

Request for Photographs of the Rock Hyrax (*Procavia capensis*) in the Middle EastYvonne A. de Jong¹ & Thomas M. Butynski^{1 2}

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To design and implement effective conservation actions, an efficient and accessible resource for the identification of subspecies and species is required. An on-line interactive map, called 'Hyrax Photographic Map' (or 'Hyrax PhotoMap'), presents the phenotypic characters for Hyraxes (Procaviidae) throughout their geographical range. Besides photographs, the Hyrax PhotoMap holds sources to contact for recordings of Hyrax loud calls. Hyrax PhotoMap serves as a 'living' photographic and audio collection—a tool that we earlier designed for the primates and warthogs of East Africa (www.wildsolutions.nl). Anyone with an interest in Hyraxes can use this resource, add their Hyrax photographs, announce that they have audio recordings that are available for use by others, and provide observations, comments, references, and other information. Hyrax PhotoMap is a practical tool for documenting and discussing Hyrax diversity, taxonomy, biogeography, distribution and conservation status and, therefore, for developing and implementing conservation actions.

To access Hyrax PhotoMap, go to www.wildsolutions.nl. Clicking on a particular photograph will cause it to enlarge and related information will appear (e. g., species name, location, vegetation type, altitude, vocalizations). The locality of the photograph/recording will appear on a Google map on the right side of the screen (Figure 1). An overview of all photograph and audio localities can be readily accessed by clicking on the 'View Map' link in the lower right corner (immediately under the small map). The viewer can leave a comment with any photograph or audio entry (if s/he is a member of Google) by clicking the comment button for that photograph/audio entry. Audio recordings can not be downloaded from Hyrax PhotoMap directly, but a request can be made, via email, to the person who holds the recording.

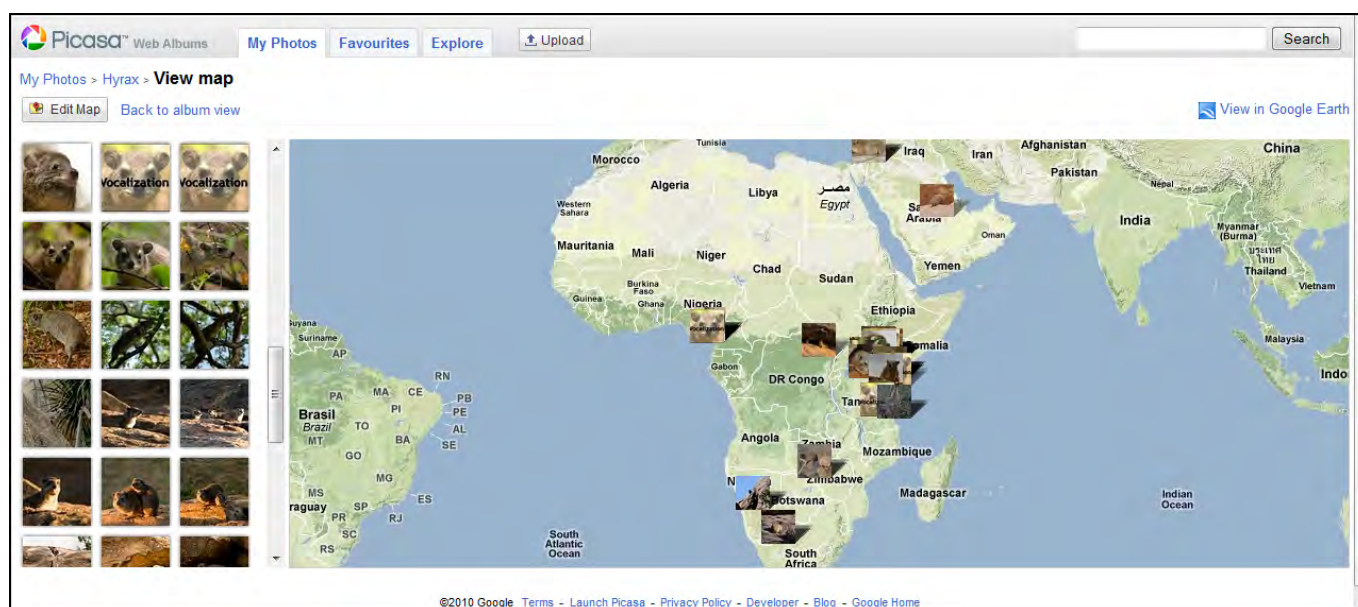


Figure 1. A screen shot from the Hyrax Photomap.

The Middle East holds one species of Hyrax, the Rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis*) that is, according to current taxonomy, represented by one subspecies, the Middle East rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis syriacus*). *P. c. syriacus* is known to occur in Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, and, perhaps, Syria. Reports of *P. capensis* in Turkey (Shoshani 2005) are in error (Barry et al. 2008). Little is known about the variation of phenotypic characters and vocal repertoire, or of the limits of the range, of *P. capensis* in the Middle East (Harrison 1968, Harrison & Bates 1991).

We invite you to send us your photographs and audio recordings of *P. c. syriacus*...and of any other taxa of Hyrax for which you have photographs and/or audio recording. For each photograph, please include as much detail as possible...most importantly the species name (or likely species), locality where the photograph was taken, coordinates (or describe the location so that we can plot it on the map), elevation, date, and whether you made audio recordings at the site. The more details the better...so please describe the vegetation, the call, etc. Audio recordings cannot be uploaded onto Hyrax Photomap. If you have Hyrax vocalizations to share, please send us the locality details (not the actual recordings) and we will add a dummy image to the map to show the viewers that there are recordings available from you for this locality. Again, add as many details as possible.

If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, please contact us. Photographs (not larger than 2 MB) can be sent by email to yvonne@wildsolutions.nl or on CD by airmail to:

References

Barry, R., Bloomer, P., Hoeck, H. & Shoshani, H. 2008. *Procavia capensis*. In IUCN 2009. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 05 March 2010.

Harrison, D. L. 1968. *The Mammals of Arabia*. Vol. II. Ernest Benn Ltd., London.

Harrison, D. L. & Bates, P. J. J. 1991. *The Mammals of Arabia* 2nd edition. Harrison Zoological Museum Publication, Kent, England.

Shoshani, J. 2005. Order Hyracoidea. In *Mammal Species of the World*, 3rd Edition (eds. D. E. Wilson & D. M. Reeder). Johns Hopkins University Press. Pp. 87-88.