

Bornean Geckos of the Genus *Cyrtodactylus*



Fig. 1. Gunung Kinabalu, showing the 4,101 m Low's Peak, is the highest mountain peak in Borneo. As many as 45 lizard species have been recorded from this mountain massif.

Indraneil Das

Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental
Conservation

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

94300, Kota Samarahan

Sarawak, Malaysia.

Email: idas@ibec.unimas.my

Borneo: Geography and Conservation

Borneo stretches between coordinates 04° S to 07° N and from 109° to 119° E. It is the second largest tropical island in the world (after New Guinea), covering a land area of approximately 743,380 sq km. The island is shared by a number of countries: a major part of this continental island falls in the Indonesian part of Kalimantan (area: 539,460 sq km), the rest within the east Malaysian states of Sarawak (124,450 sq km) and Sabah (73,710 sq km). Inset within Sarawak is the independent Sultanate of Negara Brunei Darussalam (5,760 sq km).

A part of the zoogeographical unit known as Sundaland, Borneo sits on the eastern margin of the Sunda Shelf. During the Pleistocene glaciation, sea levels fell between 120–200 m below current levels, uniting the islands of the Sundas. This allowed genetic exchange between the biota of Borneo and that of other islands of the Sundas, including Sumatra and Java, and also of Peninsular Malaysia.

The highest peak on the island, at 4,101 m, is Low's Peak in Gunung Kinabalu, northern Sabah. Kinabalu itself is a center of great diversification in many groups of organisms, and shows a large number of endemic saurian genera and species. Several large rivers flow through Borneo, some forming important biogeographic limits. All of Sarawak's rivers drain into the South China Sea. The important rivers of Sabah include the Segama and the Kinabatangan. Kalimantan's great rivers include the Kapuas, Barito, Kayan and Mahakam.

Borneo lies within the tropics and the equator crosses the island approximately over the city of Pontianak in western Kalimantan.