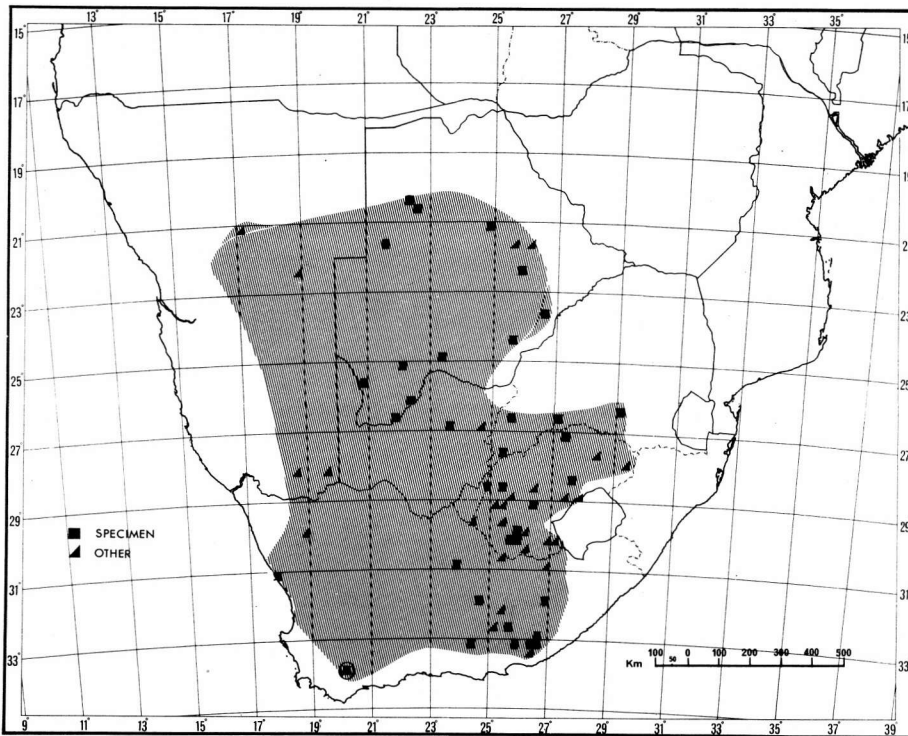


# THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SMALL-SPOTTED CAT, *FELIS NIGRIPES*

By C.T. STUART

The small-spotted cat (black-footed cat or anthill tiger) is restricted to the drier areas of Southern Africa. It has been recorded from central and eastern South West Africa/Namibia, central and southern Botswana, western Transvaal, Orange Free State and much of the Cape Province (see Map). This small cat is uncommon throughout its relatively restricted range but its secretive nature may often cause it to be overlooked. During the course of a recent survey (Stuart 1981) of the carnivores of the



Map showing the known distribution of the small-spotted cat, including new records for the western and southwestern Cape.

Cape Province the small-spotted cat was recorded for the first time as occurring along the west coast and in Namaqualand/Bushmanland. During the survey a specimen was collected in the coastal sandveld at "Peddieskop" (3117 BB Ruitersvlei, 31°12'S; 17°53'E) and two skins were examined on the farm "Leeuklip" (2918 DD Kalkstasie, 29°46'S; 18°51'E).



The small-spotted cat, *Felis nigripes*.

The most interesting range extension is of two specimens killed on the farm "Rietvlei" (3320 CC Montagu, 33°45'S; 20°11'E) in the South West Cape. As can be seen from the map this extends this carnivores known range by some 450 km. Unconfirmed reports of the small-spotted cat occurring in several areas of the Calvinia and Ceres districts now become more feasible.

It would therefore seem likely that further collecting could reveal that this carnivore occurs over much of the Cape interior.

**Reference**

Stuart, C.T. 1981. Notes on the mammalian carnivores of the Cape Province. *Bontebok* 1:1-58.

C.T. STUART, Albany Museum, Somerset Street, Grahamstown 6140.

