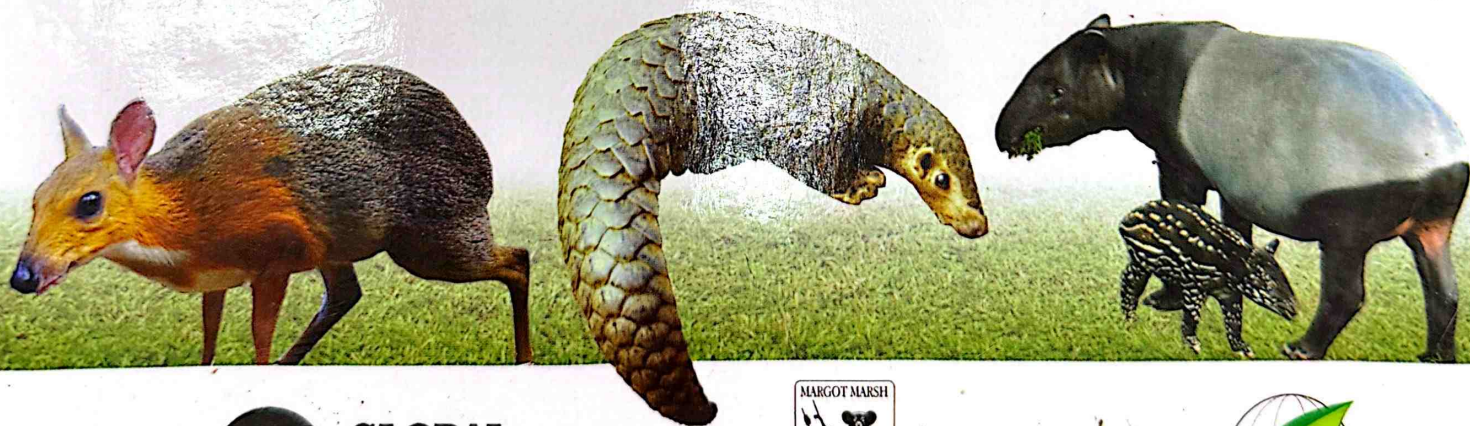


Colin P. Groves, Nguyen Vinh Thanh, Dong Thanh Hai

MAMMALS OF VIETNAM

Volume 1

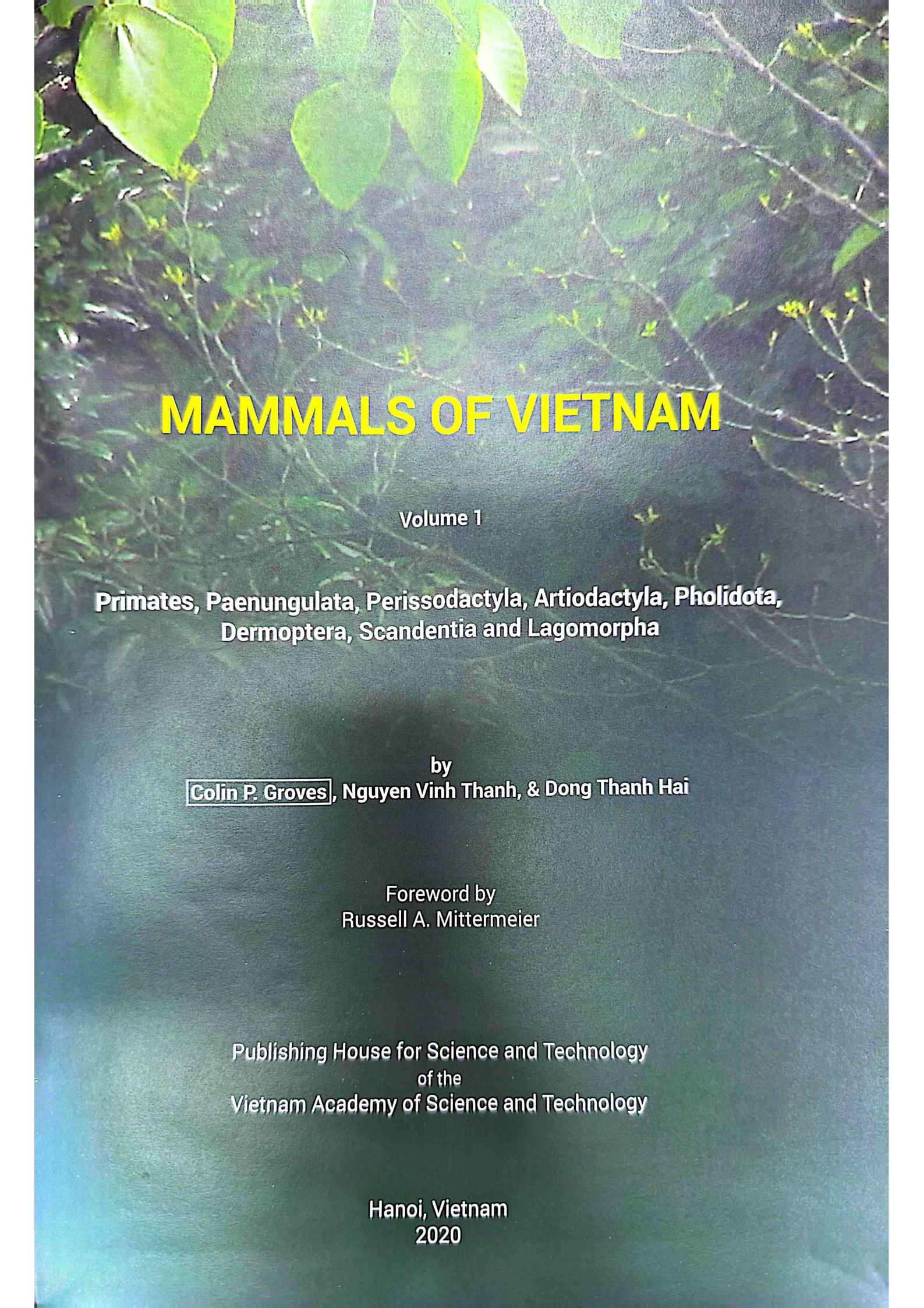
Primates, Paenungulata, Perissodactyla, Artiodactyla, Pholidota,
Dermoptera, Scandentia and Lagomorpha



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MAMMALS OF VIETNAM

Volume 1

**Primates, Paenungulata, Perissodactyla, Artiodactyla, Pholidota,
Dermoptera, Scandentia and Lagomorpha**

by

Colin P. Groves, Nguyen Vinh Thanh, & Dong Thanh Hai

Foreword by

Russell A. Mittermeier

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- 1: *Trachypithecus poliocephalus*. Photo: Nguyen Huy Cam
2: *Tragulus versicolor*. Photo: Andrew Tilker - GWC
3: *Manis pentadactyla*. Photo: Klaus Rudloff
4: *Acrocodia indica*. Photo: Klaus Rudloff

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- 1: *Bubalus arnee*. Photo: Roland Wirth
2: *Trachypithecus margarita*. Photo: Nguyen Vu Khoi – Wildlife at Risk
3: *Macaca leonina*. Photo: Nguyen Vu Khoi – Wildlife at Risk
4: *Muntiacus vaginalis*. Photo: Klaus Rudloff

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FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to write the foreword to this important book on the mammals of Vietnam. Vietnam is one of the highest priority countries on Earth for mammals, and also has a high number of threatened species. Indeed, although at 331,212 km², only about the size of the American state of New Mexico, its more than 270 mammal species rank high on the world list, especially in terms of diversity per unit area. It is also within one of world's highest priority biodiversity hotspots, the Indo-Burma Hotspot, with very high levels of endemism and a high degree of threat.

Vietnam has a very high human population density. Ninety-five million people make it the 15th most populous country in the world and in economic terms it has developed rapidly over the past few decades. The result has been the loss, from 1990 to 2005, of 78% of its forest cover. Nonetheless, there is in place a network of 138 protected areas covering 2,271,434 hectares or 7% of the country. It includes 30 national parks (1,084,796 ha), 68 nature reserves (1,054,461 ha) and 40 landscape protection areas (132,177 ha). If effectively managed and protected, they should serve as a refuge for much of Vietnam's biodiversity.

Vietnam is home to numerous globally important mammals, many of which are found nowhere else. The primates are a good example, with a primate fauna of seven genera, 25 species and 27 taxa, four of which are endemic. Its primates include the Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*), the Cao Vit gibbon *Nomascus nasutus* and four other crested gibbon species (more than any other country), the pileated gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*), all three species of the spectacular doucs (*Pygathrix*), and five of the seven Endangered species of so-called karst langurs of the genus *Trachypithecus*. However, indicative of the degree of threat to Vietnam's biodiversity, 24 of Vietnam's 27 primates are listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List; 10 Critically Endangered, 11 Endangered and 3 Vulnerable. Indeed, from 2000 to 2014, from three to five of its primate species have been on the list of the World's 25 Most Endangered Primates. The government of Vietnam recognized this and issued a series of five postage stamps depicting the five Vietnamese Top 25 species

for the XXVth Congress of the International Primatological Society held in Hanoi in August 2014. Conservation efforts in the country by the government along with a number of conservation organizations have meant that none have gone extinct, although many are still declining in numbers.

Vietnam is also blessed with a diverse ungulate community. The broadleaved evergreen forests of the Annamites are especially interesting for their muntjac diversity and the presence of the endemic Saola, a primitive member of the tribe Bovini, along with the cattle and buffalo, within the family Bovidae. Further south in the dry forest mosaic four wild cattle species once roamed alongside Eld's deer, hog deer, and sambar deer.

International support for primate conservation prevented the extinction of many species and developed a talented generation of primate conservationists. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for other mammals. A multitude of mammals have been extirpated from Vietnam; taking just the ungulates, this includes the Sumatran and Javan rhinoceroses, kouprey, wild water buffalo, hog deer, and sika deer. Even more are possibly extinct, functionally extinct, or surviving in tiny numbers, including the Saola, Eld's deer, Banteng, Asian elephant, and Musk deer. The historical threat of major habitat loss combined with the current threat of poaching to supply the wildlife meat markets have left many mammal species in small, isolated populations and extremely vulnerable to extinction. Of particular concern to all terrestrial species is the near ubiquitous, high intensity snaring. Set primarily by professional hunters supplying the restaurant trade with wildlife meat, these wire cable snares catch indiscriminately and are resulting in entire mammalian communities being wiped out from large percentages of Vietnam's forests.

This book was very largely written by our very good friend and colleague, the late Colin Groves, the most important mammal taxonomist of his generation. The remaining authors have filled in some few gaps and done the final polishing to allow for its publication. It is Colin's last book, and a very fitting one, of which we are sure he would very proud.

We hope that readers will find the *Mammals of Vietnam* useful, that it will stimulate further interest in Vietnam's mammals, and help to further conservation efforts in this country of such significance for the biodiversity of Indochina.

Russell A. Mittermeier, Ph.D.

Chair, IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group; and

Chief Conservation Officer,

Global Wildlife Conservation