

GUNUNG SANTUBONG

Where Nature Meets Culture



Amphibians

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Gunung Santubong, being a low-hill, with strong coastal influence, supports a generalized Bornean lowland frog fauna. Despite its proximity to the city of Kuching, no published inventories of the amphibian fauna of these hills are available.

Amphibians were recorded during transect surveys along forested trails and streams, and frogs and their tadpoles collected opportunistically from habitats away from transects, such as waterfalls and tree-holes. The streams surveyed ranged from small-sized sandy gravel beds of ephemeral waterbodies, to 5–10 meters wide, rocky, fast-flowing permanent ones. We also installed pitfall traps, in association with drift fences, to sample subfossorial species that tend to escape visual encounter surveys. These were placed on the forest floor, strategically, between water-courses and large trees.

A total of 37 species were recorded. Creek Frogs (genus *Limnonectes*) dominated the fauna, both in terms of species and frog abundance, and comprised several named species, one (*L. kong*) of which was described from Santubong recently. Pitfall-trapping resulted in the capture of several poorly species of herpetofauna, among amphibians, the rarely-seen *Gastrophrynoides borneensis*. Other ecologically interesting species include the pitcher (*Nepenthes ampullaria*)-breeding *Microhyla nepenthicola* and *Philautus*



Fig. 1. (left) *Leptobrachium ingeri*. **Fig. 2.** (right) *Leptolalax gracilis*.