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A Note on Bats from Camp 5, Mulu World Heritage Area, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo

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To date, there are more than 90 species of bats recorded in Borneo. Despite the numerous information published on the diversity of bats, it is still considered scarce especially the one on the interior part of Sarawak. A bat survey was carried out at Camp 5, Mulu World Heritage Area from 3rd until 9th April 2012. *Rhinolophus affinis* was recorded for the first time in Mulu World Heritage Area and this had increased the current list to 41 species of bats for the park. The data represents the first bat survey of Camp 5, Mulu World Heritage Area and this helps to increase the knowledge of the bats diversity in limestone areas in Sarawak.

Keywords: Borneo, inventory, limestone, interior Sarawak, new record.

INTRODUCTION

Caves and limestone areas are one of the key habitats for large population of bats (Meredith and Wooldridge 1992). Out of the total number of bats in Borneo, 44 species are cave dependent (Payne et al. 1985). Various studies on the diversity of bats in karst areas highlighted the importance of these areas in supporting large bats population in Borneo (Hall et al. 2002; Suyanto and Struebig 2007; Mohd-Ridwan et al. 2010; Jayaraj et al. 2011; Mohd-Ridwan et al. 2011). In spite of this, human led disturbances such as guano mining, bird nest collecting, hunting and conversion into quarries are expanding within karst areas, which affects the bats population.

One of the largest limestone formations is the Melinau massif. It is situated on the boundary of Miri and Limbang divisions, with a continuous extension of 38 km in length and 8 km wide (Wilford 1964). Confined under this formation is the largest national park in Sarawak, Gunung Mulu World Heritage Area. One of the famous features that can be found in the park besides the magnificent caves is the world's most spectacular limestone landscape, the pinnacles of Gunung Api at

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