

Mammals and Birds at Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, 30 May – 1 June 2009

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This was a very short visit to Gunung Mulu National Park as a reconnaissance trip for a more extended visit for 3rd year students in September 2009. We arrived around midday on Saturday 30th May and departed around 10 am on Monday 1st June 2009. This meant we had a little under 48 hours on the ground. As a recce we visited most sites that were accessible within a days walk of the park headquarters (Deer Cave, Medicinal Trail, Paku Waterfall, Camp 1, Canopy Skywalk and the new Canopy Tower that is opening soon – the last three require a guide). With so many sites to get to there wasn't usually time to track down unusual calls etc. We also didn't enter any of the caves, so the bat list is short compared to a normal visit. Large mammals are scarce, with no evidence of deer or pigs (ie. no tracks, scats, diggings etc) and smaller mammals (excepting bats) require a bit of work. Nevertheless two nights of spotlighting plus observations through the day produced a respectable list. If you are heading that way I'd suggest a stay longer than a couple of nights would be warranted.

Mammals:

Moonrat *Echinosorex gymnurus* – 1 on the lawn adjacent to the research facilities. Amazing just how white this mammal is when it was occupying such a muddy environment. Initially detected by its disgusting smell. “Distinctive pungent odour with strong ammonia content” (Payne and Francis 2005) is quite apt. The following evening I detected this species by smell alone at the last small shelter/information board before one reaches the Deer Cave bat viewing area but didn't lay eyes on it.

Painted Shrew *Tupia picta* – 2 in Dipterocarp forest some 500m to 1 km before Camp 1 at around midday. Single dark dorsal stripe and orange-red terminal third to tail seen well.

Spot-winged Fruit Bat *Balionycteris maculata* – 10+ spot lit on various boardwalks. A rather small fruit bat easily identified given the pale spots on the wings – especially those on or near the carpal of the spread wing.

Long-tongued Nectar Bat *Macroglossus minimus* – 5+ spotlit on various boardwalks. There were quite a number of small bats with distinct eyeshine in the beam of the light indicating they were small ‘macro-bats’ rather than microbats (which were also seen). At least some were very similar to Nectar Bats in northern Australia so I gather these had to be *minimus*.

Wrinkle-lipped Bat *Tadarida plicata* – 100s of thousands leaving Deer Cave well before dusk. A spectacle not to be missed – especially when you throw Bat Hawks, Rufous-bellied Eagle and Wallace's Hawk-Eagle into the mix as active predators.



Bornean Tarsier *Tarsius bancanus* – 1 spotlight on the short side-track that will open to the forest tower in the coming months. A fantastic animal that was surprisingly approachable. Photographs of this animal can be found here http://www.pbases.com/wildlifeimages/horsfields_tarsier

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis* – 2+ dropping down the cliff face at Deer Cave through a narrow belt of connecting trees. That these animals were free falling 10+ m at a time from tree crown to tree crown down an almost sheer 200m cliff made me feel sick to watch!

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus* – 2 feeding on bark of tall trees in the vicinity of the park headquarters.

Plain Pigmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis* – several on various boardwalks including the walk to Deer Cave, 2 on dipterocarp forest just before Camp 1 and 1 in the gardens of the park headquarters.



Small-toothed Palm Civet *Arctogalida trivigata* – 1 animal spot lit on the Deer Cave boardwalk within about 200m of the park headquarters area. Very agile when moving through the tall canopy.

Birds: (Miri = in and around township of Miri, Mulu = within the bounds of the Mulu National Park, M/M at both Miri and Mulu, We also spent about 2 hours at Lambir Hills National Park – a nice park 25 minutes by Taxi from Miri that warrants a longer visit.)

- Little Egret (Miri)
- Bat Hawk (Mulu)
- Rufous-bellied Eagle (Mulu)
- Wallace's Hawk-Eagle (Mulu)
- Oriental Honey-Buzzard (Miri)
- Rock Dove (Miri)
- Spotted Turtle-dove (Miri)
- Zebra Dove (Miri)
- Emerald Dove (Mulu)
- Treron spp. (M/M)
- Plaintive Cuckoo (Mulu)
- Barred Eagle-Owl (Mulu)
- Reddish Scops Owl (Mulu)
- Edible/Black-nest Swiftlet (M/M)
- Glossy Swiftlet (M/M)
- House Swift (M/M)
- Grey-rumped Tree-swift (Mulu)
- Rufous-backed Kingfisher (Mulu)
- Rufous-collared Kingfisher (Mulu)
- Collared Kingfisher (Miri)



Dollarbird (Miri)
 Wreathed Hornbill (Mulu)
 Rhinoceros Hornbill (Mulu)
 Red-throated Barbet (Mulu)
 Blue-eared Barbet (Mulu)
 Rufous Piculet (Mulu)
 Dusky Broadbill (Lambir Hills NP)
 Banded Broadbill (Mulu)
 Long-tailed Broadbill (Mulu)
 Pacific Swallow (M/M)
 Richard's Pipit (Miri)
 Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike (Lambir Hills)
 Pied Triller (Miri)
 Common Iora (Miri)
 Yellow-vented Bulbul (M/M)
 Red-eyed Bulbul (M/M)
 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (Mulu)
 Dark-throated Oriole (Mulu)
 Black Magpie (Mulu)
 Large-billed Crow (Mulu)
 Borneon Wren Babbler (Mulu)
 Abbott's Babbler (Mulu)
 Chestnut-winged Babbler (Mulu)
 Oriental Magpie Robin (M/M)
 White-rumped Shama (Mulu)
 Yellow-bellied Prinia (Miri)
 Verditer Flycatcher (Mulu)
 Pied Fantail (M/M)
 Rufous-winged Philentoma (Mulu)
 Black-naped Monarch (Mulu)
 Asian Paradise Flycatcher (Mulu)
 Asian Glossy Starling (M/M)
 Olive-backed Sunbird (M/M)
 Scarlet Sunbird (Mulu)
 Little Spiderhunter (Mulu)
 Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker (Mulu)
 Black-headed Munia (Miri)
 Scaly-breasted Munia (Mulu)
 Tree Sparrow (M/M)



Also about 15 species of amphibian, 5 species of skink and dragon and 3 species of snake. Photos of many of these can be found at http://www.pbases.com/wildlifeimages/se_asian_wildlife