



News

A new species of monkey with a 'handlebar moustache' has been discovered



The moustache-rocking patas monkey in Ethiopia. (Global Wildlife Conservation)

A new species of monkey distinguished by its “handlebar moustache” has been identified in Africa.

The primates, with their distinctive facial hair, had been classified as part of a species called patas monkeys.

But a fresh look at the creatures by scientists, detailed in the journal *Primate Conservation*, led them to believe they are a distinct species, entitled Blue Nile patas monkeys.

Anthony Rylands, from conservation group Global Wildlife Conservation, told the BBC: “There is notable variation in these remarkable primates.

“It’s only through this kind of painstaking research that we get a proper handle on their diversity so that we can more effectively protect these species from the threats they face.”

The monkeys are found in the Blue Nile Basin in western Ethiopia and Sudan and unlike other patas monkeys, they lack the dark band between their ears and eyes.

Although first named as Blue Nile patas monkeys 150 years ago, they were reclassified to fall under the same species as patas monkeys in 1927 by German zoologist Ernst Schwarz and had remained there until this new research into their distribution and physical appearance.