Introduction

- **Background**: Although illegal, the live capture of lemurs as personal pets and as a source of income is ongoing and is becoming a major threat to biodiversity 1.

- **Significance**: Madagascar is a biodiversity hotspot having 100% endemism at family, genera, and species levels and is home to the highest number of threatened primate taxa in any one country 2.

- **Prior research**: Only one previous study has investigated pet lemur ownership through face-to-face interviews of over 1,093 households in northern and central Madagascar and estimated that over 28,000 lemurs were illegally kept between 2010 and mid-2013 1.

- **Research goal**: To test whether remote online surveys can collect data comparable to on-location surveys at significantly reduced cost.

- **Hypotheses**: Based on Reuter et al.1, we predicted that pet lemur ownership will occur throughout Madagascar and that *Lemur catta* will be the most common species.

Methods

- **Online survey**: Twelve questions, some response choices provided; options to elaborate, can leave any question blank.

- **Sample survey questions**
  - How many individual lemurs did you see?
  - In what type of environment did you see the lemur (No answer; Restaurant; Hotel/Resort; In a business; On the street; Other)?
  - What month and year did you see the lemur?
  - Where did you see the lemur?

Results

- **Responses**: 302 responses reporting over 685 pet lemurs.

  **Respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tourists/Business Travelers</th>
<th>Malagasy</th>
<th>Non-Malagasy (Researchers)</th>
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<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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- **30 species from 10 genera identified**

  **Most Common Species**

  - *Lemur catta* (28%)
  - *Eulemur fulvus* (10%)
  - *Varecia variegata* (10%)

Conclusion and Discussion

- **Online surveys** can be a reliable data collection method. Our results were largely in agreement with Reuter et al. 1.

- **More lemur species identified**
  - Current = 30 species, 10 genera
  - Reuter et al. 1 = 14 species, 8 genera
  - Estimate of 28,000 pet lemurs should be revisited.

- **Benefits of online data collection**
  - Significantly reduced research costs
    - Current = $100
    - Reuter et al. = $1200
  - Anonymity may improve responses as pet lemur ownership is illegal
  - Broader geographic regions can be surveyed.

References