

Mammals observed during a road trip west of Jemaluang, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia

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Subjects identified by: Bosco Chan Pui-Lok, Li Fei.

Location: Jalan Mersing and Jalan Felda Nitar: these two roads traverse the Mersing, Lenggong and Sembrong forest reserves. The area lies west of the town of Jemaluang, and southwest of the coastal town of Mersing.

Elevation: up to 60 metres.

Habitats: Disturbed lowland forest (logged production forest), oil palm plantation, roadside shrubs bordering oil palm plantations.

Date and time: 26-27 June 2016.

Identity of subjects and descriptions of records:

- 1) Sunda Slow Loris, *Nycticebus coucang* (Mammalia: Primates: Lorisidae),
26 June 2016, 22:00 hrs : one seen moving in trees along the roadside at the edge of young secondary forest.
- 2) Long-tailed Macaque, *Macaca fascicularis* (Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae),
26 June 2016, daytime : three groups, with an estimated total of more than 18, seen on the ground by the roadside throughout the area, Fig. 1.
- 3) Southern Pig-tailed Macaque, *Macaca nemestrina* (Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae),
26 June 2016, 17:30 hrs : a troop of estimated 12 macaques, with infant-carrying females, were seen on the ground travelling along the roadside at the edge of disturbed mature forest, Fig. 2.
- 4) Common (Sumatran) Palm Civet, *Paradoxurus musangus* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Viverridae),
26 June 2016, 23:00 hrs : one seen along the roadside, on the ground at the edge of disturbed, mature forest.
- 5) Leopard Cat, *Prionailurus bengalensis* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae),
26 June 2016, 20:30 to 23:00 hrs, 7 seen on the ground along the roadside, including a female with three kittens, near oil palm plantations and adjacent areas of roadside shrubs, Fig 3.
- 6) Bearded Pig, *Sus barbatus* (Mammalia: Artiodactyla: Suidae),
26 June 2016, 23:00 hrs : at least 5 seen, which included some young pigs, crossing Jalan Mersing at the forest edge near an oil palm plantation.



Fig. 1 : Long-tailed Macaque



Fig. 2 : Southern Pig-tailed Macaque



Fig. 1 © Li Fei

Fig. 2 © Bosco Chan Pui-Lok

Fig. 3 © Mak Chi-Fung

Fig. 3 : Leopard Cat

Remarks: Long-tailed Macaque and Southern Pig-tailed Macaque are the two species of diurnal primate most commonly encountered whilst driving through rural, agricultural or forested areas of Johor and other states in Peninsular Malaysia.

Sunda Slow Loris is a nocturnal primate sometimes encountered in forest edge settings. The species is known from Panty Forest Reserve, 55 km to the south of the Jemaluang area, and Gunung Arong Forest Reserve, 25 km to the north (Nick Baker, pers. comm.).

Common (Sumatran) Palm Civet and Leopard Cat are both commonly seen nocturnal mammals in rural and forested parts of Peninsular Malaysia. The latter appears to be the only felid in Southeast Asia capable of adapting to oil palm plantations (Chua et al, 2016, Rajaratnam et al, 2007).

Bearded Pig is an uncommonly seen large mammal in the forests of Johor state: they appear to prefer shaded forest, but they may cross forested roads, especially at night. The species was recently recorded at Panty Forest Reserve, Johor in June 2016 (Li & Chan, 2016).

References:

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