DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF NON-FLYING SMALL MAMMALS IN CROCKER RANGE PARK (CRP), SABAH, MALAYSIA

NUR SUFYNA BINTI JOSE

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University Teknologi MARA

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ABSTRACT

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF NON-FLYING SMALL MAMMALS AT HEADQUARTERS OF CROCKER RANGE PARK, SABAH, MALAYSIA

A study on the non-flying small mammals was conducted at four different trails in headquarters of Crocker Range Park which namely Crocker Trail, Park Garden, Taman Banjaran Crocker (TBC) Road and Counter Road within three consecutive months starting from March to May 2016. The objectives of this study were to identify the species of non-flying small mammals in the study site, to map out the distribution pattern of non-flying small mammals in the terrestrial area of the study site and to determine the relative abundance of non-flying small mammals in the study site. The total trapping effort was 240 traps. Overall, there were 44 individuals of non-flying small mammals that consist of 6 species from 3 families caught at all trails. The distribution pattern of non-flying small mammals was not distributed evenly in headquarters of Crocker Range Park. Counter Road showed the highest total captured for non-flying small mammals with total 16 individuals. This might due to several factors such as human activities, habitat selection by the non-flying small mammals, weather fluctuation, traps design, traps placement and bait used. Callosciurus notatus have the highest relative abundance among the other species in this study. It is recommended to carry out this study in the other area of Crocker Range Park in order to enhance the conservation management of non-flying small mammals biodiversity in all area of Crocker Range Park.