



Data Article

Data on ectoparasites infestation on small mammals from different habitats in east-coast Peninsular Malaysia



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ABSTRACT

This data article presents on the ectoparasites infestation on small mammals in Peninsular Malaysia. The dataset on ectoparasites infestation is important because it raises a major medical concern regarding the spread of potentially zoonotic disease from wildlife to human. Tick and chigger are the primary ectoparasites as reservoirs of vector-borne diseases found on small mammals in Malaysia. These small mammals that are infested with ectoparasites occupy various types of habitats, including human settlements, could be of community health risks as the carriers of potentially zoonotic

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diseases. Field samplings were conducted from February 2015 to February 2016 in three different ecological habitats of mixed dipterocarp forest, coastal forest and insular forest, in Terengganu, Malaysia. A total of 35 and 22 species of bats and rodents respectively were captured and examined for ectoparasites. Twenty-three species of bats and 16 species of small mammal were recorded as hosts for at least one species of ectoparasites. These findings show that the highest ectoparasite infestation occurred on bat community.

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Specification Table

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject area | Biology and ecology |
| More specific subject area | Ectoparasites |
| Type of data | Table Figure |
| How data were acquired | Field sampling |
| Data format | Raw and semi-analysed. |
| Parameters for data collection | Habitat differences, bats and non-volant small mammals. |
| Description of data collection | Field samplings and capture small mammals were conducted from February 2015 to February 2016 by using standard mist nets, four-bank harp traps and baited cage traps. Small mammals were restrained in cloth bags, identified, examined for ectoparasite and released at trapping sites. Ectoparasites were removed from the host animal fur by using a fine tooth-comb. Ectoparasites dropped from combing were collected by using the wet sharpen applicator stick and preserved in vials containing 70 % ethanol and labelled separately. The ectoparasites were mounted on slides and identified according to their taxonomic groups. |
| Data source location | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hulu Terengganu, Tasik Kenyir Tanjung Mentong (4° 54' 08.9" 102° 43' 28.0"), Sungai Buweh Waterfall (5°08'48.0" 102°48'02.5"), Belukar Bukit (4°54'24.4" 102°59'08."), Sekayu Waterfall (4°57'41.4" 102°57'08.3"), Hulu Tememong Forest Reserve (5° 13' 48" 102° 50' 8.88"), Kenyir Research Station (05°08'59.5" 102°45'48.9"), Belukar Bukit Waterfall (4° 53' 25.362" 102° 59' 33.506"), Taman Pertanian Sekayu (4° 58' 177" 102° 57' 467"), Kampung Kemat (5° 00'52.2" 102° 57' 10.409"), Saok Waterfall (5° 05' 2.49" 102° 46'47.7")2. Setiu Wetlands Kampung Limau Nipis (5° 40' 38.779" 102° 42' 35.092"), Kampung Fikri (5° 39' 19.4" 102° 44' 8.2"),Kampung Gong Batu (5° 39' 23.1"102° 43' 18.6"), FRIM Setiu (5°33'58.9" 102°51'17.9"), Peladang Agro (5° 35' 37.918" 102° 40' 42.186"), Laguna Agro (5° 41' 42.589" 102 ° 41' 59.853")3. Off coast islands, South China Sea Pulau Bidong (5°37'15.7" 103°03'28.2"), Pulau Perhentian (5° 54' 9.767" 102° 45' 21.283") |
| Data accessibility | With the article |
| Related research article | Ahmad, N.I.I., The species composition and the specialisation degree of ectoparasite found infesting small mammals at Setiu, Hulu Terengganu and off coast islands of Terengganu, (MSc thesis), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Nerus, 2020. [1] |

Value of the data

- The data is useful in providing the information regarding the ectoparasite species composition and the relationship among the ectoparasites with their small mammal hosts.