

Malayan Porcupine *Hystrix brachyura* at Jemaluang, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia

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Photograph by: Tan Heok Hui.

Subject identified by: Tan Heok Hui.

Location: Jemaluang, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia.

Elevation: < 50 metres.

Habitat: Metalled road, next to lowland swamp forest and primary forest.

Date and time: 29 August 2003, 21:45 hrs.

Identity of subject: Malayan Porcupine, *Hystrix brachyura* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Hystricidae).

Description of record: An adult (head and body length 60 cm) was found on a metalled road, a victim of traffic road kill (Fig. 1.). The subject appeared to have been crushed in the abdominal region, as indicated by the naked patch extending from its back to its abdomen, and with its innards extruding from the posterior end. The larger quills had become detached from its body.



Fig. 1 : Roadkill specimen, Jemaluang, Johor. © Tan Heok Hui

Inset: Example from Sungai Bantang, Johor (2015). © Nick Baker

Remarks: The colour of this specimen appears brownish, in contrast to 'typical' examples in which the anterior part of the body is black and sharply in contrast with the white posterior. A typical example from Sungai Bantang, Johor, is shown in the inset to Fig. 1. Similar brownish specimens also appear to exist in Singapore's central forests, 80 km to the south of Jemaluang (N. Baker, pers. comm.).

Shepherd & Shepherd (2012) summarize the range of this species as "Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia [Kalimantan, Sumatra], Laos, Malaysia [Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak], Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Also found in Bangladesh, China, India and Nepal". The state of Johor, Peninsular Malaysia thus lies in the southern part of its range.

References:

Shepherd C. R. & Shepherd, L. A. (2012). *A Naturalist's Guide to the Mammals of South-East Asia – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam*. John Beaufoy Publishing, 176 pp.