
Checklist

Checklist of mammals from Gunung Silam, Sabah, Malaysia

Besar KETOL¹, F.A. ANWARALI^{1*}, Wahap MARNI¹, Isa SAIT¹, Maklarin LAKIM², Paul Imbun YAMBUN², Mohd Azib SALLEH¹, Mustafa Abdul RAHMAN¹ and M.T. ABDULLAH¹

¹*Department of Zoology, Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia. *email: faisal.anwarali@ttu.edu*

²*Zoology Section, Sabah Parks, P.O. Box 10626, 88806 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia*

ABSTRACT. Field survey was conducted in Mount Silam (Gunung Silam), Lahad Datu, Sabah in September 1995 to inventory the diversity of mammals. A total of 23 species of mammals representing 15 families were recorded. The most captured small mammal species was the Short-nosed Fruit Bat (*Cynopterus brachyotis*) and the most encountered large mammal was the Bearded Pig (*Sus barbatus*). This paper presents a preliminary mammalian list for Mount Silam.

INTRODUCTION

The distribution of mammals in lowland rainforests of Sabah was documented by Chasen & Kloss (1931) and followed by Davis (1962). Later, a study was conducted by Lim & Heyneman (1968) to examine the distribution and abundance of small mammals based on the altitudes in Mount Kinabalu and Tuaran. This was followed by Duff *et al.* (1984) and Stuebing & Gasis (1989) who studied the adaptations of mammals to the transformation of natural forest into commercial plantations in eastern Sabah. Ghazally *et al.* (1995) also made some descriptions of the mammals found in the Tawau

Hill National Park. However, it was Payne & Francis (1985) who presented the first updated checklist of mammals from Borneo. But there is little information on the mammal species diversity in the eastern coast of Sabah. Therefore, we have conducted a short survey to document the species composition and abundance of mammals found in Mount Silam, Sabah.

STUDY AREA

The study site is located about 20 km southwest to Lahad Datu, at Mount Silam area. It is located approximately 60 km from Danum Valley, which is a well studied area for mammals and birds (Ahmad, 1990; Mohd Zakaria, 1994). Mount Silam is an ultrabasic low-lying mountain with primary rainforest from 200 m to its summit at 884 m elevation (Proctor *et al.*, 1988). The forest reserve, which includes Mount Silam was first gazetted in 1962 under the Ulu Segama Forest Reserve. The areas surrounding our study site is planted with agricultural cash crops including jackfruit (*Artocarpus* sp.), banana (*Musa* sp.) and oil palm. Encroachment into the reserve has always been a problem associated with the people who live in the areas adjacent to the reserve.

Keywords: Gunung Silam, Sabah, mammals, survey