

Horsfield's Fruit Bat *Cynopterus horsfieldii* at Fraser's Hill, Peninsular Malaysia

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Observers: Nick Baker, Robert Teo, Vilma D'Rozario, Gloria Seow, Noel Thomas, Timothy Pwee.

Photograph by: Nick Baker.

Subject identified by: Robert Teo.

Location: Fraser's Hill (Bukit Fraser), Peninsular Malaysia.

Elevation: 870 metres.

Habitat: Secondary, forest edge near primary forest.

Date and time: 16 November 2017, 17:55 hrs.

Identity of subject: Horsfield's Fruit Bat, *Cynopterus horsfieldii* (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Pteropodidae).

Description of record: Two adult *Cynopterus horsfieldii* were found roosting in an abandoned building, clinging to the ceiling around 3.5 metres above the floor. One was in an enclosed room (with doors and windows missing), and the other along an open, sunny, corridor at the perimeter of the building. Both bats were quick to fly away at the presence of observers. A single photograph was acquired of one of the bats (Fig. 1). Beneath each bat was a multicoloured mound of droppings measuring 60 cm across, and around 5 cm deep (Fig.1 inset). No bats were seen during a subsequent visit to the site three days later.



Fig. 1 and inset.

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Remarks: The bat documented here is clearly a *Cynopterus* fruit bat, based on the white wing bones, and white-edged ears. The species is most likely to be *Cynopterus horsfieldii* based on (i) the large wingspan when the bat took flight (when compared to the smaller, and familiar, wingspan of *Cynopterus brachyotis*) and (ii) the robust muzzle which is more squarish and less pointed than that of *Cynopterus brachyotis* and the other member of the genus known from Peninsular Malaysia, *Cynopterus sphinx*. (The size difference between *Cynopterus horsfieldii* and *Cynopterus brachyotis* is marked: the former has a forearm length of 70-78 mm, while the forearm of the latter is 55-66 mm [Kingston *et al*, 2006]).

Based on the pile of droppings beneath each roosting location, this abandoned building is clearly a favoured roosting site: it seems likely that the building is regularly disturbed by daytime visitors, given its prominent position.

In Peninsular Malaysia, *Cynopterus horsfieldii* is considered as common at all elevations and in a variety of habitat types including various natural forest types (including mangrove), orchards and plantations (Kingston *et al*, 2006).

References:

Kingston, T., Lim, B. L. & Akbar, Z. (2006). *Bats of Krau Wildlife Reserve*. Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. 145 pp.