



Man-eating **CROCODILES** *of Borneo*

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Natural History Publications (Borneo)

The Natural History of Crocodiles

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*The natives of Borneo fear crocodiles more than they fear
any other animal.*

— H.C. Raven (1946)

These conclusions of the distinguished American museum collector, Harry C. Raven, who had considerable field experience in the Far East, were supported by cases of attacks on humans that Raven compiled over half a century ago. The culprit is a single species, the Saltwater Crocodile, *Crocodylus porosus*, reportedly the largest of the living crocodilians as well as one of the most widespread. Much has changed in Borneo since the days of Raven. Crocodile habitats have shrunk, with intensive urbanization and river development projects, and crocodile populations themselves have decreased from the additional pressures of hunting for skin, sport or killing out of fear. Among the few places that they seem to be holding their own is the Batang Lupar, a major north-flowing river in Sarawak, East Malaysia, that empties into the South China Sea. This, then, is the story of a giant killer crocodile,