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DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF SMALL MAMMALS AND BIRDS AT MT. SANTUBONG SARAWAK

Andrew Alek Tuen, Aminah Osman and Christine Putet

INTRODUCTION

A study was carried out to determine the effect of altitude and habitat disturbance on the distribution and abundance of small mammals and understorey birds at Mount Santubong. The altitude selected were low (< 100 m above sea level), middle (450 m) and summit (>800 m). Disturbed sampling sites were located near the jungle trail leading to the summit while undisturbed sites were located at least 500 m away from it. Locally manufactured rat traps and mist nets were used to capture non-volant and volant small mammals. The same mist nets were used to capture birds.

Eight species of small mammals comprising 102 individuals were captured. Plantain squirrel (*Callosquirus notatus*), Muller's rat (*Sundamys muelleri*) and Dusky Fruit Bat (*Penthetor lucasi*) accounted for 81.4% of the small mammals captured. The number of squirrel captured decrease with altitude while the number of rat was highest at the summit. The Dusky Fruit Bat were most abundant at mid elevation near the cliff. The total number of small mammals caught in disturbed areas was significantly ($p < 0.05$) greater than in undisturbed areas (51vs 21 individuals).

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SUMMARY

A study was carried out to determine the effect of altitude and habitat disturbance on the distribution and abundance of small mammals and understorey birds at Mount Santubong. The altitude selected were low (< 100 m above sea level), middle (450 m) and summit (> 800 m). Disturbed sampling sites were located near the jungle trail leading to the summit while undisturbed sites were located at least 500 m away from it. Locally manufactured rat traps and mist nets were used to capture non-volant and volant small mammals. The same mist nets were used to capture birds.

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A total of 118 individuals representing 28 species of understorey birds were captured. A total of 13 species (47 individuals), were caught at lower altitude, 12 species (40 individuals) at the middle and 12 species (31 individuals) at the summit of Mount Santubong. Fifteen species (50 individuals) were caught in disturbed areas and 12 species (37 individuals) in

