

Herpetofauna records of two visits to Pulau Bintan, Riau Archipelago, Indonesia in 2018

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Location: Pulau Bintan, Riau Archipelago, Indonesia.

Elevation: Sea-level to ca. 50 metres

Habitat: Small patches of old-growth dipterocarp forest, secondary forest of various successional stages, golf courses, resort grounds and disturbed grassland-shrubland mosaic.

Dates and times: 25-29 July 2018, 14-17 September 2018, day and night.

Identity of subjects and descriptions of records:

- 1) Asian Common Toad, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Amphibia: Anura: Bufonidae),
One seen, and the characteristic calls were regularly heard in the resort garden ponds during the July visit.
- 2) Green Paddy Frog, *Hylarana erythraea* (Amphibia: Anura: Ranidae),
Many individuals seen and calls heard in the resort garden ponds during the July visit (Fig. 1).
- 3) Copper-cheeked Frog, *Chalcorana labialis* (Amphibia: Anura: Ranidae),
Two individuals were seen in streamside vegetation of shaded stream inside closed-canopy secondary rainforest during the July visit (Fig. 2).
- 4) Four-lined Treefrog, *Polypedates leucomystax* (Amphibia: Anura: Rhacophoridae),
A few individuals were seen and calls were regularly heard in the resort garden during the July visit (Fig. 3).
- 5) Asian Painted Frog, *Kaloula pulchra* (Amphibia: Anura: Microhylidae),
The characteristic calls were regularly heard in the resort garden ponds during the July visit.
- 6) Malayan Box Turtle, *Cuora amboinensis* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae),
Three adults (with carapace length ca. 150-180 mm) observed at 08:00-09:00 hrs on 28 July 2018, in a 1.5 metre wide sluggish muddy stream flowing out of a secondary peat swamp forest (Fig. 4).
- 7) Common House Gecko, *Hemidactylus frenatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae),
Common in resort grounds, observed daily on both trips (Fig. 5).
- 8) Green Crested Lizard, *Bronchocela cristatella* (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae),
One adult seen basking at the edge of a mature dipterocarp forest block in the late morning of 27 July (Fig. 6).
- 9) Changeable Lizard, *Calotes versicolor* (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae),
Seen daily in disturbed habitats on both trips.
- 10) Clouded Monitor Lizard, *Varanus nebulosus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Varanidae),
Seen daily in forests, edge of golf courses and resort grounds. A Clouded Monitor Lizard was observed escaping predation by a King Cobra in July (Chan, 2019).
- 11) Water Monitor Lizard, *Varanus salvator* (Reptilia: Squamata: Varanidae),
Common throughout the Bintan Resorts, particularly visible in resort grounds with habituated individuals. A melanistic individual was seen scavenging on a dead puffer fish (Tetraodontidae) by the beach then later swam across the shallow bay (Fig. 7).
- 12) Many-lined Sun Skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae),
Seen regularly at sunny spots by forest edge on both trips (Fig. 8).



Fig. 1. *Hylarana erythraea*



Fig. 2. *Chalcorana labialis*



Fig. 3. *Polypedates leucomystax*



Fig. 4. *Cuora amboinensis*



Fig. 5. *Hemidactylus frenatus*



Fig. 6. *Bronchocela cristatella*



Fig. 7. *Varanus salvator*



Fig. 8. *Eutropis multifasciata*

Images 1-6, 8 © Bosco P. L. Chan. Image 7, © Alec Chan.

Remarks: With regards to the Malayan Box Turtle, the subspecific taxonomy of the species is not yet resolved; Schoppe (2008) listed the Indonesian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis couro* from Bintan, but subsequent publications listed the Bintan animal as Malayan Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis kamaroma* (Schoppe & Das, 2011; Rhodin et al., 2017). Bintan sits in the contact zone of the two subspecies and may be of special taxonomic interest for this IUCN Red List Vulnerable species.

With regards to the Green Crested Lizard, the genus *Bronchocela* from Peninsular Malaysia has been revised; the large, black tympanum, lack of white infralabial stripe and reddish stripe at the base of the tail suggest the Bintan lizard is *Bronchocela cristatella* (Grismer et al., 2015)

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