

NOTES ON LARGE MAMMALS OF BARIO, SARAWAK

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The large mammals present in the Bario area have been reported by Davis (1958). David Labang (pers. comm.) of the Forest Department Sarawak mentioned of the endangered Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) observed in 1986 in the upper Sungai Limbang, near Bukit Batu Lawi area. A brief observation of the large mammals was made in the area from the 13-19 April 1995. Other information on the large mammals was also gathered from the vegetation and aquatic survey teams who participated in this scientific expedition. Species identification was according to Payne et al (1985). The large mammal species reported in Bario are listed in Table 1

Table 1. List of large mammals observed in Bario, Sarawak

Common Name	Scientific Name	Observaion
Maroon langur	<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>	Sighted
Hoses langur	<i>Presbytis hosei</i>	Sighted
Bornean gibbon	<i>Hylobates muelleri</i>	Vocalization
Pig-tailed macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	Sighted
Bearded pig	<i>Sus barbatus</i>	Track, Sighted, Carcass
Barking deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	Vocalization, Sighted, Carcass
Payau	<i>Ceruus unicolor</i>	Sighted

The large mammals previously reported abundant in the Kelabit Highlands include the sambar deer, barking deer and bearded pig. The tembadau (*Bos sondaicus*), Malayan bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), binturong (*Arctictis binturong*) and Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) were quite common (Davis 1958). Except for the game species, none of the endangered large mammals were observed in Bario during the expedition. The maroon langur populations were sighted by several researchers working near Batu Lawi in the upper reaches of Sungai Limbang area. Hose's langurs were sighted and the Bornean gibbon could be heard around Sungai Ukat about 1,420m asl. The pig-tailed macaques were sighted at 1,150m elevation on a ridge near Sungai Ukat. Bearded pigs which were said to be seasonally abundant were not commonly found during the survey period. Barking deer and sambar deer were rarely encountered near the villages but were reported to be quite common in the deeper forest as reported by the vegetation and aquatic survey teams of this expedition. Adult sambar deer and barking deer were also found kept in captivity by villagers in Kampong Arudalan and Kampong Bario Asal respectively.

On one occasion during the survey, our team came across three empty-handed hunters with a shot gun on their back from Ulu Limbang to Bario. Spent cartridges were found along the track from Pa' Ukat toward Batu Lawi. In some longhouses the residents kept the lower mandible of

wild boars and pigs teeth were worn as necklaces by both the youths and the elderlies. In Bario township, game meat including that of bearded pigs and barking deers were sold at RM3 per kg. The wild animals were normally hunted by the villagers in forested areas around Bario.

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