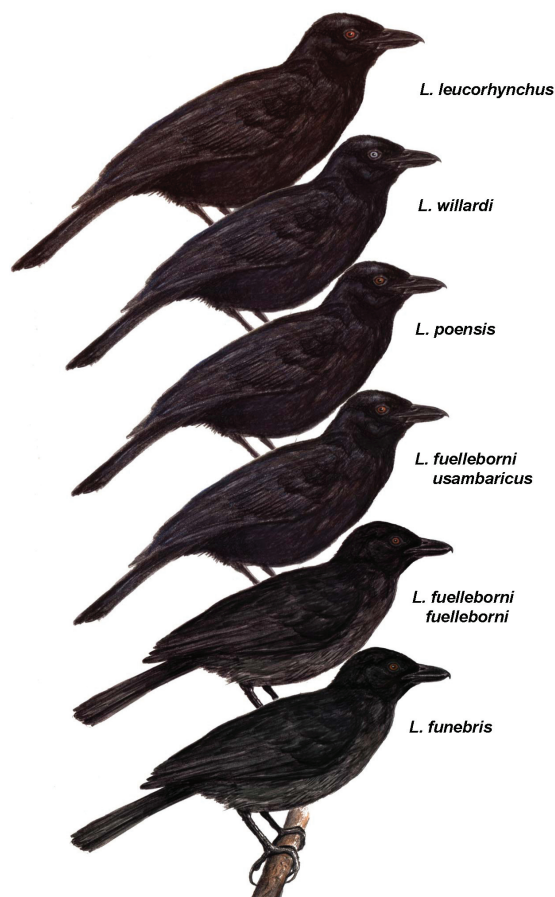
Holotype.—FMNH 384980; adult male (skull 100% pneumatized); from Nteko, Kisoro District, southern Uganda (1°1'59"S, 29°37'E), mixed hardwood forest habitat, elevation 1,600 m; collected 21 May 1997 by B.D.M. and prepared as a study skin. DNA sequence obtained from toe pads is deposited in GenBank (accession no. HM119437).

Diagnosis.—All aspects of plumage, bill, and legs black (2.5Y 2/0, based on Munsell color standards) with only slight hint of plumage iridescence. Distinguished from all other black shrikes by iris color, which ranges from gray to blue-gray across the type series (Fig. 2 and Table 1). Visually identical to *L. poensis* in plumage color, and similar in average morphological measurements (Table 2; but see below). Distinguished morphologically from *L. leucorhynchus* by smaller overall size (Fig. 2 and Table 2) and from *L. funebris* by plumage color (black, vs. dark slate in *L. funebris*).

Description of holotype.—Plumage black (2.5Y 2/0, based on Munsell color standards). Soft parts in life: iris blue-gray, bill and legs black.

Measurements of holotype.—Wing chord 80.2 mm, tail 74.2 mm, tarsus 28.8 mm, culmen from base of feathers 19.2 mm, bill width at anterior edge of nares 6.0 mm, body mass 44.7 g, skull 100% pneumatized, left testis 2 × 1 mm.

Allotype.—FMNH 384981; adult female (skull 95% pneumatized, ovary 7 × 3 mm); from Nteko, Kisoro District, southern Uganda (1°1'59"S, 29°37'E), mixed hardwood forest habitat,

FIG. 2. Black and sooty boubou species of the genus *Laniarius*.

elevation 1,600 m; collected 13 May 1997 by T.P.G. and prepared as a study skin, tissue preserved in buffer. DNA sequences are deposited in GenBank (accession no. HM119441).

Description and measurements of allotype.—Plumage black (2.5Y 2/0, based on Munsell color standards). Soft parts in life: iris blue-gray, bill and legs black. Wing chord 77.1 mm, tail 71.4 mm, tarsus 28.3 mm, culmen from base of feathers 17.7 mm, bill width at anterior edge of nares 6.3 mm, body mass 40.5 g, skull 95% pneumatized, ovary 7×3 mm.

Paratypes.—There are 3 additional specimens from the type series, all deposited at FMNH with associated tissue samples. Two specimens are from Nteko: FMNH 384982, male, study skin; and FMNH 384983, male, skeleton specimen. One specimen (FMNH 358003) is from Kibira National Park, Burundi (2°S, 29°22'59"E), male, study skin, collected 12 August 1991. Morphological measurements of the type series are given in Table 1.

Morphological separation of *Laniarius willardi* from similarly plumaged species in the genus.—Table 2 lists the descriptive statistics for each morphological trait in the four species. Morphological analyses revealed significant allometric effects ($F = 3.101$, $df = 4$ and 71 , $P = 0.021$, $\eta_p^2 = 0.149$) and a pronounced differentiation among species ($F = 11.706$, $df = 16$ and 296 , $P < 0.001$, $\eta_p^2 = 0.388$). Post hoc comparisons (Fisher's LSD) revealed that *L. willardi* differs from its sister group *L. p. camerunensis* in WCH and TAIL ($P \leq 0.002$); from the sympatric *L. p. holomelas* in WCH, TAIL, and BWID ($P \leq 0.019$); from *L. fuelleborni* in BWID ($P < 0.001$); and from *L. leucorhynchus* in all four morphological traits ($P \leq 0.048$).

Using DFA, >76.3% of the specimens (compared to the expected 20% under a null hypothesis of no pattern) could be assigned to the correct species solely on the basis of the four morphological measurements (Fig. 3 and Tables 3 and 4). Most importantly, the multivariate analyses and the DFA indicated that

TABLE 1. Morphological measurements and eye color of the type series of *Laniarius willardi*. Measurements are in millimeters, weight is in grams, and iris color was taken from specimen labels. Missing measurements are from a skeleton preparation.

FMNH	Sex	Weight	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen	Bill width	Iris color
358003	M	41.3	81.1	72.4	27.9	18.9	6.2	Gray
384980	M	44.7	80.2	74.2	28.8	19.2	6.0	Blue-gray
384981	F	40.5	77.1	71.4	28.3	17.7	6.3	Blue-gray
384982	M	44.7	76.9	73.4	29.6	17.9	6.8	Gray-blue
384983	M							Gray

TABLE 2. Morphometric measurements of *Laniarius willardi* and other species used in multivariate comparisons (sexes combined; WCH = wing chord, TAIL = tail length, CUL = exposed culmen length, BWID = bill width at anterior edge of nares, and TS = tarsus length). Included in *L. willardi* are 9 American Museum of Natural History specimens with gray irides (see text). *Laniarius poensis* includes individuals of *L. p. poensis* and *L. p. camerunensis*.

	<i>n</i>	WCH	TAIL	CUL	BWID	TS
<i>L. willardi</i>	13	73.9 ± 3.2	72.9 ± 1.2	18.4 ± 0.7	6.3 ± 0.3	28.6 ± 0.9
<i>L. poensis</i>	9	75.6 ± 3.2	64.3 ± 2.5	18.2 ± 0.7	6.1 ± 0.4	28.6 ± 1.2
<i>L. p. holomelas</i>	40	77.7 ± 2.5	70.3 ± 2.3	18.7 ± 0.9	6.1 ± 0.4	29.0 ± 1.3
<i>L. fuelleborni</i>	12	81.2 ± 1.9	75.9 ± 3.8	19.6 ± 0.8	5.6 ± 0.3	30.1 ± 0.6
<i>L. leucorhynchus</i>	6	90.2 ± 2.9	81.4 ± 2.3	22.9 ± 0.9	6.4 ± 0.2	29.6 ± 1.7

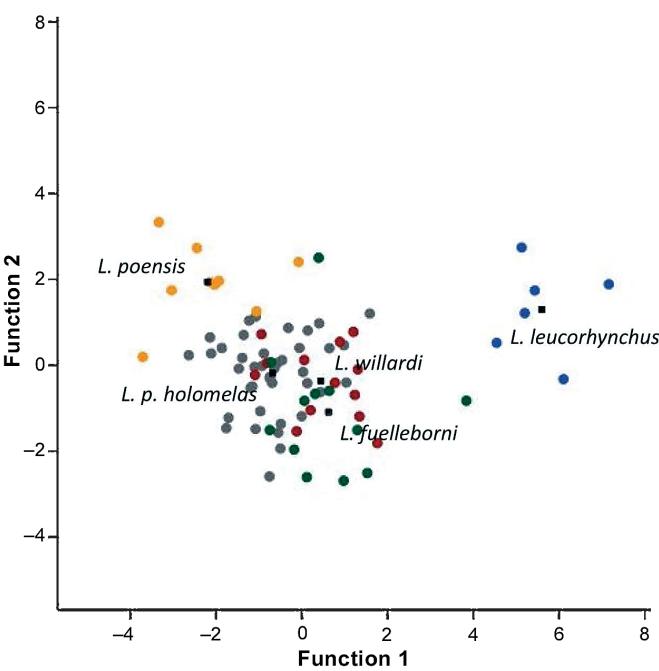


FIG. 3. Discriminant function plot of the first two discriminant functions based on morphological measurements. Squares represent group centroids; circles represent individuals of the respective species. Orange: *Laniarius poensis*; red: *L. willardi*; green: *L. fuelleborni*; gray: *L. holomelas*; blue: *L. leucorhynchus*. Included in *L. willardi* are 9 AMNH individuals with gray irides (see text), and *poensis* includes individuals of *L. p. poensis* and *L. p. camerunensis*.

the morphology of *L. willardi* (including the 9 AMNH specimens recorded as having gray irides) is significantly different from its sister *L. p. camerunensis* (without any misclassifications between the two species; Table 4). There is morphological differentiation between the sympatric *L. willardi* and *L. p. holomelas* as indicated by the significant difference in WCH, TAIL, and BWID, but the DFA was not able to distinguish the two species in 100% of the cases (the classification success between the two species was

TABLE 3. Discriminant function analysis using morphological measurements of *Laniarius willardi* and other species (see Table 2; WCH = wing chord, CUL = exposed culmen length, BWID = bill width at anterior edge of nares, and TAIL = tail length). The table lists standardized canonical discriminant-function coefficients, canonical correlation, eigenvalue, percent variance explained, chi-square values, degrees of freedom, and the significance value for each of the six discriminant functions.

	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
WCH	0.301	0.495	−0.379	−1.031
CUL	0.606	0.250	−0.424	0.646
BWID	0.081	0.628	0.736	0.187
TAIL	0.530	−0.922	0.511	0.362
Canonical correlation	0.880	0.671	0.495	0.129
Eigenvalue	3.422	0.819	0.325	0.017
Percent variance	74.7	17.9	7.1	0.4
Chi-square	177.55	66.80	22.22	1.25
df	16	9	4	1
P	<0.001	<0.001	0.001	0.263

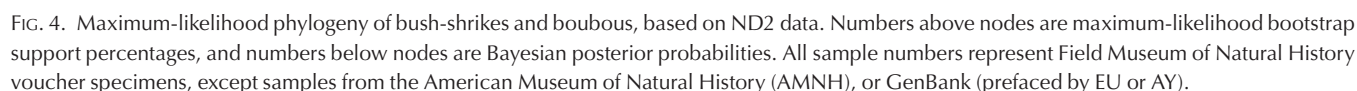
90.1%, compared with the expected 50% under a null hypothesis of no pattern).

Etymology.—The specific epithet honors our friend and colleague David Willard in recognition of his tireless, decades-long dedication to ornithological research, teaching, and conservation and to making the Bird Division of the FMNH one of the premier bird collections in the world. Innumerable ornithologists have been, and will be, beneficiaries of his efforts. The English common name of Willard’s Sooty Boubou highlights the plumage of the species.

Distribution and elevation.—The type series indicates that the distributional range of *L. willardi* is limited to two Albertine Rift localities: Nteko, Kisoro District, Uganda (1°1’59”S, 29°37’E), and Kibira National Park, Burundi (2°S, 29°22’59”E). These localities are latitudinally separated by just a few hundred kilometers and are nearly identical in longitudinal coordinates. All Ugandan specimens were collected at 1,600 m, whereas the Burundian specimen was collected at 1,950 m. These sites are along the lower eastern slopes of the Albertine Rift.

TABLE 4. Classification results of the discriminant function analysis across measured *Laniarius* taxa; included in *L. willardi* are 9 AMNH individuals with gray irides (see text), and *L. poensis* includes individuals of *L. p. poensis* and *L. p. camerunensis*. Overall, 76.3% of specimens (compared to the expected 20% under a null hypothesis of no pattern) were classified to the correct species on the basis of size-corrected morphological measurements. Correctly classified individuals and percentages are in bold.

		Predicted group membership				
		<i>L. p. holomelas</i>	<i>L. willardi</i>	<i>L. p. poensis</i>	<i>L. leucorhynchus</i>	<i>L. fuelleborni</i>
Original count	<i>L. p. holomelas</i>	28	3	3	0	6
	<i>L. willardi</i>	1	11	0	0	1
	<i>L. p. poensis</i>	1	0	8	0	0
	<i>L. leucorhynchus</i>	0	0	0	6	0
	<i>L. fuelleborni</i>	2	0	1	1	8
Percent (%)	<i>L. p. holomelas</i>	70.0	7.5	7.5	0.0	15.0
	<i>L. willardi</i>	7.7	84.6	0.0	0.0	7.7
	<i>L. p. poensis</i>	11.1	0.0	88.9	0.0	0.0
	<i>L. leucorhynchus</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
	<i>L. fuelleborni</i>	16.7	0.0	8.3	8.3	66.7



Across 700–1039 bp of ND2, for all taxa including outgroup species, 352 bp were parsimony-informative. Within *L. willardi*, *L. poensis*, *L. fuelleborni*, *L. atrococcineus*, and *L. leucorhynchus* (see Fig. 4), 258 bp were parsimony-informative.

Phylogenetic results demonstrate that *L. willardi* is genetically distinct and diagnosable from all other black shrike taxa (Fig. 4). The closest relative of *L. willardi* is a clade consisting of two *L. poensis* collected on Mt. Cameroon (*L. p. camerunensis*; Fry et al. 2000), and the uncorrected percent sequence divergence between *L. willardi* and the *L. p. camerunensis* clade is 5% (Fig. 4 and Table 5).

TABLE 5. Uncorrected pairwise (*P*) genetic distances between selected individuals from the *willardi*, *poensis*, and *fuelleborni* clades in the genus *Laniarius*.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(1) <i>L. willardi</i> 384982	—						
(2) <i>L. poensis camerunensis</i> 93396 (Mt. Cameroon)	0.050	—					
(3) <i>L. p. holomelas</i> 355510 (Uganda)	0.115	0.113	—				
(4) <i>L. fuelleborni</i> 216917 (Iringa, Tanzania)	0.103	0.119	0.077	—			
(5) <i>L. fuelleborni</i> 441074 (Malawi)	0.126	0.120	0.090	0.030	—		
(6) <i>L. fuelleborni</i> 216914 (Ihoho, Tanzania)	0.105	0.114	0.081	0.014	0.018	—	
(7) <i>L. fuelleborni</i> 208595 (Ulugurus, Tanzania)	0.101	0.110	0.080	0.016	0.024	0.007	—
(8) <i>L. fuelleborni</i> 81987 (Usambaras, Tanzania)	0.120	0.126	0.087	0.066	0.061	0.059	0.063

Sister to the *L. willardi*–*L. p. camerunensis* clade is a clade that consists of *L. leucorhynchus* and *L. atrococcineus*. Although bootstrap and posterior probabilities do not support this clade as sister to the *L. willardi*–*L. p. camerunensis* clade, genetic distances clearly indicate that other black shrikes are more distantly related to *L. willardi* and *L. p. camerunensis* (Table 5).

Finally, a large *L. poensis* clade is sister to *L. fuelleborni*. Phylogenetic results indicate virtually no genetic structure within *L. poensis* across its Albertine Rift distribution (*L. p. holomelas*); one individual from Mt. Cameroon (*L. p. camerunensis*) is not distinctly different from Albertine Rift individuals (Fig. 4). Conversely, phylogenetic results indicate geographic structure in *L. fuelleborni*, and in particular show that *L. f. usambaricus* (Usambara Mountains) is genetically distinct from other *L. fuelleborni* taxa (Fig. 4 and Table 5).

DISCUSSION

Morphology.—Chapin (1954) suggested that *L. p. camerunensis* has a deeper, glossier black plumage than *L. p. holomelas* (Albertine Rift). We are unable to address this observation here because of the limited number of *L. p. camerunensis* in the FMNH and AMNH collections, but we find the plumage of *L. willardi* to be identical to the Albertine Rift endemic *L. p. holomelas*. Morphological analyses (Tables 2 and 4 and Fig. 3) indicate that *L. willardi* is distinguishable from its geographically disjunct sister *L. p. camerunensis*. Further, *L. willardi* is distinguishable from *L. fuelleborni*, which it does not geographically overlap, and more importantly it is generally distinguishable from the sympatric *L. p. holomelas*, although three *L. p. holomelas* were misclassified as *L. willardi* (Table 4). However, in just one instance was an *L. willardi* specimen misclassified as *L. p. holomelas*, and that specimen (AMNH 662381) was one of those pooled with *willardi* solely on the basis of recorded iris color. There is no skull ossification data for the specimen, but if it is a juvenile, iris color may indicate a juvenile *L. p. holomelas* (see below).

Iris color.—The gray to blue-gray irides reported for *L. willardi* are unique for an adult black *Laniarius*, and our morphological results indicate that the AMNH specimens with gray irides can generally be assigned to *L. willardi*. Given the age of these specimens (all collected in 1908), it is surprising that gray iris color has not been recorded in the literature. Bluish black eyes are described for *L. p. camerunensis* (Cameroon and Nigeria; Fry et al. 2000, Fry 2009). For *L. p. holomelas*, Harris (2000) described eye color

as ranging from brown to blackish-brown throughout the range, and Chapin (1954) reported iris colors ranging from dark brown to deep red-brown for *L. p. holomelas* from the Congo. Of 85 *L. p. holomelas* in the Royal Museum for Central Africa, just 5 had iris color recorded (none gray). The FMNH series of *L. p. holomelas* collected from Uganda, Burundi, and the South Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the years 1990, 1991, 1997, and 2003 ($n = 22$) have iris colors recorded as either various shades of browns and reds or black. One specimen from Uganda (FMNH 355520; genetically *L. p. holomelas*; Fig. 4) had slate gray irises, but skull ossification (0%) suggests that this individual is a juvenile.

Distribution and elevation.—If we accept that the AMNH specimens with gray irides (except AMNH 662381) are *L. willardi*, then the range of *L. willardi* includes (or historically included) the following locations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: west of Lake Albert Edward (3 specimens); northwest of Lake Tanganyika, near Baraka (4 specimens); and west of Lake Tanganyika (1 specimen) (Fig. 1). These additional localities plus those from the type series suggest that *L. willardi* has a geographic distribution in the Albertine Rift similar to that mapped for *L. p. holomelas* (see Fry et al. 2000). Given the collecting localities of the type series (eastern side of the rift), it is probable that *L. willardi* will be found in Rwanda, particularly in the Nyungwe Forest. On the basis of 18 weeks in the field with 24 days of mist netting, Dowsett-Lemaire (1990) recorded *L. p. holomelas* throughout the Nyungwe Forest and noted that it was widely distributed, “with no altitudinal limits, but less common below 1950 m.”

Indeed, elevation may be useful in distinguishing between *L. willardi* and *L. p. holomelas* in the field, where (presumed) *L. p. holomelas* is recorded from 1,170 to 3,385 m (Fry et al. 2000). The elevations at which the type series of *L. willardi* were collected is generally low (1,600 and 1,950 m), and the AMNH series of gray iris variants are similarly from low elevations (1,600–2,000 m). The elevational range for all recently collected FMNH *L. p. holomelas* is 2,075–3,000 m; the lowest elevation is in Kibira National Park, Burundi, just 150 m higher than the elevation at which the Burundi paratype was collected at effectively the same geographic locality. These elevational distributions suggest that *L. willardi* is found at lower elevations than *L. p. holomelas*. Because little forest exists below 2,000 m in the Albertine Rift today, *L. willardi* is probably uncommon.

It is possible that elevational segregation between *L. willardi* and *L. p. holomelas* is related to altitudinal segregation of forest communities; studies conducted in other African montane

systems have shown clear avian community turnover related to altitude (e.g., Romdal and Rahbek 2009). Ecological studies of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda (Butynski 1984, Howard 1991, Anonymous 2005), suggest that there are three presumed climax forest communities, each dominated by a single species of tree, with dominance being dependent on altitude. At lower elevations around 1,500 m, *Parinari exelsa* is dominant; around 2,000 m, *Newtonia buchananii* predominates; and at around 2,200 m, *Chrysophyllum gorungosanum* predominates. The Ugandan specimens of *L. willardi* and the 3 AMNH specimens from west of Lake Albert were collected at an altitude (1,600 m) that is consistent with a *Parinari*-dominated forest community. We also note that *L. willardi* can be separated by habitat from *L. leucorhynchus*, which occupies lowland forest, and from *L. funebris*, which occupies dry bush country (Fry et al. 2000, Harris 2000).

Harris (2000) noted that “*poensis*” was potentially threatened because of its isolated montane distribution, but it is clear from our study that more than one species is involved. Thus, *L. willardi* is also threatened because of extensive habitat loss at the lower elevations they inhabit in comparison to *L. p. holomelas*.

Breeding.—Gonad size of 1 male (testes: 4×3.5 mm) and 1 female (ovary: 7×3 mm, no brood patch data) collected on 15 and 13 May, respectively, from Nteko, Uganda, suggest that breeding efforts were just completed or about to begin. Data taken from the Burundi specimen (testes: 7×5 mm, light brood patch, 12 August) suggest either a prolonged breeding season or variable breeding periods across the distributional range. The known breeding period of *L. p. holomelas* in the Albertine Rift is highly variable: April to May (and possibly June to July) at Itombwe in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Fry et al. 2000), December to February in Uganda (Mackworth-Praed and Grant 1955, Brown and Britton 1980), and October in Rwanda (Dowsett-Lemaire 1990).

Comments on black-shrike systematics and taxonomic recommendations.—Nguembock et al. (2008) demonstrated that traditional morphology-based species groups for the genus *Laniarius* were not supported by molecular data. Among other findings, our results (Fig. 4) agree with theirs in that black *Laniarius* do not form a monophyletic species group and that *L. leucorhynchus* is sister to *L. atrococcineus*; thus, *L. leucorhynchus*, *L. poensis*, and *L. fuelleborni* do not form a superspecies, as has been assumed (Fry et al. 2000).

A major result of Nguembock et al. (2008) was strong evidence that the unvouchered species *L. liberatus* was nearly identical to samples of *L. aethiopicus erlangeri*, a population that had been unsampled in a previous study (Smith et al. 1991). It is clear from our overall phylogenetic results (Fig. 4) and our description of *L. willardi* that there are additional issues with respect to sampling that indicate that cryptic species or races worthy of elevation to species rank are embedded in the taxonomic names *L. poensis* and *L. fuelleborni*. Our finding of a unique clade of “*poensis*” from Mt. Cameroon suggests that two species may coexist there. Given that we did not include samples of nominate *L. p. poensis* (Bioko) in our phylogenetic analysis and that we have few samples from Mt. Cameroon (*L. p. camerunensis*), any taxonomic recommendations are premature, but there are potential implications for taxonomy and conservation.

At the very least, it appears that instead of *L. poensis* being the umbrella under which the Albertine Rift race *L. holomelas* falls, the latter should be recognized as a distinct species that includes at least some Mt. Cameroon individuals. In that vein, we note that the two *L. p. camerunensis* that form the sister clade of *L. willardi* were collected at fairly low altitudes of 1,220 m and 1,524 m. Stuart (1986) reported that black shrikes in this genus did not occur at the highest elevations of the mountain but that they reached 2,300 m. Of greater interest is that he cites records from the 1960s at much lower elevations (430 m and 600 m). Stuart considered all West African black shrikes conspecific with *fuelleborni* and attributed the lower-elevation records to seasonal altitudinal migration. Elevation data are not recorded for the Mt. Cameroon individual (E. Pasquet pers. comm.) that was nested within the Albertine Rift clade of *L. poensis* in our phylogenetic analysis (GenBank sequence), but the phylogenetic results support a hypothesis that it could represent an unrelated higher-elevation population. If this were the case, it would reflect the same type of elevational segregation that we posit between *L. willardi* and *L. p. holomelas* in the Albertine Rift, which suggests that Mt. Cameroon individuals from high elevations could be part of the latter. On the basis of our data, the higher-elevation lineages show essentially no divergence between Mount Cameroon and the Albertine Rift.

Another unsampled population in the Nguembock et al. (2008) data set was *L. fuelleborni usambaricus*. There is a strong geographic and genetic break between *L. fuelleborni* from the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania and other *L. fuelleborni* taxa (Fig. 4 and Table 4; Fry et al. 2000). There is additional, less divergent structure in populations of *L. fuelleborni* from the rest of Tanzania and Malawi–Zambia. Additional study of *L. fuelleborni* is warranted to tease apart genetic, morphological, and other data that could support the recognition of species rank for *L. f. usambaricus* or other races.

Why was *Laniarius willardi* overlooked?—Despite area species lists, fairly extensive work in the Albertine Rift (e.g., Chapin 1954, Prigogine 1980, Dowsett-Lemaire 1990, Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett 1990, Kalina and Butynski 1992), and specimens labeled with gray irides, *L. willardi* went undiscovered until our recent field work, when voucher material and modern specimen-label data allowed for both genetic analysis and morphological confirmation of a distinct species. This is true despite the fact that *L. willardi* has a distinct blue-gray iris color that should have made it recognizable under thorough visual inspection. Perhaps habitat is a mitigating factor, in that eye color may not be particularly clear in low-light tropical forest settings. Ultimately, though, this bird was missed because of a lack of biodiversity research outside the scope of sight-survey-based studies and a lack of attention to museum specimen labels.

We believe that our general knowledge of avian biodiversity in Africa is less robust than it could be for a few reasons. First, there is a pervasive misconception that science knows most everything there is to know about that diversity. We reach this conclusion for several reasons, the most relevant of which is the increasing difficulty in obtaining scientific collecting permits for birds, the issuance of which are in our experience often hindered by nonscientific arguments of “overcollecting” (levied by permit authorities, or by people in a position to influence those authorities), or the existence of a sight-survey for a particular

region (irrespective of the rigor of that survey). Interestingly, the “overcollecting” argument is, in our experience, rarely applied to nonbird taxa. A second underlying issue is that scientific collecting is often perceived as an anachronistic method with which to document and record avian biodiversity and to inform conservation decisions.

However, it is our contention that scientific collecting still has an imperative role in efforts to document and understand avian biodiversity in Africa (and other understudied areas) and to identify and preserve distinct lineages. We have previously called for collection of voucher specimens in support of this contention (Bates et al. 2004; see also Peterson et al. 2008). In Africa alone, several new species have been described in the past decade, all based on birds collected and prepared as research specimens (e.g., Beresford and Cracraft 1999, Liversidge and Voelker 2002, Beresford et al. 2004, FjeldsÅ et al. 2006, Schmidt et al. 2008, Bowie et al. 2009, present study). Still other studies have documented strong genetic differences between presumptive subspecies and, on this basis, elevated subspecies to specific rank (e.g., Bowie et al. 2003, 2005; present study). These results clearly should have an impact on conservation strategies.

These studies, our own ongoing work and that of others, and the vast areas of Africa that have never been scientifically sampled (or sampled during the “DNA age”) suggest that there are likely numerous undescribed African species and populations of currently described species worthy of species rank. Only genetic and morphological analyses based on properly vouchered and appropriate series of specimens can provide significant documentation of these differences and, thus, expand our knowledge of avian biodiversity and inform conservation priorities.

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APPENDIX. General collection locality data for *Laniarius* samples used for phylogenetic and morphometric analyses.

Species	Specimen number ^{a,b,c}	Collection locality
<i>L. willardi</i>	FMNH 358003	Burundi: Cibitoke, Bukinanyama, Giserama, Kibira National Park
	FMNH 384980	Uganda: Southern, Kisoro, Nteko
	FMNH 384981	Uganda: Southern, Kisoro, Nteko
	FMNH 384982	Uganda: Southern, Kisoro, Nteko
	FMNH 384983*	Uganda: Southern, Kisoro, Nteko
<i>L. poensis poensis</i>	AMNH 662374 [†]	Fernando Po
	AMNH 662375 [†]	Fernando Po
	AMNH 662376 [†]	Fernando Po
	AMNH 662377 [†]	Fernando Po
	AMNH 775704 [†]	Fernando Po
	AMNH 781773 [†]	Fernando Po
	AMNH 809729 [†]	Fernando Po
	AMNH 809730 [†]	Fernando Po
<i>L. p. camerunensis</i>	FMNH 93396*	Cameroon
	FMNH 95874 [†]	Cameroon
<i>L. p. holomelas</i>	FMNH 346367	Burundi: Muramuya, Kibira National Park
	FMNH 346368*	Burundi: Muramuya, Kibira National Park
	FMNH 350865	Burundi: Kayanza Prov., Kivuso Abri, Kibira National Park
	FMNH 358001	Burundi: Cibitoke, Bukinanyama, Giserama, Kibira National Park
	FMNH 358002	Burundi: Cibitoke, Bukinanyama, Giserama, Kibira National Park
	FMNH 438808	DRC: South Kivu, Tshivanga
	FMNH 438809	DRC: South Kivu, Tshivanga
	FMNH 441686	DRC: South Kivu, Tchibati, Kahuzi-Biega Nat Park
	FMNH 384978	Uganda: Southern, Kabale, Echuya Forest Reserve
	FMNH 384979*	Uganda: Southern, Kabale, Echuya Forest Reserve
	FMNH 200854	Uganda: Western, Bwamba Valley, W slope Rwenzori
	FMNH 200855	Uganda: Western, Kalegalega, W slope Rwenzori
	FMNH 200856	Uganda: Western, Kazimbwa, W side Rwenzori
	FMNH 200857	Uganda: Western, Kalegalega, W slope Rwenzori
	FMNH 355509	Uganda: Western, Mahoma, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355510	Uganda: Western, Mahoma, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355511	Uganda: Western, Mahoma, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355512	Uganda: Western, Mahoma, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355513 [†]	Uganda: Western, Mahoma, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355515 [†]	Uganda: Western, Mahoma, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355517	Uganda: Western, Mahoma, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355519	Uganda: Western, Nyabitaba, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355520	Uganda: Western, Nyabitaba, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355521	Uganda: Western, Nyabitaba, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355522	Uganda: Western, Nyabitaba, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355523	Uganda: Western, Nyabitaba, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355524	Uganda: Western, Nyabitaba, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	FMNH 355526 [†]	Uganda: Western, Nyabitaba, Mubuku Valley, Rwenzori Mts.
	AMNH 662378 [†]	DRC: W of Tanganyika
	AMNH 662379 [†]	DRC: W of Tanganyika
	AMNH 662380 [†]	DRC: W of Tanganyika
	AMNH 662381 [†]	DRC: W of Tanganyika
	AMNH 662382 [†]	DRC: W of Tanganyika
	AMNH 662383 [†]	None listed
	AMNH 662384 [†]	DRC: W of Tanganyika
	AMNH 662385 [†]	Congo: N.W. Tanganyika, ca. Baraka
	AMNH 662386 [†]	Congo: N.W. Tanganyika, ca. Baraka
	AMNH 662387 [†]	Congo: N.W. Tanganyika, ca. Baraka
	AMNH 662388 [†]	Congo: N.W. Tanganyika, ca. Baraka
	AMNH 662389 [†]	Rwanda: Rugege Forest
	AMNH 662390 [†]	Rwanda: Rugege Forest
	AMNH 662391 [†]	Rugege Forest
	AMNH 662392 [†]	Rwanda: Rugege Forest
	AMNH 662393 [†]	Rwanda: Rugege Forest
	AMNH 662394 [†]	Rwanda: Rugege Forest

(Continued)

APPENDIX. Continued.

Species	Specimen number ^{a,b,c}	Collection locality
	AMNH 662395 [†]	Lake Kivu region
	AMNH 662396 [†]	Kagera Kivu
	AMNH 662397 [†]	Kagera Kivu
	AMNH 662398 [†]	Kagera Kivu
	AMNH 662399 [†]	Kagera Kivu
	AMNH 662400 [†]	Kagera Kivu
	AMNH 662401 [†]	Kagera Kivu
	AMNH 662402 [†]	Kagera Kivu
	AMNH 662403 [†]	Kagera Kivu
	AMNH 662405 [†]	Congo: West of Lake Albert Edward
	AMNH 662406 [†]	West of Lake Albert Edward
	AMNH 662407 [†]	DRC: West of Lake Albert Edward
	AMNH 662408 [†]	Ruwenzori
	AMNH 662409 [†]	Uganda: Zuanda
	AMNH 764834 [†]	Congo: NW of Lake Kivu, Bunyole
	AMNH 764835 [†]	Congo: NW of Lake Kivu, Bunyole
<i>L. fuelleborni</i>	FMNH 441073	Malawi: Rumphi, Chilinda Camp, Nyika National Park
	FMNH 441074	Malawi: Rumphi, North Rukuru River
	FMNH 441075	Malawi: Rumphi, Chilinda Camp, Nyika National Park
	FMNH 216914	Tanzania: Ihoho Forest, Poroto Mts.
	FMNH 216915	Tanzania: Ihoho Forest, Poroto Mts.
	FMNH 216917	Tanzania: Dabaga Highlands
	FMNH 206142	Zambia: Lundazi, Chiri River headwaters
	FMNH 206143	Zambia: Lundazi, Chiri River headwaters
	FMNH 206144	Zambia: Lundazi, Chiri River headwaters
<i>L. f. usambaricus</i>	FMNH 81987*	Tanzania, Magamba, Usambara Mts.
	FMNH 81988	Tanzania, Magamba, Usambara Mts.
	FMNH 81989	Tanzania, Magamba, Usambara Mts.
	FMNH 81990	Tanzania, Magamba, Usambara Mts.
<i>L. f. ulugurensis</i>	FMNH 208594	Tanzania, Bunduki, Uluguru Mts.
	FMNH 208595	Tanzania, Bunduki, Uluguru Mts.
<i>L. leucorhynchus</i>	AMNH DOT 8198*	Central African Republic
	AMNH DOT 10720*	Central African Republic
	FMNH 200858 [†]	Uganda
	FMNH 200861 [†]	Uganda
	FMNH 200862 [†]	Uganda
	FMNH 200865 [†]	Uganda
	FMNH 200867	Uganda
	FMNH 200858	Uganda
	FMNH 273185	Cameroon
	FMNH 273192	Cameroon
	FMNH 304693 [†]	Zaire
<i>L. funebris</i>	AMNH DOT 7108*	Kenya

^aSamples are from the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH).

^bSpecimens used only in phylogenetic analyses are indicated by an asterisk; specimens used only in morphometric analysis are indicated by a dagger.

^cItalicized specimen numbers represent *L. p. holomelas* individuals recorded as having gray irides.