

Norhayati's Gliding Frog *Rhacophorus norhayatae* from Gunung Pantii and Gunung Pulai, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia

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GUNUNG PANTI RECORD :

Observers: Kelvin K. P. Lim, Leong Tzi Ming, Andrew Tay, Vilma D'Rozario, Cheryl S. W. Chia, Darren C. J. Yeo.

Photograph by: Kelvin K. P. Lim

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location: Eastern foothills of Gunung Pantii, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia.

Habitat: Lowland secondary forest.

Date and time: 4 January 2003, 22:56 hrs.

Identity of subject: Norhayati's Gliding Frog, *Rhacophorus norhayatae* (Amphibia: Anura: Rhacophoridae).

Description of observations:

One example of about 8 cm snout-vent length was observed perched on a leaf, about 3 metres up a tree above a puddle of water (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 : Example from Pantii Forest.

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GUNUNG PULAI RECORDS :

Observer: Nick Baker.

Photographs by: Nick Baker.

Subjects identified by: Nick Baker.

Location: Gunung Pulai, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia.

Habitat: Adjacent to temporary pool in lowland primary forest (elevation : 130 metres)

Date and time: 12 January 2015, 19:00 hrs.

Identity of subjects: Norhayati's Gliding Frog, *Rhacophorus norhayatiae* (Amphibia: Anura: Rhacophoridae).

Description of observations: The distinctive rattling call of the species was first heard at dusk, at around 19:00 hrs. A brief search located two adults : one was found perched on leaf stalks around 2.5 metres above a temporary pool (Fig. 2.), and another was crouching on a leaf at around 1.5 metres from the ground, and 5 metres from the same pool (Fig. 3.). The estimated snout-vent length of both subjects was around 7 cm.



Fig. 2 : First example from Gunung Pulai showing the colour pattern on the side of its body.

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Fig. 3 : Second example from Gunung Pulai, crouching and showing the bright green dorsum.

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Remarks: *Rhacophorus norhayatii* was formerly regarded as *Rhacophorus reinwardtii* (Reinwardt's Gliding Frog). Chan & Grismer (2010) first identified the species as *Rhacophorus norhayatii*. Dehling (2011) used a revised name of *Rhacophorus norhayatiae*. We follow the latter, which is a feminised name in accordance with the gender of Dr. Norhayati Ahmad.

Rhacophorus norhayatiae is described from material from the Gunung Pantii Forest Reserve, and the species is found throughout the Malay Peninsula (west Malaysia and southern Thailand) and provisionally in Sumatra (Chan & Grismer, 2010:42). It is absent from Singapore. *Rhacophorus reinwardtii* is presently restricted to Borneo and Java.

Rhacophorus norhayatii is distinguished from *Rhacophorus reinwardtii* in lacking spots on its back, having a higher degree of interdigital web pigmentation on its hands and feet, and having rusty brown markings on its flanks. The records from Gunung Pulai are believed to be the first from this forest reserve, which is the southernmost area of lowland, primary forest in Peninsular Malaysia.

References:

Chan, K. O. & Grismer, L.L. (2010). Re-assessment of the Reinwardt's Gliding Frog *Rhacophorus reinwardtii* (Schlegel 1840) (Anura: Rhacophoridae) in Southern Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia and its re-description as a new species. *Zootaxa*, 2505, 40-50.

Dehling, J. M. (2011). Taxonomic status of the population of *Rhacophorus angulirostris* (Ahl, 1927) (Anura: Rhacophoridae) from Sumatera Barat (West Sumatra) and its description as a new species. *Salamandra*, 47, 133-143.