



The Jungle Times

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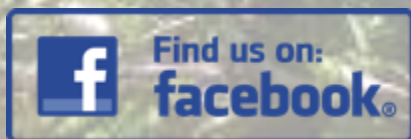
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Arrivals/Goodbyes



This month we welcome yet another Cardiff University PhD student, Juan Manuel Aguilar Leon! He has come to DG for 6 months to begin his fieldwork on conservation genetics with frogs. With the help of frog experts RAs Samsir, Koko and Yusri; he will hopefully be sampling lots of frogs in the months to come. Welcome to DG Juan!

We also saw the end of Alex Horton's trip this month. Alex was working on the river banks at DG, looking at how varying types of forest and plantation effect the erosion of the river banks. He also asserted himself as the chess champion of DG, leaving after his 6 week trip undefeated. He will be missed, we wish him all the best with finishing his PhD.



Valou's Supervisors Visit

This month we welcomed Marie-Claude Huynen and Régine Vercauteren Drubbel the PhD advisors of resident PhD student Valentine Thiry, for a short visit. Valou is undertaking a PhD on proboscis monkeys. The visit was very productive, with her supervisors having meetings with Dr Benoit Goossens and Valou about the protocol of her PhD. They also had plenty of chances to see the proboscis monkeys on boat cruises, as well as seeing a tarsier and a slow loris with PTY Charlie!



Valou also turned 27 this month! She celebrated at DG in typical DG style, with a carrot cake followed by the tradition of having an egg cracked on her head. We hope you had a lovely day Valou, we will be sad to see you leave next month!



PhD Retreat

This month saw the return of the annual PhD retreat in Kota Kinabalu for meetings and discussion for the future plans of DG. All permanent Danau Girang PhD students attended the retreat as well as Director Dr Benoit Goossens, Dr Milena Salgado Lynn and Dr Luke Evans. The retreat was a huge success, proving very productive with some bright ideas for the future, as well as a good opportunity for some team bonding!



Elephant relocation

Another successful relocation of a 7ft 4in bull elephant, named Liningkung, was carried out this month by the Wildlife Rescue Unit. The animal was involved in conflict with the local villagers in Kg Liningkung (Telupid district) so was relocated to Kawag Forest Reserve. He is the 4th male captured within Telupid and he was fitted with a GPS collar funded by the Elephant Family. This will provide great information on whether the translocation of males can be fully successful, with implications for future procedures.



Wildlife Warden Training

DGFC hosted the Honorary Wildlife Warden Training course for a whopping 33 people. Dr Luke Evans and PhD students Danica, Meg, Sergio as well as all current DG RAs and 14 members of the Batu Putih and KOPEL community undertook the course. The training entailed two days of lectures about the responsibilities of being a Wildlife Warden along with the correct protocol to follow in the event of an incident. A practical test was carried out, even with a mock trial undertaken for practice! Results will be released within the next few months, we are keeping fingers crossed for a 100% pass rate for everyone involved!



Python PhD Update

New PhD student Richard Burger has been kept very busy the past month, going out frequently on the search for pythons. He has been hugely successful, finding 7 reticulated pythons and 1 blood python with over 150 ectoparasites. His most recently sampled reticulated python was located by PTY Charlie, who was tracking a collared Slow Loris which actually led her to the 11.5kg python (pictured) who had actually eaten the Loris; whose collar was still functioning inside the snake! Some interesting data and a good first insight into the population of pythons in the Kinabatangan. Keep up the good work Rich!



Conservation Corner:

Common name: Cinnamon frog
Scientific name: *Nyctixalus pictus*
IUCN status: Near Threatened



Description and Ecology: A terrestrial species of frog characterised by its small size, long snout and cinnamon brown colouration; although some individuals have been found to be red or orange. Found throughout South East Asia with countries including: Singapore, Thailand and Borneo. Males of this species are between 30-33mm in size with females slightly larger at 31-34mm, respectively. Adults live in the shrub land and are found in canopy in primary and secondary forests. The larval stage of the species reside in water filled cavities and rotten logs.

Threats: The major threat affecting this species is continuous forest clearance due to agriculture and logging, resulting in a loss of habitat.

Conservation: Conservation efforts for this species are limited due to its conservation status but primary techniques include the protection of forests in which the cinnamon frog resides. However, to increase conservation efforts of this species further protection of lowland rainforest is critical.

Guess the Spider!

Pictured below are three of the spider species that can be seen here in the Kinabatangan, try and match the species with their photo!

1



2



3



A

Giant Orange
Hunstman

B

Common Brunei
Arboreal Tarantula

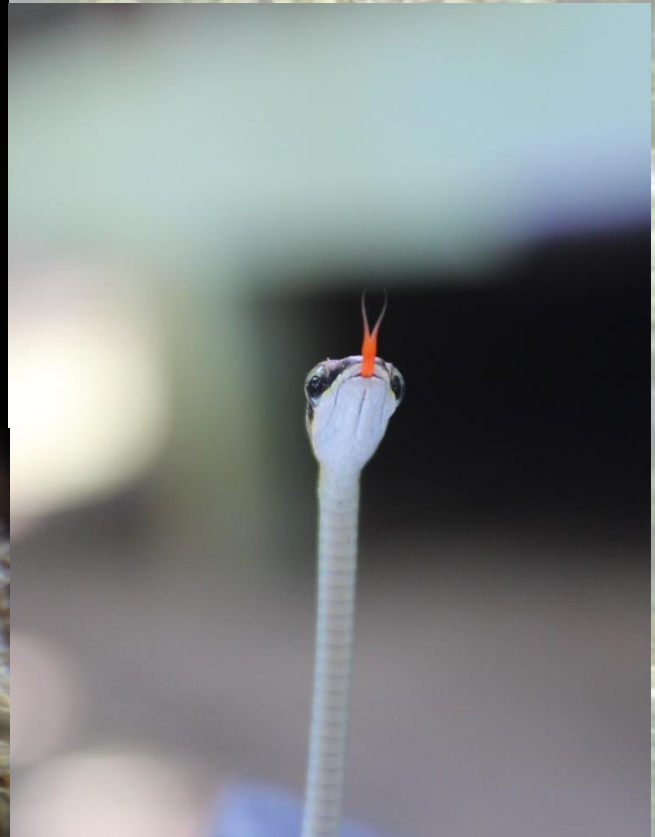
C

Curved Long-Spined
Spider

Fact of the month!

Lizards such as skinks and geckos drop their tails as a defence mechanism. The tail continues to move after being detached and acts as a distraction as well as small meal for the predator, allowing the lizard to escape. Following the tail drop, the lizard is then able to regrow the lost tail over a period of months.

Photos of the Month!



Photos by Joe Hampson and Charlotte Cooper

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 Department
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.*

Danau Girang Field Centre

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