

Sunda Slow Loris *Nycticebus coucang* at Panti Forest, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia

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Observers: Noel Thomas, Nick Baker.

Photograph by: Nick Baker.

Subject identified by: Noel Thomas, Nick Baker.

Location: Panti Forest, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia.

Elevation: 30 metres.

Habitat: Degraded forest edge, close to a busy main road.

Date and time: 08 June 2018, 21:10 hrs.

Identity of subjects: Sunda Slow Loris, *Nycticebus coucang* (Mammalia, Primates, Lorisidae).

Description of record: A lone *Nycticebus coucang* was observed at 21:10 hrs during dry weather, on a clear night, close to the forest edge near the main Kota Tinggi-Mersing road. The loris was inspecting the foliage on the trunk of a tree, part of secondary growth, before slowly climbing into the forest canopy and moving away (Fig 1).



Fig. 1.

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Remarks: *Nycticebus coucang* is a widespread primate in Peninsular Malaysia, but its presence is considered to be “patchy”, often occurring in low densities (Nekaris & Streicher, 2008). We speculate that the species may sometimes be overlooked due to its small size, arboreal habits and nocturnal activity.

The species is forest dependant, occurring in “tall and secondary forests as well as gardens and cocoa plantations” (Francis, 2008). Both authors have located this species a number of times in forest-edge habitats in other parts of Peninsular Malaysia, including lowland secondary forest-edge habitat south of Merapoh, Pahang, and lower montane forest at 1250 metres elevation at Fraser’s Hill, Pahang. Forest-edge allows for a clearer view of canopy fauna and for a greater area of forest to be rapidly surveyed.

The presence of *Nycticebus coucang* at Panti Forest does not appear to be documented: both Yong (2006) and Sharma *et al* (2009) make no mention of the species.

References:

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- Yong, D. L. (2006). Preliminary list of larger vertebrates of Panti Forest Reserve, South Johore (2002–2006). *Singapore Avifauna*, 20(1), 26-35.