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PetWatch

A program of EcoHealth Alliance

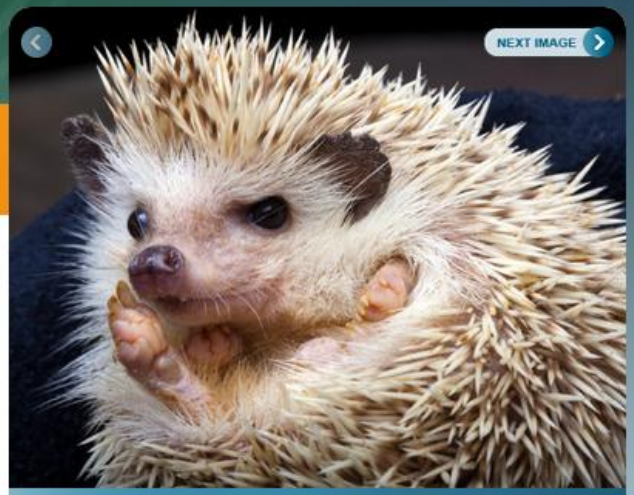
African Pygmy Hedgehog

Atelerix albiventris

"FAIR CHOICE" PET

African Pygmy Hedgehogs, also called Four-toed Hedgehogs, are common natives of many African countries. These small mammals are nocturnal and energetic. When threatened, this hedgehog curls into a tight ball and contracts its muscles to make the sharp quills stand erect. Unlike porcupines, African Pygmy Hedgehogs do not release their quills the way porcupines do, but they will attempt to stab the harasser.

Virtually all domesticated hedgehogs are captive-bred and descended from the African Pygmy Hedgehog or a close relative such as the White-bellied Hedgehog or North African Hedgehog. Hedgehogs are bred for specific color morphs and temperament. In captivity, they typically live four to six years, weigh 6 to 20 ounces, and reach 12 inches in length.



Did You Know?

Unlike porcupines, African Pygmy Hedgehogs do not release their quills the way porcupines do, but they will attempt to stab the predator.

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ARE SMUGGLED EACH YEAR –
ENDANGERING THEIR LIVES
AND YOURS.
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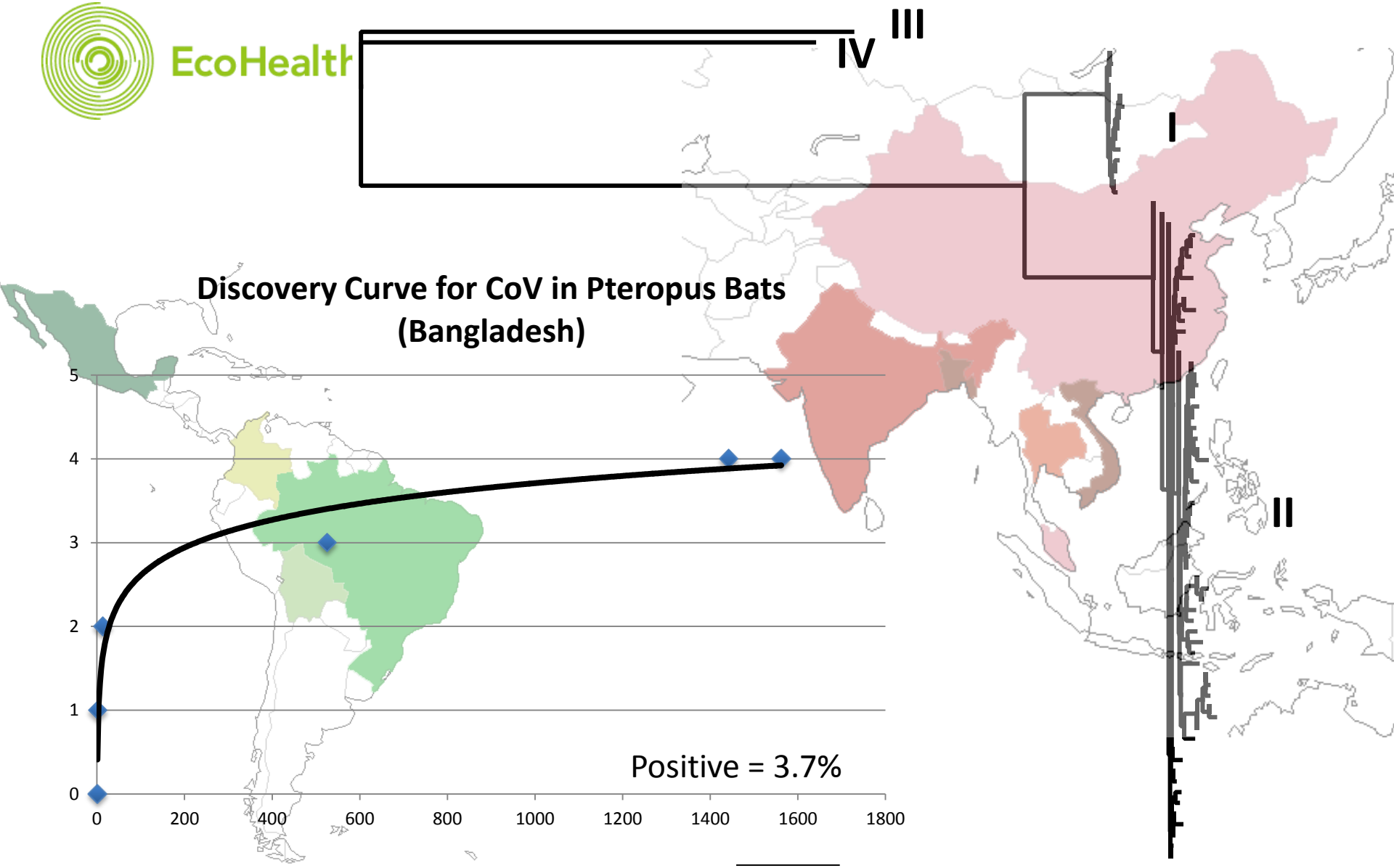

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Adenovirus

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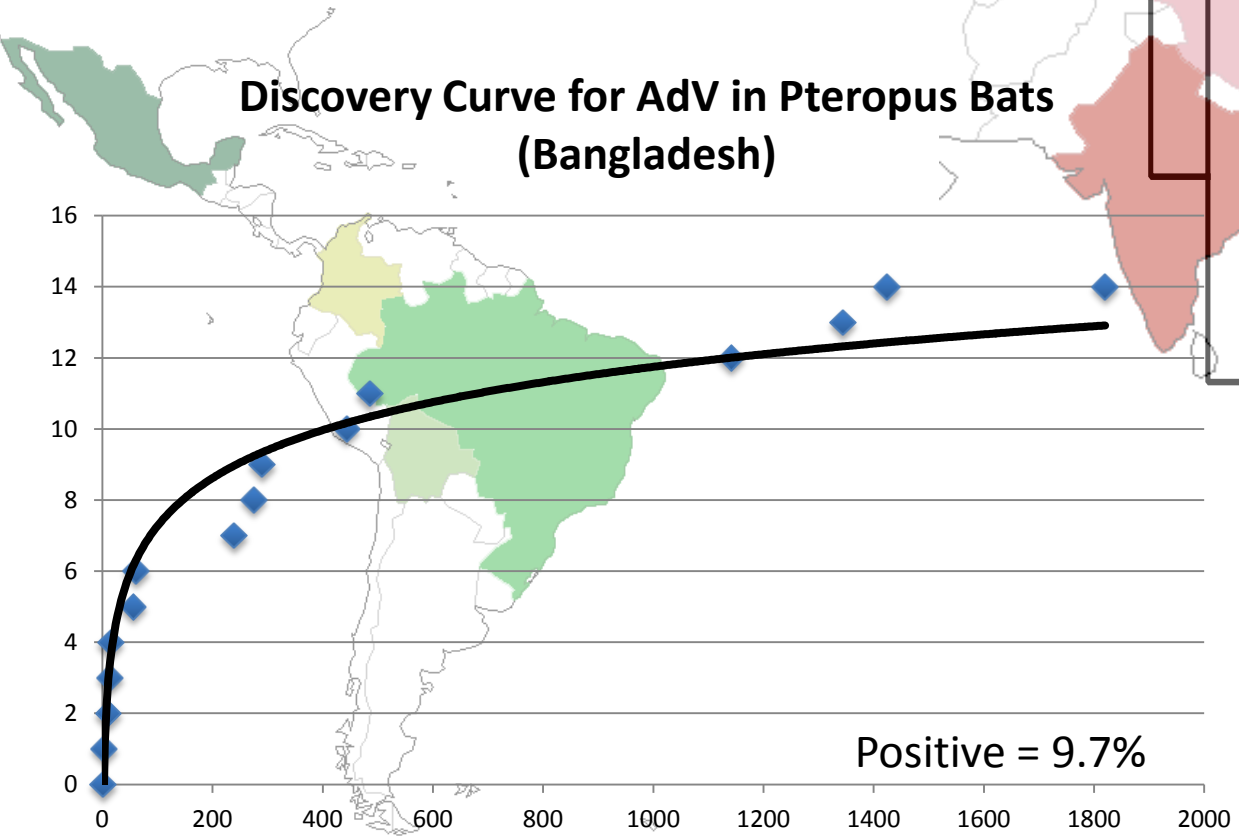

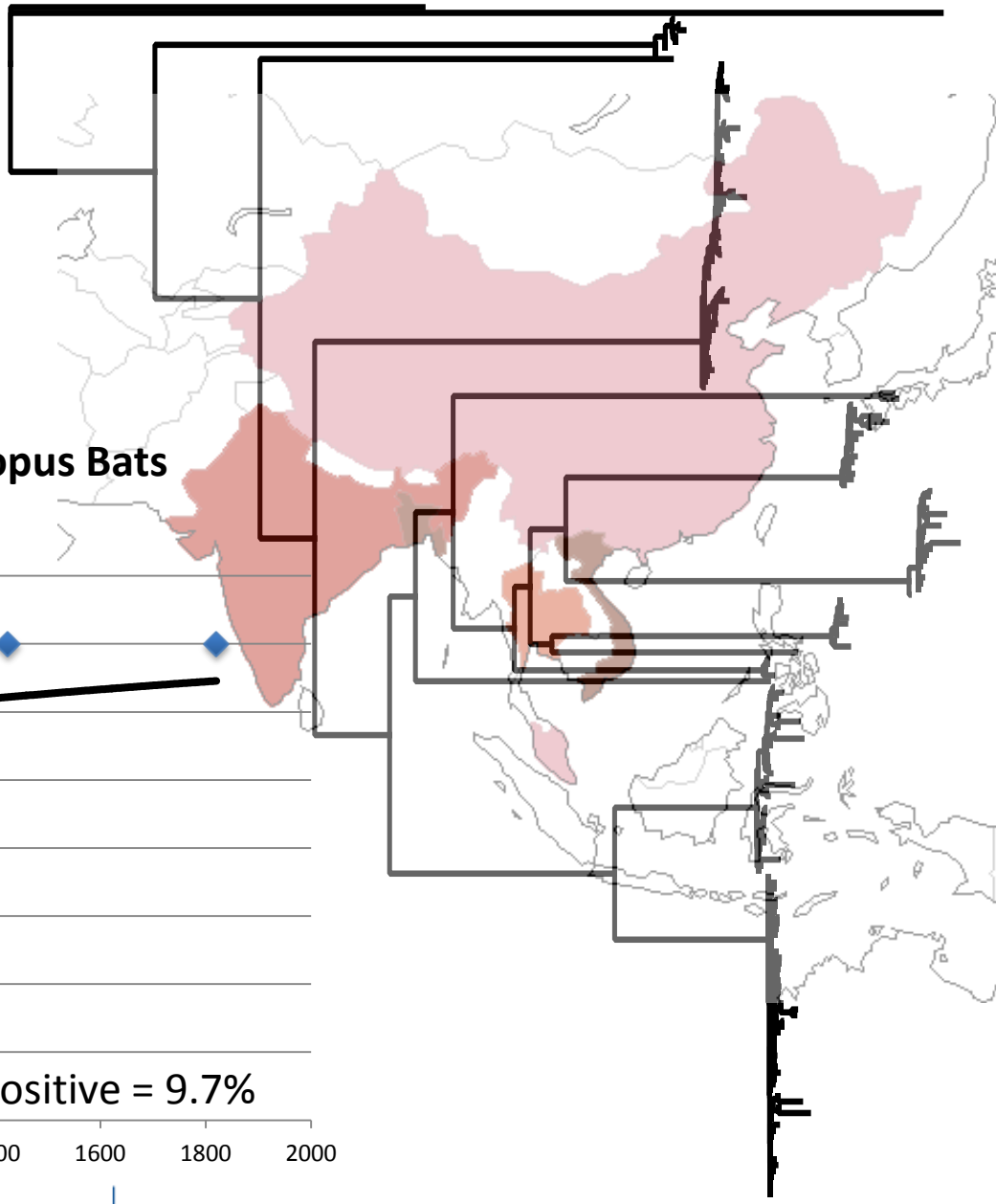

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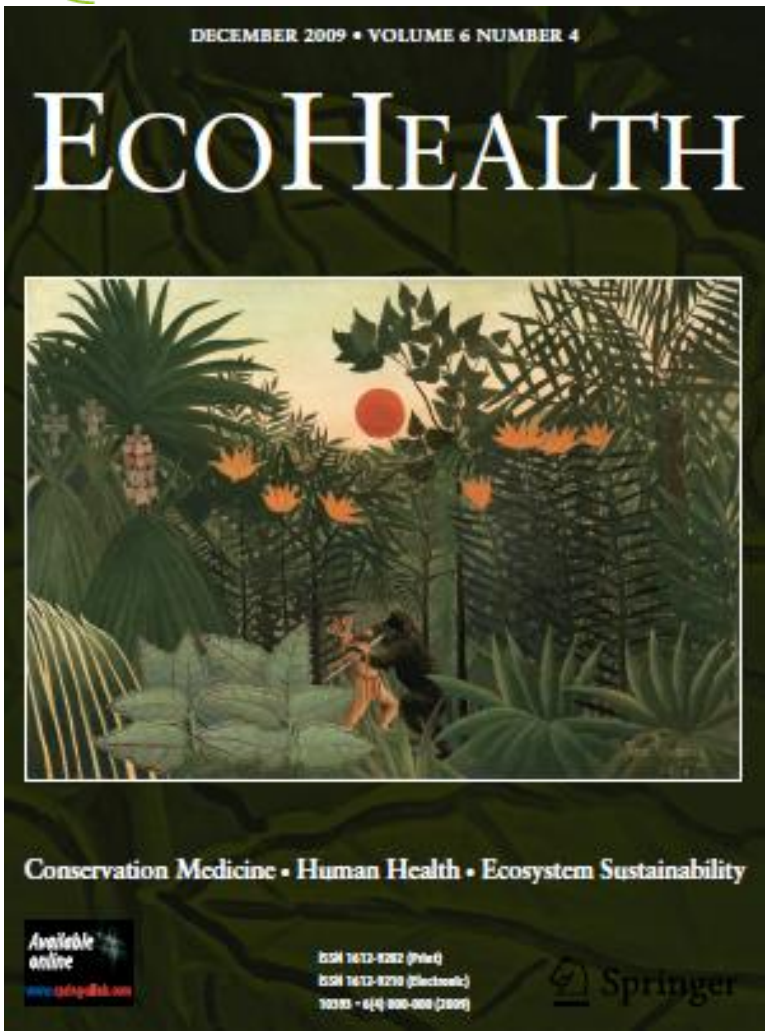

Local conservation.
Global health.

Funding

- USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats
- NIH Fogarty International Center
- NIAID R01-AI079231 Non-EID Biodefense
- NSF/NIH Ecology Evolution of Infectious Diseases
- NIAID NO1-AI-25490; K08 AI067549
- NSF Human & Social Dynamics
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- DoD DTRA
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Rockefeller Foundation; Google.org
- Cargill Fdn; Mars; Bayer Crop Science
- New York Community Trust