

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HERPETOLOGY OF BAKO NATIONAL PARK, SARAWAK, EAST MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT: The paper lists 20 species of amphibians and reptiles recorded thus far from Bako National Park, Sarawak, East Malaysia, based on field observations, published information and material collected by the Park authorities. At present, the known herpetofauna consists of one amphibian, eight lizards and eleven snakes species. It is anticipated that the total number of species found in the area will grow considerably with sampling effort.

KEY WORDS: Amphibians, reptiles, Bako National Park, Sarawak, East Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION

Bako National Park is situated on the coast of a small peninsula 37 km north-east of Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, in East Malaysia, on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its proximity to Kuching and the ease with which large animals (e.g., bearded pig, long-tailed macaque, silvered leaf monkey, proboscis monkey and water monitor lizard) can be sighted are reasons that attract thousands of visitors to this 2,727 ha (or *circa* 27 sq km) Park annually.

The area is a mosaic of Bornean heath (*kerangas*), lowland dipterocarp forests, mangroves and open savanna, the sea-facing sandstone cliffs with numerous small caves. Established in 1957, this is Sarawak's oldest National Park, and has an extensive system of 16 well-marked trails with colour-coded markers, totalling some 30 km. Although not extensive in terms of area (Bako is the smallest of six of Sarawak's National Parks), its plant life is unrivalled, with 25 distinct vegetation types (Strange, 1991).

Little is on record of the herpetofauna of Bako, apart from a mimeographed information sheet which lists one amphibian and nine reptiles (Anon, undated). On a brief trip to the Park between June 13-15, 1993, we compiled a list of

20 species of amphibians and reptiles based on sightings, the aforementioned information sheet and a collection made by the Park Authorities which is at the Park Headquarters at Telok Assam. Specimens in jars were given registration numbers. Further information on these and other Bornean amphibian and reptile species can be found in Inger (1966) and De Rooij (1915, 1917), respectively. The list, which follows is clearly not exhaustive, and identifies perhaps 15% of the total herpetofauna, based on lists from similar sites on northern Borneo. Hopefully, this communication will provide the impetus for fresh herpetological work at Bako and elsewhere in Sarawak.

AMPHIBIA

FAMILY: RHACOPHORIDAE

1. Four-lined tree frog *Polypedates leucomystax* (Boie, 1829)
Hyla leucomystax, Boie, In: Gravenhorst, 1829, *Delic. Mus. Vrat. Fasc.* 1: 26

Type locality: Java, Indonesia.

Material: Two examples (Nos. 01 and 03).