



Jungle Times

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*Photo of the Month Credit:
Rayzigerson Rodney Chai*

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What's Going On... In Pictures!

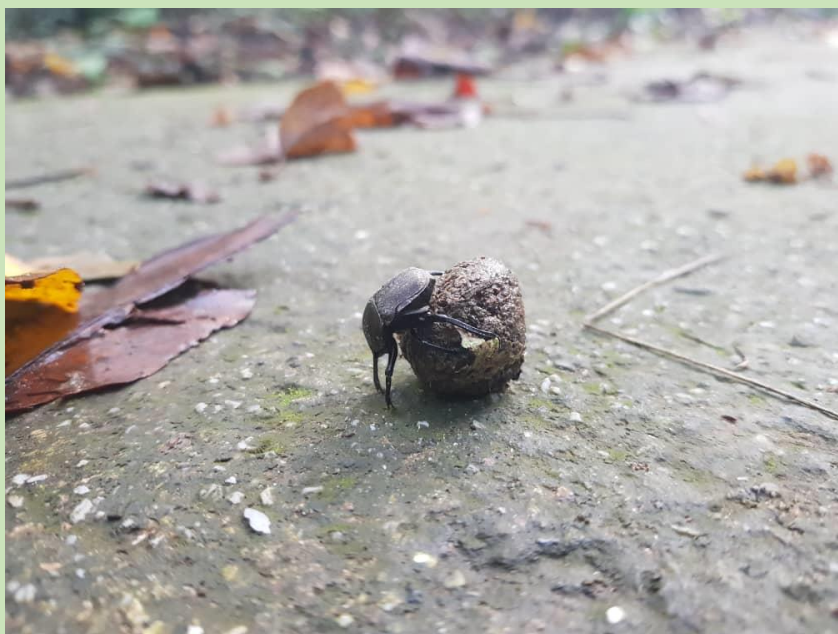




Visitor Fact File



This month a research team from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) came to visit for a few days to collect data on dung beetles for a dissertation project.





Visitor Fact File

CELINE NG BOON YUAN

Celine ialah seorang mahasiswa dari Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yang telah datang ke DGFC untuk mengumpul data untuk projek FYP-nye. Projek Celine berfokus kepada mencirikan sayap riang-riang dan kumbang kotoran agar dapat faham ciri antibiotik sayap-sayap tersebut. Beliau dapat tahu tentang DGFC setelah menjemput Elisa Panjang, yang merupakan salah seorang mahasiswa PhD di DGFC, untuk memberi ceramah tentang tengiling di acara World Wildlife Day. Beliau minat terhadap “sustainability” dan ingin memainkan peranan penting dalam mempromosikan cara hidup yang lebih “sustainable”, dengan menggunakan pengetahuan beliau dalam konservasi. Beliau juga harap bahawa lebih orang tahu dan mengambil bahagian dalam penyelidikan yang dilakukan di DGFC agar dapat lebih faham dan menghargai ekosistem unik negara Malaysia.

Celine is a student from Universiti Malaysia Sabah who has come to DGFC to collect data for her final year project. Her project will be focusing on characterising cicada and dung beetle wings to better understand the potential antibacterial properties of them. She got to know about DGFC after inviting Elisa Panjang to give a talk of Sunda Pangolins at an event called World Wildlife Day. She is personally passionate about sustainability and hopes to play a role with the global youth in creating a more sustainable way of life with her skills in conservation. She also hopes that more people become aware of, and are involved in the impactful science that is carried out at DGFC.

This interview was conducted and translated by Ariff.



Visitor Fact File

FRANKIE HONG MEN CHIN

Frankie berkerja di UMS sebagai seorang penolong mahasiswa yang melakukan kajian atau mengumpul data tentang serangga. Beliau mempunyai latar belakang dalam bahagian entomologi, khususnya dengan kumbang kotoran. Beliau pada masa ini sedang menolong Celine dengan mengidentifikasi species kumbang kotoran yang dikumpul oleh Celine. Beliau dapat tahu tentang DGFC melalui Professor Charles, yang merupakan salah seorang kawan Professor Benoit.

Frankie works with UMS as a student helper for those conducting research or collecting data on insects. He has a background in entomology, specifically in dung beetles. He is currently helping Celine with species identification of the dung beetles she is sampling. He heard about DGFC through Professor Charles, who is a friend of Professor Benoit.

This interview was conducted and translated by Ariff.



Visitor Fact File

VIVIAN SIEN SHI TING

Vivian ialah seorang mahasiswa dari UMS yang sedang mempelajari MPhil di institusi ITBC. Beliau di DGFC untuk menolong Celine mengumpul data tentang sayap kumbang kotoran dan riang-riang untuk project fyp-nya. Beliau dapat tahu tentang DGFC melalui Facebook dan kawan. Beliau berharap untuk bekerja sebagai seorang pensyarah dan meningkatkan kesedaran menghadap kepentingan hutan simpanan negara Malaysia.

Vivian is a student from UMS who is currently on an MPhil course in an ITBC institute. She is at DGFC to help Celine collect data on dung beetles and cicada wings for her final year projects. She heard about DGFC through Facebook and through friends. She hopes to acquire a lecturing position one day and raise awareness about the importance of the Malaysian protected forests.

This interview was conducted and translated by Ariff.



Visitor Fact File



ERWAN QUÉMÉRÉ (pictured left)

Who are you and where are you from? I am a researcher from the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), Rennes, France, in the Ecology department, and my specialities are molecular science, animal population management and evolutionary ecology both terrestrial and aquatic.

How did you hear about DG? I came into contact with Benoit via a PhD committee, and my PhD adviser came here a lot. I have dreamed of coming here and visiting Borneo to see the insects and orangutans.

What is your goal for the future? I would like to have a better understanding of biodiversity and be able to measure the impact us humans have on nature. My research question is also in connection to stakeholder management. I wish to be able to communicate my projects in a simpler way as I did with the barcodes in the presentation to staff and volunteers at DG.

What was your highlight here? Seeing the proboscis monkeys on the primate boat!

This interview was conducted by Jasmine and Pascal and translated from French.



Visitor Fact File



ROMAIN NATTIER (pictured right)

Who are you and where are you from? I am a researcher at the museum of natural history in Paris. I am interested in evolution and structure of biodiversity on a broad time scale, between 100 and 10 million years. I am also looking at phylogeny arising in evolutionary biology, particularly insect diversity. I capture insects, take the DNA and then create a phylogenetic tree using Racolite Biodiversity (accessible in the museum for science).

How did you hear about DG? I heard about it through Erwin, and I was equally as interested to see the nature and the insects.

What is your goal for the future? Develop projects which extract the DNA from old specimens in the museum.

What was your highlight? It was amazing to take the boat here to such a small, isolated place and to be in nature with little electricity. It's an adventure!

This interview was conducted by Jasmine and Pascal and translated from French.



Volunteer Departure



MAIRIN MURPHY

Mairin spent three months here with us. During her stay she helped with tracking the civets and the leopard cat, and assisted camera trapping at Danau Patong for the flat headed cat project. One of her favourite visitor activities she volunteered for was the early morning bird boat, as it gave her an opportunity to practise her bird identification skills. Mairin has also been applying for her next internship throughout her time here and has been offered a role in seabird conservation based in Hawaii. Previously Mairin graduated from a marine biology degree and came here for the opportunity to learn about other disciplines of biology. She particularly enjoyed going to visit both the botanic and restoration plots. After her time here she has gone on to travel around Vietnam with one of our PTYs Olivia, and then on to Australia for a month before returning home to the USA.



Volunteer Departure



JASMINE TSCHAN & PASCAL ARPAGAUS (pictured middle and left)

Jasmine and Pascal have spent just over 2 months here after visiting Danum Valley for a field course. They both came here to gain field skills before Pascal starts his masters in the spring, and Jasmine hopes to do the same next autumn. They both wish to work in restoration ecology. For their volunteering here to be recognised by their university they had to carry out a mini project. They chose to do this in the botanic plots where they went round all 10 and took measurements of different variables to be able to carry out some statistical comparisons. Whilst here they also helped Elisa with pangolin tracking, as they arrived just after we collared a new one. Jasmine has also been applying for an internship whilst here, and we wish her the best of luck with the application process for an ecotourism job in the Swiss Alps.



Volunteer Departure



ETHAN TOWNSEND (pictured right)

Ethan previously volunteered here five years ago, and came back this time for two months. This time he was most keen to help Rich with his python project, as he studied zoology with herpetology at Bangor University. He also helped out during the ability field course, acting as a team leader for the week. His highlight of this field course was the lizard noosing. He also had the opportunity to return to the wildlife corridor on the Batangan ridge for the camera trapping project. Ethan will return home to the UK after this, although he hopes to go travelling again as soon as possible after Christmas! He has applied for an internship in southern Spain and we wish him the best of luck for the future. Hopefully he will be able to carry out a masters project with the intention of maybe even returning to DG!



Volunteer Departure



ARIFF AZLAN ALYMANN

Ariff stayed here for two months, mainly to meet Sergio Guerrero Sanchez who is his supervisor for his masters project on monitor lizards. Ariff will be returning to Peninsular Malaysia to carry out his field work of trapping and sampling monitor lizards to study their ecology and genetics. After this he will go back to Nottingham University for the write up part of his masters. During his time here Ariff assisted with all the current projects, such as helping to move the sun bear traps and going civet tracking. His highlight of his stay was learning to set camera traps, as it meant he got to spend time walking in the forest and exploring round the local oxbow lakes as part of the flat headed cat project.



Danau Girang Field Centre

Danau Girang Field Centre was opened in July 2008. It is located in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Sabah, Malaysia.

Danau Girang is owned by the Sabah Wildlife Departments and supported by Cardiff University. Its purpose is to further scientific research with the aim of contributing to long-term conservation projects in the area, and develop a better understanding of our environment and the living things we share it with.

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Cardiff University.

