

Binturong *Arctictis binturong* at Panti Forest Reserve, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia

Meryl THENG & Ahmad NORHAYATI
meryltheng@gmail.com (Theng), norhayatiahmad@ukm.edu.my (Norhayati)

Observer: Meryl Theng (camera trap installer, with Shahrool Anuar bin Rohani, Asiyahtul Husna).

Photograph by: Meryl Theng.

Subject identified by: Meryl Theng, Norhayati Ahmad.

Location: Panti Forest, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia.

Elevation: 4 metres.

Habitat: Dry, lowland swamp near edge of forest.

Date and time: 25 March 2019, 21:52 hrs.

Identity of subject: Binturong, *Arctictis binturong* (Mammalia, Carnivora, Viverridae).

Description of record: A series of 4 infrared images of a lone Binturong were acquired, with a one-second delay between each image, as the animal walked slowly past a camera trap fixed to an elevated position in a tree (see Fig.1 example).



Fig. 1. (Acquired under Research Permit no: UPE 40/200/19/3464)

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Remarks: The animal in this photograph is identified as *Arctictis binturong* based on i) its body size, ii) its distinctive long, black fur, iii) paler fur on its face and iv) a long muscular tail which is thick at the base.

The Binturong, or Bearcat, is considered to be primarily arboreal but does descend to the ground. It is known to be frugivorous, as many incidental observations are of the animal in fruiting trees (Wilcox et al., 2015), but small animals also make up part of its diet (Francis, 2008). While tracking studies have found the species' arrhythmic activity to be dominated by crepuscular and nocturnal tendencies, with activity peaks between 04:01-06:00 hours and 20:01- 22:00 hours (Grassman et al., 2005), there have been several sightings of individuals active in the day (Wilcox et al., 2015).

This appears to be the first published camera trap record of the species in Pantí Forest Reserve, however there is an unpublished record of another lone individual active on the forest floor, at the forest edge at around 11 p.m., in the southern part of Pantí Forest Reserve around 6 km from this record (Nick Baker, pers. comm.).

Note: Camera trapping is authorised by Research Permit no: UPE 40/200/19/3464, issued by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (Perhilitan). Field costs and equipment were funded by the Rufford Foundation (24012-1) and the National Geographic Society (WW-266ER-17).

References:

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