

IBEC BULLETIN

Vol. 5 Issue 3 & 4

Sept. & Dec. 2024

E-ISSN: 2716-6422

<http://ir.unimas.my/id/eprint/46808>



20
24



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN UNIVERSITY

Prof. Dr Wong Sin Yeng (Editor)
Prof. Dr Mohd. Azlan Jayasilan (Advisor)
Prof. Dr Indraneil Das (Advisor)

THE

BORNEAN

EDITION



Figure 3. Habitats of Padawan's crab in Kpg Sentah (top-bottom left) and Kpg Bidak (top-bottom right) in Padawan. The habitats of the Padawan crabs are currently protected under the communal forest law that is managed by the local community. Bottom left is a durian garden in Sentah; Bottom right is a recreational site of Sebarau Waterfall.

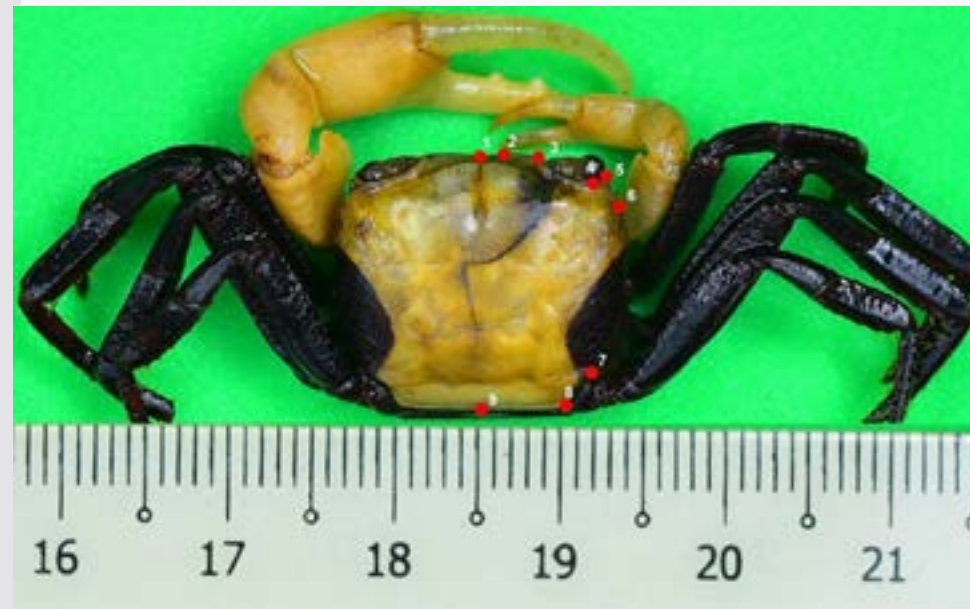


Figure 4. Nine homologous landmarks on carapace of *L. padawan* (preserved specimen) were used for the geometric morphometric analysis.



Report on The 10th World Congress of Herpetology

Indraneil Das

The Institute organised the 10th World Congress of Herpetology, between 5–9 August 2024, at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching. A total of nearly 1,500 delegates attended the event, making it one of the largest ever in the field. The Patron of the Congress, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg, the Premier of Sarawak gave the opening remarks, other speakers being Judit Vörös, Secretary General of the Congress, and myself, in the capacity of Congress Director. Also on the opening programme was a travelogue, 'Herpetofauna of Borneo', featuring images of species and landscapes of Borneo by the Institute's Honorary Research Associate, Chien C. Lee. And finally, a multimedia show on early herpetologists and their herpetological namesakes, compiled by Kraig Adler and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and presented by Aaron Bauer, was screened.

The official launch included the National and State anthems, a dance performance, featuring indigenous groups of Sarawak, and a welcoming address by the Advisor of the Local Organising Committee, Prof Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. The launch gimmick (photo montage of the herpetofauna of Borneo) was next, followed by souvenirs presentation, lunch and media briefing. Onstage were officials from relevant government officials (including conservation and environment) as well as Officers representing the Executive Committee members of the World Congress of Herpetology. The scientific sessions started after lunch on 5 August and ended before lunch on 9 August. On most days, two plenaries were delivered, starting with Datuk Dionysius S.K. Sharma, entitled "The Challenges and Successes in the Conservation of Coastal Nesting Turtles in Peninsular Malaysia" on the first day, followed by "Evolvability of

the Explosive Sea Snake Radiation (Emma Sherratt) and a continuation of the Sharma plenary on 6 August; “The Challenges of Conserving Reptiles and Amphibians in Madagascar” (Julie Hanta Razafimanahaka) and “Greatest Loss to North American Biodiversity is Imminent: Consequence of *Batrachochytrium* salamandrivorans Invasion” (Matthew J. Gray) on 7 August; “Desert Dynasties: Unraveling the Tales of Arabian Reptiles Through Systematics, Biogeography and Evolution” (Salvador Carranza) and “*Telmatobius* Water Frogs: An Approach to the Knowledge and Conservation of the Most Threatened Amphibians in Bolivia” (Teresa Camacho Badani) on 8 August; and “Biodiversity and Conservation of Chinese Amphibians” (Jian-Ping Jiang) and a deferred plenary, “Decoding Frog Diversification: Cues from Old-World Tree Frogs” (Madhava Meegaskumbura), due to the late arrival of the speaker, was heard on 9 August. Over the course of the Congress, 32 symposia and two workshops (paper publishing in journals by grad students and bioacoustics) were organised, the dozen or so parallel sessions run on nearly all days of the Congress possible due to the ample space at the Congress venue and the dedication of the volunteers, Symposia and Workshop organisers and Session Chairs. The largest was the Second Global Amphibian and Reptile Disease Symposium (GARD), which ran for over three days, and included a series



of 5 minute speed talks to accommodate an extraordinarily large number of delegates (for others, oral slots were 15 minutes). The Congress ended with a Gala Dinner held at the venue, with closing remarks by the incoming Secretary General, Richard Griffiths.

A total of 1,485 delegates attended the event, representing 72 countries. Also in attendance were 20 exhibitors and vendors, from students and small NGOs to local self-help groups and several major publishing houses. Grants made by the Sarawak State Government, the Gans Foundation, iStopBorneo and the World Congress of Herpetology supported nearly 100 students.



Exclusive merchandise produced for the Congress. A. Pin lapel; B. Button badges; C. Car sticker; and D. Delegate badge and beaded lanyard.

We thank the World Congress of Herpetology for granting the rights to Kuching to organise the 10th World Congress of Herpetology; Judit Vörös, Alan Savitzki, David Bickford, Ricky Spencer and Richard Griffiths for their support Business Event Sarawak and the Sarawak State Government for sponsorship; Place Borneo for serving as the professional conference organiser; Ramlah Zainudin and Reuben Sharma for their support as Congress Cochairs; our student volunteers for assisting with logistics and the Congress delegates for attending the Congress.