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ABSTRACT

THE PROBLEMS IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE SELADANG IN THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL PARK

Ву

LES E. WEIGUM

A study was conducted in the Malaysian National Park from September 1967 to November 1969 to determine the present status and ecological requirements of the Malaysian gaur (Bos gaurus hubbacki).

A survey in the 1,677 square miles of park located four resident herds varying from 5+ animals to 19 animals. Three of these herds were in or close to areas which were recently disturbed by man.

Vegetation analysis based on the diet of the Kuala Tahan herd indicated that the grass Paspalum conjugatum was the most important food plant of the gaur. It was found that 96 per cent of all plant species eaten occurred mainly in the early secondary vegetation of river edges, clearings, and secondary forest. Based on forest succession studies it was found that a lowland dipterocarp forest when cut, burned, cultivated, and then abandoned will produce seladang (gaur) forage during the first 3 years after abandonment.

Natural salt licks occurred within the home range of each existing herd.

Mineral analysis of one lick showed it to be rich in sodium, calcium, and

magnesium. A station artificially salted with NaCl was used immediately

and frequently by a seladang herd.

The population of one herd which had been known since 1947 had maintained a stable population of 10-19 animals. The ratio of immature animals to adults indicated it to be a growing herd, but since there was a lack of evidence showing high mortality due to either disease or predation, emigration was thought to be the major stabilizing factor.

The seladang is an animal of the early stages in vegetative succession. To establish or maintain herds in the park it is recommended that 45 acres of land be clearcut preferably in 15 acre plots 1/2 mile apart and be recut every three years. The immobilizing drug M.99 was found to be apparently suitable for capturing gaur for possible relocation and/or study.

THE PROBLEMS IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE SELADANG IN THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL PARK

Ву

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To Florence and Emil Weigum

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INTRODUCTION

The Malaysian wild ox known locally as the seladang (Bos gaurus hubbacki) was thought in danger of extinction in 1937 (Hubback, 1937).

Foenander (1952), Kitchener (1961), and Stevens (1968) also have written of the bleak future of this animal. The IUCN in 1969 considered the seladang "critically endangered and in immediate danger of extinction without special protective measures" (Simon, 1969).

The Indian gaur (Bos gaurus gaurus) differentiated into the Malaysian and Burmese (B. g. readei) subspecies, is a member of the family Bovidae and is one of the six species of true cattle (Walker, 1968). The pelage of adult seladang varies from dark brown to jet black. The legs from just above the hock to the hooves have white or light yellow stockings.

A dorsal ridge runs from the neck to the middle of the back (Figure 1).

A dewlap hangs beneath the neck and chin, with a greater development in bulls. Gaur are the largest species of true cattle (Lydekker, 1907). A seladang bull may measure six feet tall at the withers (Foenander, 1952), and weigh a ton (Hubback, 1937). Two bulls shot in India weighed over 2000 pounds (Morris, 1947). The heavy horns of the male are wider and less incurved than those of the female.

The gaur was previously found throughout India, Nepal, Assam, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Viet Nam and the Malay peninsula (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott, 1951). Reports from many of these countries (Schaller, 1967; Peacock, 1933; Lekagul, 1964; and Stevens, 1968), however, indicate that the species is threatened throughout its range. Schaller (1967)



Fig. 1. A two-year old seladang cow.

believes that the Indian gaur is endangered by heavy poaching, elimination of habitat and epidemics of cattle diseases. There has been no known previous investigation of the seladang.

From September 1967 to November 1969, under the auspices of the Malaysian Game Department I undertook a study to determine the ecological requirements of the seladang to aid in its management and preservation.

This study was supported by the U. S. Peace Corps and grants from the New York Zoological Society and Canadian Wildlife Service.

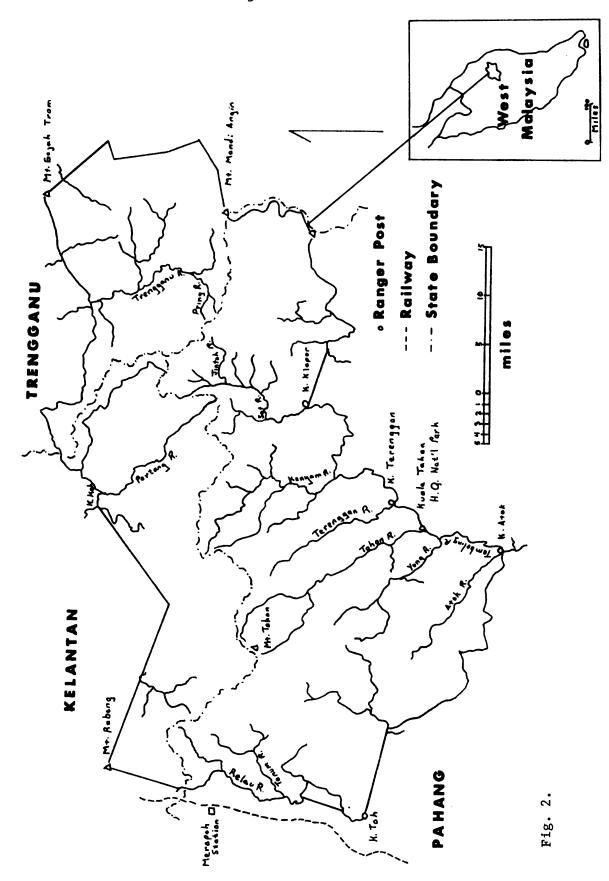
THE STUDY AREA

The investigation was conducted in the Malaysian National Park (Taman Negara), an area of approximately 1,677 square miles (Figure 2). Established in 1938, the park lies in west central Malaya along the state boundaries of Kelantan, Trengganu, and Pahang. The hilly terrain consists primarily of sedimentary rocks (Hua et al. 1971). Mt. Tahan (7,186 feet), the highest peak in West Malaysia, occurs within the park but 57.6 per cent of the park area lies below 1000 feet (Hua et al., 1971). The boundaries of the park are delineated by branches of three major river systems. Small Malay villages are common along these boundaries. Kuala Tahan, park headquarters and a small village, served as a base. Park personnel provided labor and made transportation available during the study.

The tropical rain forest vegetation found here is considered by Richards (1952) to be one of the oldest and most luxurient of all existing rain forests. Undergrowth in the mature forest is sparse, consisting mostly of woody shrubs and saplings.

Temperature extremes recorded at Kuala Tahan ranged from 65.5°F.

Fig. 2. The Malaysian National Park.



to 99°F. The mean air temperature over the duration of the study was 83°F.

Rainfall varied seasonally. The annual average precipitation at Kuala Tahan is 87.99 inches (Wyatt-Smith, 1963) but during 1968 was only 59.18 inches. There is a local annual drought in February, the last month of the northeast monsoon, perhaps due to the rain shadow cast by the Tahan massif (Johnson, 1969).

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Seladang Census: Five surveys were conducted to determine seladang population levels in the park. The areas investigated were all reported to contain seladang. River banks, clearings, and salt licks were checked. The large deer-like tracks unique in the park to the seladang were the primary means of identification. The presence of five or more sets of tracks was adopted as the criterion to establish that a herd occurred in the area. Travel was made even to remote areas and was by boat, raft, and foot.

Food Studies: The herd near Kuala Tahan was studied more closely than the others. Plants observed to be eaten were collected and later identified. Each plant species was noted as to its habitat and classified as common, rare, abundant, or scattered (Appendix 1).

A more intensive vegetative analysis was conducted in a 240-acre rubber tree plantation. The browse survey method developed by Aldous (1944) was used there. This method was slightly modified to include all plants, their utilization, their importance in the seladang diet, and their preference ratings. Data on availability and utilization were recorded for all vegetation up to a height of six feet. Two line transects 200 paces

apart were run across the plantation. A hand-held compass kept the transects equidistant. Twenty circular plots each 1/100 acre in size (11.8 ft. radius) and spaced every 100 paces were laid out. Ocular estimation was used to determine plant densities on the plots.

The survey data were calculated as follows:

- 1. Percentage frequency = $\frac{\text{Number of plots with species present X 100}}{\text{Total number of plots}}$
- 2. Average percentage density(D) = $\frac{\text{Total densities of each species X 100}}{\text{Total number of plots}}$
- Average percentage density

 3. Percentage of each species available(d) = $\frac{\text{of each species}}{\text{Total of average percentage}} \times \frac{X}{100}$ d = $\frac{D}{\sum D}$ densities
- 4. Average percentage eaten(E) = $\frac{\text{Total amount of each species eaten X 100}}{\text{Number of plots that species occurred}}$
- 5. Use factor(U) = Average percentage density of each species X Average percentage eaten of each species
 U = D X E
- Useage factor of

 6. Percentage of each species in diet(e) = each species X 100 e = UTotal of all useage factors
- 7. Preference rating(P) = Percentage of each species in diet

 Percentage of each species available

 P = e

 Values above 1.00 indicate preferred species (Petrides, 1953)
- 8. Relative importance(I) = Percentage of each species available X Percentage of each species in diet
 I = d X e (Petrides, 1953)

In addition to the plantation area, a transect with six 1/100 acre plots was also placed across an experimental clearing at Kuala Tahan. This clearing previously of six acres was enlarged to 11½ acres in August 1967 and to 21 acres in February 1969. Near the center of this field, a 5 pound bag of rock salt (NaCl) was buried one foot deep. Overlooking the field and the artificial salt lick, an observation blind was constructed 106 feet up in a twalang tree (Koompassia excelsa) (Figure 3). The field was cut annually, allowing only grasses and small forbs to persist.

Mineral Analysis: Soil samples from the natural salt lick at Jenut Belau, from a termite mound, and from a forest area were analyzed for their mineral concentrations by atomic absorption procedures.

Sex and Age Classification: The age criteria used were based on size, pelage color, and horn development. Calves up to one month old were distinctively orangish (Ogilvie, 1951). Calves one to eight months old were slightly larger and had distinct stockings, small black horns, and brown pelage. Yearlings, approximately eight months to two years old also had brown pelage, but were 3/4 adult size (Schaller, 1967), and possessed bi-colored upright horns. Adults were full size, with dark brown to black pelage and well-developed incurved horns.

Range and Movements: Day by day movements were recorded for the Kuala Tahan herd. Data were gather mainly by tracking since seladang are active mainly at dawn and dusk (Weigum, 1970) and move between feeding areas during the night.

Immobilization: The oripavine derivative 6, 14-endoetheno-7a(1-(R)-hydroxy-1-methylbutyl)-tetrahydro-oripavine hydrochloride better known as M.99 (Reckitt) was tested for its ability to immobilize seladang.

A 3 ml capacity syringe projectile was shot from a Palmer Cap-Chur gun.

Four adult animals were injected with dosages varying from 1.5 mg

Fig. 3. Observation blind in a $\underline{\text{Koompassia}}$ $\underline{\text{excelsa}}$ tree overlooking the experimental clearing.





Fig. 3.

to 8 mg M.99. The drug antagonist cyprenorphine (N-cyclopropylmethyl- 6, 14-endoetheno-7-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-tetrahydro-nororipavine) known as M.285 (Reckitt) was also tested.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seladang Census

The presence of seladang was known before the establishment of the National Park. Hubback (1905, 1937, and 1939), the person most responsible for founding the park, published pictures and stories of his experiences with seladang in the Pahang forests. Foenander (1952) named several rivers in the park as being traditional haunts of these animals. The location of herds in the park had been recorded through the years and was summarized by Khan (1971). Hislop (1961) wrote that finding the herds was not difficult since each was localized. The status of many of these herds at the time of the study (Table 1) was not known due to difficulties in reaching herd areas.

The Kuala Tahan herd was first reported by Ogilvie (1951) in 1947. Hislop (1961) pinpointed two other herds, one of which frequented the Jintoh salt lick and another the Pring valley. Thong (Khan, 1971), the Chief Game Warden since 1966, found evidence of two herds along the western park boundary and tracks of six seladang in the upper reaches of the Atok River (Figure 4).

I investigated the Jintoh salt lick and found fresh tracks of five seladang as well as those of tapir and elephant. I also found tracks of three single seladang further down the Sat River. This riverine habitat apparently then contained a resident herd.

At the mouth of the Pertang River, tracks of about 11 seladang were

Seladang herd census results in the Malaysian National Park, 1967-1969 Table 1.

Location	Type of Evidence	Date	Numbers	Remarks
Kuala Tahan	Seladang observed	Throughout study	10-19	Resident herd
Jenut Jentoh	Tracks observed	October 1, 1967	2	Resident herd
Merpoh	Tracks observed	October 7, 1967	12+	Resident herd
Sat River	Tracks observed	September 29, 1969	104	Resident herd
Kuala Trenggan	Seladang observed	September 20, 1968	5	Migrant herd
Kuala Tahan to	1 1 1 1	July 7-14, 1967	!	No signs found
Mt. Tahan				
Jenut Kumbang	t 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	October 10, 1967	;	No signs found
Jenut Atai	!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	October 11, 1967	!	No signs found
Sat River to	1 1 1 1	September 28 - October	;	No signs found
Kuala Koh		7, 1969		

seen. This area had long been cultivated by the Malay villagers now living outside the park. Rice and vegetable gardening was no longer practiced here and dense secondary forest had nearly eliminated the former fields but fruit from the orchards still within the park was still being collected. As the grassy vegetation dwindles under forest regrowth, it is not likely that this herd will remain.

A former Game Ranger (Pak Chik Manan in conversation) said that he had seen seladang in the area near Kuala Koh in 1941 before the Japanese occupation. A two-week trek was made to this area but while elephant were common there, no signs of seladang were seen. A group of nomadic forest people confirmed that seladang were no longer found here. They reasoned that the elephants had driven them away but, since an abandoned overgrown rubber plantation was the only evidence that agriculture had ever been practiced here, it seemed evident that seladang habitat had been completely eliminated by second-growth forest.

The area along the western boundary where two herds were reported (Khan, 1971) also was investigated. In the Relau River valley, tracks of two seladang were seen entering a nearby padi field outside the park.

At the natural salt licks Kumbang and Atai (Figure 4) only elephant, tapir, and deer sign were seen. Local Malay people reported that a seladang herd was sometimes seen 2½-3 miles outside the park near the railroad tracks at Merpoh (Figure 4). The Relau valley had once been logged, but secondary forest had shaded out the grasses and herbaceous plants. Khan (1971) reported that one of these herds was being poached by the villagers. I judged that only one herd still occupied the area and because of the lack of grasses and open vegetation in the park, this herd remains outside the park. Its continued existence seems in doubt.

Kuala Atok was reported by Hislop (1961) to be the southern

limit of the Kuala Tahan herd. The land adjacent to the Atok River was

marked on the 1951 Malaysian Government Survey map as agricultural land,

but now there is a ranger post here and former fields have reverted to

forest. The Kuala Tahan herd did not range this far south during the study

and there was no evidence of any seladang there. Reports of herds in the

upper reaches of the Atok River (Khan, 1971) and in the Pring valley

(Hislop, 1961) could not be investigated.

Vegetation and Food Analysis

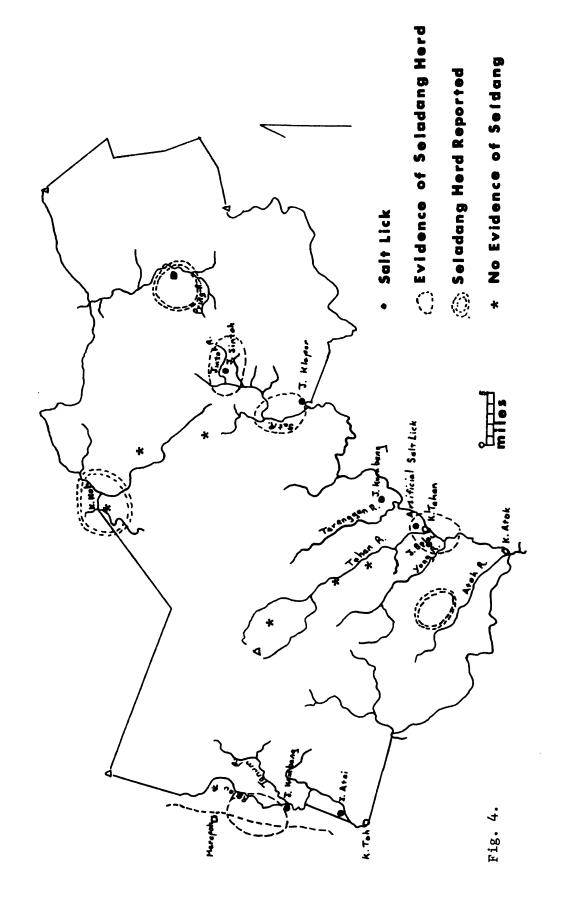
Seladang are both grazers and browsers. Hubback (1937) stated that their main food was grasses, with buffalo grass (Paspalum conjugatum) preferred. Young shoots of lalang (Imperata cylindrica) and the leaves of several shrubs also are eaten (Hubback, 1937). Foenander (1952) believed that rumput chenkenit (P. conjugatum) was an important food. He found that the seladang ate the young shoots of bamboo (Bambusia spp.) and fallen fruits of the simpoh (Dillenia spp.) and kerayong (Parkia javanica) trees. Schaller (1967) stated that the Indian gaur preferred green grass when available, but otherwise consumed dried grasses, forbs and leaves.

Of 89 species of plants observed to be eaten in the present study,
43 per cent were grasses and sedges. Trees, shrubs and vines browsed by
the seladang represented 36 per cent. Herbaceous vines and forbs were
represented by 19 species. During April, seladang sought the fruiting
pods of the kerayong tree. The fallen fruits of the simpoh and fig

(Ficus spp.) trees were occasionally sampled.

A browse survey similar to that suggested by Aldous (1944) was

Fig. 4. The distribution of seladang herds in the Malaysian National Park.



conducted in a 240 acre rubber tree plantation. <u>Eupatorium odoratum</u> (37.6%), <u>Mikania cordata</u> (20.1%) and <u>Paspalum conjugatum</u> (13.1%) were most common, making up 70.8% of the total forage available (Table 2). Of these species, <u>P. conjugatum</u> represented 43.8%, <u>M. cordata</u> 17.5% and <u>E. odoratum</u> 3.4% of the food in their diet. The most important food plants in the seladang diet were <u>P. conjugatum</u>, <u>M. cordata</u>, <u>E. odoratum</u> and <u>Athyrium spp</u>. Highly preferred foods such as <u>Scleria multifoliata</u>, miscellaneous woody species, and <u>Merremia umbellata</u> were relatively unimportant because of their low availability (Table 2). Of the three most important food plants <u>P. conjugatum</u> was preferred over <u>M. cordata</u> and <u>E. odoratum</u>. <u>Eupatorium odoratum</u> the most abundant of the food plants was least preferred of all species eaten.

Using the above method in a 21 acre experimental clearing (Table 3), it was found that grasses and sedges made up 49.7% of the available forage. Forbs were also 49.7% of the vegetation there. Mikania cordata (26.2%), Paspalum conjugatum (24.2%), Eupatorium odoratum (14.1%) and Ottochloa nodosa (11.2%) made up 75.7% of the total forage available. The plants most eaten were P. conjugatum (35.7%) and M. cordata (16.2%). In this clearing as in the rubber plantation the most important food plants were P. conjugatum and M. cordata. The sedges Gahnia baniensis, Cyperus kyllingia and Cyperus distans were the most preferred species but because of their low availability not very important. Of the most important food plants, P. conjugatum and Ottochloa nodosa were more preferred than either M. cordata or E. odoratum.

Nearly all (96 per cent) of the seladang's food plants were found in open areas of early successional vegetation. Of the 89 plant species utilized as food only one was confined to the primary forest.

Seladang forage survey in a 240 acre rubber tree plantation near Kuala Tahan, Malaysia, October 1969 Table 2.

Relative Importance =(d X e)	573.78 0.0 3.08 .21 .63	1.26	127.84 19.98 0.0	6.21 351.75 3.36	0.0 0.0 0.0 11.43
Preference Rating =(e/d)	3.34 0.0 .64 .43	31.50	.09 1.46 0.0	7.66 .87 .58	0.0 0.0 0.0 14.11
Percentage U) of Each E) Species in Diet(e) =(U/∑U)	43.8 0.0 1.4 .3	6.3	3.4 5.4 0.0	6.9 17.5 1.4	0.0 0.0 0.0 12.7
Use Factor(U) = (D X E)	173.4 0.0 5.4 1.3 3.8	25.0	13.3 21.3 0.0	27.5 69.0 5.5	0.0 0.0 0.0 50.0
Average Percentage Eaten(E)	11.7 0.0 2.1 1.7 5.0	100.0	5.0	27.5 3.0 2.0	0.0
Percentage of Each Species Available(d) = $\frac{D}{\sum D}$	13.1 5.7 2.2 .7	• 2	37.6 3.7 5.0	.9 20.1 2.4	9.5 2.0 6.0
age (D)	15.0 6.5 2.5 .8	e.	43.0 4.3 5.8	1.0 23.0 2.8	7.3
Percentage Average Frequency Percent Density	80.0 15.0 35.0 5.0	5.0	80.0 15.0 10.0	10.0 75.0 25.0	5.0 5.0 5.0 10.0
Forage Species	Grasses Paspalum conjugatum Imperata cylindrica Panicum sarmentosum Panicum trigonum Digitaria marginata	Sedges Scleria multifoliata	Forbs Eupatorium odoratum Athyrium spp. (fern) Musa spp.	Herbaceous Vines Merremia umbellata Mikania cordata Pasiflora foetida	Shrubs Melostoma malabathricum25.0 Uncaria cordata 5.0 Calanus spp. 5.0 Misc. woody spp. 10.0

Table 3. Seladang forage survey in a 21 acre experimental clearing at Kuala Tahan, Malaysia, October 1969

Grasses Frequency Crasses Frequency Paspalum Conjugatum 100.0 Ottochloa nodosa 16.7 Brachiaria brizantha 16.7 Panicum sarmentosum 16.7 Sedges Gahnia baniensis 16.7 Cyperus kyllingia 16.7 Cyperus distans 16.7
83.3 17.5 33.3 1.7 33.3 1.7
33.3 1.7 50.0 2.5 100.0 32.5
66.7 3.3 16.7 .8 16.7 .8

As was also evident from the seladang census, all herds in the park (with the exception of the Jintoh herd) were associated with padi fields which are generally abandoned after one crop. Seladang feed primarily on early seral vegetation in these abandoned fields.

Vegetative succession was studied by Wyatt-Smith (1949) on a 50 acre plot of lowland dipterocarp forest. This forest was similar to the lowland areas occupied by the seladang in the park. It was cleared, the slash burned, and rice planted. After one crop, it was abandoned. Four quadrats were laid out and observed at varying intervals. Quadrat B, typical of well drained soils was observed for five years. One year after abandonment, pure stands of Paspalum conjugatum mixed with Eupatorium odoratum amd the trees Mallotus macrostachys, Macaranga gigantea, Glochidion sericeum, and Trema spp. came in. The trees averaged 6-7 feet tall. After two years, a closed canopy was being formed at a height of 6-14 feet. Paspalum conjugatum then became reduced and Trema spp. began dying. By the end of three years, Mallotus macrostachys and Macaranga gigantea were 20 feet in height. Trema spp. had disappeared, though Mikania cordata was common. One open area which had been dominated by P. conjugatum was being invaded by the coarse grass Imperata cylindrica. After four years, there was a continuous canopy of M. gigantea and M. macrostachys 25-30 feet high. Though M. cordata, Imperata cylindrica and Eupatorium odoratum were still present, they were much reduced. In five years, the canopy of M. gigantea was 40 feet high and the shrub layer was nearly absent (Table 4).

Lalang (Imperata cylindrica), a common invading grass in open fields, can suppress other vegetation and temporarily arrest succession after a fire (Mitchell, 1964). This fire-climax species invaded quadrat E after an accidental fire and completely dominated the area (Wyatt-Smith, 1949).

Dominant-codominant plants recorded in a vegetative succession study in a lowland dipterocarp forest area, 1946-1950 by Wyatt-Smith (1949) with reference to the seladang Table 4.

Eaten by seladang	New shoots	Yes	Occasionally	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	!
Plant type	Grass	Trass	Forb	Creeper	Fern	Tree	Tree	Tree	Tree	!
Scientific name	Imperata cylindrica	Paspalum conjugatum	Eupatorium odoratum	Mikania cordata		Macaranga gigantea	Mallotus macrostachys	Glochidion sericeum	Trema spp.	Other woody spp.

To determine the proportion of plant changes from year to year in this area, a one percent milliacre survey over 34 acres was carried out (Wyatt-Smith, 1955). Changes in plant frequency were observed for $6\frac{1}{2}$ years (Figure 5). The increase in Paspalum conjugatum (Figure 5) in December 1949 was due to man's disturbance (Wyatt-Smith, 1955). The data indicates that at the end of three years important seladang food plants rapidly declined in frequency as the canopy formed.

A survey of this area in 1963 (Kochummen, 1966) showed that Macaranga gigantea was still dominant at an average height of 65 feet. Paspalum conjugatum and Mikania cordata were represented by only a few plants.

Sample plots indicated that M. gigantea was being replaced. Kochummen (1966) estimated that a lowland dipterocarp forest when cut, burned, cultivated, and abandoned would take 50 years to return to its original vegetation.

Salt Licks

Natural salt licks could be important in the distribution of seladang. Wharton (1957) found evidence suggesting that without salt licks
hoofed mammals would either perish or migrate. In the park, this seemed
to be indicated by the occurrence of one or more natural licks within the
home range of each seladang herd (Figure 4).

Opinions vary as to why salt licks are necessary. Hubback (1937) stated that sulfur and salt taken at the licks rids the seladang of intestinal parasites. Cowan and Brink (1949) suggested that the function of licks was to alter the intestinal flora and fauna. Experiments by Stockstad and Morris (1953) indicated that ungulates in western Montana were seeking a specific mineral, in that case sodium which is not readily

Fig. 5. The changes in dominant or codominant plant frequencies on 72 milliacre squares in a cleared lowland dipterocarp forest in Malaysia, 1947-1953 (adapted from Wyatt-Smith, 1955).

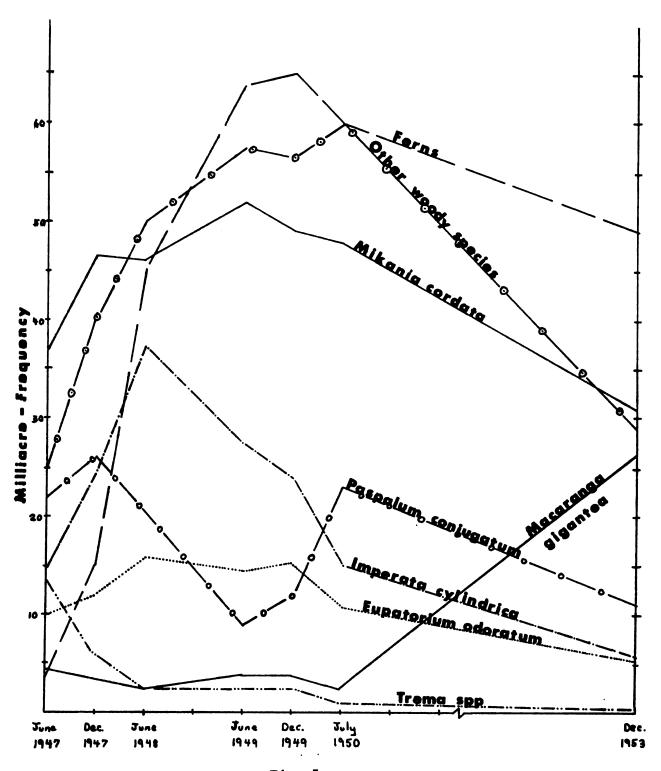


Fig. 5.

absorbed by plants.

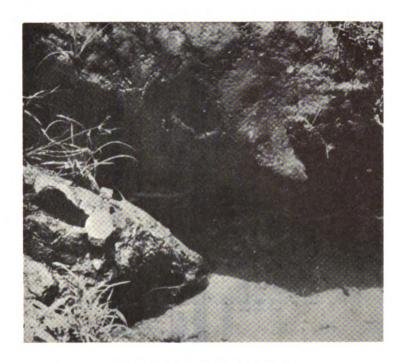
The natural licks in the park were located in boggy areas or along streams. The Kumbang (Trenggan River), Jintoh, and Belau salt licks each centered around a 3-4 foot rock which, where it edged the water, had a crystalline material at the water line (Figure 6). These licks did not appear to have a particular licking area. Though Foenander (1952) believed that seladang drink only the 'salty' water, at mineral licks in Cambodia (Wharton, 1957) and at the artificial lick at Kuala Tahan, the soil was eaten.

The analysis of several soil samples from the Malaysian National Park showed that Jenut Belau salt lick had a much higher concentration of sodium, calcium, and magnesium than the surrounding forest soil (Table 5). Termite mounds were used as salt licks in Cambodia (Wharton, 1957) but in the park the mineral concentration of one such mound did not differ appreciably from the nearby forest soil.

Seladang consumed soil from the artificial salt lick at Kuala Tahan on the day that the salt bag was buried. The herd visited this clearing six times throughout the study as compared with only two visits to the natural lick. The seladang utilized the artificial lick on the first 3-4 days of every visit remaining generally at the lick for 30 to 45 minutes each time. Although the animals remained in the clearing many more days, they did not again move to the lick en masse.

The use of the artificial salt lick and the mineral content of the natural salt lick seems to indicate that the seladang were seeking sodium. The instant and ready utilization of the artificial lick indicated its importance. Such licks could be an important management factor in establishing new herd areas.

Fig. 6 Salt licks in the Malaysian National Park. Note the white crystalline material at the Jenut Jintoh salt lick. The bag of rock salt has been exposed at the Kuala Tahan artificial salt lick.



Jenut Jintoh Salt Lick



Artificial Salt Lick
Fig. 6.

Mineral analysis of soil samples from the salt lick, a termite mound and forest soil at Jenut Belau in the Malaysian National Park, 1969 Table 5.

Collection	Hď		Minerals in parts per million	ts per million	
		Calcium	Magnesium	Potassium	Sodium
Salt lick crystals	8.0	4800	1900	11.9	4114
Salt lick soil	7.6	1980	11.6	2.9	
Termite mound	4.6	240	16.8	22	
Forest soil	4.6	250	17.6	22	992.4

Reproduction and Mortality

The Indian gaur mates in December and January in central India and from November to March in southern India (Schaller, 1967). Hubback (1937) noted new seladang calves throughout the year except from October to December. My data also indicated that calves were born throughout the year including October to December. Nine calves were born during the study.

The gestation period of the gaur is about nine months (Jarvis and Morris, 1959). Since a gaur cow from India gave birth to 13 calves during 16 years in the New York Zoological Park (Reed, 1959), seladang cows can probably produce a calf every year. Like females of the banteng (Hoogerwerf, 1970) and the Indian gaur (Schaller, 1967), seladang cows can likely mate initially at two years of age.

Schaller (1967) estimated that 80 per cent of adult gaur cows should be accompanied by calves after the calving season. He found that only 53 per cent of the cows had calves, and that the yearling to cow percentage was 24 per cent. Schaller attributed this difference to tiger predation.

The Tahan herd composition (Table 6) indicated that natality was quite high. The cow to yearling ratio was 1:1 during the peak population. Since this herd has never been reported to contain more than 19 animals (Ogilvie, 1951 and 1954) there is an apparent loss. Hislop (1961) stated that this herd is prolific but did not increase in proportion to the calves produced.

Tigers are present in the park and their tracks were found occasionally in the vicinity of the Tahan herd. Ogilvie (1954) attributed the disappearance of three calves from the Kuala Tahan

Observed composition of the Kuala Tahan seladang herd, Malaysian National Park Table 6.

arling					50
Calf:Cow:Yearl	.80:1:1	.71:1:0	1.2 : 1 : 1	1:1:1	.16:1:.5
Total	17	16	19	18	11
Adult male	က	4	m	က	-1
Adult female	5	7	5	5	9
Yearling	5	0	5	5	ო
Brown calf	4	5	4	5	Н
Orange calf	0	0	2	0	0
Date 0.	November 7, 1967	May 9, 1968	March 5, 1969	June 27, 1969	August 13, 1969

herd to tiger predation. Shuttlesworth (1965) observed two herd bulls kill an attacking tiger. A tiger was driven away from the Kuala Tahan herd in 1967 (Weigum, 1970). During the study no seladang remains were ever found. I believe that predation by tigers is of minor importance in the study region.

Mortality in the Indian gaur due to the cattle virus diseases hoof and mouth and rinderpest have been locally very high (Inverarity, 1889; Schaller, 1967; and Weigum, 1971). There has been no known seladang mortality due to these diseases. No parasitic ova (worm) were found in four dung samples from the Kuala Tahan herd.

Rather than mortality, the population stability of the Kuala Tahan herd seems to be due to emigration or splitting of the herd. Hislop (1961) recorded the fresh tracks of a herd near Kuala Kenyam an area which was never known to contain a resident herd. Thong (Khan, 1971) found tracks of six seladang above the upper reaches of the Atok River. In September 1968, five seladang were seen crossing Jenut Kumbang (Trenggan River), though the nearest resident herd was at Kuala Tahan, four miles southwest. In June 1969, the Kuala Tahan herd numbered 18, but in August 1969 this herd with the same master bull and lead cow had only 11 animals (Table 6). Later, tracks of five seladang in the rubber tree plantation indicated that a group was moving together yet independent of the main herd.

The Tahan herd from 1947 to 1954 varied between 11 and 18 animals (Ogilvie, 1951 and 1954). During the present study, the herd varied from 10 to 19 animals. Perhaps the basic herd of 10-12 animals (Hubback, 1937) loses cohesivesness as its numbers increase.

Home Range

Movements of the Kuala Tahan herd extended over five square miles (Figure 7). The greatest part of this range, however, was outside the park on the east bank of the Tembeling River. Four Malay villages are in this area and shifting cultivation has resulted in a swath of secondary vegetation approximately ½ mile wide and 4½ miles long.

The herd moves between feeding areas on old established trails.

They enter and leave the park at shallow crossing points near Kuala

Tahan and the Yong River (Figure 7). At Kuala Tahan, the herd visited the experimental clearing (Figure 8) on six occasions each time remaining from 9 to 15 days. During a period of 408 days however, the herd spent only 144 days in the park.

The close proximity of the villagers and the Kuala Tahan herd has been an advantage to the seladang. Because most of these people are either park employees or relatives, there was no poaching.

Immobilization

The problems of capturing large animals such as the seladang for study or translocation purposes have been greatly reduced with the perfection of new immobilizing drugs and the projectile syringe. The habitat pressures on certain seladang herds may mean that their translocation is the only alternative to extermination.

The oripavine derivative M.99 has been tested successfully as an immobilizing drug on many African animals (Wallach, 1967). The small dosages required and its relative safety give this drug many advantages. Harthoorn (1966) found that the injection of M.99 into hoofed animals in

Fig. 7. The range of the Kuala Tahan seladang herd on the borders of the Malaysian National Park.

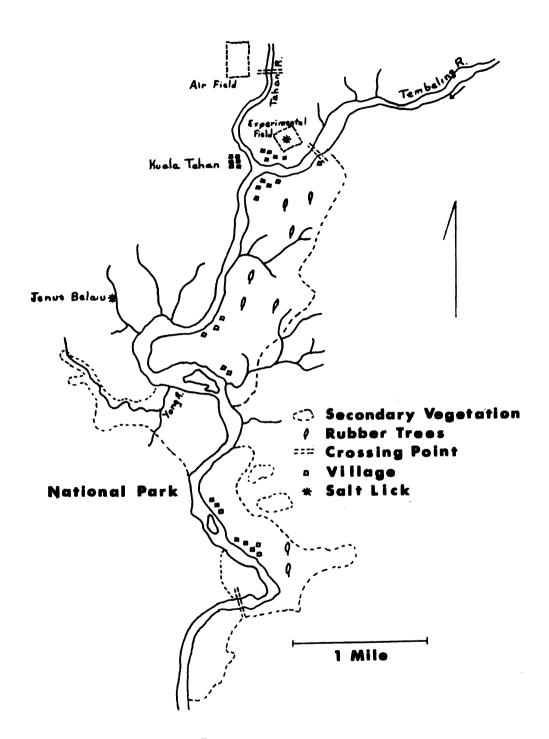


Fig. 7.

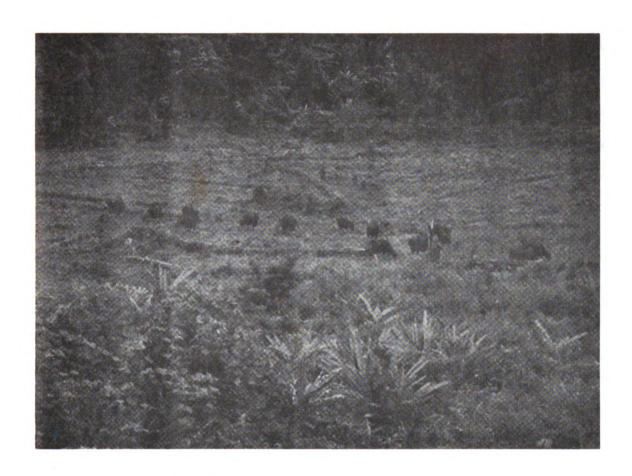


Fig. 8. Seladang grazing in the experimental clearing.

immobilizing doses produced minor depression of respiration, cessation of ruminal movements and a stiffness of the musculature of the neck and No visible effects were noted when two cows were injected with 1.5 and 2.5 mg of M.99 nor was a bull affected when injected with 3.0 However, a two-year old bull injected with 8 mg of M.99 in the left shoulder stopped after moving 984 feet. This bull remained on his feet but exhibited labored breathing accompanied by continuous moaning. He had a 'hunched' appearance (Figure 9) and unsteady legs. He showed fear and was not aggressive. Yet, he could not be handled. He fell four times in his attempts to escape. He first fell 50 minutes after injection and after lt hours lay thrashing on his back. Twenty mg of the antagonistic drug M.285 were injected into the muscles of the rump. The excited animal regained his feet and ceased moaning within 10 seconds after the injection. He stood quietly for five minutes before walking into the brush. He rejoined the herd with no apparent ill effects. The dosage rate of 8 mg M.99 could probably be increased and with the addition of a tranquilizer undue excitement could be reduced (Wallach, 1967).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Seladang feed in areas of early successional vegetation. Without man's influence such vegetation is found primarily along river edges.

Of the four herds in the park, only the Jintoh herd was considered to occupy such a riverine habitat. With the present secure park boundaries, shifting agriculture is no longer practiced in the park. The seladang herds in these areas have either disappeared, as at Kuala Koh, or have moved outside the park as at Merapoh.

The Kuala Tahan herd appeared to become stablized by frequent

Fig. 9. Seladang bull immobilized with the drug M.99.

emigrations. These 'surplus' animals could form other resident herds if more habitat were available. Evidence from the experimental field suggests that forest clearcutting can create suitable seladang habitat and will also benefit other large animals such as the sambar deer (Cervus unicolor) and the wild pig (Sus scrofa). The 11½ acre clearing supported the herd for nearly two weeks. Allowing one month for vegetative recovery, three such fields could cupport a herd year round. It is therefore recommended that to maintain a herd of 10-12 animals: (1) three 15 acre plots ½ mile apart be clearcut and burned, (2) these plots be recut every three years but not burned again, and (3) an artificial salt lick be made in one of these plots by burying a 5 pound bag of rock salt one foot deep.

The Merpoh and Sat herds are immediately threatened by the loss of suitable habitat and should be given first priority in clearcutting.

SUMMARY

To aid in preserving the Malaysian subspecies of gaur (Bos gaurus hubbacki), known locally as the seladang, a study of the Kuala Tahan and other herds was conducted in the National Park of Malaysia from September 1967 to November 1969.

A survey in the park located only four herds. The herds which occupied the Pertang valley previous to the Japanese occupation in 1942 are no longer present. With the exception of on herd, all were in or close to areas which are being cultivated or recently have been disturbed by man.

Of the 89 plant species observed in the diet of these wild cattle, 96 per cent occurred mainly in the early secondary vegetation of river edges, clearings and secondary forest. The most important food plant was the grass Paspalum conjugatum. Also important were herbaceous creepers, especially Mikania cordata.

An experimental 6 acre field was expanded to 11½ acres and finally to 21 acres. Invading vegetation consisted primarily of grasses, especially Paspalum conjugatum and the vine Mikania cordata. The Kuala Tahan herd visited this field and remained from 9 to 15 days.

One or more natural mineral licks occurred within the home range of each existing herd and may be important in determining the suitability of an area for seladang. Mineral analysis of one lick showed it to be rich in sodium, calcium, and magnesium. A station artificially salted with NaCl was found to be more frequently visited than was a nearby natural lick.

The Kuala Tahan herd has maintained a stable population of 10-19 individuals since 1947. The ratio of immature animals to adults indicated it to be a health growing herd. Lack of evidence showing high mortality due to disease or predation suggested that emigration may be the major stabilizing factor in this population.

The Tembeling River which runs through the five square mile range of the Kuala Tahan herd is part of the park boundary. The herd was observed to remain on the east bank of this river and outside the park at least 65 per cent of the time, mostly in a rubber plantation and old fields.

The immobilizing drug M.99 was found to be apparently suitable for capturing seladang for possible relocation and study.

The seladang is an animal of the early stages in vegetative succession.

Vegetative succession studies by the Malaysian Forestry Department indicated that tracts of lowland dipterocarp forests which are cut, burned, planted, and abandoned will return to a climax stage in about 50 years.

By the end of four years however, there is complete canopy which shades out the important food plants of the seladang. Seladang herds cannot be expected to survive in the Malaysian National Park unless efforts are

made continuously to maintain those early stages.

It is recommended that in each area where a resident herd is desired, 45 acres of land must be clearcut preferably in 15 acre plots one half-mile apart. These plots should be recut every three years but without further burning. The Merpoh and Sat herds are in immediate danger and whould be given first priority in clearcutting. Animals occupying areas outside the National Park can be relocated in the park, but only if further habitat is developed for them.

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APPENDIX 1

The scientific names, location, and relative distribution of the plants eaten by the Kuala Tahan seladang. 1

Remarks	One of the most pre- ferred and important food plants				Heavily grazed on oc- casion			Heavily grazed on oc- casion		
Distribution	Common-abundant	Common in old padi fields-scattered	Common-scattered	Common-scattered	Common-abundant in some fields	Rare-in one padi field	Common-scattered	Common-abundant in some fields	Common-abundant in one padi field	
Locality	Abandoned fields and clearings	Abandoned fields and clearings	Most clearings	Clearings in shady places	Clearings in shady places	Wet places	Forest edges	Most clearings	Abandoned fields and clearings	
Malay Name	Rumput chenkenit	Peher belalang				Kumpai	Telebong	Rumput dawai	Sambal	
Scientific Name Graminese (Grasses)	Paspalum conjugatum	Paspalum scrobiculatum	Panicum pilipes	Panicum trigonum	Panicum brevifolium	Panicum amplexicaule	Panicum sarmentosum	Ottochloa nodosa	Eleusine indica	

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

on Remarks	t in Coarse grass often 10 feet tall-leaf tips occasionally eaten		t in Fire tolerant species grazed when young	Heavily grazed when encountered	t in	t in Reed sometimes 12 feet tall-leaves and stems occasionaly grazed	eq	t in	
Distribution	Common-abundant in places		Common-abundant airstrip	Rare	Common-abundant places	Common-abundant in places	Common-scattered	Common-abundant places	Rare
Locality	River edges	Introduced in the experimental clearing	Abandoned fields and clearings	Clearings and river edges	Clearings	River edges	Clearings in shady places	Abandoned fields clearings	Clearings in wet places
Malay Name	Perimping		Lalang			Rumput gedabong			
Scientific Name Gramineae	Themeda villosa	Brachiaria brizantha	Imperata cylindrica	Coelorachis glandulosa	Axonopus compressus	Phragmites communis	Oplismenus compositus	Centotheca lappacea	<u>Setaria palmifolia</u>

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	Malay Name	Locality	Distribution	Remarks
Cyperaceae				
Cyperus aromaticus		Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-scattered	
Cyperus diffusus	Para-para	Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-scattered	
Cyperus compactus		Clearings in wet places	Common-abundant in one field	Coarse sedge often grazed
Cyperus distans	Rumput wangi	Clearings	Common-scattered	
Cyperus kyllingia		Clearings	Common-scattered	
Scleria multifoliata		Clearings	Common-scattered	Leaf tips sometimes eaten
Scleria lithosperma	Sasink	Clearings in shady places	Common-scattered	
Gahnia baniensis		Clearings	Common-scattered	Only rarely sampled
Fimbristylis globulosa	Rumput sandang	Clearings in wet places	Common-abundant in one field	Heavily grazed on occasion
Rhynchospora aurea	Kumboh	Clearings in wet places	Common-scattered in one field	

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	Malay Name	Locality	Distribution	Remarks
(Forbs) Compositae				
Eupatorium odoratum	Kelambu harimau	Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-abundant	Colonizer forming dense thickets 5-10 feet tallplant tips occasionally eaten
Synedrella nodiflora	Rumput babi	Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-scattered	Occasionally browsed
Labitae				
Hyptis brevipes	Butan baju	Common only near Jenut Belau salt lick	Rare	Plant tips browsed
Tiliaceae				
Triumfetta bartramia		Abandoned fields	Common-abundant in one field	Leaves and young shoots browsed
Corchorus aestuans	Kapas hantu	Common only near Jenut Belau salt lick	Rare	Occasionally browsed
Musaceae				
Musa spp.	Pisang	Cultivated and wild species in clearings	Common-abundant gregarious along river edges	Both leaves and young bannanas eaten
_	-	-		

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	Malay Name	Locality	Distribution	Remarks
(Ferns) Dennstaedtlaceae				
Athyrium esculentum	Paku	Clearings and river edges	Common-scattered	Leaf tips occasionally eaten
Stenochlaena palustris	Paku	Brushy fields and early secondary forest	Common-scattered	Leaf tips occasionally eaten
Nephrolepis biserrata	Paku	Brushy fields and early secondary forest	Rare	
(Herbaceous vines) Convolvulaceae				
Merremia umbellata	Ulan minyak	Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-abundant in most fields	Important food plant- leaves and stem eaten
Merremia tridentata		Clearings and river edges	Rare	
Merremia hederaceae	Ulan susu	Abandoned fields and grassy places	Common-abundant in recently abandoned fields	Important food plant- Leaves and stem eaten
Merremia <u>vitifolla</u>	Ulan buloh	Clearings and open secondary forest	Common-scattered	

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	Malay Name	Locality	Distribution	Remarks
Compositae	·			
Mikania cordata	Selaput tunggul	Abandoned fields, clearings, and early secondary forest	Common-abundant	One of the most pre- ferred and important food plants
Passifloraceae				
Passiflora foetida	Timn padang	Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-abundant in a few fields	Occasionally browsed
Menispermaceae				
Pericampylus glaucus	Akar gasing puteh	Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-scattered	
Leguminosae				
Vigna parviflora		Clearings	Rare	
Canavalia microcarpa		Abandoned fields and clearings	Rare	Leaves browsed when encountered
Desmodium spp.		Open brushy fields	Rare	
(Woody vines) Rubiaceae				
Uncaria cordata		Brushy fields and secondary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves browsed when encountered

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	Malay Name	Locality	Distribution	Remarks
Ampelidaceae				
Vitis spp.	Asam papan	Secondary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves and young shoots browsed
Oleaceae				
Jasminum spp.	Chandas	Secondary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves browsed
Palmaceae				
Calanus spp.	Rotan	Secondary and primary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves browsed
(Shrubs) Verbenaceae				
Clerodendron serratum	Tamin tasek	Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-abundant in places	Leaves and twigs often heavily browsed
Euphorbiaceae				
Flueggea virosa	Bebeti	River edges	Common-scattered	Leaves occasionally eaten
Oleaceae				
Jasminum bifarium		Clearings and river edges	Common-scattered	Leaves browsed

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	Malay Name	Locality	Distribution	Remarks
Malvaceae	·			
Sida cordifolia	Berpelut	Abandoned fields and clearings	Common-scattered	Leaves are often heavily browsed
Zingiberaceae				
Costus speciosa	Kaki rusa	Clearings and forest edges	Common-abundant near river	Rarely browsed
Rubiaceae				
Uncaria spp.		Clearings and brushy fields	Rare	Heavily browsed when encountered
Urticaceae				
Ficus spp.		Clearings and brushy fields	Germon-scattered	Heavily browsed when encountered
Ampelidaceae				
Leea indica	Batang mali	Secondary and primary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves and shoots browsed
Leguminosae				
Flemingia macrophylla		Clearings and brushy fields	Rare	Heavily browsed when encountered

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Remarks		Leaves and twigs of saplings browsed		Seed pods relished-the hard seeds deposited intact with dung	Leaves and young shoots eaten		Colonizer-leaves and shoots often heavily browsed	Leaves and young shoots occasionally browsed-the fruits were never known to be eaten	Fruits occasionally eaten	Leaves and twigs browsed
Distribution		Rare		Rare	Common-scattered		Common-abundant in recently abandoned fields	Common-abundant in places	Common-scattered	Common-scattered
Locality		Secondary forest		Primary forest	Secondary forest		Abandoned fields and clearings	River edges	River edges	Brushy fields
Malay Name		Sepuleh		Kerayong	Saga		Mengkirai	Ara	Ara	Kenidai
Scientific Name	(Trees) Loganiaceae	Fagraea racemosa	Leguminosae	Parkia javanica	Pithecellobium angulatum	Urticaceae	Trema orientalis	Ficus glomerata	Ficus obpyramidata	Euphorbiaceae Bridelia stipularis

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	Malay Name	Locality	Distribution	Remarks
Euphorbiaceae				
Macaranga puncticulata	Mahang	Secondary forest	Common-abundant	Colonizer-leaves of saplings occasionally browsed
	Buah keras malam	Secondary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves of saplings occasionally browsed
Croton spp.	Pedai babi	Secondary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves occasionally browsed
Glochidion obscurum	Tembangau	River edges	Common-scattered	Leaves occasionally browsed
Hevea brasiliensis	Pokok getah	Cultivated tree		The rubber tree is the main source of income for many Malays-seladang relish leaves and shoots
Araliaceae				
Trevesia cheirantha	Pokok itek	Secondary forest	Rare	Leaves and young shoots relished
Verbenaceae	V. 1			
Callicarpa tomentosa	Derdap dapur	Secondary and primary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves and young shoots occasionally eaten
Myrtaceae				
Eugenia jambos	Jambu	Cultivated	Rare	Leaves and shoots occasionally eaten

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	Malay Name	Location	Distribution	Remarks
Myrtaceae				
Eugenia aquea	Jambu ayer	Cultivated	Rare	Leaves and shoots occasionally browsed
Dilleniaceae				
Dillenia ovata	Simpoh	Secondary forest	Common-abundant in places	Fruit is very rare ly sampled
Hypericaceae				
Cratoxylon formosum	Mempat	Secondary and primary forest	Common-scattered	Leaves and shoots of saplings browsed
Rhizophoraceae				
Gynotroches axillaris	Mata keli	Secondary forest	Common-scattered	New leaves and sucker shoots browsed

¹Scientific names taken from Henderson, M. R. Malayan wild flowers. 2 v. Monocotyledons. 357 pp. 1954.

Dicotyledons. 478 pp. 1959. Caxton Press Ltd., Kuala Lumpur. Dr. P. R. Wytcherly, head of
Botanical Division, Pusat Penyelidekan Getah Tanah Melayu and Dr. E. Soepadmo, botanist at University of Malaya helped with plant identification.

