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Post-capture behaviour and movement analysis of two small sympatric rodents in the Setté-Cama (Gabon) coastal forest

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1 ABSTRACT

The present study aims to obtain information on qualitative (behaviour) and quantitative (movement /distance) data from two mammal species in southwest Gabon (Setté-Cama). Capture-mark-recapture studies provided data on movements and post-capture behaviour of individuals of two small forest rodents: *Hylomyscus walterverheyeni* (n = 47) and *Praomys misonnei* (n = 5). All individuals were captured at least once, banded and then released at their place of capture. Overall trap success (T_S) was 10.3% of which 20% of animals were recaptured (Tr). Distances travelled by tagged individuals varied from one individual to another (about 70 to 500 m). By contrast, the post-capture behaviour differed between the two species. *P. misonnei,* once released, moved from one shelter to another on the ground (fallen trunks) or found refuge in a nearby burrow. *Hylomyscus walterverheyeni* on the other hand climbed shrubs and small creepers of up to 3 to 4 m above the ground.