

Short Note

New Distributional Record of *Hypochrosis cryptopyrrhata* Walker, 1862 (Geometridae: Ennominae) from Peninsular Malaysia

MUHAMAD IKHWAN BIN IDRIS^{1,2*} AND F. ABANG³

¹Centre for Pre-University Studies, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, MALAYSIA

²Department of Zoology, Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, MALAYSIA

³Chancellery, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, MALAYSIA

* Corresponding author. E-mail: mikhwanidris@gmail.com

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The Geometridae form one of the largest families in the order Lepidoptera and have slender bodies with comparatively large wings. The flight of the adult is never strong, and they may often be disturbed from the foliage or tree trunks upon which they rest and hide during the day, and which they frequently resemble¹. The Ennominae are the largest subfamily of the Geometridae, and a group that has a wide ecological range, occurring in all habitats except very high latitude and, in the tropics, altitudes². Some ennomines show specificity to lowland forest types, such as heath, alluvial or mangrove forests². The subfamily also includes several species that appear to fly predominantly in the forest understorey². Ennominae are therefore, highly suitable for use as an environmental indicator group, except for their poor representation in open habitats^{3,4}.

A macromoth diversity survey was conducted in Perlis State Park (6° 41' 51.7" N, 100° 11' 29.3" E) from the 18th to the 23rd August 2008 and from the 19th to the 24th July 2009. The Perlis State Park is situated in northwest Perlis and is the first protected area to be established in the northern part of Peninsular Malaysia and forms a transfrontier protected area with the Thaleban National Park in Satun, Thailand.

The area was partly logged in the late 1960s and early 1970s^{5,6} and then proposed as protected area in 1997 and gazetted on the 21st November 2001 with an area of 50.15 km² in size, comprising 56% of the total forest reserves in the state (89.71 km²). Located in the north of Peninsular Malaysia, its forest is different from red 'meranti' forest that covers most of the forested area in Peninsular Malaysia, with the natural vegetation instead being characterized by seasonal white 'meranti-gerutu' forest, which is a deciduous forest with leaf fall during the dry season every year, and a mixture of vegetation on limestone⁷. Due to its location this park experiences an apparent monsoon climate (an average of annual rainfall 1789.4 mm), influenced by the southeast and southwest monsoon winds with heavy rainfall in October and April to May, and with a dry season between December and March⁸.

Four modified-Pennsylvanian light-traps were deployed; two at ground level (< 2 m) and two in the canopy level (≥ 20 m). Light-trapping was conducted from 1900 to 0700 hours and the trapped macromoths were collected the following morning. The light-traps were set up in Rainforest and Prince of Denmark trails. Several well-known plants were encountered along the Rainforest trail;