



TREE KANGAROO CONSERVATION PROGRAM | 2013 FIELD REPORT

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Thank you very much for providing an i-STAT for Matschie's tree kangaroo field work this spring in Papua New Guinea! The journey the i-STAT took: First it was in my carry-on for 43 hours of travel from my house to Lae, Papua New Guinea. Then the i-STAT went on a 6 seater airplane to the grassy runway of Sapmanga village and a 2.5 hour hike to Gomdon village. Then the real hiking began; two days in my backpack up and down rocky muddy mountain trails, small rivers, steep ravines, and leech forests! Our field site was called Sombom located 1500m within the newly created YUS Conservation Area which spans 180,000 acres of important habitat for tree kangaroos, long-beaked echidnas, cuscus, vultrine parrots, Bower birds, and multiple species of Bird of Paradise.



Juvenile Tree Kangaroo



i-STAT running field samples



Tree Kangaroo in a burlap sac

At camp we set up tents while the trackers stayed in a fern hut. We worked with locals from 3 surrounding villages during our 2 week time at camp. Daily they would go out in groups and trek for hours, often in the rain, looking for the elusive tree kangaroos. During the day it was often 66 degrees and 99% humidity. It was hard to prevent mold and wetness from seeping into things but the i-STAT was kept dry and clean in a pelican case and the cartridges were in a styrofoam container.

We were thrilled when the tracking teams found an adult female and a juvenile female in a tree together. They were carried to camp in burlap sacs for sedation, physical exam, blood sampling, measurements, microchip and radio-collar placement, and supportive treatments. We were even more thrilled when we found a developed joey approximately 3 months old in the pouch of the adult. A few days later the team found another juvenile female (approx. 18-22 months old) in the forest and proudly brought her to camp for the same exam and collaring.

We ran i-STAT cartridges off of green top microtainers. We ran CG4+ and Chem 8 cartridges on all 3 animals and CG8+ on two. All the values were within normal limits for mammals. Each tree kangaroo recovered quickly and was returned to the capture tree on the same day. Local villagers remained at the field site tracking the 3 females daily in addition to a newly collared male in order to establish home range territories.

i-STAT Provides Results-on-the-Go.

The tree kangaroo conservation program fosters wildlife and habitat conservation and supports local community livelihoods in Papua New Guinea.

For more information please visit:
www.zoo.org/treekangaroo



Anesthetized adult female with collar



Vet exam table



Dr. Dabek & Ranger James

