

SPECIES DIVERSITY, RICHNESS AND ABUNDANCE OF SMALL MAMMALS IN SUNGAI DUSUN WILDLIFE RESERVE, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

A survey of small mammals was conducted at Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve on the 26th until 31st of October 2009. 10 mist nets, two harp traps, 20 Sherman traps and 100 cage traps were deployed throughout the sampling period. A total of 18 individuals representing nine species from six families of small mammals were recorded. Ground-level trapping using 100 cage traps yielded three species of small mammals which are *Maxomys rajah*, *Lariscus insignis* and *Tupaia glis*. Six species of bats from the Order Chiroptera were trapped, and the most common species is the *Rhinolophus trifolius*.

Keyword: Biodiversity, Bats, Chiroptera, Rodentia

INTRODUCTION

Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve was gazetted to provide a habitat protected by the law for the last remaining population of Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatraensis*) since 1985. However, now it becomes a conservation centre for Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*). It is located about 120 km from Kuala Lumpur with latitude 3° 35' to 3° 40' North and longitude 101° 23' to 101° 27' East (Muda and Suib, 1989). The reserve is about 10,400 acre in size comprising of peat swamp and lowland dipterocarp forest (Mohamad and Romo, 2002). The reserve is drained by Sg Bernam (geographical boundary between Selangor and Perak State) in the North and Sg Tengi in the South. It is also bordered by the Felda Scheme on the Northern and Eastern side, and by peat swamp forest on the western and southern part. The objective of this inventory is to document an updated data of small mammals in Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve.

METHODOLOGY

Trapping

Ten mist-nets and two harp traps were deployed along the trail from 1830 to 0630 for the purpose of capturing fruit bats and insect bats respectively. Both traps were checked every two hours from 1830 to 2230. One hundred cage traps and 20 Sherman traps were deployed along the trail used to capture the terrestrial small mammals from the orders Rodentia, Scandentia and Insectivora, with approximately 10 meters trap interval and baited with oil palm fruit, bananas and salted fish for cage trap; and peanut butter for the Sherman trap. Cage and Sherman traps were checked twice at 1000 and 1700 hours.

CONCLUSION

We would expect more species captured if we could overcome the factors such as bait preference, weather condition and human disturbance. More samples could be obtained if we moved farther into the forest and expand the survey area by including the peat swamp forest area.

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