

Mammals seen at Taman Negara NP, Malaysia, 11 - 16 June 2012

By Paul Carter

This report lists the mammals seen by myself and Dave Sargeant on our 5 day visit to Taman Negara NP. We spent 4 nights in the Kuala Tahan area and then 2 nights at Sungai Relau (see the notes at the end of the report on areas visited and logistics). We saw 22 mammals, 125 birds and 3 snakes. For any queries and corrections on this report please email me at pxcarter@gmail.com.

Dave's detailed report on the bird records is available at <http://norththailandbirding.com/>. Birds seen included Large Frogmouth, Barred Eagle-Owl, Jambu Fruit Dove and Garnet Pitta.

MAMMAL LIST

English and latin names used are those given in the mammal Species of the World list (version 3) by Wilson and Reeder (2005): at <http://www.bucknell.edu/msw3/>.

Alternate common names (from "A Field Guide to the Mammals of Thailand and South-east Asia" by CM Francis, 2008) are shown in brackets in the list below.

1 - Common Tree-shrew (*Tupaia glis*)

2012-06-12. Kuala Tahan village, at a house near the school.

2 - Crab-eating Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) - (Long-tailed Macaque)

2012-06-15. Tahan Hide.

2012-06-15. Sungai Relau Area, around the NP Chalets.

3 - White-thighed Surili (*Presbytis siamensis*) – (White-thighed Langur)

2012-06-13. Kumbang Hide; and the trail to the hide from Kuala Terenggan.

4 - Black Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa bicolor*)

2012-06-16. Sungai Relau Area; on the Negeram Trail.

5 - Gray-bellied Squirrel (*Calloscurius caniceps*)

2012-06-12. Mutiara resort. Very common here but not seen elsewhere.

6 - Plantain Squirrel (*Callosciurus notatus*)

2012-06-12. On the track from Mutiara resort to the Canopy Walkway.

7 - Black-striped Squirrel (*Callosciurus nigrovittatus*) - (Sunda Black-banded Squirrel)

2012-06-12. Kumbang Hide. One entered the hide early mornings and the evenings, after food. Photo below.



8 - Prevost's Squirrel (*Callosciurus prevostii*)

2012-06-12. Kumbang Hide.

2012-06-15. Sungai Relau Area, around the NP Chalets. Frequent sightings at the car park and accommodation office area. Two photos below.



9 - Slender Squirrel (*Sundasciurus tenuis*)

2012-06-15. Sungai Relau Area, at the start of the jeep track.

It had buff marks on the nose and a long tail (TL > HB).



10 - Bower's Berylmys (*Berylmys bowersi*) – (Bower's Rat)

2012-06-12. Kumbang Hide.

Large grey-brown rat. HB length about 25 cm. TL seemed similar to HB length and not as long as for Long-tailed Giant Rat (which is orange coloured and mostly terrestrial).

11- Sundaic Lenothrix (*Lenothrix canus*) – (Grey Tree Rat)

2012-06-12. Kumbang Hide. On vines at the rear of hide, around 10 pm. HB length about 15-20 cm. Grey above, white below. Long slender tail; did not note tail colour.

12 - Sundaic Arboreal Niviventer (*Niviventer cremoriventer*) - (Dark-tailed Niviventer)

2012-06-12. Kumbang Hide. HB length about 10-13 cm. Red-brown above; white below. Dark brown tail with short hairs along the tail; plus some longer hairs at tip. Long whiskers. Long guard hairs. Brown on top of feet. Most frequent rodent visitor to the hide. First photo below.



13 - Intermediate Leaf-nosed Bat (*Hipposideros larvatus*) – (Intermediate Roundleafed Bat)

2012-06-14. Gua Telinga Cave entrance. Brown to red-brown; 3 lateral leaflets; the posterior nose-leaf is broader than the anterior nose-leaf. Photo above.

14 - Lesser Sheath-tailed Bat (*Emballonura monticola*)

2012-06-12. Canopy Walkway Ticket Office, 9 am. Day-roost under office bldg. This is the only sheath-tail bat in SE Asia (Francis, 2008) contrary to some online reports of Asian Sheath-tailed Bat (*Emballonura alecto*) in the park.



15 - Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*)

2012-06-11. Kuala Tahan pump-station; forest edge about 100 m before the gate - 10 pm.

16 - Small-toothed Palm Civet (*Arctogalidia trivirgatas*)

2012-06-15. Sungai Relau Area; at the bridge at the start of Negeram trail; at around 9 to 10 pm.



17 - Asian Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditis*) - (Common Palm Civet)

2012-06-11. Kuala Tahan pump-station; about 250 m before the gate; on phone lines.

18 - Malayan Civet (*Viverra zangalunga*)

2012-06-13. Kumbang Hide. Seen foraging around the hide (9 pm) and the waterhole area (2 am). About 14 white stripes on the tail.



19 - Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) - (Asian Tapir)

2012-06-12 and 2012-06-13. Kumbang Hide. Seen at various times through the night, from 10 pm to 3 am; and also during daylight at 7 am resting just within the forest edge. Photo below.

2012-06-14. At night a tame tapir roams the gardens at Mutiara, presumably one of the pair that was released there in 2011.



20 - Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) - (Eurasian Wild Pig)

2012-06-12. Mutiara resort.

2012-06-15. Sungai Relau Area, at the start of Jeep Trail.

21 - Lesser Mouse-deer (*Tragulus kanchil*)

2012-06-15. Trail boardwalk near Tahan Hide. About 9 am. First photo below.

2012-06-16. Sungai Relau Area - Negeram Trail. About 9 pm.



22 – Red Muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*)

2012-06-14. On the main trail north of Gua Telinga.

REPTILE LIST

English and latin names are as per the field guide “Reptiles of Thailand and South-east Asia” by Indraneil Das.

1 - Red-tailed Racer (*Gonyosoma oxycephalum*)

12 June – at Mutiara resort gardens, midday, being harassed by squirrels. Very little black on the eye-stripe. Grey-brown tail but some orange on it. First photo below.



2 - Blue-necked Keelback (*Macrophistodon rhodomelas*)

At Tahan Hide area – 15 June – around 9 am. Second photo above.

3 – Dog-toothed Cat Snake (*Boiga cynodon*)

Boardwalk near the Mutiara campsite – around 9 pm. A small specimen at about 90 cm long.



3 - Rough-necked (Clouded) Monitor Lizard (*Varanus rudicollis*)

Common. A few seen at Sungai Relau carpark – 15 June. Also at Mutiara resort.

4 - Common Sun Skink - *Eutropis multifasciata*

LOGISTICS and AREAS VISITED

Kuala Tahan

We spent 2 nights at Traveller's Home and we left our hire car there whilst overnighing at the hides. We went night-spotting on the sealed road to the pump-station a couple kilometres upstream from the town. Leopard Cat and Asian/Common Palm Civet.

Mutiara Taman Negara Resort

Good food (buffet meals were discounted to the listed prices) and spotlighting around the buildings and campsite area. We obtained permits and hide bookings at the Park Office behind the restaurant. The park office has a list of set prices for canoe costs (per canoe, not per person; about 3 pax per canoe).

Kumbang Hide

We spent 2 nights in the hide; using the boats to get there and back. After being dropped at Kuala Terenggan it is a 1 hour (2 km) walk to the hide. Beneath the hide there is a pipe with constantly running water, good for a wash. On the first night there were numerous rodents in the hide after food, whilst there was surprisingly very little rodent activity the second night (perhaps because a black leopard was in the area – seen by the guide of another group whilst we were watching the civet at the back of the hide). The park canoe cost RM120 each way; it goes upstream through about 7 rapids (excellent boatmanship involved, a navigator perched on the front); I was wishing I had put my camera gear in water-proof bags. Key species seen at the hide: Tapir, Black-striped Squirrel, Bower's Berylmys/Rat, Sundaic Arboreal (Dark-tailed) Niviventer, Sundaic Lenothrix (Grey Tree-rat) and Malayan Civet.

Tahan Hide

Close to Mutiara resort, the tree in the open was fruiting with good birds visiting. Saw Lesser Mouse Deer nearby.

Belau Hide

One afternoon we took a canoe down to the drop-off point near the hide then walked back to Mutiara. The park canoe cost RM80.

Gua Telinga Cave

Only the first few metres are now accessible, and not the 80 m section from before, apparently due to collapse. Saw Intermediate Leaf-nosed Bat; we did not see any Lesser False Vampire Bats.

Canopy Walkway

This now opens at 9.30 am (previously it was 11 am). It was not very productive for birds (perhaps because staff had just cleared the entire walkway with a loud leaf-blower) but Lesser Sheath-tailed Bats were roosting under the ticket office.

Sungai Relau Gate

At the western edge of the park; about 4 hours drive from Kuala Tahan (via Jerantut, Kuala Tembeling and Kuala Lipis). The NP accommodation at the start of the jeep track includes aircon rooms (about RM80), fan rooms and dorms. The gate on the bridge at the start of the jeep track was locked at around 1030 pm the nights that we were there. Our walks included the first 1.5 km of the Negeram trail (Small-toothed Palm Civet and Black Giant Squirrel) and the Jeep track (Slender Squirrel).

Car rental: I have now used "Hawk Rent A Car" (<http://www.hawkrentacar.com.my>) twice with good service both times. They have an office at the airport (KLIA) and in KL (near the Petronas Towers).