

Some mammal records from southern Sumatra, Indonesia

Několik pozorování savců na jižní Sumatře, Indonésie

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Abstract. We present distributional data on 17 species of mammals gathered in southern Sumatra, Indonesia, on 18 August through 13 September 2002.

INTRODUCTION

The mammal fauna of South-East Asia is rich in species (CORBETT & HILL 1992), but their taxonomy and distribution is poorly known. In this paper we present data on the distribution and taxonomy of mammals of southern Sumatra, Indonesia, collected by ourselves on 18 August through 13 September 2002, i. e. during the dry season. Sumatra currently faces rapid deforestation (GAUTAM et al. 2000, JEPSON et al. 2001, WORLD BANK 2001, HOLMES 2002), which results in the loss of faunal diversity (e.g. WHITMORE 1997) and changes in the distribution of individual species. Hence, even anecdotal data on the current distribution of mammals in the region are of importance.

We observed mammals in four localities in southern Sumatra, three of which were in the closest vicinity of the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in southwestern Sumatra, while the fourth one was in the interior of the Wai Kambas national Park in southeastern Sumatra. The itinerary is as follows:

- (1) Coastal region between Tanjung Seba and Biha (18–16 August; 104° 01' E, 05° 19' S): belt of cultural land along the sea shore, with coral beach, coconut plantations. Mixed with shrubs, further inland changing to dry secondary forest
- (2) Liwa (27–30 August; 104° 06' E, 05° 04' S): large village at the southern border of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. Largely deforested, agricultural landscape; primary forests survived only on steep slopes.
- (3) Ranau (31 August – 4 September; 113° 23' E, 07° 59' S): small village (Bandung Agung) at Lake Ranau, ca. 1000 m a.s.l. Most surrounding area was covered by various, mainly coffee plantations; remnants of modified forests survived only on tops of mountains surrounding the lake.
- (4) Wai Kanan (6–13 September; 105° 09' E, 04° 25' S): Field station in a large clearing on the right bank of the Kanan river inside the primary lowland forest in the Wai Kambas National Park.

For a more detailed description of the two parks see ANONYMOUS (1998), COCHRANE (2000) and COLLIN (2001). Mammals were identified using FRANCIS (2001) and taxonomic literature cited below.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Crocidura sp. – Shrew. A freshly dead individual (possible killed by a cat, as judged from the wound in the neck) was found in the Liwa village on 30 August (JM).

[*Suncus murinus* (Linnaeus, 1766) – House Shrew. Observed in the city of Jakarta, Java, in Jaksa Street and its nearest neighborhood on 14–16 August.]

Tupaia sp. – Treeshrew. An individual was seen in the shrubs bordering the access road to Wai Kanan, ca. 3 km from the station, on 12 September (JM). The animal had reddish body, while head and tail were gray.

Cynopterus cf. *brachyotis* (Müller, 1838) – Short-nosed fruit bat. A female and a fully grown juvenile spent days hanging on the roof of the “Tiger Project Building” in Wai Kanan. We observed them almost daily on 6–12 September. These fruit bats used at least two roosts on the building, once the female roosted alone, and on one day both these fruit bats were absent from the building.

Megaderma sp. – False Vampire. Two individuals were seen hanging on a rope inside the “Tiger Project Building” on 8 September (JM). The bats spent only short time in the night on the place, and one of them was seeing to swallow a small bat late in the night.

Macaca fascicularis (Raffles, 1821) – Long-tailed Macaque. Common in the coconut plantations near Biha on 18–26 August. People were seen here flushing long-tailed macaques from coconut palm trees, but no attempts at killing the monkeys were observed. A group of long-tailed macaques was seen on the slope of Mount Seminung near Ranau on 1 September. At Wai Kanan, groups of long-tailed macaques were observed daily on 6–12 September. They inhabited area near the Kanan River, feeding mainly in lower tree parts, in shrubs, and on meadows. We never encountered them far from the river.

Macaca nemestrina (Linnaeus, 1766) – Pig-tailed Macaque. Several individuals were seen inside the forest at the access road to Wai Kanan on 6 September (JM)*.

Presbytis femoralis (Martin, 1838) – Banded Langur. A group of banded langurs was seen at Wai Kanan on 7 September (JM). They occupied a night roost in tops of tall trees at the shore of the Kanan River. These langurs were not seen in the same place on the following days.

Presbytis melalophos (Raffles, 1821) – Mitred Langur. A group of mitred langurs was seen near Biha on 19 August.

Hylobates agilis F. Cuvier, 1821 – Agile Gibbon. Hauling of agile gibbons was heard in the dry lowland forest between Tanjung Seba and Biha on 21 August.

Hylobates syndactylus (Raffles, 1821) – Siamang. A group of siamangs was heard and seen (VH) near the top of Mount Seminung near Ranau on 1 September. A group of siamangs was daily heard in the vicinity of Wai Kanan on 6–13 September.

* When seen at distance, these macaques looked like small people squatting on ground. It is well possible that pig-tail macaques became the reason for the Sumatran legend on *orang petek* (short or small people), small people living in the interior of Sumatran forests which always escape before being approached (e.g. SHARP 1994). – JM

Paradoxurus hermaphroditus (Pallas, 1777) – Common Palm Civet. A juvenile common palm civet was held in captivity in a hostel between Tanjung Seba and Biha. It was found in the wild near the hostel according to the civet's owner.

Herpestes brachyura Gray, 1837 – Short-tailed Mongoose. An individual was seen in the evenings of 7–8 August on the bank of the Kanan River (JM).

Elephas maximus Linnaeus, 1758 – Asian Elephant. Heaps of elephant dung were seen on many places near Wai Kanan on 6–13 September, but no were fresh. Also elephant tracks found inside the forest near Wai Kanan on 11 September were not fresh.

Tapirus indicus Desmarest, 1819 – Malayan Tapir. Tracks in almost dry mud were found inside the forest at Wai Kanan, near the Kanan River, on 11 September.

Sus scrofa Linnaeus, 1758 – Eurasian Wild Pig. Small groups and single individuals of pigs were daily seen around Wai Kanan on 6–12 September.

Muntiacus muntjak (Zimmerman, 1780) – Red Muntjac. Single individuals were seen and heard daily in the forests around Wai Kanan on 6–12 September. During the day, individuals were seen in the forest, while they approached the Kanan River in the dusk. Their barking was heard only deep in the night. All observed individuals seemed to be too tall for the nominate subspecies of the Red Muntjac, which should inhabit southeastern Sumatra (CORBETT & HILL 1992, GROVES & GRUBB 1990). Taxonomy of the genus *Muntiacus* Rafinesque, 1815 is currently under continuing revision (GROVES & GRUBB 1982, 1987, 1990, MA SHILAI et al. 1986, WIRTH & GROVES 1988, NOWAK 1999), and the taxonomic status of the *Muntiacus* population from the Wai Kambas National Park should be evaluated as well.

Callosciurus notatus (Boddaert, 1785) – Plantain Squirrel. Common in gardens and coconut plantations between Tanjung Seba and Biha on 18–26 August. A few individuals were seen also on 8–9 September in the forest near Wai Kanan.

Tamiops sp. – Striped Squirrel. A single small striped squirrel was seen in the dry lowland forest between Tanjung Seba and Biha on 21 August. The individual closely resembled squirrels of the genus *Tamiops* Allen, 1906, with which one of us (JM) is familiar from Thailand and Cambodia. *Tamiops* squirrels are widespread in continental South-East Asia, but they have not been previously reported from Sumatra (FRANCIS 2001). The observed individual was thus either an escapee from captivity, or it represents first indication that *Tamiops* squirrels inhabit Sumatra.

Sundasciurus cf. *hippurus* (I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1831) – Horse-tailed Squirrel. An individual was seen in a coffee-tree plantation on the slope of Mount Seminung near Ranau on 1 September. It closely resembled *Sundasciurus hippurus* photographed in FRANCIS (2001: 115), but it had reddish black belly, not white or orange as given by the latter author.

Rattus sp. – Rat. Rarely seen, but probably rather common in gardens and coconut plantations between Tanjung Seba and Biha on 18–26 August.

SOUHRN

Při pobytu na jižní Sumatře, Indonésie, jsme ve dnech 18. srpna – 15. září 2002 pozorovali 17 druhů savců ze 13 čeledí. Pozorování jsou zaznamenána v této práci.

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