

**Short Communication**

**A report on bats survey at Air Panas-GuaMusang, Kelantan, Malaysia**

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**ABSTRACT.** A short survey was conducted during the BanjaranTitiwangsa (Titiwangsa Range) expedition organised by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks to assess bat species diversity. The survey was conducted for seven trapping-nights from 29 May to 4 June 2007 at Air Panas, near Gua Musang division in Kelantan. A total of 112 individuals from 28 species of bats were captured using mist-nets and harp traps. *Cynopterus brachyotis* and *Hipposideros bicolor* were recorded as the most abundant species with 21.4 % of total captures for each. Lowest relative abundance was recorded in 12 species which were only represented by one individual for each species. An increasing trend of species cumulative curve suggested additional trapping effort could result in more bat species records in this remote area. A long term study focused at various localities along the Titiwangsa Range would greatly increase the discovery of bat species diversity.

**Keywords:** Air Panas, Gua Musang, bats, diversity, Kelantan, Titiwangsa Range

**INTRODUCTION**

BanjaranTitiwangsa (Titiwangsa Range) forms the backbone of a mountainous area located in the centre of Peninsular Malaysia. The range starts in the north of Peninsular Malaysia, or southern Thailand, running towards a southeast direction and ending in the south near Jelebu, Negeri Sembilan. Stretching about 500 km in length, the range is also the largest with eight continuous mountain ranges in Peninsular Malaysia (Soh *et al.*, 2006). The highest elevation for this range is recorded at Gunung Korbu (2,183 m). With an estimate area of 12,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the mountainous geography of this area acts as a natural divider, splitting Peninsular Malaysia into the east and west coast regions. Difficulty in accessing inner forests at these mountains is a major reason for limited floral and faunal surveys in Titiwangsa Range.

Most of the studies in Peninsular Malaysia have focused on either established field research stations, e.g. Krau Wildlife