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**ETHNOZOOLOGICAL SURVEY IN SELECTED AREAS IN SARAWAK****Mohd. Azlan J. and Muhammad Faisal Fauzi****ABSTRACT**

Research on wildlife utilization in Sarawak have revealed that wildlife is a significant source of protein, cash economy, and cultural heritage of the local communities. A survey was carried out from August 2005 to March 2006 in order to acquire information on wildlife utilization in the selected areas. 47 species of mammals, 6 species of reptiles and 2 species of amphibians were recorded in the diet of rural people. A total of 45 species of mammals, 6 species of reptiles and 1 species of amphibian were used for medicinal purpose. Specific information on medicinal values and cultural beliefs from this study provides detail information on preparation and socio-cultural values, within the selected local community. Data and subsequence information from this study may further contribute to our understanding of the importance of wildlife utilization within rural communities in Sarawak.

# ETHNOZOOLOGICAL SURVEY IN SELECTED AREAS IN SARAWAK

by

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## ABSTRACT

Research on wildlife utilization in Sarawak have revealed that wildlife is a significant source of protein, cash economy and cultural heritage of the local communities. A survey was carried out from August 2005 to March 2006 in order to acquire information on wildlife utilization in the selected areas. 47 species of mammals, 6 species of reptiles and 2 species of amphibians were recorded in the diet of rural people. A total of 45 species of mammals, 6 species of reptiles and 1 species of amphibian were used for medicinal purpose. Specific information on medicinal values and cultural believes from this study provides detail information on preparation and socio-cultural values, within the selected local community. Data and subsequence information from this study may further contribute to our understanding of the importance of wildlife utilization within rural communities in Sarawak.

## INTRODUCTION

Ethnozoology is a sub-field of anthropology concerned with the relationship between wildlife and humans throughout human history. Wildlife plays an important role in various aspects of local communities in Sarawak (Burgers, 1993; Chin, 1985; Rahman *et al.*, 2003). An experienced hunter also receives social recognition within the community. Most rural community depends on wildlife as an important source of food for their household (Robinson and Bodmer, 1999) as it is the most frequently available protein resource in interior parts of Sarawak (Rahman *et al.*, 2003). In addition to this

wildlife are also acquired as trophies, for cultural purpose, medicine, tools, cloth, pet and for personal ornamentation (Bennett *et al.*, 1996; Burges, 1993; Puri, 2001; Rahman *et al.*, 2003). Many traditional medicine use wildlife as parts of its ingredients, for example traditional East Asian medicines use parts of animal species including tiger bone, bear gallbladder, pangolin scales and rhinoceros horn (Anon., 2000). Some local community believes that many living things such as bird, animal and insect are connected with spiritual world (Salther, 1971).

This preliminary study focuses on the main uses of forest animal resources in selected areas in Sarawak in order to add further information to the considerable literature already available on this subject.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study Site

Five sites had been visited from August 2005 to March 2006, namely Nanga Segenok, Kapit (N2 02.482 E112 43.309); Sungai Buloh, Kota Samarahan (N1 27.835 E110 40.991); Kampung Bidak Plaman, Serian (N1 01.015 E110 29.198); Kampung Bako (N1 40.031 E110 25.580) and Matu-Daro (N2 42.625 E111 27.724).

Local communities consisting of hunters, traditional medicine practitioner and elders were approached during the survey. Interviews were conducted to obtain detail information on community interaction with wildlife. The survey had been carried out based on guidelines in Caldecott (1986) and Tahir (2004). In addition, information on wildlife trade was acquired by opportunistic and direct observation in certain public markets during the field trips (Abdullah, 1996). Since most of the specimens was not collected for details species identifications, *in situ* identification of animals or their parts were recorded using Payne *et al.* (1985), Inger and Stuebing (1997, 1999) and MacKinnon and Phillips (1993).