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SHORT NOTES: DISTRIBUTION RECORDS OF THE RARE FLYING LEMUR IN KOTA SAMARAHAN AND KUCHING AREA, SARAWAK

Besar Ketol, Sekudan Tedong and M.T. Abdullah

ABSTRACT

The Order Dermoptera (flying lemurs or colugos) contains a single family (Cynocephalidae) with two species ranging from southern Burma, Thailand and southern Vietnam to Malaya, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Philippines and many adjacent small islands (Medway, 1978; Payne et al., 1985; Corbet and Hill, 1992). The flying lemurs are arboreal, nocturnal herbivores and capable of gliding by jumping from higher spot and extending the gliding membrane located between the front and hind limbs (Yasuma, 2000). According to Payne et al. (1985), the distribution of Malayan flying lemur (*Cynocephalus variegatus*, Audebert, 1799) is throughout the lowlands and hills up to 900 m in elevation. In Peninsular Malaysia, the species is found at all elevations, in forest, woodland, orchards and plantations (Medway, 1978). In Sabah, Yasuma (2000) reported that this species can be found on Pulau Bangi, Pulau Balambangan, Tawau Hill, Tabin, Sepilok, Kaidun, Gunung Kinabalu and Danum Valley.

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This note is to add to the previous knowledge of the species distribution in Sarawak that can be found in Corbet and Hill (1992) and Kool and Yakup (1995).

During field studies conducted by the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, we asked the local longhouse communities and villagers about wildlife distribution in their area. Confirmed distribution records were by sighting or evidence of skin or skulls kept by our