

PELAGUS NATIONAL PARK

Biodiversity Above the Rapids





Life from Headwaters to the Coast

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REPTILES

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We report an inventory of reptiles recorded at the Pelagus National Park, between May 2014 and April 2015. Information from an earlier trip made in 2003 and a museum record have been included in the species list. Transect walks and visual encounter surveys were employed, but given the short periods available for sampling, limited pitfall-trapping could be conducted. A total of 26 species of reptiles were recorded, as presented. These include 21 lizards and four snakes, as well as unconfirmed reports of a crocodilian. A general impression of the reptile fauna at the Pelagus National Park is that it is a subset of the assemblage found in the widespread lowland Bornean hill dipterocarp forests. Nonetheless, a leaf litter skink of the genus *Sphenomorphus* is undescribed, and several others are recognised as belonging to taxonomically ‘problematic’ groups.

Of the species in the list, the Bornean Earless Monitor (*Lanthanotus borneensis*) is considered to be under threat, as it is subject to trade and also suffering from habitat loss and fragmentation. This lizard is ‘Totally Protected’ under Sarawak’s Wildlife Laws. The Earless Monitor was not encountered during our recent surveys within the boundaries of the Park, but was recorded from the site by Robert Shelford, English Curator of the Sarawak Museum, in the early part of the last century.

Four lizards belonging to taxonomically ‘problematic’ groups represent members of their respective species complexes. When taxonomic studies are completed, these are likely to be species endemic to the region or at least shown to have far more restricted species ranges than currently assumed. Since range size is an important determinant of IUCN’s conservation status ranking, reduction of species distribution ranges has the potential to heighten the threatened status of these lizards.

Turtle species are conspicuously absent from the Park’s reptile checklist, but a few species may be expected to appear in future surveys. These include the softshell turtles *Dogania subplana* and *Amyda cartilaginea*, as well as semi-terrestrial and terrestrial forms encountered at the nearby wet market of Kapit. These are *Cyclemys enigmatica* and *Cuora amboinensis*, and more rarely, *Manouria emys*.

The Estuarine Crocodile, *Crocodylus porosus*, although not observed in

recent surveys, was said to occur along the Pelagus bank of the Sungei Rajang, and downstream, from the Kapit region, both by local inhabitants as well as separate research teams during independent eye-shine surveys.

The limited species list for a tropical area is indicative of inadequate sampling efforts. Long-term field investigations, using multiple trapping techniques, have the potential to quadruple the species count, judging from species richness figures for similar lowland forest habitats on Borneo.

A Checklist of Reptiles

Species recorded from Pelagus National Park, Batang Rajang (current: 23 August 2020). IUCN Status (IUCN, 2020): NE – Not Evaluated, and LC – Least Concern.

Species	Common Name	Status	Endemism	Remarks
Squamata (Lizards)				
Agamidae				
<i>Bronchocela cristatella</i> (Kuhl, 1820)	Green Crested Lizard	NE	-	Member of a species complex
<i>Draco cornutus</i> Günther, 1864	Horned Flying Lizard	LC	+	
<i>Draco obscurus</i> Boulenger, 1887	Dusky Flying Lizard	LC	+	
<i>Draco quinquefasciatus</i> Hardwicke & Gray, 1827	Five-lined Flying Lizard	NE		
<i>Gonocephalus bornensis</i> (Schlegel, 1848)	Bornean Angleheaded Lizard	LC	+	
<i>Gonocephalus grandis</i> (Gray, 1845)	Great Angleheaded Lizard	LC	-	
<i>Pelturagonia</i> cf. <i>nigrilabris</i> (Peters, 1864)	Black-lipped Shrub Lizard	LC	+	Member of a species complex
Eublepharidae				
<i>Aeluroscalabotes felinus</i> (Günther, 1864)	Cat Gecko	LC	-	Member of a species complex
Gekkonidae				
<i>Cyrtodactylus consobrinus</i> (Peters, 1871)	Peters' Bow-fingered Gecko	NE	-	
<i>Cyrtodactylus hantu</i> Davis, Bauer, Jackman, Nashriq & Das, 2021	Pelagus Grooved Bow-fingered Gecko	LC	+	Member of a species complex

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Species	Common Name	Status	Endemism	Remarks
<i>Gekko horsfieldii</i> (Gray, 1827)	Horsfield's Flying Gecko	LC		
<i>Gekko monarchus</i> (Schlegel in: Duméril & Bibron, 1836)	Spotted House Gecko	NE	-	
Lanthanotidae				
<i>Lanthanotus borneensis</i> Steindachner, 1877	Borneo Earless Monitor	NE	+	
Scincidae				
<i>Dasia vittata</i> (Edeling, 1864)	Striped Tree Skink	LC	+	
<i>Eutropis multifasciata</i> (Kuhl, 1820)	Common Sun Skink	LC	-	
<i>Eutropis rudis</i> (Boulenger, 1887)	Striped Ground Skink	NE	-	
<i>Sphenomorphus</i> cf. <i>multisquamatus</i> Inger, 1958	Many-scaled Litter Skink	LC	+	
<i>Tropidophorus beccarii</i> Peters, 1871	Beccari's Water Skink	LC	+	
<i>Tropidophorus brookei</i> (Gray, 1845)	Brook's Water Skink	LC	+	
<i>Tytthoscincus hallieri</i> (van Lidth de Jeude, 1905)	Hallier's Litter Skink	LC	+	
Varanidae				
<i>Varanus salvator</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	Water Monitor	LC	-	
Squamata (Snakes)				
Colubridae				
<i>Boiga drapiezii</i> (Boie, 1827)	White-spotted Cat Snake	LC	-	
<i>Boiga jaspidea</i> (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)	Jasper Cat Snake	LC	-	
<i>Lycodon albobfuscus</i> (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)	Dusky Wolf Snake	LC	-	
<i>Opisthotropis typica</i> (Mocquard, 1890)	Corrugated Water Snake	LC	+	
Crocodylia (Crocodylians)				
Crocodylidae				
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i> Schneider, 1801	Saltwater Crocodile	LC	-	



Fig. 1. (a) *Draco obscurus*; (b) *Draco quinquefasciatus*; (c) *Pelturagonia* cf. *nigrilabris*; (d) *Aeluroscalabotes felinus*; (e) *Cyrtodactylus consobrinus*.



Fig. 2. (a) *Cyrtodactylus hantui*; (b) *Dasia vittata*; (c) *Lanthanotus borneensis*; (inset) *Lanthanotus borneensis*.



Fig. 3. (a) *Sphenomorphus* cf. *multisquamatus*; (b), *Tytthoscincus hallieri*; (c) *Varanus salvator*; (d) *Boiga drapiezii*; (e) *Boiga jaspidea*.