

Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see [Authors & Referees](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- ☒ ☐ The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- ☒ ☐ A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- ☒ ☐ The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- ☒ ☐ A description of all covariates tested
- ☒ ☐ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- ☒ ☐ A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- ☒ ☐ For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F , t , r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- ☒ ☐ For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- ☒ ☐ For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- ☒ ☐ Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d , Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

No software was used in data collection.

Data analysis

Camera-trap data was processed using the package camtrapR accessed through R v. 3.4.0.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors/reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

The data used in this study is not publicly archived because it contains information on the locations of Red Listed as well as hunted and traded species. However, all data in support of the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author by reasonable request.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

- ☐ Life sciences ☐ Behavioural & social sciences ☒ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	We conducted targeted surveys to locate the silver-backed chevrotain <i>Tragulus versicolor</i> , a small ungulate known only from Vietnam, that has been "lost to science" for more than 25 years. We used interview surveys to collect information on the species potential occurrence, then conducted follow-up camera-trapping in one area where locals reported a gray-colored chevrotain. We obtained definitive camera-trap photographs of the silver-backed chevrotain.
Research sample	Silver-backed chevrotain population in Vietnam.
Sampling strategy	No predetermined sample size.
Data collection	We conducted interviews with in local villages to assess potential silver-backed chevrotain occurrence in four forest blocks in the vicinity of Nha Trang, Vietnam. Locals reported gray-colored chevrotain in two of the four forest blocks. We set three camera-traps in one of the forest blocks opportunistically, and obtained images of the silver-backed chevrotain. We followed the preliminary camera-trap survey with more intensive camera-trapping in the same area.
Timing and spatial scale	Interviews occurred November 2017. Camera-trapping occurred November 2017 - July 2018. Cameras in the second phase were spaced approximately 500m apart (mean = 503m ± 112m).
Data exclusions	No data excluded from the analysis.
Reproducibility	N/A
Randomization	N/A
Blinding	N/A
Did the study involve field work?	☒ Yes ☐ No

Field work, collection and transport

Field conditions	Tropical forest habitat.
Location	Four forest blocks in the vicinity of Nha Trang, Vietnam.
Access and import/export	All fieldwork (interviews and camera-trapping) was conducted in accordance with Vietnamese laws and regulations. Permission was provided by permit 75/CV-STHMN, granted on 05/07/2017, arranged through the Southern Institute of Ecology.
Disturbance	None. We used noninvasive camera-trapping to record wildlife photographs.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems		Methods	
n/a	Involved in the study	n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies	☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines	☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ Palaeontology	☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging
☐	☒ Animals and other organisms		
☒	☐ Human research participants		
☒	☐ Clinical data		

Animals and other organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research

Laboratory animals	N/A
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Wild animals

We used non-invasive camera-trapping to record photographs of silver-backed chevrotain. The animals were not captured or handled in any way.

Field-collected samples

N/A

Ethics oversight

No ethical oversight required.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.