



Biogeography and Ecology in Madagascar

R Battistini (Editor) , G. Richard-Vindard (Editor)

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In spite of its proximity to Africa (the distance between Cap Saint Andre and the African coast is only 300 km.) Madagascar cannot be considered as a dependent part of that continent. The Great Island has been separated from Africa from at least the middle of the Secondary, and has evolved separately: its flora and fauna have acquired a very pronounced individuality, in spite of some affinities with Africa (although they also have affinities with India and the Indian archipelago). No natural laboratory could lend itself better if not to all, at least to the majority, of the absorbing problems offered for study by the history and evolution of plant and animal life in Madagascar. The editors have tried to ensure that each of these problems is presented by the foremost authority in his particular field. In the first section, the natural environment, the foundation of any biogeographical study, is analysed. Professor R. BATTISTINI, Director of the Laboratoire de Géographie of the Faculté des Lettres et Sciences humaines of Tananarive opens with a description of the relief and the main types of landscape found in Madagascar. Professor P. BRENON, who initiated the teaching of geology and founded the Laboratoire de Géologie of the Faculté des Sciences of Tananarive presents the result of years of research on the geology of Madagascar. The climate, an essential factor, preliminary to any biogeographical study, is examined in detail by G. DONQUE, Maitre-Assistant at the Laboratoire de Géographie. Professor J.

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