

Mainland leopard cat on Pulau Ubin

Fung Tze Kwan, Marcus A. H. Chua, Robert C. H. Teo & N. Sivasothi

fungtzekwan@gmail.com (Fung)

Subject: Mainland leopard cat, *Prionailurus bengalensis* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae).

Subject identified by: Authors.

Location, date and time: Pulau Ubin, eastern forest fragment; 16 January 2014; 2015 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observer: Fung Tze Kwan, with camera trap.

Observation: A sub-adult was recorded on the 50th camera trap night at a camera trap location. The accompanying picture shows the individual walking past, through the vegetation.



Camera trap photograph by Fung Tze Kwan

Remarks: The leopard cat was recorded only once in 3078 camera trap nights throughout a year-long camera trapping study conducted by the observer from 8 July 2013 to 13 August 2014 on Pulau Ubin. This is the first photographic record of a wild leopard cat on Pulau Ubin in 17 years. The last verified record of this species on Pulau Ubin was an individual found caught in the fishing net by a villager in 1997 (Nathan, 1997). A sighting of a leopard cat on Pulau Ubin in 2001 was reported to R. C. H. Teo. However, it could not be verified due to the lack of photographic evidence. Elsewhere in Singapore, the leopard cat has recently been recorded from the Western Catchment Area, the Central Catchment Nature Reserve and Pulau Tekong (Chua, 2015; Chua et al., 2015, Chua et al., 2016).

Kitchener et al. (2017) have divided the leopard cats at the species level into the mainland leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) that inhabits continental Asia, and the Sunda leopard cat (*Prionailurus javanensis*) that is distributed on the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo and the Philippines. The Singapore population is herein recognised as *Prionailurus bengalensis*.

References:

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- Nathan, D., 1997. Leopard cat found recently on Pulau Ubin. *The Straits Times*. Tuesday, 1 April 1997: Home, p. 44.

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