

Short-nosed Fruit Bat *Cynopterus cf. brachyotis* at Kubah National Park, Sarawak

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Photographs by: Nur Shazrin Zahari.

Subject identified by: Mohd Ridwan Abd Rahman.

Location: Kubah National Park, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo. (Lat 1° 36.752'N Long 110° 11.778'E).

Elevation: 142 metres.

Habitat: Building in lowland, mixed dipterocarp forest.

Date and time: 03 December 2016, 08:50 hrs.

Identity of subject: Short-nosed Fruit Bat, tentatively *Cynopterus cf. brachyotis*
(Mammalia: Chiroptera: Pteropodidae)

Description of record: Four adult individuals, two of which were shielding pups, of *Cynopterus cf. brachyotis* were seen use the ceiling of the balcony at the park headquarters as their roost (Fig. 1). The roost site was recognized based on the fecal droppings on the floor (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1 : The uppermost two adults are each shielding a pup.

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Fig. 2

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Remarks: Both *Cynopterus horsfieldii* and *Cynopterus brachyotis* occur at Kubah National Park (Mohd-Azlan et al., 2008). The former can be distinguished from the latter by having a larger forearm size (68-76 mm versus 55-65 mm) and broader cheek teeth with rectangular molars (Payne et al., 1985; Tingga et al., 2012): these two features cannot be discerned in this photo, however, the subjects are more likely to be *Cynopterus brachyotis* based upon their roosting behaviour beneath a manmade structure. Another species of *Cynopterus* occurs in Borneo, namely *Cynopterus minutus*, however this species has not been recorded at Kubah.

Cynopterus brachyotis is a common frugivorous bat in Southeast Asia. It has a wide distribution range and usually occupies a variety of habitats including primary forest, disturbed forest, orchards, mangrove and cultivated areas (Abdullah, 2003; Payne et al., 1985). Their diet is not restricted to fruits, but they also feed on leaves, nectar and some insects as well (Boon & Corlett, 1989; Tan et al., 1998; 1999).

Kubah National Park, is located 22 km from Kuching city. The park consists of mainly undisturbed natural forest with five major vegetation types; alluvial forest, lowland mixed dipterocarp forest, heath forest, sub montane forest and secondary forest (Hazelbroek & Morshidi, 2000).

In 2008, 56 individuals of *Cynopterus brachyotis* were recorded during a bat survey at Kubah (Mohd-Azlan et al., 2008). Diet studies of *Cynopterus brachyotis* at Kubah found the bats fed on at least 24 species of flora (18 species of seeds and 6 species of fruits) representing 16 genera and 15 families of plants (Mohd-Azlan et al., 2010).

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