

On the Distribution of *Pelochelys cantorii* on Borneo

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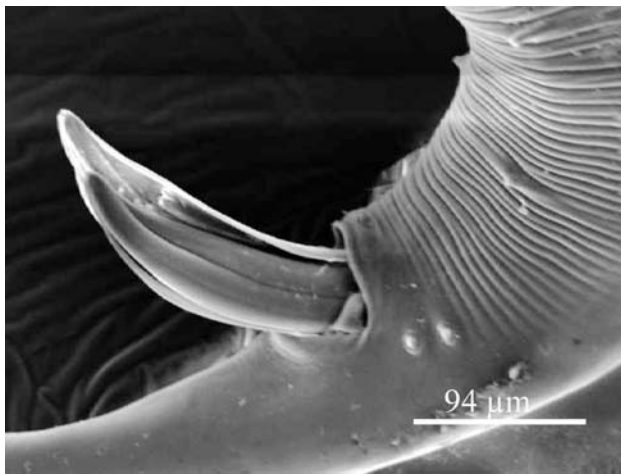


Figure 3. The morphology of *Falcaustra kutcheri* nematode by SEM, magnification 350 \times . (Photo by E. Purwaningsih).

plantation areas (Fig. 2). The substrate in these habitats in Bangkir was generally sand, mud or occasionally rocky with vegetation consisting of grasses: *Colocasia esculenta*, *Selaginella plana*, *Derris elliptica*, *Alocasia macrorrhiza*, *Diplazium esculentum*, and *Vitis trifolia*.

This study also proved that the Labonu population has been infected by the nematode *Falcaustra kutcheri* (Fig. 3), recently described by Bursey et al. (2000).

I strongly recommend that the Indonesian government offer protection to *L. yuwonoi* because it is an endemic species with a highly limited geographic distribution and is seriously threatened by habitat destruction and over-exploitation due to the live animal trade. Moreover, *L. yuwonoi* has an extremely low reproductive rate with only 1 or 2 eggs per clutch, and it is difficult to maintain and breed in captivity.

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On the Distribution of *Pelochelys cantorii* on Borneo

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ABSTRACT. – Historical records for *Pelochelys cantorii* from Borneo are reviewed, and the first record of the species from Sabah is described.

The trionychid turtle, *Pelochelys cantorii* Gray, 1864, has a wide distribution, from the east and west coasts of India and coastal Bangladesh, through Myanmar, Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, Vietnam, southern China, Borneo, Sumatra, and the Philippines (Das 1995; Moll and



Figure 1. Adult *P. cantorii* from Kampung Marak Parak, Kinabalu National Park, Sabah, East Malaysia (Borneo).

Vijaya 1986; Nguyen and Ho 1996; Cox et al. 1998; Zhang et al. 1998; Iskandar 2000). The Javanese record of this species, from Tanjung Priok by Ouwens (1914) and de Rooij (1915), was shown to be based on a misidentified specimen of *Chitra chitra* by Iskandar (2004b), and the species is consequently removed from the fauna of Java. Many of the authors, up to the end of the 20th Century, referred to this species as *Pelochelys bibroni* (Owen 1853), which was restricted to New Guinea by Webb (1995, 2003).

Although this species is known from Borneo (e.g., Lim and Das 1999), only 3 records exist. One of these is “Koelei” (interpreted as Koeling by Iverson, *pers. comm.*, corresponding with Kuling, 01°50’S, 112°55’E, Kalimantan Tengah Province), as cited in Boulenger (1889: 263, as *Pelochelys cantoris*), Bartlett (1894), and de Rooij (1915: 332, also cited by Siebenrock 1909, and mapped by Iverson 1992). The spelling Koelei is here considered an error for Koetei, a colonial Dutch version of the locality name Kutai (see below). In the distribution of the species, de Rooij (1915: 332) included “Koti” (equivalent to Kutai, 00°35’S, 117°17’E, Kalimantan Timur Province) within the Indonesian part of Borneo. The former locality is apparently based on a skeletonized specimen, BMNH 80.9.25.6, which would have been examined by de Rooij during the preparation of her monograph on the Indo-Australian reptile fauna. It was collected by the Norwegian explorer, Carl Bock (1849–1932), who did indeed spend time at Kutai, then an independent Malay kingdom under Dutch protection (Reese 1995) and described as “. . . a country enjoying the worst repute among the semi-independent

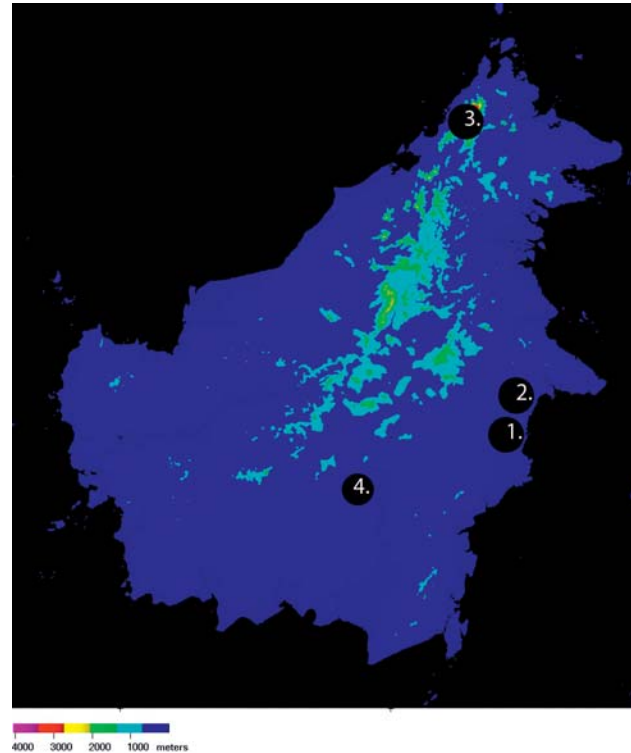


Figure 2. Map of Borneo, showing localities for *P. cantorii*. See text for details. References: 1=Kutai, Kalimantan Timur Province, Indonesia; 2=Sungei Berau, Kalimantan Timur Province, Indonesia; 3=Marak Parak, Sabah, Malaysia; and 4=Maruwai, Kalimantan Tengah Province.

States” (Bock 1881). Bock is not known to have collected in Kalimantan Tengah (= Central Kalimantan).

Two more recent localities for *P. cantorii* from Borneo are in the literature. The first is from Sungei Berau (coordinates at mouth: 01°45’N, 117°30’E), also in Kalimantan Timur Province, cited by Iskandar (2000: 90), about 40 km to the north of the Kutai record. The second locality is Maruwai (00°34’S, 114°44’E), Kalimantan Tengah Province, and is based on a carapace (verified by ID) collected by Robert Butler Stuebing, and now accessioned with the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Cibinong, Indonesia. This record has been cited by Iskandar (2004a).

We report here a fourth record of *P. cantorii* from Borneo, a specimen from Kampung Marak Parak (06°19’N, 116°44’E; 152 m elevation), Kota Marudu District, at the edge of Gunung Kinabalu National Park, Sabah, East Malaysia (Fig. 1). The specimen was collected at the junction of Sungei Kinarom and Sungei Serimsim, within a lowland rainforest, on 30 August 2001, and accessioned with the Sabah Parks Zoological Museum, SP(P)285. The specimen measured 644 mm in curved carapace length, 538 mm in curved carapace width, and weighed 23.0 kg in life.

This record represents the first published record of *P. cantorii* for Sabah, and the fourth for Borneo (Fig. 2). The