Supplementary Table 2. Lake physical and environmental variables used in this study. Lake ages are midpoints of range in cases where dates are given as a range of estimates, and either represent basin age or age of most recent desiccation (if evidence for desiccation exists).

Lake	Latitude	Longitude	Lake SA (km2)	Lake depth (m)	Surface Elevation (m)	Energy (W/m2/day)	Predator presence/ absence	Lake age est.(MY)	Geological age reference
Abaya	6.43	37.88	1162.0	13.0	1285	49.79	1	--	
Abbe	11.17	41.75	250.0	37.0	243	53.46	0	0.019	Barker & Gasse 2003
Albert	1.67	30.92	5300.0	58.0	615	79.92	1	0.015	Beuning et al. 1997
Bangweulu	-11.08	29.75	1510.0	10.0	1140	65.59	1	0.008	Scholz et al. 2007
Baringo	0.63	36.08	129.0	2.1	970	63.57	0	0.015	Owen et al. 1982; Garcin et al. 2009; Bergner et al. 2009
Barombi Mbo	4.67	9.40	4.2	111.0	315	60.26	0	1	Cornen et al. 1992
Barombi ba Koto	4.47	9.26	1.2	6.2	100	61.18	0	--	
Bermin	5.16	9.64	0.6	--	530	67.24	0	0.75	Schliewen et al. 2001; Stiassny et al. 1992
Bosumtwi	6.51	-1.41	52.0	76.0	150	59.90	--	0.070	Scholz et al. 2007
Chad	13.00	14.00	9400.0	10.5	280	31.78	1	0.039	Cohen et al. 2007; Street-Perrott & Perrott 1993
Chala	-3.32	37.70	4.2	94.0	880	34.91	0	0.140	Moernaut et al. 2010
Chamo	5.83	37.55	450.0	13.0	1235	50.52	0	--	
Chilwa	-15.30	35.70	1750.0	2.7	622	34.91	0	0.008	Scholz et al. 2007
Chiuta	-14.85	35.85	35.0	3.5	631	37.30	0	0.008	Scholz et al. 2007
Debo	15.32	-4.10	160.0	3.0	259	27.01	--	0.039	Cohen et al. 2007; Street-Perrott & Perrott 1993
Edward	-0.33	29.60	2325.0	112.0	912	72.39	0	0.270	Beuning et al. 1997; Laerdal & Talbot 2002
Ejagham	5.74	8.99	0.5	18.0	129	69.82	0	0.010	Schliewen et al. 2001
Eyasi	-3.63	35.08	1160.0	1.0	1037	51.99	0	0.015	Johnson et al. 2000; Scholz et al. 2007 ; Stager & Johnson 2008
Fwa	-5.73	23.34	1.7	22.0	680	73.67	0	--	
Guinas sink hole	-19.23	17.36	0.0	130.0	1224	40.79	0	--	
Jipe	-3.61	37.76	30.0	3.0	706	33.99	0	--	
Kagera lakes	-1.62	30.95	86.4	--	1382	55.67	0	--	
Kinneret	32.83	35.58	168.0	43.0	-209	2.20	0	0.070	Hazan et al. 2005
Kivu	-2.00	29.00	2370.0	485.0	1460	64.67	0	0.008	Haberyan & Hecky, 1987
Lake Mai Ndombe	-2.00	18.30	2300.0	10.0	291	80.66	1	--	
Lake Tschungruru/Masoko	-9.33	33.76	0.4	--	860	47.22	0	0.050	Barker & Gasse 2003
Langano	7.60	38.72	240.0	46.0	1584	51.63	0	0.030	Street 1979; Barker & Gasse 2003
Logipi	2.23	36.57	72.0	5.0	312	59.90	--	--	
Lutoto	-0.33	30.10	0.7	--	1409	65.59	0	0.050	Sato et al. 2003
Malawi	-12.18	34.37	22490.0	706.0	500	54.57	0	5	Scholz & Finney 1994
Manyara	-3.58	35.83	250.0	3.7	953	45.38	0	0.015	Johnson et al. 2000; Scholz et al. 2007 ; Stager & Johnson 2008
Mareotis	31.15	29.90	110.0	--	-4	10.29	1	--	
Mweru	-9.00	28.75	5040.0	37.0	922	69.63	1	0.045	Scholz et al. 2007
Nabugabo	-0.37	31.89	25.0	5.0	1138	65.04	0	0.006	Stager et al. 2005
Natron	-2.42	36.00	750.0	3.0	602	51.99	0	0.015	Barker & Gasse 2003
Nshere	-0.19	30.14	3.0	--	1022	66.14	0	0.050	Sato et al. 2003
Rukwa	-8.00	32.42	5700.0	1.0	793	62.65	1	0.015	Barker & Gasse 2003
Saka	0.69	30.24	1.4	12.0	1565	69.82	0	0.003	Bessems et al., 2003; Russell et al., 2007
Stefani	4.72	36.95	915.0	3.0	1880	50.71	0	--	
Tana	12.00	37.25	3156.0	14.0	1788	64.49	0	0.017	Lamb et al. 2007
Tanganyika	-6.50	29.50	32900.0	1470.0	773	67.06	1	10.5	Cohen et al. 1993
Tumba	-0.83	18.00	750.0	6.0	294	81.21	1	--	
Turkana	3.05	36.02	7300.0	100.0	360.4	60.26	1	0.015	Owen et al. 1982; Beadle 1974; Garcin et al. 2009; Bergner et al. 2009
Upemba lakes	-8.60	26.43	530.0	4.0	580	67.43	1	--	
Victoria	-1.00	33.00	68800.0	69.0	1133	86.17	0	0.015	Johnson et al. 2000 ; Stager & Johnson 2008
Zwai	8.00	38.83	430.0	8.0	1846	50.34	0	0.030	Street 1979; Barker & Gasse 2003