

FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF PROBOSCIS MONKEY
(*Nasalis larvatus*) IN KLIAS PENINSULA

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ABSTRACT

FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF PROBOSCIS MONKEY (*Nasalis larvatus*) IN KLIAS PENINSULA

Proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) is endemic to Borneo and is listed as an endangered species. Study on the feeding behavior and nutrient composition of food taken by this monkey have been conducted in Klias peninsula within 4 months. The objectives of this study were to determine the feeding behavior of proboscis monkey and to analyze the proximate composition of proboscis monkey food preferences in Klias peninsula. The result of this study showed that there are 11 plant species of plant that consumed by proboscis monkey in Klias peninsula with *Ficus microcarpa* as the most preferred plant. It contained high dry matter (high water content) and lower crude fiber. Based on the observation made, the peak time of feeding for proboscis monkey is between 0600 am to 0700 am in the morning and 1530 pm to 1630 pm in the late of afternoon. For the plant part preferences, proboscis monkey prefer to consume young leaves rather than mature leaves, shoot, flower, and fruit. This is due to the content of the young leaves which have high water content and lower fibre. All the findings in this study can contribute to better understanding of feeding behavior and proximate content on the plants that eaten by the proboscis monkeys. Such information is useful to ensure their survival in the wild and in captivity.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Proboscis monkeys are arboreal primates which are endemic in Borneo (Meijaard, 2000; Matsuda *et. al.*, 2011) and they are locally known as orang Belanda, or Dutchman because of their similarity to colonialist. It is due to the hairy, pot-bellied, and big-nosed physical characters. According to *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (IUCN 2008), the proboscis monkey has classified as an endangered species and also listed under Appendix I of CITES (UNEP-WCMC 2007).

Mangrove, peat swamps, and riverine forest such were the habitat of the proboscis monkeys (Sha *et. al.*, 2008; Matsuda *et. al.*, 2009). The study has been done in Klias Peat Swamp Forest Reserve or Klias Forest Reserve (KFR). It was gazetted as a Class 1 protection forest with an area of 3,630 ha and located within the Klias peninsula. Habitat destruction, hunting, and tourism are the threats for this monkey. Klias Peninsula is known to be the only major center of proboscis monkey distribution on the west coast Sabah (Sha *et. al.*, 2008). However, conversion, extractions, and disturbance of habitat give impacts to the species and there is a need