

## A brief review of Bornean banded langur *Presbytis chrysomelas* (Müller, 1838) of Sarawak

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### Abstract

The critically endangered Bornean banded langur (*Presbytis chrysomelas*) is exclusively found in Borneo. This species is classified among the world's 25 most endangered primate species. The geographical locations and distribution patterns of *P. chrysomelas* remain inadequately understood, and their taxonomic classification remains unclear. Although it was once abundant in Sarawak, the distribution of *P. chrysomelas* has become one of the most restricted among all *Presbytis* species. Presently, documented sightings of *P. chrysomelas* span across five specific locations in Sarawak: Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary, Tanjung Datu National Park, Gunung Pueh National Park, Similajau National Park, and Maludam National Park. Thus, the purpose of this review is to present previous studies conducted on *P. chrysomelas* in Sarawak, elucidating its taxonomy, characteristics, distributions, important sites, research gaps, threats, and recommendations for further studies. Immediate conservation efforts and attention from the primatologist, relevant authorities and stakeholders are needed to prevent the localized extinction of *P. chrysomelas*.

**Keywords:** Bornean banded langur, *Presbytis chrysomelas*, Sarawak

## Introduction

Borneo is well renowned for being one of the world's primate hotspots (Meijaard & Nijman, 2003; Wolf & Ripple, 2022). Borneo inhabits 17 distinct species of non-human primates, spanning across six families and eight genera, including genus *Presbytis*. The genus *Presbytis* of the subfamily Colobinae is the most widely distributed group among the non-human primates in Borneo and widely studied in Malaysia; however, most investigations focused at species level on *Presbytis frontata*, *Presbytis femoralis*, *Presbytis hosei*, and *Presbytis rubicunda* (Abdul-Latiff et al., 2019; Duckworth et al., 2011; Smith, 2015; Meyer et al., 2011; Miller, 1934; Najmuddin et al., 2020; Najmuddin et al., 2021; Mohd-Hatta, 2013). Other studies focused more on resolving the taxonomic ambiguity of the genus (Aifat et al., 2016; Md-Zain, 2001; Md-Zain et al., 2008; Meyer et al., 2011; Meyer, 2012; Vun et al., 2011). Nevertheless, limited attention has been directed towards the study of *Presbytis chrysomelas*. *Presbytis chrysomelas* or Bornean banded langur is an understudied rare primate and endemic to Borneo. Currently, information on the sites and distribution of *P. chrysomelas* is still scarce, and its taxonomy is still disputed (Brandon-Jones et al., 2004; Meyer et al., 2011). Similar to other *Presbytis*, *P. chrysomelas* is also synonymously known locally as penatat or penyatat by Bidayuh, lutung by Malays, bijit by Iban, and berangad by Kenyah (Mohd-Hatta, 2013). It has the most restricted distribution of all *Presbytis* in Borneo. And globally, it has been categorized as a Critically Endangered species on the IUCN Red List (Nijman et al., 2020a) as it has a very high risk of extinction in the wild due to the continuously reduced populations and requires immediate conservation and proper study approaches. Approximately, the population has decreased by up to 80% during the last 30 years and is expected to do so at the same rate over the next 30 years (Nijman et al., 2020a). The distribution region is quite narrow in comparison with its historical range as it was once widely spread.

Hence, the objective of this current review is to compile the notable existing records concerning *P. chrysomelas* in Sarawak with the intention of enhancing scientific documentation. This comprehensive review covers aspects including taxonomy, characteristics, distributions, important sites, threats, recommendations for future research and the crucial need for prompt conservation initiatives.

## Taxonomy of *Presbytis chrysomelas*

The Bornean banded langur has always been the subject of taxonomic confusion. Formerly, it was first described as *Semnopithecus femoralis* (Miller, 1934), *S. chrysomelas* (Kantha &