

BATS OF MOUNT PENRISEN, PADAWAN, SARAWAK

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ABSTRACT

We surveyed bats near the Hornbill Golf and Jungle Club Resort in the highland area of Mount Penrissen from 27 to 29 January 2005. We caught 38 individuals of 8 species in ten mist-nets and one harp-trap during two trapping nights. These represent new distributional records for Mount Penrissen (Payne *et al.*, 1998).

INTRODUCTION

Bat surveys in the highlands of Borneo are scarce or appear as annotated records by some authors (Burhanuddin *et al.*, 1998; Mustafa *et al.*, 1999; Payne *et al.*, 1998; Abdullah *et al.*, 2004; Tuen *et al.*, 2004). All studies agreed that diversity of mammals decreased with increasing elevation. Temperature decreases 5°C for every 1000m in elevation, resulting in different forest types at higher elevations, influencing resources available to the fauna residing there. Resource availability has been identified as the main factor affecting species-richness and ecological diversity in bat communities at higher elevations (Findley, 1993). Although diversity of faunas at higher elevation is low, montane endemics make the study of such areas interesting. However, the diversity and distribution of bats in the vicinity of Mount Penrissen has not been studied, although Payne *et al.* (1998) recorded two specimens from there.

The main objectives of our reconnaissance were to document the diversity of bats found on Mount Penrissen and to compare it with that found in other highland locations. This baseline information will be useful for future studies of other highland biodiversity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Areas

Mount Penrissen, also called Borneo Heights, is located along Jalan Borneo Heights, Padawan, Sarawak. Our sampling station was near the Hornbill Golf and Jungle Club Resort, about 70 km south of Kuching and about 1000 metres (m) above sea level (a.s.l) in primary tropical rainforest. This remote mountain hideaway is located between forest-