

Bats

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The word “bat” brings responses ranging from dread and fear, much probably from the popular novel ‘Dracula’ by Bram Stoker in 1897 that depict bats feasting on human blood. Although strict blood-feeding vampire bats inhabit the southern and central portions of the American continent, these animals are widely despised, if not feared, over much of Asia. Nonetheless, bats, constituting the order Chiroptera, play important ecological roles, especially by dispersing seeds and pollinating flowers in the wild which is important for some fruiting plant of economic value to humans (e.g., durian, banana and *Parkia*). Additionally, insectivorous species are also known to regulate insect populations, some of these are major agriculture pests, while others are vectors of diseases that are harmful to human. Therefore, bats play vital roles in maintaining and sustaining the ecosystem.

In Tanjung Datu National Park, a total of 105 individuals of bats, representing 26 species from seven families and 14 genera were recorded (Figures 1–5). Although all species recorded from the Park have been previously recorded elsewhere in other parts of Sarawak, such high number of species recorded during a single short survey period (six trapping nights) is uncommon. This observation suggests the occurrence of diverse habitat within the Park’s vicinity that supported high bat species diversity. The Park supports at least two important Bornean species, namely, Cox’s Leaf-nosed Bat and Blanford’s Bat. Cox’s Leaf-nosed Bat recorded here is endemic to Borneo. This provided additional locality record for this species that is only known from four localities from the island (Bako National Park, Bungoh Cave, Jambusan Cave, Mount Penrissen and the Wind Cave). Members of the family Hipposideridae are also the most abundant group in the Park, and are known to travel in large groups. The distribution of Blanford’s bat includes the Asian mainland, and only a few specimens are known from Borneo, probably due to their high flying behaviour, and typically are caught on occasions when they descend to drink, or using canopy netting. Both findings highlight the importance of this Park in preserving these bat species in Borneo. Our observations during our sampling period in February 2014 also suggest that there were not many fruiting plant in our sampling sites that