

## Short Note

# Rediscovery of the Enigmatic Mountain Blackeye, *Chlorocharis emiliae* Sharpe, 1888 (Passeriformes: Zosteropidae) from Mount Pueh, Sarawak

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During a short field expedition on the Pueh-Berumput mountain range, we collected five specimens of mountain blackeye, *Chlorocharis emiliae* Sharpe, 1888 (Passeriformes: Zosteropidae) on Kanyi summit. These significant collections are the first specimens to be collected from this, henceforth, rediscovered population since 1936. Historically, the ornithological records from Mount Pueh can be traced back since the earliest scientific collections of Eric Mjöberg in 1923. Mjöberg, who was the former curator of the Sarawak Museum during that period, collected several specimens of *C. emiliae* from the Pueh summit at 4000 feet (about 1200 m)<sup>1</sup>. In August 1936, Edward Banks collected a few more specimens of *C. emiliae* from the Pueh range<sup>2</sup>. The holotype specimen is presently deposited in the Sarawak Museum in Kuching.

Mount Pueh (or Mount Poi in the older literature) is the highest mountain within the southwestern exterior of Sarawak. Apart from the neighbouring Mount Penrissen, Mount Pueh is the only remote highland discontinuing from the Batu Tibang backbone in central Borneo<sup>3</sup>. The highland

is located in Lundu within the Bau district, about 100 km from Kuching city (Fig. 1). We accessed the summit from the foothill through Kampung Sebako (N 01° 43.661', E 109° 43.438' E; 41 m asl), a small village of the Dayak Selakau tribe. The ascent took about one and a half days to reach the summit. At 1552 m, the Kanyi summit (N 01° 43.246', E 109° 40.116') is the highest point along the Pueh-Berumput ridge. The vegetation of the area is dominated by short to medium stunted tree canopies (5 to 8 m) and mossy undergrowths.

*Chlorocharis emiliae* is taxonomically divided into four subspecies; *C. e. emiliae* on Mount Kinabalu, *C. e. trinitae* on Mount Trus Madi, *C. e. fusciceps* on Mount Maga and *C. e. moultoni* on Mount Murud, Mount Mulu, Tama Abo Range and Mount Pueh<sup>3</sup>. The Pueh population was initially described by Chasen and Kloss in 1927 as *C. e. moultoni*. In their original descriptions, the Pueh birds tend to agree almost entirely with *C. e. emiliae* of Mount Kinabalu except that they are smaller in all morphological dimensions with a broad yellowish face and supercilium. Also, the distinctiveness of this subspecies was more apparent in the duller