

GUNUNG SANTUBONG

Where Nature Meets Culture





Fig. 1. *Dogania subplana*.
Fig. 2. *Crocodylus porosus*.
Fig. 3. *Boiga drapiezii*. Fig.
4. *Chrysopelea paradisi*. Fig.
5. *Coelognathus flavolineatus*.
Fig. 6. *Gonyosoma
oxycephalum*. Fig. 7. *Bungarus
flaviceps*. Photo: Chien Lee
Fig. 8. *Calliophis intestinalis*.

Reptiles

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Gunung Santubong, with its relatively intact lowland forest, harbours an interesting herpetofauna. Herpetological researches, nonetheless, have been few. The celebrated English naturalist, Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–1913), spent time here in 1855, writing the important paper outlining the mechanisms of evolution, now referred to as the “Sarawak Law”, but apparently made no reptile collections that survive.

One of Sarawak’s newest National Parks (gazetted on 28 February 2007), Santubong is a relatively low (810 m asl) sandstone mountain, and is characterised by mixed dipterocarp forests in the lowlands, with some areas of swamp forest, and areas of kerangas (Bornean heath forest) growing on the nutrient-poor soil at higher elevations.

A checklist of the reptiles known from Gunung Santubong and adjacent lowlands (including coastal waters) of the Santubong region, is presented. Records include those obtained during field trips made since 1999, in addition to museum specimens and literature records. Most sampling efforts were along the summit trail, starting from the main road that leads from the city of Kuching to the beach of Damai Puri, although road-kills were also noted at the western edge of the Park, and sampling also took place at the northern base of the mountain, within the grounds of Camp Permai, a private resort, and off the west and east coasts of Santubong, using fishing boats and nets. The cut-off date for the checklist was 25 June 2017.



Fig. 9. (top) *Hydrophis schistosa*.

Fig. 10. (bottom) *Naja sumatrana* (juvenile).