

Red Giant Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*), in Upper Mahakam, East Kalimantan, Borneo

TAN Heok Hui
heokhui@nus.edu.sg

Observers: Tan Heok Hui, Nicole Tay.

Photographs by: Tan Heok Hui.

Subject identified by: Tan Heok Hui.

Location: Boh River, Upper Mahakam, East Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo. No lat/long available.

Elevation: 20 metres.

Habitat: Disturbed primary and secondary forest adjacent to logging road.

Date and time: 09 June 2017, 22:30hrs.

Identity of subject: Red Giant Flying Squirrel, *Petaurista petaurista* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae).

Description of record: A single individual with a head-body length of around 50 cm (with a tail slightly longer than its head-body length) was sighted moving amongst tree branches about 15-20 metres above ground level. It appeared to be foraging and was seen to leap to higher branches. After two minutes or so it moved up higher into the canopy and was subsequently obscured (Figs. 1 to 4). The evening sky was clear, with a nearly full moon.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

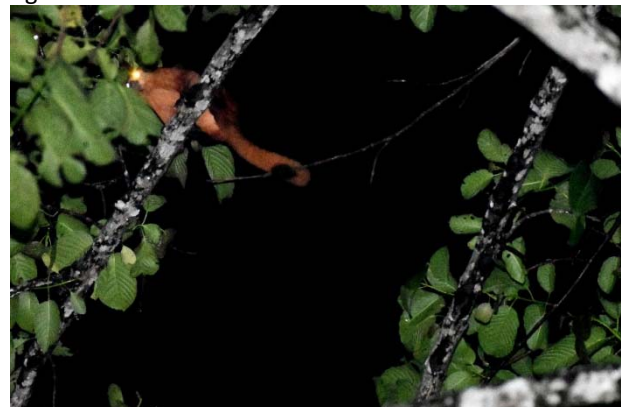


Fig. 4.

All images © Tan Heok Hui

Remarks: *Petaurista petaurista* is a large species of flying squirrel which is apparently very widespread from northern India to southern China, Myanmar, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Java and Borneo (Duckworth, 2016). Due to its wide range, it is most probably a species complex (Duckworth, 2016). It is usually found alone or in small groups. Diet includes leaves and seeds (Payne et al., 1985).

Based on the geographic location of this record, the subspecies is expected to be *Petaurista petaurista lumholtzi*, which can be distinguished from other Bornean subspecies by having less conspicuous black hairs behind the ears and by restricted black colouration on the limbs (Payne et al., 1985).

This present sighting is a confirmation of this species from the Upper Mahakam area in East Kalimantan.

References:

Duckworth, J.W., 2016. *Petaurista petaurista*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T16723A115138344. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/16723/0> (accessed on 23 August 2018).

Payne J., C. M. Francis & K. Phillipps. (1985). *A field guide to mammals of Borneo*. The Sabah Society with World Wildlife Fund Malaysia, 332 pp.