



Kinabalu National Park



Information Leaflet No. 3.

Notes on the Mammals of Kinabalu National Park

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The climb up Mt. Kinabalu is marked by progressive changes in climate and in vegetation. At each stage on the upward journey, the temperature is a little lower and different flowers and plants appear. Since all animal life depends, in the end, on plants as a source of food, it is natural that there should be parallel progressive changes in the mammals encountered on the way.

The lower slopes of the mountain rise out of the forest-clad hills of interior Sabah, and in those parts of the Park below 3,000 ft. altitude, virtually all the mammals of the very rich and varied lowland rain-forest fauna of Sabah are known to occur. Included among these are rare and unusual mammals such as the Orang-utan and the Sumatran Rhinoceros, both species seriously threatened with extinction by the pressures of expanding human population in South-east Asia. Several of the larger lowland mammals, and a few smaller ones such as the White-toothed Shrew (*Crocidura fuliginosa*) extend up to the highest levels of Kinabalu, but most of these species are absent above about 3,500 ft.

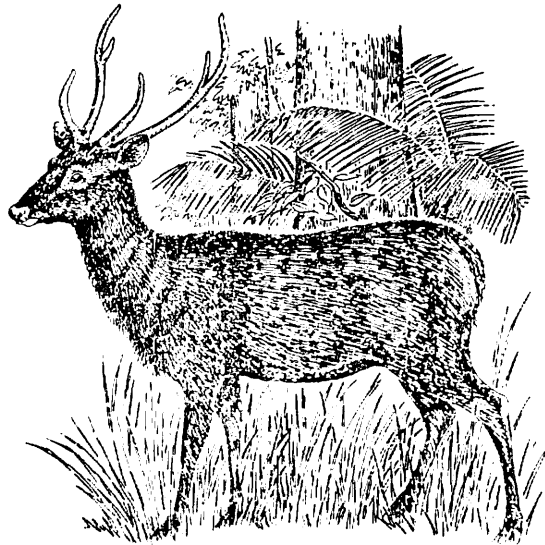
In these higher levels, they are replaced by an interesting group of mammals that occur elsewhere in other parts of Sabah, Sarawak, and northern Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) only on high ground of similar elevation, and are absent from the intervening lowlands. This group includes all the more conspicuous diurnal small mammals of the forest,

Further reading:

1. The Mammals of the Kinabalu National Park, Sabah, Borneo, by Lord Medway. Printed by the Sabah Parks Trustees, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Borneo, 1968. (This leaflet is available from the Sabah Parks Trustees, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Borneo, 1968.)
2. Mammals of Borneo, by Lord Medway. Revised and illustrated by Lord Medway and R. S. M. Lee. Printed by the Sabah Parks Trustees, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Borneo, 1968. (This leaflet is available from the Sabah Parks Trustees, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Borneo, 1968.)

Certainly Summit Rats show little fear of man. At night they readily come to any camp at these altitudes, and will even enter tents, and run around over the prostrate forms (sleeping or unsleeping) therein, unconcernedly inspecting noses, ears or any other bit of human anatomy protruding from the sleeping bag!

The Summit Rat is probably the only mammal permanently resident on the peaks of Kinabalu. But others, particularly larger and more mobile mammals, may visit high altitudes, and occasionally even reach the summit. I was told (in 1964) that the shed antler of a Sambhur deer (Cervus unicolor), the Payau or Rusa, had been found at about 13,000 ft. on the east summit of the mountain, at some unspecified date.



Male Sambhur, or Payau (Cervus unicolor).

Tracks of Banteng or Tembadau (Bos javanicus), and Sumatran Rhinoceros (Didemnocerus sumatrensis) have been reported from high on the East Ridge by members of the 1961 Royal Society Expedition to Kinabalu. I myself have seen tracks of Barking-deer or Kijang (Muntiacus muntjak) at 11,000 ft.