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SHORT NOTES ON AMBAL GOYANG (*PSAMMOBIA ROSTRATUS*) OF BUNTAL BAY, KUCHING, SARAWAK

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ABSTRACT

Various types of Bivalvia such as the razor clams (*Solen* spp.) live in Buntal Bay mudflats of Kuching, Sarawak. Limited work on morphological aspects of Bivalvia from Sarawak is available, leading to patchy information about its diversity and taxonomic classification. This study on one of the clams known locally as *ambal goyang* provides some morphological data on the species *Psammobia rostratus*.

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INTRODUCTION

Buntal Bay supports many types of Bivalvia of commercial importance including the famous Sarawak razor clams (*Solen* spp.) (Ruhana *et al.*, 2007). These razor clams are known locally as *ambal*. Besides the three species of razor clams, namely *S. regularis*, *S. digitalis*, and *S. sarawakensis*, there is another type of *ambal* known as *ambal goyang*. Although local people use the word *ambal* to describe this species of bivalve, it displayed quite distinctive morphological differences compared to other species of *Solen*. *Ambal goyang* can be found along Buntal coastline during August to March annually. The method of collection of these clams is slightly different compared to other razor clam species. Local people use *penguris* (an iron stick which originated from an umbrella was modified to have a hook at one end) to collect these clams instead of using *lidi* the stem of the young *nypah* frond covered with mixture of ashes and limestone paste. A quick survey at Buntal wet market in December