BIRD SURVEY AT SUNGAI DUSUN WILDLIFE RESERVE, PERAK, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

A survey on birds was conducted at Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve on the 26th until 31th of October 2009. Ten mist nets were deployed throughout the four days sampling period. A total of 27 individuals representing 16 species from 10 families of birds were recorded. The most common species recorded is the *Arachnothera longirostra* that was represented by six individuals.

Keyword: *Arachnothera longirostra*, Biodiversity, Mist-nets, Wildlife Reserve

INTRODUCTION

The Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve is located about 120 km from Kuala Lumpur with latitude 3° 35' to 3° 40' north and longitude 101° 23' to 101° 27' east (Muda and Suib, 1989). The reserve is about 10,400 acre in size comprising of peat swamp and lowland dipterocarp forest (Mohamad and Romo, 2002). The reserve is drained by Sg Bernam (geographical boundry between Selangor and Perak State) in the North and Sg Tengi in the South. It is also bordered by the Felda Scheme on the northern and eastern side, and by peat swamp forest on the western and southern part.

METHODOLOGY

The birds were captured using standard mist nets set at understory level (Mc Clure, 1984). Ten mist nets were deployed along the trail at Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve. Mist nets were opened from 0630 until 1830 hours and were checked at every two hours interval. Any captured birds were placed into the cloth bags, and later measured using caliper and weigh using Pasola balance spring. Species identification of the birds was referred to Robson (2005).

Selected species that act as voucher specimen were preserved in ethanol. For every captured individuals, throat wash and blood sample were collected for influenza study. All tissues and voucher specimens were deposited at UNIMAS Zoological museum.

The throat wash samples were collected by pipetting about 700µl RNAse free water into the bird's throat. The washes were kept in -80°C for storage. As for blood collection, the vein in the upper wing was pricked using 1.5ml sterile syringe. The blood was then stored unbuffered to maintain the stability of the RNA. The RT-PCR will be conducted in the laboratory soon.