# Tarsius wallacei: A New Tarsier Species from Central Sulawesi Occupies a Discontinuous Range

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Abstract On the basis of distinguishing characteristics of various genetic markers, pelage color, tail tuft, and vocalizations, we describe a new species of the genus Tarsius Storr [1780](#page-15-0). The new taxon Tarsius wallacei sp. nov. occupies a disjunct range in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The two isolated populations differ significantly in body size, but are alike in color, tail tuft dimensions, vocalizations, and genetic composition. Morphologically, the new species is similar to other Sulawesi lowland tarsiers. In the field, it can be distinguished from its congeners via a characteristic duet song and its yellow-brown pelage coloration and a coppercolored throat. Genetic analyses prove Y-chromosomal and mitochondrial DNA sequences and also microsatellite allele frequencies to be absolutely diagnostic.

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## Tarsius wallacei New Species

Holotype

MZB 31153, adult female, skin, skull, and skeleton, deposited in the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense (MZB), Bogor, Indonesia. Collectors: S. Merker, H. Dahruddin, and W. Sinaga. Captured alive on April 12, 2008; died on May 10, 2008 in captivity at the MZB.

### Paratype

MZB 31969, adult male, skin, skull, and skeleton, deposited in the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Bogor, Indonesia. Collectors: S. Merker, H. Dahruddin, and W. Sinaga. Still juvenile when captured alive on April 13, 2008; died on February 12, 2009 in captivity at the MZB.

### Type Locality

Uwemanje, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The types were captured in secondary forest ca. 500 m south of the village Uwemanje (0°58′21′′S, 119°49′38′′E, 450 m asl) and ca. 9 km south-southwest of the city center of Palu, the provincial capital of Central Sulawesi.

### Hypodigm

Apart from the types, we mist-netted, measured, and released six additional males and seven females of the new species and recorded the duet songs of *ca*. 30 individuals in the wild. The hypodigm further comprises eight tarsiers from four social groups captured, measured, and released by one of us (M. Shekelle) in a previous study (Shekelle [2003\)](#page-14-0). Our analysis included 10 duet fragments recorded from these four social groups living east of the small city of Tinombo (Shekelle [2003,](#page-14-0) [2008a](#page-14-0)).

### Diagnosis

The new species of the genus *Tarsius* Storr, [1780](#page-15-0) is a typical Sulawesi lowland tarsier—with a well-marked facial mask, a long and bushy tail tuft, postauricular white spots, and a characteristic duet song—and is thus clearly distinct from Philippine and Western tarsiers. It is distinguished from other Sulawesian taxa by unique features of its distribution, pelage, genotype, and vocalizations.

1) Tarsius wallacei occupies an exclusive range in Central Sulawesi not shared with any other tarsier taxa. 2) The new species is similar in size to other lowland tarsiers  $(cf.$ Morphometrics section later) and larger than the montane Tarsius pumilus Miller and Hollister, [1921.](#page-14-0) 3) As other tarsiers from mainland Sulawesi, it differs from the smallisland species, e.g., Tarsius sangirensis Meyer, [1897](#page-14-0), T. tumpara Shekelle et al., 2008 [\(2008a](#page-15-0)), and a population from Selayar Island that Groves ([1998\)](#page-14-0) argued was taxonomically distinctive at the species level, in its longer, denser, and darker tail fur.

<span id="page-2-0"></span>Multivariate analyses of tail tufts show the distinctiveness of *Tarsius wallacei* from all other recognized species from mainland Sulawesi. 4) The pelage of adults of Tarsius wallacei is usually yellow-brown (Fig. 1) and thus distinct from the grayer  $T$ . *dentatus* Miller and Hollister, [1921](#page-14-0) and the usually brown T. lariang Merker and Groves [2006](#page-14-0). However, as there is considerable intraspecific variation in pelage color of tarsiers, the diagnostic power of this feature is typically rather poor, especially in light of a growing number of recognized taxa. The only absolutely diagnostic coloration we observed is the conspicuous yellow to copper-colored throat of the new species. A well-marked eye-ring of the same color—more and invariably developed near the mesial rim of the eye (Fig. 1) distinguishes adult *Tarsius wallacei* from adult *T. dentatus*; however, some adult *T. lariang* and almost all juvenile tarsiers of these three species show a similarly developed eye-ring. 5) The genotype of the new species is absolutely diagnostic. Its autosomal and gonosomal DNA is clearly distinct from that of other tarsiers for which analogous data are available. 6) Tarsius wallacei is characterized by a unique duet song that separates it from all other Sulawesian lowland tarsiers. As described by Shekelle [\(2008a\)](#page-14-0), the structure of the duet of Tarsius wallacei is comparatively simple; 1 female phrase is followed by 2–4 male notes. In this way, Tarsius wallacei is most similar to the unnamed population of tarsiers in the Togian Islands and different from all other known forms. However, different from the Togian Island tarsiers, the female phrase of Tarsius wallacei is typically a 2-note phrase, whereas among Togian Island tarsiers it is always a 1-note phrase.

### Etymology

We named the new species *Tarsius wallacei* in honor of Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–1913), British naturalist and co-discoverer of natural selection. During his studies and travels in the Malay Archipelago, Wallace was the first to become aware of a zoogeographic boundary (now known as the Wallace line) separating Australian from strictly Asian fauna. Wallace's tarsier lives immediately east of this line.



Fig. 1 Adult male Tarsius wallacei captured at Uwemanje, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia (photo: S. Merker). This specimen is labeled as No. 6 in Table [I.](#page-5-0)

#### <span id="page-3-0"></span>Distribution

The new species occupies a discontinuous range within the province of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia (Fig. 2). Northern and southern populations are isolated from each other by the Palu Bay, the city of Palu, and the southern parts of the Isthmus of Palu, an area now inhabited by the parapatric species *Tarsius dentatus*.

According to our surveys, the northern population occurs within the following geographic limits: an unknown line just west of the village Tomini to the northeast (ca. 120°30′E), the coastlines of the Isthmus of Palu to the east and to the west, and an unknown line between the villages Ampibabo and Marantale to the south ( $ca$ ,  $0^{\circ}30'S$ ). Along its north-eastern boundary, this population borders the "Sejoli form" sensu Shekelle et al. ([1997](#page-15-0)). At its southern limit, this population borders Tarsius dentatus. We captured tarsiers near the village Batusuya ( $0^{\circ}24'14''S$ ,  $119^{\circ}46'30''E$ ) and near the small city of Tinombo (0°23'52"N, 120°16'07"E) and recorded duet songs throughout the range of this form. The northern population of the new species is equivalent to the Tinombo form of Shekelle et al. [\(1997\)](#page-15-0). For that reason, we refer to it as Tarsius wallacei Tinombo form.

The southern population occurs southwest to west of Palu. It is definitely known from the type locality Uwemanje only and probably occurs within a very small area



Fig. 2 Discontinuous distribution of Tarsius wallacei (gray) and the tentative ranges of its known neighbor species in Central Sulawesi. The question mark stands for insufficiently known southern limits of Tarsius lariang and T. dentatus.

from Uwemanje to the west. Approximately 9 km to the south, we encountered Tarsius dentatus, and 24 km to the northwest, we found T. lariang. We call this population Tarsius wallacei Uwemanje form.

The hybrid biogeographic hypothesis (Shekelle and Leksono [2004](#page-15-0)) explains the current distribution of tarsiers on Sulawesi on the basis of microplate-tectonic shifts and subsequent sea-level fluctuations. Findings on the range limits of other tarsier species provide strong support for this theory (Merker *et al.* [2009\)](#page-14-0). Therefore, the occurrence of the Uwemanje form of Tarsius wallacei on a microplate largely inhabited by T. lariang was quite unexpected. At this time, we can only speculate about the rationale for the range discontinuity of the new species. Merker *et al.* [\(2009](#page-14-0)) found evidence of Tarsius dentatus displacing T. lariang in parts of its range. A similar process, possibly effected by climate fluctuations, periodic droughts in the Palu area, and different colonization capacities of the two species, might underlie Tarsius dentatus having become a barrier to dispersal and gene flow between the northern and southern populations of T. wallacei.

#### Description and Comparison

External Characteristics With head-and-body lengths of ca. 12 cm (Table [I](#page-5-0)), Tarsius wallacei is of similar size to other known Sulawesi lowland tarsiers. However, the species comprises two geographical variants that are significantly different in size (Table [I](#page-5-0), Fig. [3\)](#page-6-0). Skull lengths of the two types (Table [II\)](#page-6-0) are within the range of Tarsius dentatus and T. lariang (cf. Merker and Groves [2006\)](#page-14-0). On average, ears of the new species are wider than in Tarsius dentatus and T. lariang (though not significantly); fingers and toes are shorter (Table [I](#page-5-0)).

Except for an off-white ventrum, the pelage of the new species is mottled yellowish brown in color (Fig. [1](#page-2-0)). The mottled appearance is largely due to its gray undercoat and scattered patches of light gray to black hair tips. The transition from head to body is marked by a conspicuous copper-colored throat. Above and below eyes, there are distinct yellow to copper-colored patches that in most specimens form a nearly complete eye-ring, a characteristic that it shares with some, but not all specimens of *Tarsius lariang*. The paralabial pale zone is not uniformly expressed in all conspecifics; it varies in size and between white and off-white in color. As other Central Sulawesi species, Tarsius wallacei is typified by a dark tail with a thick and long tail pencil.

Morphometrics We judged the age status of the subjects from external sex characteristics (descended testes in adult males, elongated nipples in adult females). Because sexual dimorphism in tarsier body length is insignificant (Merker [2003;](#page-14-0) cf. Merker [2003,](#page-14-0) [2006](#page-14-0) and Shekelle [2003](#page-14-0) for slight differences in body masses), we pooled morphometric data for males and females for further analyses. Table [I](#page-5-0) provides live measurements of 10 adult *Tarsius wallacei* captured in March and April 2008. Mean body mass, head-and-body length, and head length of fully grown specimens from Batusuya are significantly smaller than in the conspecific Uwemanje form (t-test, see Table [I\)](#page-5-0). Several other morphometric data also show considerable population differences. This has two implications: 1) we computed species medians instead of means (Table [I](#page-5-0)) and 2) one should interpret comparisons of morphological

<span id="page-5-0"></span>

individual no. 9 was transferred to the Museum Loologroum Bogoriense and became the holotype MLB 31123. The paratype was still juvenile at the time of capture and is thus<br>not included in this table. A t-test compares means Individual no. 9 was transferred to the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense and became the holotype MZB 31153. The paratype was still juvenile at the time of capture and is thus not included in this table. A t-test compares means of data from the 2 sampled locations

Bat Batusuya, Uwe Uwemanje, SD standard deviation; p probability, M male, F female Bat Batusuya, Uwe Uwemanje, SD standard deviation; p probability, M male, F female

<sup>a</sup> We pooled data for males and females <sup>a</sup> We pooled data for males and females

<sup>b</sup> From base of ear to tip of pinna b From base of ear to tip of pinna

<sup>c</sup> From base of *Incisura intertragica* to tip of pinna From base of Incisura intertragica to tip of pinna

<span id="page-6-0"></span>

characters of these nocturnal primates with great care. In the following, we present two morphometric data analyses with different efficacies for taxonomic separation. The first concerns tarsier head lengths that differed significantly between the 2 forms, and the second analysis deals with characteristics of the tarsier tail, similar in both sampled populations of Tarsius wallacei.

A) Head length The frequency distribution of head lengths within the new species is bimodal, with a significant difference between the  $2$  isolated forms ( $t$ -test,  $t=-3.646$ ,  $p=0.007$ , Table [I,](#page-5-0) Fig. 3). To compare maximum head lengths among Tarsius wallacei, T. dentatus, and T. lariang, we thus performed a 1-way ANOVA in SPSS 17.0 for Windows and in addition applied the Brown-Forsythe robust test of equality of means with unequal variances. Both tests showed head lengths to vary significantly among the 3 species, thus supporting taxonomic separation (ANOVA,  $F(2,67)=7.662$ ,  $p=0.001$ , Brown-Forsythe statistic=5.236,  $p=0.016$ ). When we treated the 2 sampled populations of Tarsius wallacei separately, variances of the means were similar across all

	MZB 31153 adult female	MZB 31969 adult male
Skull length	38.5	36.8
Biorbital breadth	29.1	28.1
Interorbital breadth	1.9	2.0
Basion-bregma height	18.5	19.1
Bulla length	11.6	11.2
Length of lower toothrow $C-M_3$	12.8	12.6
Mandibular length	23.7	22.4

Table II Selected cranial measurements of holo- and paratype of Tarsius wallacei (in mm)

<span id="page-7-0"></span>from Tarsius dentatus or T. lariang whereas tarsiers of the Tinombo form are characterized by significantly shorter heads than the other 2 species (ANOVA,  $F(3,66)=11.681, p<0.001$ , Fig. [3\)](#page-6-0).

B) Tail tuft fur length To evaluate an additional morphological feature potentially separating the new species from other Sulawesi tarsiers, we adopted an approach of Shekelle et al. [\(2008c\)](#page-15-0). We measured overall tail lengths and tail tuft fur lengths at 100% (the distal end), 90%, 75%, and 50% of the length of the tail (Shekelle et al. [2008c](#page-15-0)). Using the discriminant function (DF) analysis in SPSS 17.0 for Windows, we compared tail and tail tuft measurements from Tarsius wallacei with data obtained from all other recognized tarsier species of mainland Sulawesi. Differing from our study of head lengths, the 2 populations of Tarsius wallacei formed a continuous cluster of data points and were thus pooled for further tests. The DF analysis shows the new species to be wellseparated from its congeners (Table III, Fig. [4](#page-8-0)). Based on tail and tail hair lengths, we correctly classified all 10 adult specimens of Tarsius wallacei. The same is true for the 2 specimens of *Tarsius pumilus* and 2 individuals of T. tarsier (Erxleben, [1777\)](#page-14-0). Of Tarsius dentatus and T. lariang, 22.7% and 5.6%,

		Species	Predicted group membership					
			Tarsius dentatus T. lariang T. wallacei T. tarsier T. pumilus					Total
Original $\frac{0}{0}$		Count T. dentatus	14	3	5	$\theta$	$\Omega$	22
		T. lariang	8	26	$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	36
		T. wallacei	$\theta$	$\mathbf{0}$	10	$\Omega$	$\mathbf{0}$	10
		T. tarsier	$\theta$	$\theta$	$\Omega$	$\overline{2}$	$\Omega$	$\overline{c}$
		T. pumilus	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\theta$	$\overline{c}$	$\overline{2}$
		T. dentatus	63.6	13.6	22.7	$\Omega$	$\Omega$	100.0
		T. lariang	22.2	72.2	5.6	$\mathbf{0}$	$\Omega$	100.0
		T. wallacei	$\theta$	$\Omega$	100.0	$\mathbf{0}$	$\Omega$	100.0
		T. tarsier	$\Omega$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	100.0	$\mathbf{0}$	100.0
		T. pumilus	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	100.0	100.0
Cross-validated Count		T. dentatus	13	3	6	$\Omega$	$\mathbf{0}$	22
		T. lariang	9	25	$\overline{2}$	$\theta$	$\Omega$	36
		T. wallacei 0		$\theta$	9	$\theta$	1	10
		T. tarsier	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	1	1	$\Omega$	$\overline{c}$
		T. pumilus	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\Omega$	$\Omega$	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{2}$
	$\frac{0}{0}$	T. dentatus	59.1	13.6	27.3	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	100.0
		T. lariang	25.0	69.4	5.6	$\theta$	$\mathbf{0}$	100.0
		T. wallacei	$\theta$	$\mathbf{0}$	90.0	$\mathbf{0}$	10.0	100.0
		T. tarsier	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	50.0	50.0	$\mathbf{0}$	100.0
		T. pumilus	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\Omega$	100.0	100.0

Table III Predicted group membership after a discriminant function analysis of tail and tail hair length of 5 tarsier species from mainland Sulawesi

Cross-validated results were obtained using the "leave-one-out" option in SPSS. 75.0% of original grouped cases and 69.4% of cross-validated grouped cases were correctly classified

<span id="page-8-0"></span>Fig. 4 The first 2 discriminant functions of a discriminant function (DF) analysis of tail lengths and tail tuft fur lengths at 100%, 90%, 75%, and 50% of the length of the tail of 5 tarsier species from mainland Sulawesi. The discriminatory ability of the analysis is highly significant  $(p<0.001$ , Wilks' lambda=0.22,  $\chi^2$ =98.77,  $df=20$ , using the first 4 canonical DF). Standardized DF coefficients of original variables in the first DF, which accounts for 64.7% of the total variation, are as follows: tail length=0.035, fur length at 100%=–1.007, at  $90\% = 0.014$ , at  $75\% = 0.018$ , at 50%=1.019. Standardized DF coefficients of the original variables in the second DF, which accounts for 32.5% of the total variation, are as follows: tail length=0.981, fur length at 100%=–0.487, at 90%=0.645, at  $75\% = -0.044$ , at  $50\% = -0.178$ .



respectively, were misclassified as the new species. Cross-validated analysis (using the leave-one-out option) generally confirmed original results, with 90% of Tarsius wallacei correctly classified and only 1 specimen assigned to T. pumilus (Table [III\)](#page-7-0). Tail length, tuft hair length at 100%, and tuft hair length at 50% proved to be the most important discriminators among species, with tail length being the main factor to single out the montane *Tarsius pumilus*, and the latter measurements being the most useful discriminators among lowland taxa (Fig. 4). Classification results remain virtually unaffected if hair lengths are adjusted for tail length. If tail length is left out of the analysis, 59.7% of original grouped cases (66.7% when hair lengths are adjusted for tail length) are correctly classified. These numbers are chiefly due to the relatively bushy tuft of the small-bodied and short-tailed Tarsius pumilus. In summary, although we did not attain complete resolution of taxonomic separation among Sulawesi tarsiers via this method, DF analysis of tail tufts supports the diagnosis of the new species. Our results underline its morphological uniqueness and are highly consistent with genetic and acoustic evidence as presented in this article.

Genotype Analyses of mitochondrial, Y-chromosomal, and autosomal genetic markers show a clear separation of *Tarsius wallacei* from *T. dentatus* and *T. lariang.* 

We obtained small ear biopsies from 15 mist-netted specimens of both forms of the new species ( $n_1$ =7,  $n_2$ =8). Sample storage, DNA extraction, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification, and data analyses followed the protocols and included the sequence and microsatellite data set given by Merker et al. [\(2009](#page-14-0)). We deposited

sequence information for *Tarsius wallacei* in GenBank (Acc. No. HM115970-115991), and computed genetic distances among sequences using MEGA 4.0 (Tamura et al. [2007](#page-15-0)). In FINDMODEL (Los Alamos National Laboratory), we tested which models of sequence evolution best described our input data. Slightly different to the study by Merker *et al.* [\(2009](#page-14-0)), the inclusion of 6 unique cytochrome b (Cyt b) haplotypes of the new species led us to adopt the TN93+G model of sequence evolution for this gene, with  $\alpha(\gamma)=0.19$ . We based analyses of the SRY gene (sexdetermining region on the Y-chromosome) on the TN93 model with uniform substitution rates among sites. Genetic distances among Cyt b and SRY sequences of the 3 species are given in Table IV. The 6 Cyt b haplotypes of Tarsius wallacei fall into 2 major haplogroups  $(n_1=9, n_2=6$  individuals) with an average genetic distance  $D_A=0.010\pm0.003$  between them. We found both haplogroups in each of the 2 sampling localities, Uwemanje and Batusuya. Thus, their distribution does not echo the geographic separation of the 2 forms but gives evidence of a polymorphism predating isolation. Each of the 3 species is characterized by a single unique SRY haplotype. The new taxon *Tarsius wallacei* differs from both *T. dentatus* and *T.* lariang at 10 nucleotide sites (Table IV). For comparison: Among all 6 Sulawesi macaque species whose SRY sequences are available from GenBank, orthologues comprise 4 variable sites (cf. Tosi et al. [2000\)](#page-15-0).

We genotyped 95 individuals from 7 populations of *Tarsius dentatus*, *T. lariang*, and *T. wallacei* with 12 microsatellite markers (Merker *et al.* [2007\)](#page-14-0). The sample locations include 5 localities described by Merker *et al.* ([2009\)](#page-14-0)—Laone, Kamarora, Make, Peana, and Koja—and 2 villages within the range of the new species: Batusuya and Uwemanje. With GENALEX 6 (Peakall and Smouse [2006](#page-14-0)), we computed a distance matrix and performed a principal coordinates analysis (PCoA) locating major axes of variation within this multivariate data set. The first 2 principal coordinates explain 73.1% of the variation. The new species is clearly separated from its congeners (Fig. [5\)](#page-10-0).

These results confirm findings by Shekelle [\(2003](#page-14-0)) and Shekelle et al. ([2008b\)](#page-15-0), who examined 12S mtDNA of the Tinombo form and other Sulawesi tarsiers. They noted sequence variation among northern and central Sulawesi taxa to be largely

genetic marker DNA origin length (in base pairs)	<b>SRY</b> Y-chromosomal $609$ bp	Cvt b Mitochondrial $1140$ bp		
Within Tarsius wallacei	0(7)	$0.008 \pm 0.002$ (15)		
Within T. dentatus	0(30)	$0.003 \pm 0.001(55)$		
Within T. lariang	0(29)	$0.005 \pm 0.001$ (54)		
T. wallacei–T. dentatus	$0.017 \pm 0.005$	$0.046 \pm 0.009$		
T. wallacei–T. lariang	$0.017 \pm 0.005$	$0.055 \pm 0.011$		
T. dentatus-T. lariang	$0.007 \pm 0.003$	$0.038 \pm 0.008$		

Table IV Within-species and between-species net average genetic distance ± SE

 $n$  in parentheses. Model of sequence evolution: SRY: Tamura-Nei; cytochrome  $b$  (Cyt  $b$ ): Tamura-Nei plus Gamma,  $α(γ)=0.19$ 

<span id="page-10-0"></span>

congruent with geographic variation in duet songs and to be consistent with Shekelle and Leksono's ([2004\)](#page-15-0) hybrid biogeographic hypothesis.

Vocalizations As with nearly every known tarsier acoustic form, vocalizations are absolutely diagnostic of *Tarsius wallacei*, even with relatively simple analyses. The human ear can easily diagnose the vocalizations of the new species from all other tarsier acoustic forms with minimal training. Similarly, visual inspection of spectrograms is sufficient to differentiate the duet call of *Tarsius wallacei* (Figs. 6, [7](#page-11-0), and [8](#page-12-0)) from all its congeners, particularly as regards female phrases. Shekelle [\(2008a\)](#page-14-0) described the duet call of Tarsius wallacei. Each female note is a hookshaped whistle, beginning at ca. 12–13 kHz and descending to about 5 kHz in about 0.4 s. Usually, 2 notes are made in rapid succession, the intervening gap being only about 0.1s. Very frequently, the first of these 2 notes is a peculiarly modulated whistle that begins at *ca*. 13 kHz, descends to below 10 kHz, rises again to a point higher than the initial frequency, and finally descends to nearly 5 kHz, all in the span of only 0.3–0.4 s. There is no other note similar to this among all known tarsier acoustic forms, and in spectrographic analysis, it almost resembles a chevron-shaped



Fig. 6 Spectrogram of a duet call of Tarsius wallacei (recorded in Batusuya). It depicts 7, 2-note, female phrases and 22 male notes. The male notes begin with a distinct chevron-shape, but gradually lose this shape by the latter part of the duet. Note a band of insect noise at ca. 6 kHz. Everything above this band is tarsier, and everything below it is avian, an apparent example of auditory partitioning that is characteristic of the Sulawesi dawn chorus. Note also that maximum fundamental frequencies are ca. 13 kHz, but harmonics are much higher, in excess of 20 kHz.

<span id="page-11-0"></span>

Fig. 7 Spectrograms of duet calls of *Tarsius wallacei* from 2 locations. a From Batusuya. The figure depicts an introductory 1-note female phrase, followed by 8, 2-note, female phrases. Owing to the position of the microphone and the tarsier pair, the female notes are seen here in virtual isolation from the male notes. b From Uwemanje. The figure depicts an introductory 1-note female phrase, followed by 7, 2-note, female phrases. Owing to the position of the microphone and the tarsier pair, the female notes are seen clearly, whereas the male notes are only faintly visible. Note the self-evident structural similarities between these 2 duet calls from geographically disjunct populations.

male note superimposed upon the female's hook-shaped whistle. Like all known tarsier acoustic forms north of the Isthmus of Palu, the male notes of Tarsius wallacei are wideband chevron-shaped chirps, and are not diagnostic without sophisticated spectrographic analyses or field playback experiments (Burton and Nietsch [2010;](#page-14-0) Shekelle [2008a](#page-14-0)). Shekelle et al. [\(1997,](#page-15-0) also in Shekelle 2003, 2008a) reported results of field playback tests of *Tarsius wallacei* that unambiguously differentiated this species from T. dentatus, T. sangirensis, and as yet unnamed acoustic forms classified as T. tarsier, i.e., Manado, Gorontalo, Sejoli, and Togian forms. Indeed, differentiation of Tarsius wallacei from any known tarsier taxa other than the Togian form is trivial: 1) T. pumilus does not duet (Grow and Gursky-Doyen [2010](#page-14-0); Shekelle [2008b\)](#page-15-0). 2) The duet of T. pelengensis Sody, [1949](#page-15-0) is so similar to that of T. dentatus that visual inspection of spectrograms of duets, alone, is insufficient to differentiate the two (Burton and Nietsch [2010](#page-14-0)); thus, it is conclusively distinct from that of T. wallacei. Burton and Nietsch [\(2010](#page-14-0)) describe several acoustic forms from the southwest and southeast peninsulae. All of these populations are isolated from Tarsius wallacei by huge distances, so exhaustive comparisons are pointless. But their data, interestingly, include the Bantimurung form,

<span id="page-12-0"></span>

Fig. 8 Spectrograms of duet calls of *Tarsius wallacei* from a Batusuya and **b** Uwemanje. The figure depicts detailed close-ups of Fig. [7](#page-11-0) showing the peculiar frequency modulations in the first note of the 2 note phrase, which are characteristic of female *Tarsius wallacei*. Note the self-evident differences between these 2 duets, particularly in the first note of each phrase. It is not yet known whether this is normal intrapopulation variation, or whether it represents incipient development of new acoustic forms.

which may be the best representative of *Tarsius tarsier*, the senior taxon of the species group. Burton and Nietsch note that the Bantimurung form is notable for using the lowest fundamental frequencies of any known acoustic form of Eastern Tarsiers, ca. 2 kHz, and a fast "note rate," 51 notes per 10s. Thus, Tarsius wallacei is unequivocally distinct from the senior taxon, Tarsius tarsier, in its duet form.

#### Previous Field Research

Shekelle (Shekelle et al. [1997](#page-15-0); Shekelle [2003,](#page-14-0) [2008a](#page-14-0)) surveyed tarsiers near the small city of Tinombo, north of the Isthmus of Palu  $(0^{\circ}23'52'N, 120^{\circ}16'07''E,$ Fig. [2\)](#page-3-0). This site was sampled as part of a transect design to reveal microevolutionary changes between Spectral tarsiers in the north and Dian's tarsiers in central Sulawesi. The habitat around Tinombo is heavily degraded; tarsiers were located in an area of recently cleared agricultural land, with mixed agroforestry and secondary habitat. Shekelle *et al.* captured, measured, and released 8 tarsiers from 4 social groups in a span of 5 d. The specimens were small: 5 adult females weighed 88– 113 g, and two adult males weighed 114–115 g. Overall, these data are very similar to body masses of Batusuya tarsiers sampled in this study (Table [I\)](#page-5-0). Examining phylogeographic patterns of mtDNA haplotypes, Shekelle et al. ([2008b\)](#page-15-0) found the Tinombo population to be paraphyletic, with respect to a haplotype found in the Marantale population to the south *(Tarsius dentatus)*. They interpret this finding as evidence that male *Tarsius dentatus* might occasionally hybridize with female *T*. wallacei. Interestingly, Merker et al. [\(2009](#page-14-0)) found the same pattern of hybridization at a nearby parapatric boundary: evidence that Tarsius dentatus males occasionally hybridize with T. *lariang* females. We speculate that this mating pattern could have the effect of gradually expanding the range of *Tarsius dentatus*. Thus, the boundary of Tarsius lariang has been pushed south and west of the Palu-Koro fault (Merker et al. [2009](#page-14-0)), while the boundary with T. wallacei has been pushed north and west, resulting in the disjunct distribution we report on here.

## Comments on the Necessity of Holistic Studies

The discontinuous range of *Tarsius wallacei* and its morphological heterogeneity make yet another argument for the efficacy of holistic experimental designs in speciation studies. Speciation is a by-product of evolution, and evolution has many mechanisms. Focusing on any 1 or 2 systems is bound to produce an unacceptably simplistic understanding of evolution and speciation. The comparison of results from genetics, bioacoustics, morphology, and biogeographic history provide a far fuller, far more satisfying understanding of evolutionary history than would any 1 or 2 of these data sets in isolation. Interpreting results of our morphometric analyses and geopositional data in view of the—thus far strongly supported—hybrid biogeographic hypothesis (Shekelle and Leksono [2004\)](#page-15-0) might have led us to assume taxonomic distinctiveness between the 2 forms of Tarsius wallacei. However, acoustic and genetic analyses provided strong evidence that both forms belong to the same species. We found variation on different levels of organization—partly congruent, partly conflicting among different types of analysis. This mixture of patterns and possible interpretations gives us reason for strongly advocating holistic studies with complementary data sets to allow us to comprehend and describe tarsier diversity fully.

### Conservation

Gursky *et al.* [\(2008](#page-14-0)) made provisional conservation assessments for Eastern Tarsier populations listed by Brandon-Jones *et al.* ([2004\)](#page-14-0) as being likely to be taxonomically distinct, including the Tinombo form (here described as Wallace's tarsier, *Tarsius* wallacei). They followed the methods of the Indonesian Primate Conservation and Assessment Program (Supriatna *et al.* [2001\)](#page-15-0). Their result was that the extent of occurrence (EOO), exclusive of the disjunct southern population, was ca. 3150 km<sup>2</sup>. Noting conservation concerns in the region, they suggested a conservation status of Endangered (EN B12bc). We recommend revisiting this assessment using the methods of Shekelle and Salim [\(2009](#page-15-0)), which improve on the previous methods by using more accurate, GIS-based EOO estimates. Nevertheless, we note that the

<span id="page-14-0"></span>proposed distribution of the southern population is very small and not likely to increase greatly the estimated EOO. Thus, the suggested status for the entire species is likely to remain EN, or VU, at best. Quickly assessing the vulnerability of the small and isolated southern population of *Tarsius wallacei* is obviously critical in conserving Central Sulawesi's high tarsier diversity.

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