



# Inference, fragmentation, conservation and genomics INFRAGECO

Lounes CHIKHI (Partner 1)

Funded projects final conference, 12-13 November 2019, Brussels

BiodivERsA COFUND Call (2015-2016)

« Understanding and managing biodiversity dynamics to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services in a global change context: the cases of soils and sediments, and land- river and sea-scapes »

# CONSORTIUM DESCRIPTION

*Partner 1 (coordinator): **Dr Lounès CHIKHI***

*Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Portugal, Funded by FCT*

*Partner 2 **Dr Guillaume BESNARD***

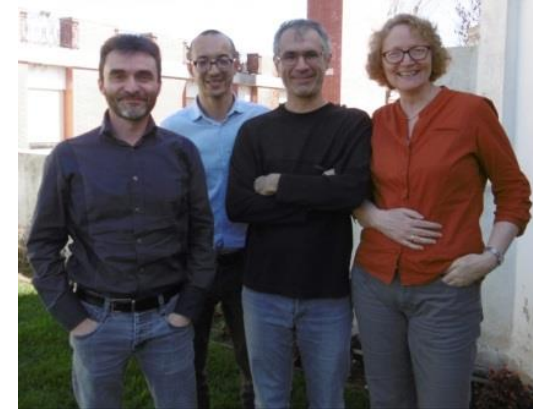
*Lab. Evolution & Diversité Biologique, Toulouse, France, Funded by ANR*

*Partner 3 **Pr. Ute RADESPIEL***

*Institute of Zoology, Univ. Vet. Medicine Hanover, Germany, Funded by FMER*

*Partner 4 **Pr. Olivier MAZET***

*Institut Mathématiques de Toulouse, France, Funded by ANR*





## INFRAGECO PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To study the consequences of habitat loss and fragmentation on genetic diversity using comparative analyses, genomic data and statistical modelling. To develop simulation and inferential tools. To visit schools, train students, conservationists and inform authorities

Madagascar as a **model region** (first humans < 5000-10,000 years)

**Habitat Loss and Fragmentation** (10-20% of the total area is forested)

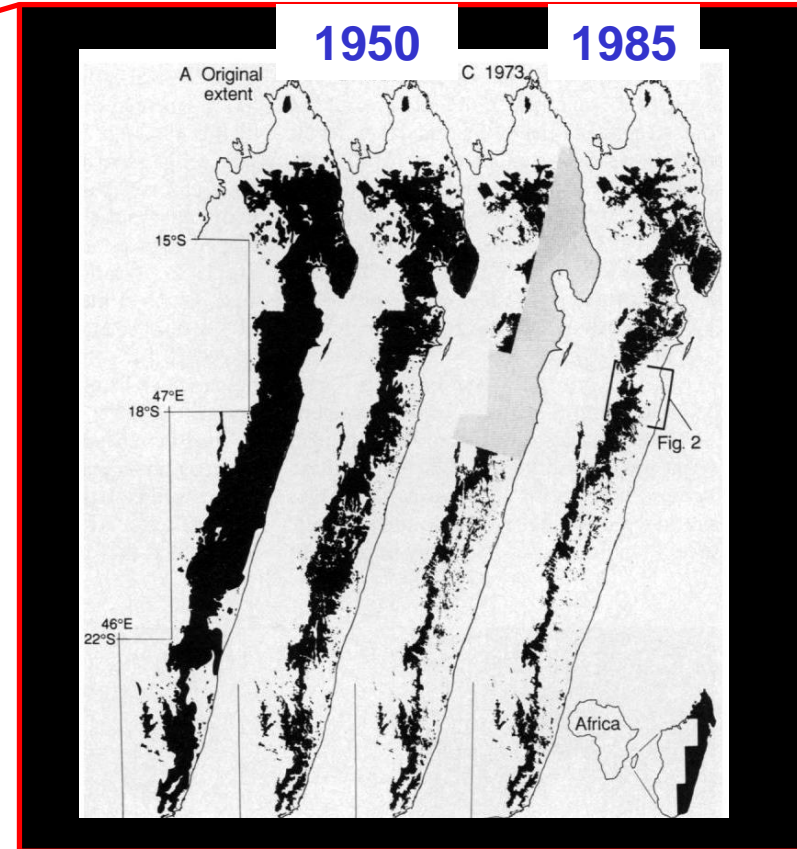
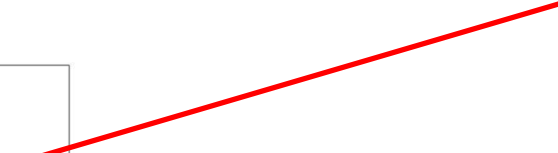
Genetic and genomic data (**RAD-seq**, msats, etc.)

Comparative approach (**lemurs, rodents, Oleacea *Noronhia***)

Identify recent and ancient **barriers to gene flow**

**Demographic inference** integrating population structure

**Spatial simulations software** for inference and prediction

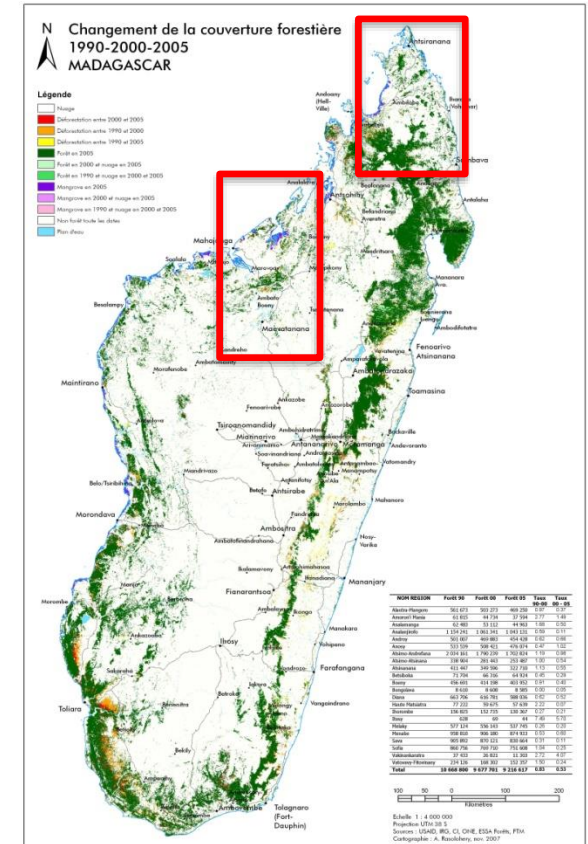




## Two main study regions (and subregions)

# Madagascar as a model (first humans < 5000- 10,000 years)

Habitat loss & fragmentation  
(10-20% of the area is forested)





# INFRAGECO PROJECT DESCRIPTION

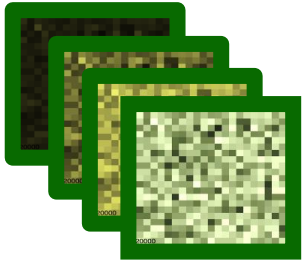
**Genetic and genomic data**  
(RAD-seq, msats, etc.)

**Comparative approach**  
(lemurs, rodents, *Noronhia*)

**(endemic – invasive)**



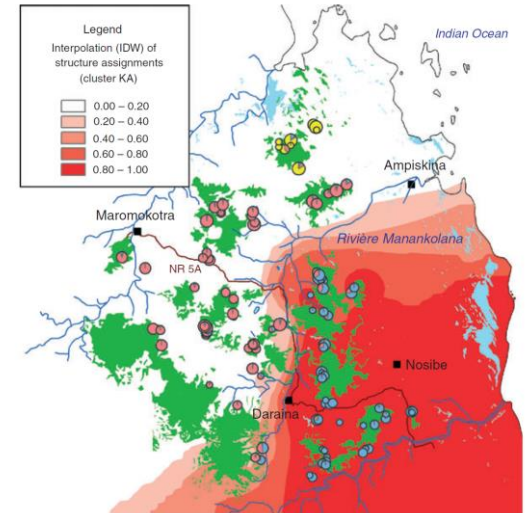
# INFRAGECO PROJECT DESCRIPTION



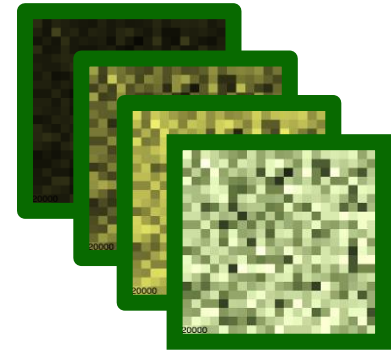
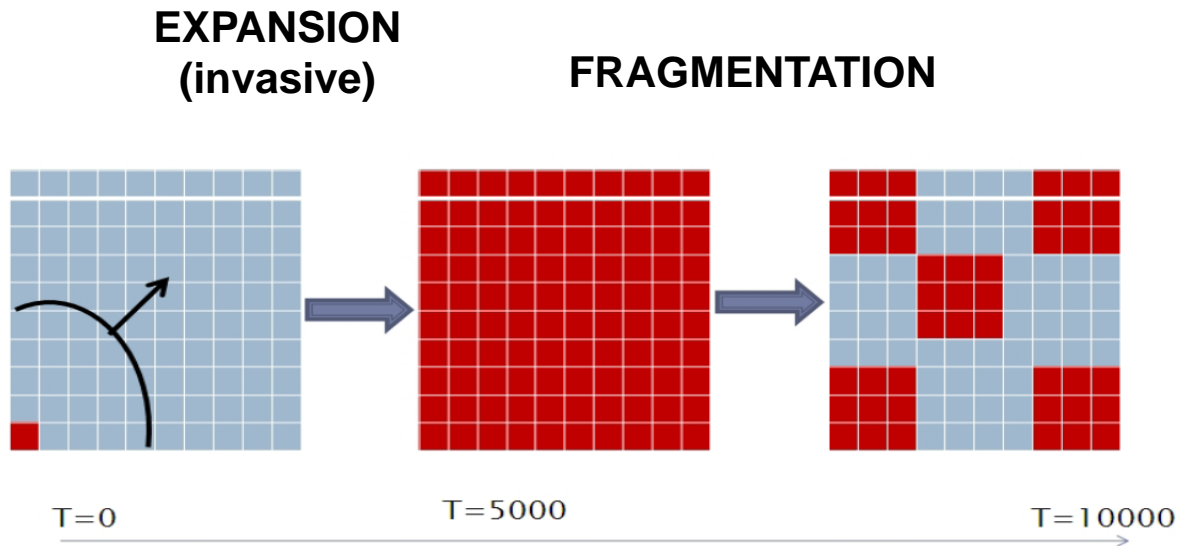
Identify **recent** and **ancient** barriers  
to gene flow

**Demographic history** inference integrating  
population structure

Spatial simulations for **inference** and **prediction**



# INFRAGECO PROJECT DESCRIPTION



Spatial simulations for **inference** and **prediction**





# INFRAGECO PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## Work Packages

Sampling and Coordination - LC

Genotyping and Genomics - GB

Critical Features of Ecological Networks - UR

Spatial Simulations of HL&F - LC

Stochastic Modelling and Statistical Inference - OM

Dissemination – LC

Tasks : 15 Tasks (sub WPs)

Milestones: 22 across the six WPs

Deliverables: 29 across the six WPs



## SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

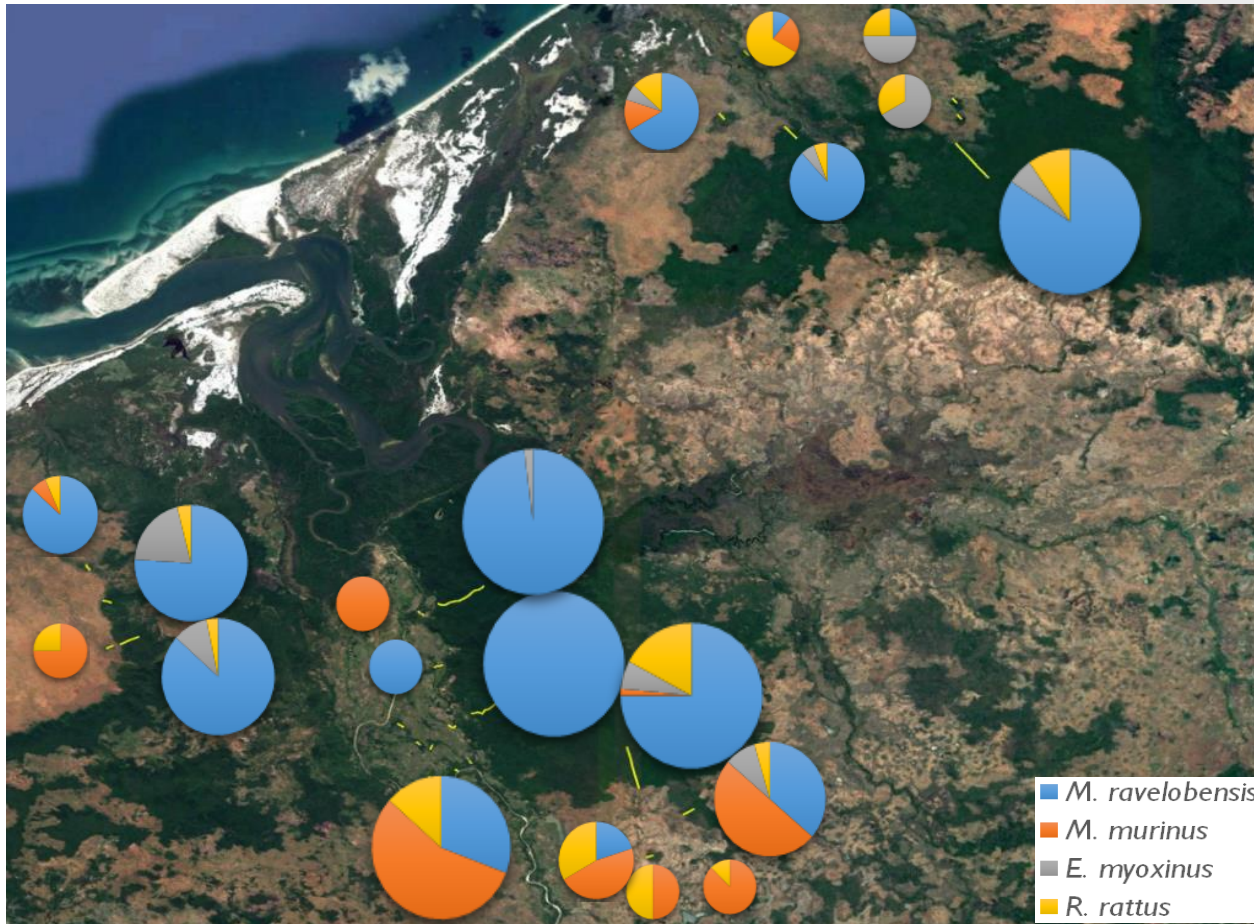
- **> 1000 animals and > 2500 plants sampled**
- **> 900 individuals RAD-seq-ed across all species (to be finished)**
- **3 theoretical articles** published (one was expected) + 2 additional to be submitted
- **11 articles published (9 peer-reviewed) + 3 submitted + 3 in prep.**
- **Two simulation software** (final stages -- as expected)
- **Theoretical advances: extensions of the IICR concept (inverse instantaneous coalescence rate):** clarifies connection between **population structure and population size change** → makes it easier to infer **ancient connectivity**



## SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

- **Tentative new species** of mouse lemurs
- **Extension of species distributions** of mouse lemurs
- **Biodiversity hotspot for Noronhia**
- **Variable species-specific response of** mouse lemurs to **habitat fragmentation**
- **First genetic study** of the only **open habitat** Noronhia species (***Noronhia lowry***)
- ***Noronhia lowry***: **extreme structure on cpDNA** and **no structure in nuclear DNA**
- ***Noronhia lowry*** to be used for **reforestation**
- **New results on genetic edge effect (spatial simulations)**
- **New measures of edge effect correlate with genetic diversity**
- **Parasitic load has a complex relation with edge and fragmentation**

# Distribution mouse lemur species in Mariarano

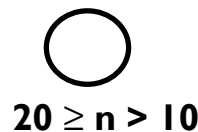
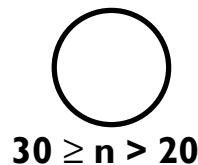
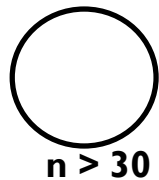


■ *M. ravelobensis*: in the largest forests

• *M. murinus*: in forest fragments

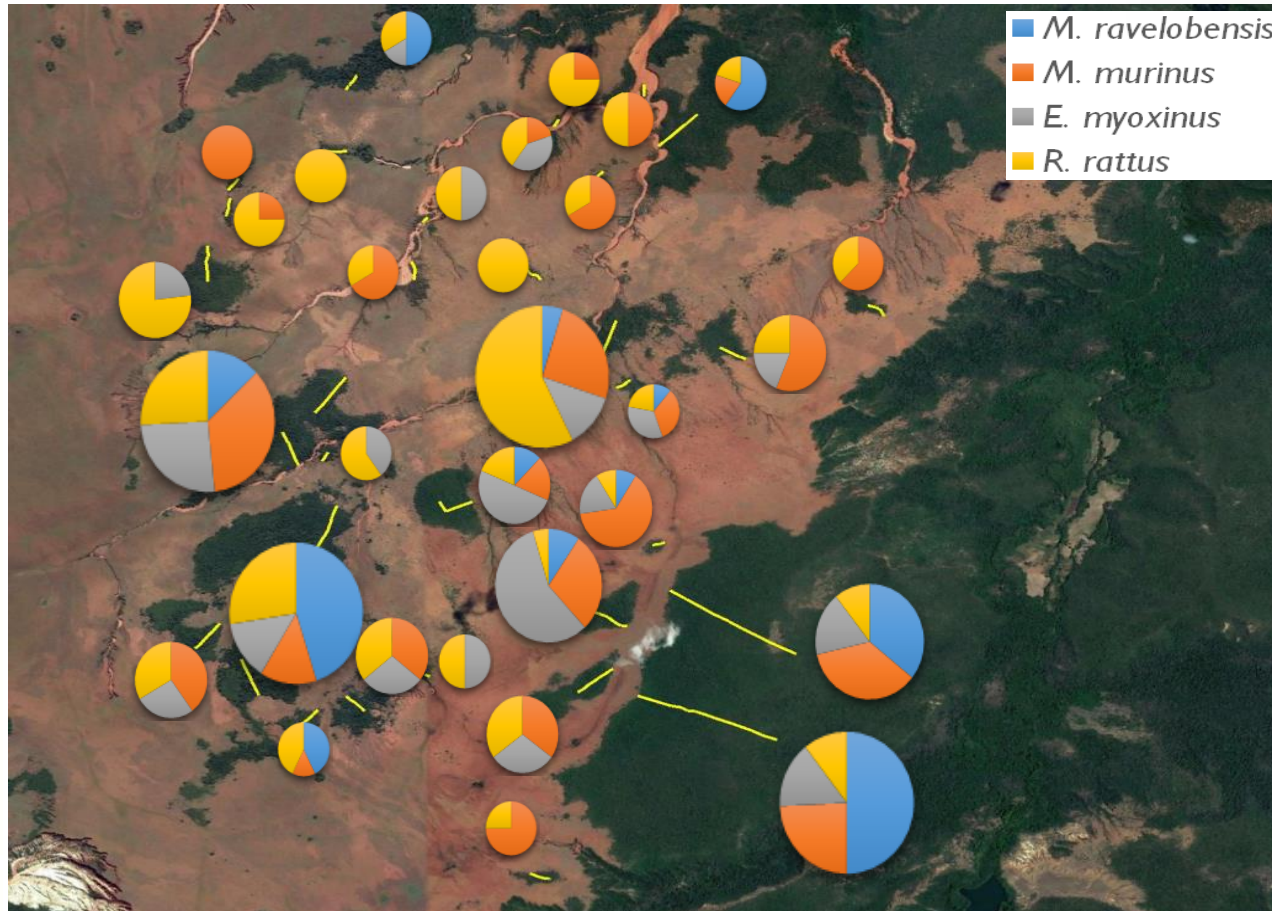
• *E. myoxinus*: rare everywhere

• *R. rattus*: in forest fragments






# Distribution of species in Anbanjabe (Ankarafantsika)




 *M. ravelobensis*:  
in largest  
fragments




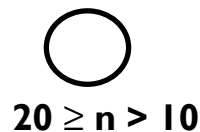
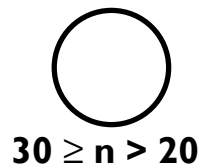
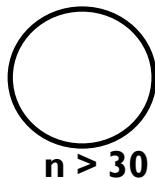
 *M. murinus*:  
everywhere



 *E. myoxinus*:  
everywhere



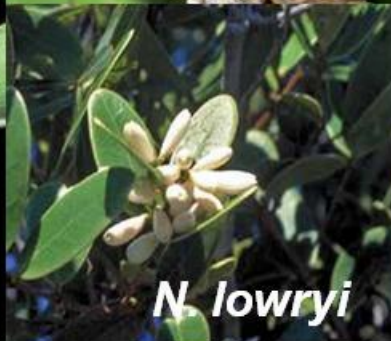
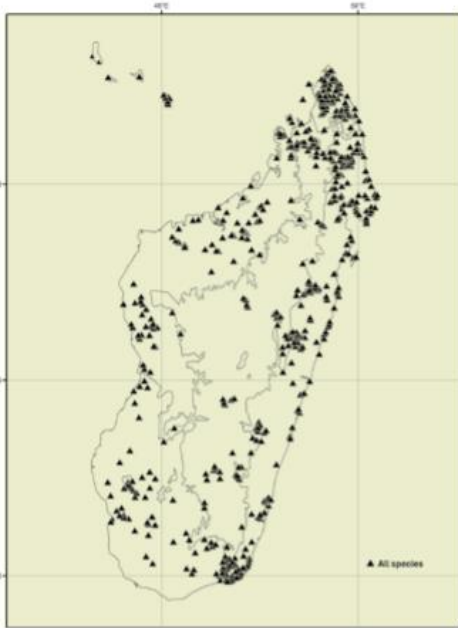
 *R. rattus*: in  
fragments





# *Noronhia* as a case study

- « Recent » radiation (Miocene) ...
- Great variability morphologique (fleur, feuille, fruit, taille...)
- High species diversity



# SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

## Noronhia field work in the « Loky-Manambato »

### ✓ Sampling transects

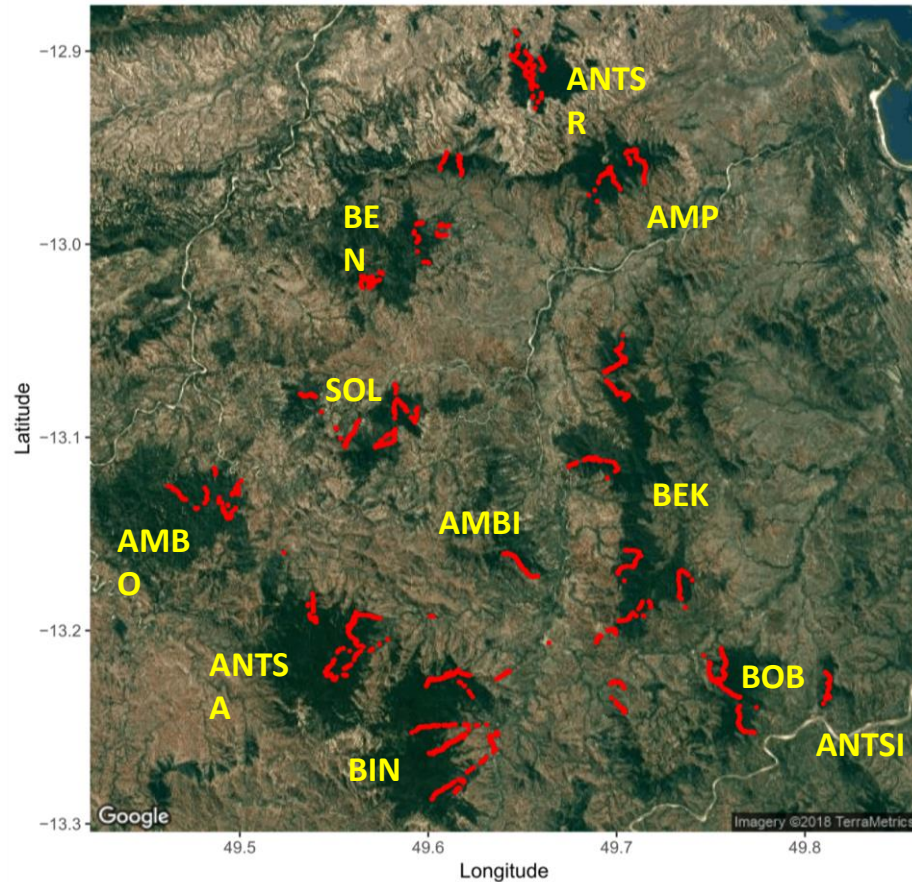
- Habitats types
- Altitude
- Forest size

### ✓ >2500 *Noronhia*

### ✓ ~30 species

Most species are micro-endemics

Many sympatric species





# *Noronhia* exploited for wood and charcoal



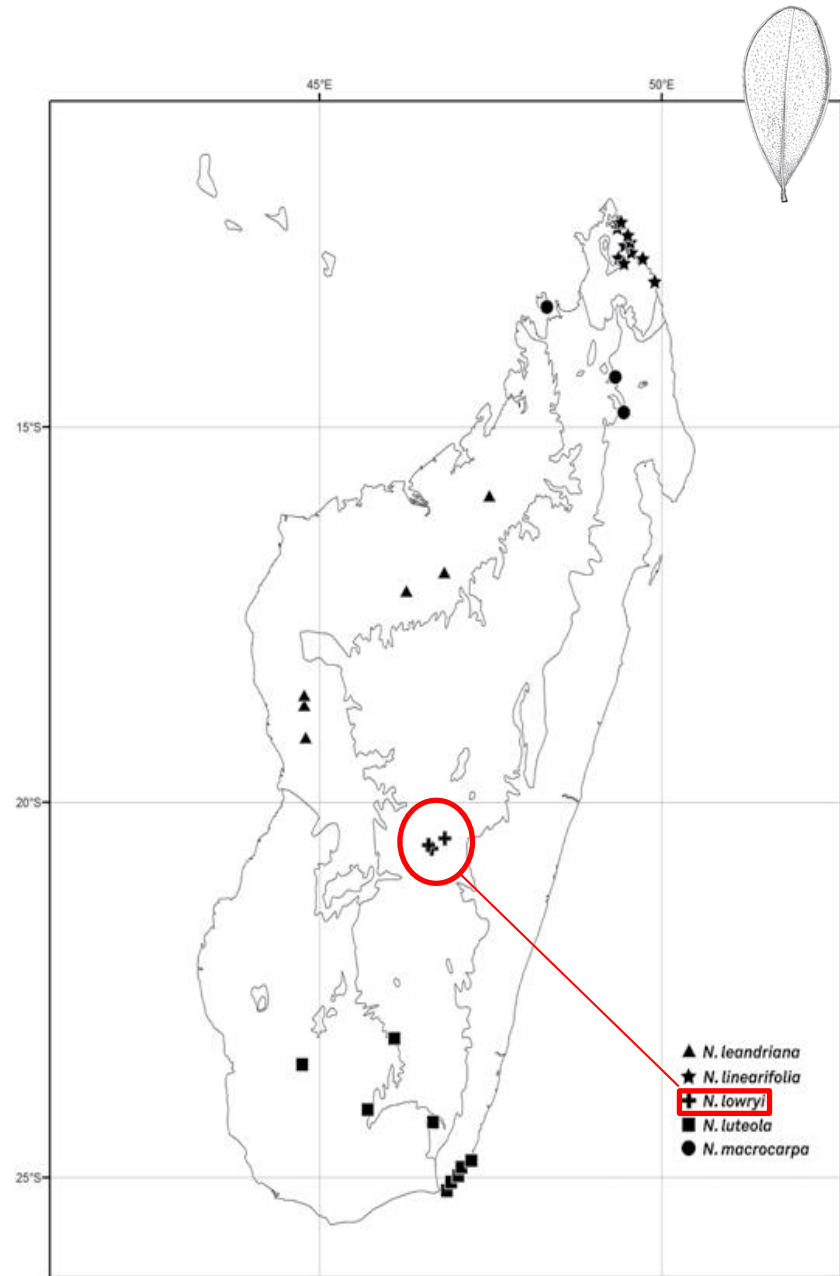


# *Noronhia lowryi*

Hong-Wa C. 2016. *Boissiera*

## Recently described :

- Only *Noronhia* savanah species
- Endemic in Itremo à Ibity
- Sols quartzites
- Rare, threatened(EN)
- Restoration Programmes (Ibity, MBG)





Itremo, Centre Madagascar

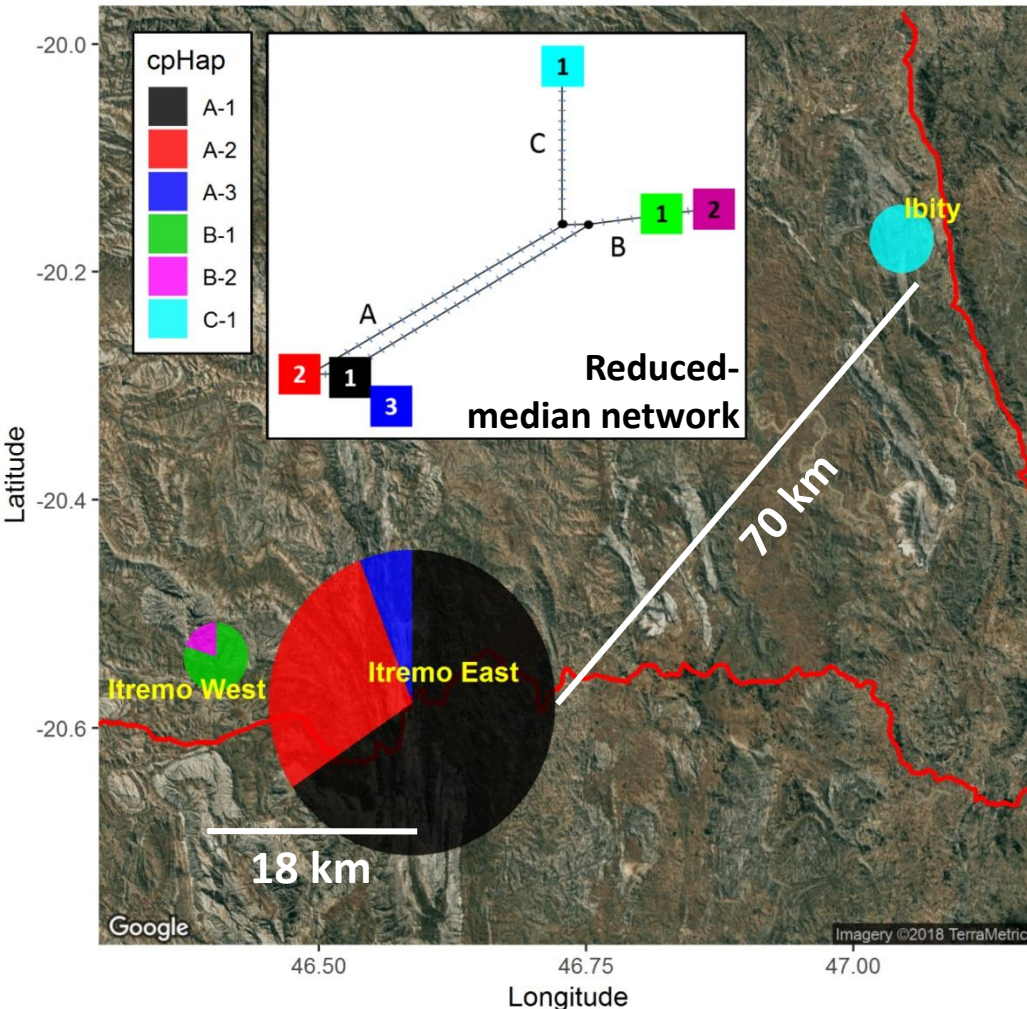


*Noronhia lowryi* : savanah

(Itremo-Ibity, Centre Madagascar)



# Extreme genetic differences in maternal genome (chloroplastic)



Few very divergent alleles

One lineage per population

No genetic exchange (maternal side)

**BUT**

No genetic differentiation on the nuclear

# Ectoparasites



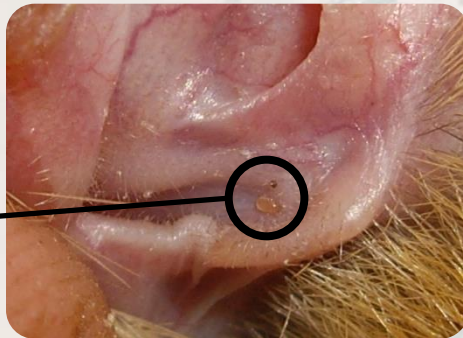
ticks



thrombiculidae



acarions



lice



acarions  
predators



## SOCIETAL / POLICY OUTPUTS

**IUCN Primate Specialist group in 2018:** Conservation status of all lemur species

**Symposia at the ATBC (Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation) meeting in Madagascar July-August 2019**

Visits at **schools** in Madagascar 2018-2019 + Portugal + France

**Masters students** from Mahajanga trained in the field and for data analysis

**University lectures** in Antananarivo and Mahajanga

One Malagasy PhD student + One Malagasy post-doc (U. Radespiel)

Three European PhD students within INFRAGECO or significantly involved

**INFRAGECO WEBSITE:** <http://www.infrageco-biodiversa.org>

**Madagascar Stakeholder meeting 5 August 2019**

**SOON: Science and Music in Feb. 2020 (Fundação Gulbenkian)**



# SOCIETAL / POLICY OUTPUTS



# School visits



















# Misaotra betsaka tompoko



Research consortium: INFRAGECO

© S. Rohner



Conservation  
Community  
Communication



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*Agence Nationale pour la Recherche (France)*  
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