

## Sunda Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus* at Panti Forest, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia

Nick BAKER  
[nbaker@ecologyasia.com](mailto:nbaker@ecologyasia.com)

**Observer:** Nick Baker.  
**Photograph by:** Nick Baker.  
**Subject identified by:** Nick Baker.

**Location:** Panti Forest Reserve, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia.  
**Habitat:** Adjacent to shallow stream, in freshwater swamp forest.  
**Date and time:** 20 March 2016, 20:08 hrs.

**Identity of subject:** Sunda Bearded Pig, *Sus barbatus* (Mammalia: Artiodactyla: Suidae).

**Description of record:** A lone adult was photographed walking parallel to a shallow, swampy stream at the edge of the forest reserve (Fig. 1.). The upper half of its head and body are dry, while the lower half appears wet.



Fig. 1.

© Nick Baker

**Remarks :** The subject is identified as a Sunda Bearded Pig based on its markedly elongated snout and the long hairs on the lower part of the cheek which form the beard. Based on its robust body proportions it is clearly an adult male. The wet lower half of the body suggests the animal had either just visited a wallow, or had traversed a pool or stream.

Panti Forest Reserve includes significant areas of freshwater swamp forest, as well as lowland dipterocarp forest and hill forest. Low-lying parts of the forest reserve, comprising mainly freshwater swamp forest, abut the western side of the main road linking the towns of Kota Tinggi and Mersing.

The Sunda Bearded Pig has previously been documented from Panti Forest Reserve by wildlife photographers : part of the reserve, the Panti Bird Sanctuary, allows limited public access for nature-based recreation. An online search located images of the species taken on an unsealed road within the reserve by Con Foley in 2010, 2013, 2015 (Foley, 2016) and by John S. Ascher in 2014 (Ascher, 2016). The species was not included in the vertebrate list for Panti Forest compiled by Yong (2006).

The Sunda Bearded Pig still occurs in Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Bangka (?), Borneo and the islands of Sibuto and Tawitawi in the southern Philippines (Kawanishi et al, 2008). Its status in the Riau Islands, Indonesia, where it was formerly documented from Batam, Bintan, Galang and Kundur (Chasen, 1940: 193), is uncertain. An online search for images of the species on these four islands yielded no results.

The species is known to be extant in the state of Johor, Peninsular Malaysia : there is a camera trap record of a Sunda Bearded Pig in Lenggong Forest Reserve, near Jemaluang, acquired in 1999 (Kawanishi et al, 2006: 15). Lenggong Forest Reserve lies around 50 km northwest of Panti Forest Reserve. There are no records of the species from Singapore. IUCN (Kawanishi et al, 2008) categorise the species as 'Vulnerable'.

#### References:

- Ascher, J. S. (2016). [http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20p?see=I\\_JSA3955](http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20p?see=I_JSA3955) (Accessed 06 April 2016).
- Chasen, F. N. (1940). A handlist of Malaysian mammals. *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum*, Singapore. 15: xx + 209 pp.
- Foley, C. (2016). [http://www.pbase.com/con\\_foley/pig\\_bearded\\_panti](http://www.pbase.com/con_foley/pig_bearded_panti) (Accessed 06 April 2016).
- Kawanishi, K., Gumal, M. & Oliver, W. (2008). *Sus barbatus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2008: e.T41772A10559190. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41772A10559190.en>
- Kawanishi, K., Richardson, D. & Lazarus, K. (2006). Contraction of bearded pig *Sus barbatus* distribution in Peninsular Malaysia. *IUCN/SSC Pigs, Peccaries, and Hippos Specialist Group (PPHSG) Newsletter* 6(1): 13-16.
- Yong, D. L. (2006). Preliminary list of larger vertebrates of Panti Forest Reserve, South Johore (2002–2006). *Singapore Avifauna*, 20(1), 26-35.