

Bornean Banded Langur *Presbytis chrysomelas cruciger* in Danau Sentarum National Park, West Kalimantan, Indonesia

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Subjects identified by: Mohamad Arif Rifqi.

Location: Melemba, Teluk Aur and Jongkong Kiri Hilir villages, Danau Sentarum, Kapuas Hulu District, West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Elevation: 80-400 metres asl.

Habitat: Mixed lowland forest: mostly peatland forest, with a few areas of dry-land forest.

Date and time: May 2016 to April 2018, daytime.

Identity of subjects: Bornean Banded Langur (Sarawak Langur, [Eastern] Cross-marked Langur), *Presbytis chrysomelas cruciger* (Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae).

Description of records: A total of 27 images were captured by DSLR cameras of 4 fully arboreal groups of *P. c. cruciger* both inside and outside the Danau Sentarum National Park (DSNP) during a biodiversity study of the park and buffer areas by the Indonesian Orangutan Forum (FORINA) team, WWF Indonesia team and DSNP Staff. Group size was between 8 and 15 individuals.



Fig. 1 Image from the buffer of DSNP. Dated 18 February 2017, 07:59 hrs. © Ismail Adha



Fig. 2. Image from Pelaik River, in the buffer of DSNP. Dated 15 May 2016, 13:43 hrs. © Superi Saputra



Fig. 3. Image from Semujan Hill. Dated 20 April 2018, 15:50 hrs. ©DSNP

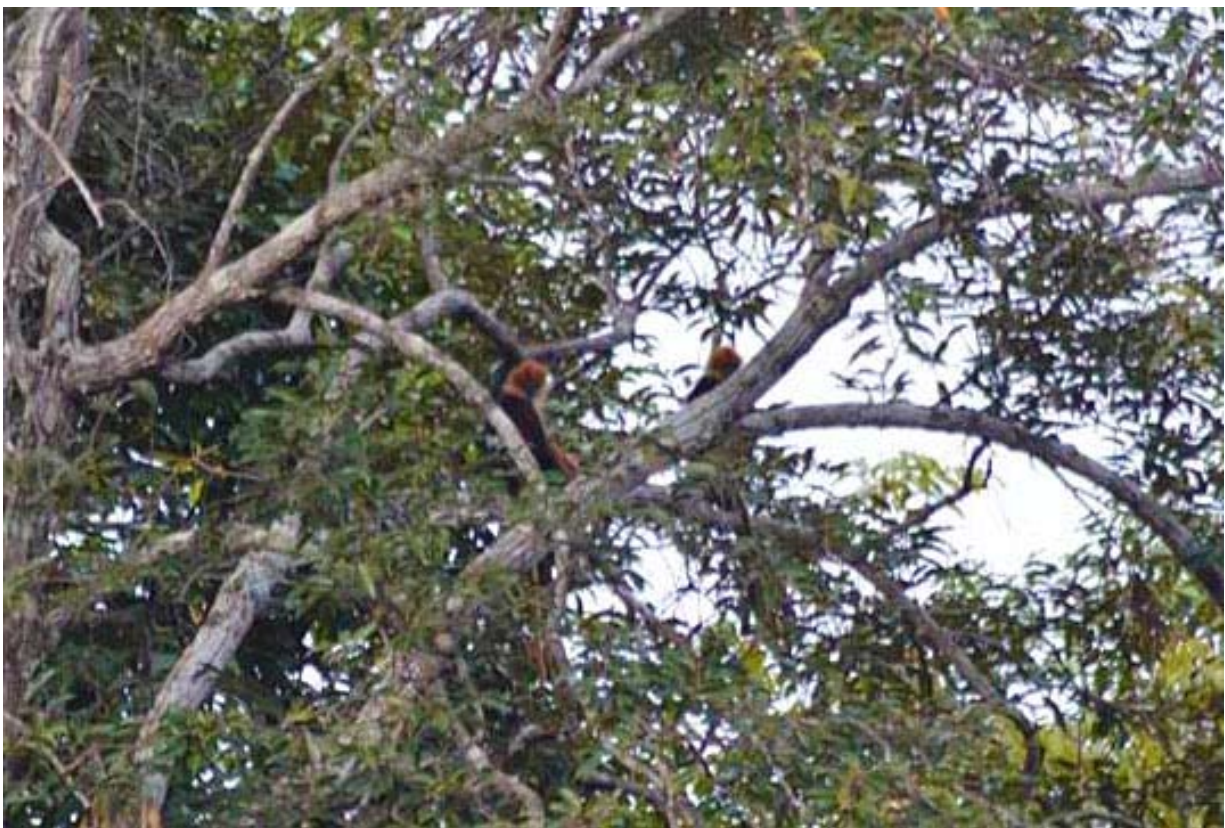


Fig. 4. Group of *P. c. cruciger* near the Pelaik River, close to Melemba village. Dated 14 November 2016, 16:47 hrs. © Jemmy Christian.

Remarks: *Presbytis chrysomelas* is a primate endemic to the island of Borneo. It has the one of the smallest distribution range of any langur on the island and is only known from the northern part of Borneo, including coastal Sarawak (Malaysia), Brunei Darussalam and the Danau Sentarum, Kapuas Hulu District of West Kalimantan, Indonesia (Bennett, 1992). The IUCN Red List categorizes this species as Critically Endangered.

Previously, this species was regarded as a sub-species of *Presbytis melalophos* (Raffles, 1821) which occurs on the island of Sumatra (Oates et al, 1994; Md-Zain, 2001). Subsequently, it was classified as *Presbytis chrysomelas*, based on morphological (Groves, 2001) and molecular data (Vun et al, 2011). Typically, this species is divided into two subspecies, namely the Western Cross-marked Langur *P. c. chrysomelas* (Müller, 1838) and the Eastern Cross-marked Langur *P. c. cruciger* (Thomas, 1892). In addition, a third, highly localized subspecies may be present in southeastern Sarawak (Groves, 2001). However, Phillipps and Phillipps (2016) points out that historical reports of mixed troops of both subspecies indicates that the variation should be regarded as colour morphs rather than subspecies. (Local communities in and around DSNP sometimes refer to these langurs as Maroon Langur (*Presbytis rubicunda*), and in their local tongue they call it 'Bekak', however these images clearly show *P. c. cruciger* to be present.)

Locally these langurs have variations of three bright colours; there is red-orange hair on the head and shoulders, sides of the abdomen, thigh and calf; the hair on the cheeks and under the chest and abdomen is white; and the arms, hands, feet, and lines on the back, which extend to the tail are black. The subspecies *P. c. chrysomelas* only has variations in the amount of black and white hair on the body.

The reported distribution for *P. c. chrysomelas* is coastal Sarawak, Brunei Darussalam, and upstream parts of the Kapuas River in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. *P. c. cruciger* is distributed in the forest of north Sarawak and Sabah (Roos et al., 2014; Nijman et al., 2008). *See Editor's note (below).

These new records confirm the continued presence of *P. c. cruciger* in the Danau Sentarum National Park and its buffer zone, in the upper and middle parts of the Kapuas River basin in West Kalimantan. DSNP lies within the historic range of *P. chrysomelas* (Phillipps & Phillipps, 2016, map on page 170). The characteristics of the *P. c. cruciger* morph that we recorded in these photos are similar to those illustrated by Roos et al (2014) and Phillipps & Phillipps (2016).

Previously, Pusparini (2012) reported 26 individuals in Pulau Majang village, at the western edge of Danau Sentarum NP. According to Ampeng and Md-Zain (2012) this primate forages between the mid-canopy to the upper canopy, at a height of 3-8 meters. Male leaders are usually in the bottom of the canopy, while female leaders monitor the upper canopy.

The continued existence and interconnection of a tree canopy is highly important to maintain habitat viability of this species. A 2014 study showed that even disturbed forest areas should still be considered suitable habitat for several primate species, compared to forested areas that have been converted into monoculture plantations (Bernard et al., 2014).

The continued existence of this primate in or near DSNP is not widely known and represents a very significant addition to the current highly threatened population in Sarawak justifying a possible reevaluation of its IUCN status. This primate should be included in the list of officially protected animals by the government of Indonesia.

Editor's Note: Roos et al (2014) and Nijman et al (2011) may be in error: there appear to be no original confirmed records of *P. c. chrysomelas* north of the Baram river, thus reports of their historical presence in Brunei and Sabah are in question (Quentin Phillipps, pers. comm.).

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