

## Pale-thighed Langur *Presbytis siamensis* at Karak, Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia

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**Photographs by:** Benjamin P. Y-H. Lee.

**Subjects identified by:** Benjamin P. Y-H. Lee.

**Location:** Karak, Bentong District, Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia. (Lat 03° 23.973'N Long 102° 0.778'E)

**Elevation:** 252 metres.

**Habitat:** Disturbed lowland rainforest, beside rubber plantation.

**Date and time:** 30 April 2017, 10:25 hrs.

**Identity of subject:** Pale-thighed Langur, *Presbytis siamensis* (Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae)

**Description of record:** A troop of about 10 individuals, including an adult carrying an infant, were seen quickly moving through the canopy of a secondary forest. The troop was about 15 metres from the ground, and around 30 metres from the observers: the langurs were all aware of our presence. One of the adult females stopped moving momentarily and looked in our direction (Fig. 1.) before moving off (Fig. 2). We remained on a forest trail while observing the troop.



Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.

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**Remarks:** Based on our field observations and photographs, the primates are identified as *Presbytis siamensis*: they have (i) greyish-brown upperparts, head and underside of the body, (ii) pale grey arms and legs, including the outer thighs, (iii) black hands and feet, (iv) almost black facial skin and (v) a thick, long, dark grey tail. The presence of pale grey fur on the outer thighs differentiates *Presbytis siamensis* from *Presbytis femoralis*, which has darker fur on the outer thigh and tends to be darker overall (Francis, 2008).

There are four subspecies of *P. siamensis* recognized (Roos *et al*, 2014) and the one found in Peninsular Malaysia is the nominate subspecies, *P. s. siamensis*. The populations of this species are regarded to be in decline largely due to habitat loss and, to a lesser extent, hunting. Its IUCN status is classified as “Near Threatened” (Nijman *et al*, 2008).

Conservation of this species may depend on the preservation of contiguous lowland rainforest and hill forest, with wildlife corridors linking forest fragments to facilitate their ranging movement.

#### References:

- Francis, C. M. (2008). *A Field Guide to the Mammals of South-East Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 392 pp.
- Nijman, V., Geissman, T. & Meijaard, E. (2008). *Presbytis siamensis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2008: e.T18134A7668889. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T18134A7668889.en>. (Downloaded on 26 June 2017).
- Roos, C., Boonratana, R., Supriatna, J., Fellowes, J. R., Groves, C. P., Nash, S. D., Rylands, A. B. & Mittermeier, R. A. (2014). An updated taxonomy and conservation status review of Asian primates. *Asian Primates Journal* 4(1): 2-38.