

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES RECORDED FROM THE LAMBIH HILLS NATIONAL PARK, SARAWAK, EAST MALAYSIA

Indraneil Das* and Joseph K. Charles

Department of Biology, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Gadong, Bandar Seri Begawan 3186, Brunei Darussalam

*Present address: Centre for Herpetology, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Post Bag 4, Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu 603 104, India

ABSTRACT : Ecological data are presented on 20 species of amphibians and reptiles collected and/or observed in the Lambir Hills National Park, Fourth Division, Sarawak, East Malaysia, during two trips made in September, 1992 and August, 1993. Some of the observations were made with the use of a tree-tower on a *Dryobalanops lanceolata* tree that allowed access 50 m above the forest floor and a tree-walk 15.65 m above ground. Seven species of amphibians and reptiles that are normally associated with human-created environments were also taken, and the total numbers of amphibians and reptiles thus recorded from the Park are 16 and 23, respectively.

KEY WORDS: Amphibians, reptiles, Lambir Hills National Park, Sarawak, East Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION

Lambir Hills National Park (4° 30'N, 113° 55'-114° 05'E) is located in the East Malaysian state of Sarawak, in north-western Borneo. The Park's centre is approximately 30 km south of the oil-town of Miri. Gazetted as a National Park in 1975, it covers an area of 6,952 hectares primarily of mixed dipterocarp forest, although there are other vegetation types occur, such as Bornean heath (*kerangas*) and scrub vegetation at the summit of Bukit Lambir. Steep slopes characterize the forest (gradients 25-30°), the altitudinal range being 30-467 m. The flora consists of about 1,500 vascular plant species (high for an exclusively lowland area). In addition, about 1,000 species of trees have been recorded from the Park, including 69 dipterocarp species (Davis, undated).

Surprisingly little is known of the fauna of the Lambir Hills. Two field trips were undertaken, on 8 September, 1992 and 4-9 August, 1993, with the intention of observing the local herpetofauna. Utilising the 40 m tree-tower constructed on a *Dryobalanops lanceolata* tree on the Pantu Trail, we made opportunistic ob-

servations on the arboreal herpetofauna, although collections were also made from other sites. A second paper on zonation and activities of flying squirrels is under preparation.

Earlier, Kiew (1984) had recorded 13 species of amphibians and 14 species of reptiles from the Park. The same paper lists a further two lizards that were identified to generic level, besides reports of the occurrence of the enigmatic Bornean earless monitor (*Lanthonotus borneensis*). Following the results in the present paper is an updated list of amphibians and reptiles now known to occur in Lambir.

Measurements were taken with dial vernier calipers (to the nearest 0.1 mm). All weights were taken with a Mettler™ AE 260 Electronic Balance (to the nearest 0.1 gm) from alcohol-preserved specimens seven to 14 days after preservation. ID/SWAK refers to the first author's field number from Sarawak, and part of the collection has been deposited at the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC), National University of Singapore.