

Bats

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Among the biologically important areas that lie within western Sarawak is Gunung Penrissen. This highland area supports complex ecosystems, including a mixture of dipterocarp forests, sandstone hills and valleys. The landscape of Penrissen supports a rich bat assemblage. Although high elevation forests are often characterised by reduced faunal diversity, but relatively more endemic species are reported. Therefore, areas such as Penrissen have the potential for the discovery of rare species, especially among groups such as small mammals. Extensive surveys with substantial trapping effort are required to uncover such faunas.

Bats were trapped from 10–14 September 2015, using six four-banks harp traps and 20 polyester mist nets, resulting in 130 trap nights of sampling effort. Traps were set at areas assumed to be flyways, such as along forest trails, ridges and small streams. Surveys were conducted primarily at the Kalimantan Trail (984 m) and the Batu Panggah Trail (949 m). The Kalimantan Trail runs along a mountain ridge, where mist-nets were erected using high poles to capture open-spaced bats, that fly across the area between the forest below and the relatively open area across the ridge. On the other hand, the Batu Panggah Trail represents mixed-dipterocarp forests, characterised by scattered, large boulders across the landscape.

The six nights of bat trapping resulted in the 76 individuals from six families, representing Insectivorous bats are represented by a total of 20 species, belonging to five families, Molossidae, Nycteridae, Rhinolophidae, Hipposideridae, and Vespertilionidae. Noteworthy findings from these surveys are of the Northern Free-tailed Bat and Malayan Bat (family Molossidae) at the Kalimantan Published records of former was from

