

## Lesser Mousedeer *Tragulus kanchil* at Panti Forest, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia

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**Observer:** Nick Baker.  
**Photographs by:** Nick Baker.  
**Subject identified by:** Nick Baker, Marcus A. H. Chua.

**Location:** Panti Forest, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia.  
**Elevation:** 30 metres.  
**Habitat:** Degraded forest edge, at the margin of flat-lying lowland mixed primary/secondary forest.  
**Date and time:** 13 April 2018, 19:30-20:40 hrs.

**Identity of subjects:** Lesser Mousedeer, *Tragulus kanchil* (Mammalia, Cetartiodactyla, Tragulidae).

**Description of record:** A lone *Tragulus kanchil* was observed at 19:30 hrs during light rain, close to the forest edge, next to an unmetalled forest road near the main Kota Tinggi-Mersing road. At 20:30 hrs another encounter with a lone *Tragulus kanchil* at the same location occurred: it is assumed to be the same animal. During the second encounter the mousedeer was observed for 10 minutes constantly sniffing the underside of a thick liana (Figs 1 and 2).



Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.

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**Remarks:** The throat markings of this mousedeer, which comprises three white stripes (Fig. 2), and the presence of a brown stripe on the belly (Fig. 1) identify the species as *Tragulus kanchil* (Chua *et al*, 2009). (In the Greater Mousedeer *Tragulus napu* there are five white stripes, and less white fur beneath the throat). The small size of this mousedeer, relative to that of *Tragulus napu*, was apparent to the observer.

Though somewhat subjective, based on the animal's size and general body shape this would appear to be an adult. Adult males of this species possess small, tusk-like, upper canines which may protrude from the mouth (Francis, 2008): the absence of such in this example suggests it is most likely a female, however this is a tentative conclusion.

The presence of *Tragulus kanchil* at Panti Forest does not appear to be documented. Sharma *et al* (2009) postulate that the species (as *Tragulus javanicus*) would 'very likely' occur in this forest. Its newly confirmed presence in lowland, mixed primary/secondary forest in this area is considered unsurprising.

#### References:

- Chua, M., Sivasothi, N., & Teo, R. (2009). Rediscovery of greater mouse deer, *Tragulus napu* (Mammalia: Artiodactyla: Tragulidae) in Pulau Ubin, Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*, 2, 373-378.
- Francis, C. M. (2008). *A Field Guide to the Mammals of South-East Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 392 pp
- Sharma, D. S. K., Wong, E. P., Liew, E. Y. T. & Azlan bin Mohamed. (2009). The Larger Mammals of Panti Forest Reserve. In *Hutan Simpan Panti, Johor, Pengurusan Hutan, Persekitaran Fizikal dan Kepelbagaian Biologi*. Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia.