

Genetta genetta

(Linnaeus, 1758)

(Eng) European or small-spotted genet
(Fre) Genette vulgaire

Taxonomic notes

The taxonomy of this species has been the object of many reviews, but it remains unclear. The classification of Wilson & Reeder (1993) is followed here.

IUCN threat category

Not listed.

Available information

Literature available on the ecology of the small-spotted genet mainly refers to Europe. Some information on the species is available for North, East, and southern Africa; very little is known on the species in West Africa.

North Africa: Delibes et al. (1989) studied its diet in Morocco and Algeria. Information on its feeding habits are also found in Hamdine et al. (1993), who did research on the species in the Parc National de Djurdjura (Algeria). Data on the species' presence in this part of its distribution range are available for Egypt (Osborn & Helmy, 1980) and Morocco (Aulagnier & Thévenot, 1986; Anonymous, 1994). The authors mentioned above also give some information on its ecology. Notes on its ecology are also found in Happold (1984).

East Africa: No specific studies on the species' ecology have been conducted. Some information on its occurrence and density in the Nachisar National Park can be found in Duckworth (1992, 1995); data on its presence in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, and some notes on its ecology, are found in Funaioli (1971) and Yalden et al. (1980, 1996).

Southern Africa: No specific studies on the species' ecology have been conducted. Information on its ecology and distribution is available for South Africa (De Graaff & Rautenbach, 1983; Lynch, 1983, 1989; Pringle, 1977; Rautenbach & Nel, 1978; Rowe-Rowe, 1992), Lesotho (Lynch, 1994), Angola (Crawford-Cabral, 1969, 1989), Botswana (Smithers, 1971), and Zimbabwe (Smithers & Wilson, 1979). A complete review of the information available on this species in Southern Africa is found in Mills & Hes (1997) and Skinner & Smithers (1990).

General information on the species' ecology and distribution is reported in Crawford-Cabral (1980-81), Kingdon (1997), and Stuart & Stuart (1997).

Known extent of occurrence

This genet is widely distributed on the African continent, being excluded only from the true deserts and the central forest block. It is the only genet that also occurs outside Africa (Europe and Arabia). Fig. 3.6.6.a was obtained by the overlay of maps given by Skinner & Smithers (1990) and Kingdon (1997). The map was finally revised in accordance with Schreiber et al. (1989) and by Dr. H. Van Rompaey (20 May '97).

Categorical-discrete (CD) distribution model

The species occurs primarily in drier savanna from grasslands to woodlands, avoiding tropical forests and deserts (Osborn & Helmy, 1980; Skinner & Smithers, 1990; Kingdon, 1971-77).

Based on these environmental preferences, the following scores were assigned (Fig. 3.6.6.b) (3.6.6.a):

Score

- 1 Savannas; semi-desert vegetation; Mediterranean forest and shrublands.
- 2 *Miombo* woodland and savanna/forest mosaics.
- 3 Moist forests; desert and croplands.

OCCURRENCE	suitable		moderately suitable		unsuitable		Total	
	km ²	%	km ²	%	km ²	%	km ²	%
certain	7 267 527	41	3 926 918	22	5 972 555	34	17 167 000	98
possible	328 805	2	38 084	0	62 250	0	429 139	2
Total	7 596 332	43	3 965 002	23	6 034 805	34	17 596 139	100

Tab 3.6.6.a: Cumulative size (km²) of areas pertaining to each environmental suitability class within the Extent of Occurrence.

	Number Patches (NP)	Mean Patch Size (MPS) km ²	Patch Size SD (PSSD) km ²	Largest Patch Index (LPI) %	Mean Shape Index (MSI)	Area-Weighted Mean Shape Index (AWMSI)
suitable	3 228	2 352	98 685	46.63	1.26	31.21
moderately suitable	7 449	533	12 916	7.53	1.31	13.67
Total AO	3 451	3 351	137 640	64.74	1.25	27.96

Tab 3.6.6.b: Area of Occupancy fragmentation indexes.

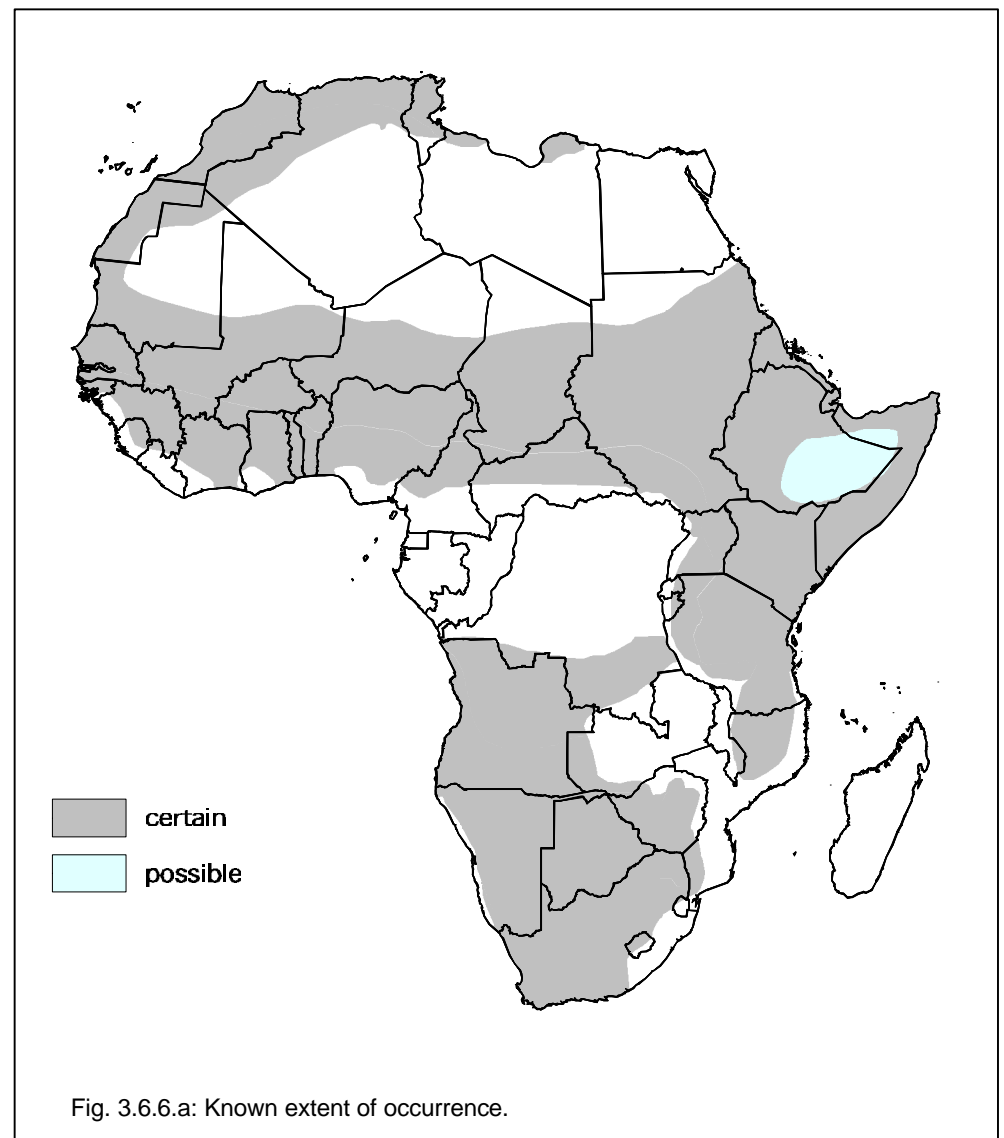


Fig. 3.6.6.a: Known extent of occurrence.

Probabilistic-continuous (PC) distribution model

The output of the probabilistic-continuous (PC) distribution model is shown in Fig. 3.6.6.c.

Validation

% of EO in sample areas	Number of valid plots	Index of Accordance (%)
9.28	354	73.16

Tab 3.6.6.c: Categorical-discrete (CD) distribution model validation parameters.

Comments and conservation issues

This species is widely distributed and its EO may have been drawn with large approximation: this could explain the relatively low percentage of suitable areas found by the models, particularly the PC model. The CD model, whose interpretation is well supported by the validation parameters, also shows large unsuitable areas in Angola, and above and below the most suitable areas in western Africa: the preferred vegetation types may have been poorly scored and forest and desert areas should have been added. The area of possible presence in Ethiopia is classified as suitable by both models and it seems useful to check the actual status of the species there. On the whole, the total EO is large, although very fragmented in small and indented areas. About 9% of the total AO is included in existing protected areas.

OCCURRENCE	SUITABILITY CLASS	inside	outside	Total
certain	suitable	2.64	38.66	41.30
	moderately suitable	1.76	20.56	22.32
	unsuitable	1.59	32.35	33.94
possible	suitable	0.22	1.65	1.87
	moderately suitable	0.04	0.18	0.22
	unsuitable	0.11	0.24	0.35
Total		6.36	93.64	100

Tab 3.6.6.d: Percent of environmental suitability classes within EO (as obtained from the categorical-discrete distribution model) inside and outside the protected areas.

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