

POSITIONAL BEHAVIOR OF ROBINSON'S BANDED LANGUR (*Presbytis femoralis robinsoni*)

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Abstract: *Presbytis femoralis robinsoni*, locally known as the 'lutong ceneka', is an endemic *femoralis* subspecies to the northern part of Peninsular Malaysia and southern Thailand. This langur warrants immediate conservation attention, as it is categorized as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with a declining numbers of population trend and being threatened with numerous conservation issues. With poor understanding on population status and unresolved conservation framework in Malaysia, data on behavioral ecology such as positional behavior of *P. f. robinsoni* are non-existent in Malaysia. Thus, this study describes the first record on qualitative aspects of the positional behavior of Robinson's banded langur (*P. f. robinsoni*) in the Sungai Sedim Recreation Forest (SSRF), Kedah, Malaysia. The positional behaviors of *P. f. robinsoni* in SSRF involve sitting, lying, quadrupedal standing, bipedal standing, clinging, and forelimb suspension. These varieties of observed positional modes may be identified as it may related to the primary forest habitat conditions. Understanding langur behavioural responses to their natural habitat environments are useful in developing an effective conservation framework for the Robinson's banded langur in Malaysia.

Keywords: Behavioral ecology, positional behavior, Peninsular Malaysia, colobine, Sungai Sedim Recreation Forest.

Introduction

Positional behavior can be described as body posture with movement (Hunt *et al.*, 1996). Evolutionarily, primates exhibit more variations in positional movement and behaviour than any other mammals (Chatani, 2003). Different primate species have their own unique positioning characteristics related to their morphological and ecological characters and habitat (Chatani, 2003; Kamaluddin *et al.*, 2019). Primates use specific postures and locomotor behaviour to forage, avoid predators, and perform crucial social and reproductive behaviours. Positional behaviour plays a main role in a primate's chances of survival and reproduction. It helps the primates to determine the extent to which effective use of habitats surrounding them which ultimately affects

their foraging strategy, predator avoidance and reproductive success (Napier and Napier, 1967).

Studies on primate positional behavior have been carried out on many colobine species, such as the Dusky langur, *Trachypithecus obscurus* (Ch'ng and Md-Zain, 2009; Md-Zain and Ch'ng, 2011; Ruslin *et al.*, 2019); Delacour's langur, *T. delacouri* (Workman & Schmitt, 2012); Hatinh langur, *T. hatinhensis* and red-shanked douc, (*Pygathrix nemaus*) (Workman & Covert, 2005); White-headed langur, *T. leucocephalus* (Huang & Li, 2005) and the Proboscis monkey, *Nasalis larvatus* (Matsuda *et al.*, 2017). Previous studies on two sympatric Malaysian colobines *Trachypithecus obscurus* and *Presbytis siamensis siamensis* showed differences in the frequency of leaping and quadrupedal locomotion that enable them to