

Bats of Bako National Park and Additional Notes on the Rare Partial Albinism in Fawn Roundleaf Bat (Hipposideridae: *Hipposideros cervinus*)

NUR MUKMINAH NAHARUDDIN*¹, NURSYAFIQAH SHAZALI², RAHMAT LIBAR²,
NUR FATIN KARIM², MOHD RIDWAN A.R.³, AZUAN ROSLAN², MOHD ISHAM
AZHAR², MOHD ZACAERY KHALIK², FAISAL ALI ANWARALI KHAN*²

¹Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia ²Department of Zoology, Faculty Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia ³Centre for Pre-University Studies, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Bat survey was conducted in Bako National Park from 25th to 29th August 2013. A total of 107 individuals from 11 species of bats were recorded. *Hipposideros cervinus* was recorded as the most abundance species with 51 individuals while *Murina suilla* and *Rhinolophus affinis* were the least abundant with one individual each from total captures. This study has added *R. affinis* as another new species locality record for the national park. This brings up the total bat species known from the park now to 35 species of bats. Interestingly, an individual of *H. cervinus* with partial albinism was caught during this survey. This single bat was captured on the 27th August 2013 and will be the first albino bat reported in Borneo and possibly Malaysia. This specimen is an adult female that presents high degree of albinism over most of the body but lacking on the upperparts of the body and part of the wings. Detailed description based on 16 external and craniodental measurements are presented herein along with their species identification through genetic analyses. Further research on the genetic structure and behavior of an albino individual may help to identify the possible causes and consequences of albinism to the bats populations.

Keywords: Chiroptera, *Hipposideros cervinus*, Mammals, Melanistic, Southeast Asia, Species inventory,.

INTRODUCTION

National park and forest reserves are important for the purpose of conservation and management of flora and fauna. This is especially important for those species that are threatened and endemic. In Sarawak, there are at least 30 National Park, 10 Nature Reserves and 4 Wildlife Sanctuaries. Bako National Park is the oldest national park in Sarawak and it is known as one of the main tourist attraction, given that it is closest to Kuching city and easily accessible. One of the major attractions in this national park is the opportunity to see Proboscis Monkey that is endemic to Borneo. The park consists of seven different major habitats which includes heath forest, mangrove forest, mixed dipterocarp forest, riverine forest, beach forest, grassland and cliff vegetation (Hazebroek & Abang Kashim, 2000).

Additionally, seasonal swamp forest also can be found around this park, as the intermediate between beach and mixed dipterocarp forest during the monsoon season (Khan *et al.*, 2007). Combination of these different habitats provides diverse ecological niches for high species richness especially among the wildlife including bats (e.g. Khan *et al.*, 2007).

Bats play a vital ecological role in the ecosystems. However this group of fauna is the most neglected order of land mammals worldwide and rarely featured on the priority list of any wildlife conservation program (Devkar *et al.*, 2010). For example, the long-tongued nectar bat (*Macroglossus minimus*) are known as one of the major pollinator for the mangrove trees which serve as the critical habitat for the iconic Proboscis Monkeys,

*Corresponding author: nurmukminah@gmail.com;