

Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bengalensis* at Sabak Bernam, Selangor, Peninsular Malaysia

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Photograph by: Tan Heok Hui.

Subject identified by: Dennis G. C. Yong.

Location: Sabak Bernam, northern Selangor, Peninsular Malaysia.

Habitat: Laterite track, fringed by logged peat swamp forest.

Date and time: 5 January 2005, 09:27 hrs.

Identity of subject: Leopard Cat, *Prionailurus bengalensis* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae).

Description of observation: A kitten was found amongst grass at the side of the dirt track (Fig. 1.) It did not appear emaciated and hissed defensively when approached. The kitten was left at the site after pictures were taken.

Remarks: The distinctive facial and body markings of *Prionailurus bengalensis* are apparent in this young cat. The species is known to be the most common of the small wild cats in Peninsular Malaysia : it is not restricted to forest and can be found in plantations and even suburban areas (Tweedie, 1978:47 as *Felis bengalensis*). One to four young may be born in a litter (Medway, 1983:99 as *Felis bengalensis*). It is not known if the kitten featured here was lost, or was left in the area while its mother went hunting.



Fig. 1.

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References:

- Medway, Lord. (1983). *The Wild Mammals of Malaya (Peninsular Malaysia) and Singapore*. Second edition reprinted with corrections. Oxford University Press, Malaysia. xxiii + 131 pp.
- Tweedie, M. W. F. (1978). *Mammals of Malaysia*. Malaysian Nature Handbooks, Longman, Malaysia. vii + 87 pp