

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES RECORDED AT BATU APOI, A LOWLAND DIPTEROCARP FOREST IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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ABSTRACT. - An inventory of amphibian and reptiles, made at the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve, Temburong District, Negara Brunei Darussalam, based on collections and observations made between 1992-1993, is presented. A total of 94 species of amphibians and reptiles have been recorded, including 50 species of amphibians and 44 species of reptiles. Poorly-known and probably rare species recorded at the site include the microhylid frog *Kalophrynus intermedius* and the colubrid snake *Ophisthotropis typicus*. The problems of sampling in architecturally complex sites such as rainforests are discussed, and long-term sampling programmes have been favoured.

INTRODUCTION

The richest forest in all of Southeast Asia in terms of tree species lies in north-west Borneo, in the region north of the Kapuas River in the west and north-east through Sarawak and Brunei, on to the extreme south-west of Sabah (Ashton, 1992). The herpetofauna of northern Borneo too shows high diversity values (cf. Inger, 1966; De Rooij, 1915, 1917; Stuebing, 1991), and species continue to be added to this fauna, through either the discovery of new species (e.g. Dring, 1983; 1987; Inger, 1989; Inger & Frogner, 1980; Inger & Gritis, 1983; Ota & Hikida, 1991) or the revival of species from synonymy (e.g. Ross, 1990).

Most of the collecting on this large continental island has been on the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah, and relatively little work has been conducted in the Indonesian part (Kalimantan) or in the Sultanate of Brunei. Brunei's eastern-most district, Temburong, is almost entirely covered with lowland rainforest. An expedition to this site was held jointly by the Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Royal Geographical Society, during which a permanent field studies centre was established. The only herpetological studies conducted in the area were the observations of Reading (1992) who collected frogs from localities around the field studies centre in April-May, 1992 and reported 28 species. His work, combined

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