

16th Australasian Bat Society Conference and AGM 2014

Ongoing studies on the bats of Danum Valley Borneo.

Scott Castle¹, Elizabeth Kernan¹, Megan Backhausen¹, Emma Delarue¹, Ket Fossen¹, Catalina Graziano¹, Jennifer Hawkes¹, Taylah Locastro, Michelle Mason¹, Chris Corban², Terry Reardon³, Simon Robson^{1,4}

¹ Marine & Tropical Biology, James Cook University

² www.hoarybat.com

³ Evolutionary Biology Unit, South Australian Museum

⁴ Centre for Tropical Biodiversity & Climate Change

Here we provide an update on the batting activities of the James Cook University's biannual undergraduate field trip to Danum Valley Field Centre in Borneo. The 2013 trip focussed on various bat surveying techniques, with an emphasis on the use and effectiveness of the EM3 full-spectrum and Anabat II ZCAM ultrasonic detectors. We captured a total of thirty-three individuals of 12 different species in harp traps and mist nets, three species of which had not been encountered on previous surveys. We collected an additional 16,500 call files and in total, we now have a call library of 43 microbat species (of which 28 can be allocated to individual species) along with high-quality photographs of 20 micro- and megabats. It will be no surprise that Terry Reardon also took dynamic photographs of individuals in flight upon release, and generously donated his flash-setup to the staff of Danum Valley. Future field trips will continue to build the call and photo library as well as collect tissue samples for collaborative studies with scientists in Malaysia and Australia. We plan to make the calls and photos available via an open-access WWW page.