

ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES OF THREE SLOW LORIS TAXA IN SUMATRA (*N. COUCANG*), JAVA (*N. JAVANICUS*) AND BORNEO (*N. MENAGENSIS*)

R.A. Munds, R. Collins, V. Nijman, K.A.I. Nekaris

Oxford Brookes University, Nocturnal Primate Research Group, School of Social Sciences and Law, Oxford, United Kingdom

Presenter email: rmunds27@gmail.com

Slow lorises were once considered to comprise one strongly polymorphic species, *Nycticebus coucang* ranging throughout Southeast Asia. Ongoing research has revealed at least five species, three of which occur in Sumatra (*N. coucang*), Java (*N. javanicus*) and Borneo (*N. menagensis*). The former two taxa are classified as Endangered, and the latter as Vulnerable based exclusively on habitat loss, as few studies have been carried out in the wild. Ours is the first study to compare abundance estimates of lorises at sites on each island. We conducted line transect surveys at several sites, covering approximately 250 km on foot and 20 km from a vehicle. Abundance estimates ranged from a low 0.03 animals/km (*N. javanicus*), 0.13 animals/km (*N. menagensis*), to 0.16 animals/km (*N. coucang*). All sightings occurred in primary forest. These figures compare to estimates obtained for *N. pygmaeus* and *N. bengalensis*, but not for *N. coucang*, which occurs at higher abundance in Peninsular Malaysia. Despite being protected by Indonesian law, lorises were seen in animal markets during the study on all three islands, despite previous claims that *N. menagensis* is not collected for the pet trade. Collection for trade was the number one threat identified in systematic interviews, suggesting that absence of lorises from forest edges is related to their vulnerability of capture for the trade. In order to preserve lorises in Indonesia and Malaysia, more active patrolling is needed to deter their capture, and a clamp-down of the buying and selling of lorises at markets is recommended.

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