

Sabah 2015

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We decided to visit Sabah after spending time in Brunei. We borrowed a car and spent a couple weeks driving around. I used the taxonomy from Phillip's Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo and their Ecology. For some reason I took very few pictures on this leg of the trip.

Deramakot Forest Reserve (DFR) – After reading a few trip reports I decided this was a must visit place in Borneo if I wanted to see some new mammals. We used Adventure Alternative Borneo to book the trip, requesting Mike Gordon as our guide. We had issues paying and eventually had to meet Tom Hewitt in Kota Kinabalu to pay cash for the trip. This ended up being better in the end, as it saved all the transaction fees we would have incurred otherwise. Deramakot is not exactly what I expected but still excellent. Due to the logging, which seems to be done properly, there is a lot of understory, making nearly all observations of ground animals on the road. We spent 6 days 5 nights, mainly focusing on the nights in Deramakot. We ended up seeing 23 IDable species, with at least 3 species of bats and a rodent that I didn't ID. Top mammals were Sun Bear and Binturong for me. I only had three lifers, however I believe all 4 of the unIDed mammals would be lifers. I must add that Mike was a hard worker, still spotlighting in a downpour, even after we encouraged him to stop. I hope to visit this forest a few more times, as I have much more to see here.

Lupa Masa (LM) – This is a primitive camp near Poring Hot Springs run by Adventure Alternative Borneo. We stayed here for a night before DFR. There were many squirrels and rats, with Masked Palm Civet and Malay Weasel common, but missed by us.

Kinabalu National Park (KNP) – Although I had visited Borneo before, I had skipped this park. Although you probably won't see much more than rodents, there are plenty of squirrels and rats to make it a worthwhile stop. I think this was my highest density of new mammals in Borneo for this trip.

Danau TG Jungle Camp (DJC) - This is a seldom visited by tourists jungle camp on an oxbow lake off the Kinabatangan River. Mike booked it for us and told us how to get there. We decided to visit as he had seen several otters on a previous trip and any otter in Borneo would be new for me. We were the only guests and they treated us very well. We ended up seeing several species, including abundant Silver Langurs, Orang Utans, the first Slow Loris for the camp list (and then the second on the same walk), and at the last second (boat ride out) Smooth-coated Otters.

Gomantong Cave (GC) – I couldn't ID any bats past genus here. We did see three Orang Utans.

Crocker Range (CR) – We barely touched this as the car was overheating and we didn't want to destroy a relative's car.

Mammals

Mountain Treeshrew (*Tupia montana*) Observed on two days at KNP.

Colugo (*Galeopterus variegatus*) – Observed on 3 night drives at DFR.

Philippine Slow Loris (*Nycticebus menagensis*) – Two were seen in DFR and two were

seen at the DJC.

Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) Observed at DFR, DJC, and while driving around Sabah.

Southern Pig-tailed Macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) Observed 3 days in DFR.

Proboscis Monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) – Observed daily at the DJC.

Maroon Langur (*Presbytis rubicund*) – One observed briefly at DFR.

Silvered Langur (*Trachypithecus cristatus*) – Several observed at the DJC.

North Bornean Gibbon (*Hylobates funerea*) – We saw them most days at DFR, including some very close extended observations.

Bornean Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) We seemed to see these everywhere, DFR, the DJC, and GC.

Sunda Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa affinis*) Observed at LM, KNP, and DFR.

Black Flying Squirrel (*Aeromys tephromelas*) A total of 4 were seen at DFR.

Thomas's Flying Squirrel (*Aeromys thomasi*) We saw several daily at DFR.

Spotted Giant Squirrel (*Petaurista elegans*) One was observed near the gate at the top of the KNP road.

Red Giant Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*) We saw several daily at DFR.

Plantain Squirrel (*Callosciurus notatus*) Seen once at LM, once at DFR.

Borneo Black-banded Squirrel (*Callosciurus orestes*) 5 seen on one day in KNP

Prevost's Squirrel (*Callosciurus prevostii*) LM and DFR

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel (*Dremomys evertti*) Observed once at KNP

Sculptor Squirrel (*Glyphotes simus*) Observed on one morning at our guesthouse across from KNP.

Jentink's Squirrel (*Sundasciurus jentinki*) Common at KNP and CR.

Ranee Mouse (*Haeromys pusillus*) Seen once on a night drive in DFR, my best guess is that it this species rather than *margarettae* based on range.

Sabah Giant Rat (*Leopoldamys sabanus*) One or two every time we checked the garbage shed at the top of the KNP road.

Malayan Porcupine (*Hystrix brachyura*) An adult and a large juvenile were found while spot lighting in DFR.

Large Flying Fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) A couple seen in flight at DFR.

Fawn Roundleaf Bat (*Hipposideros cervinus*) Hundreds in the cave at Poring.

Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) Common at DFR.

Binturong (*Arctictis binturong*) 3 in one tree, observed multiple times at DFR.

Bornean Striped Civet (*Arctogalidia stigmatica*) Common at DFR. I used a mouse squeaker to call one to our feet at the DJC.

Island Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus philippinensis*) Common DFR, one at KNP, one at the Oxbow Lake.

Malayan Civet (*Viverra zibetha*) Common DFR, one at the DFC.

Sun Bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) Mammal of the trip. We were spot lighting in DFR along a ridge and spotted the bear in the canopy of large tree at eye level with us. We had a full body view before it descended and disappeared into the underbrush.

Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) We saw a three at DJC on our last morning.

Lesser Mousedeer (*Tragulus kanchil*) Common at DFR.

Sambar (*Rusa unicorn*) Common around the compound at DFR.

UnIDed Mammals

There were two species of bats in the culverts of DFR that I did not ID, a *Rhinolphus* and a *Hipposideros*. With a 2mx2m net you could cover the ends of the culverts.

There was this rat in DFR that I haven't IDed yet.

