

## THE AUTHORSHIP AND TYPE LOCALITY OF THE BANDED LEAF MONKEY, *PRESBYTIS FEMORALIS*

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**ABSTRACT.** — The history of the description of the name *Semnopithecus femoralis* (currently *Presbytis femoralis*) is revisited to highlight the nomenclatural issues relating to the authorship, date, and type locality of this taxon. The author is Martin and the year of publication is 1838, hence, *Presbytis femoralis* (Martin, 1838). Although the species was originally described from several localities, the type locality has been determined to be restricted to Singapore.

**KEY WORDS.** — *Presbytis*, *Semnopithecus*, *femoralis*, leaf monkey, Raffles, Horsfield, syntype, Singapore, type locality

*Presbytis femoralis* is a species of colobine (Old World) monkey that was first described as *Semnopithecus femoralis*. It is commonly known as the banded leaf monkey, banded langur, or Raffles’s surili (Baker & Lim, 2012: 135). The authorship of the scientific name is widely credited to W. C. L. Martin, and the type locality is recognised as Singapore (Corbet & Hill, 1992: 172; Brandon-Jones et al., 2004: 123; Groves, 2005: 171; Meyer et al., 2011: 317; Roos et al., 2014: 10). However, in the original article by Martin (1838: 436, reproduced as Fig. 1 herein), the authorship of the name is attributed to “Horsf.” (i.e., Thomas Horsfield), and the type localities (i.e., “Habitat”) are given as “Sumatra, &c.”.

Thomas Stamford Raffles (1821: 247) tentatively identified the “Lotong of the Malays” as found at “Singapore and Penang” as “*Simia maura* ?”. Martin (1838: 436) considered the taxon tentatively identified by Thomas Stamford Raffles (1821: 247) as *Simia maura* to be different from the original *Simia maura* of Schreiber (1775). He identified Raffles’ material to be *Semnopithecus femoralis*, a name he likely obtained from a book entitled ‘Memoir of the Life and Public Services of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles’ by Sophia Raffles, the widow of Raffles. In the appendix accompanying this work, the following entry is made: “*Semn[opithecus] femoralis*, Horsf. Habitat in Sumatrâ et Javâ. In Musaeis Socc. Zool. et Ind. Orient.” (S. Raffles, 1830: 642). As no diagnosis, description, illustration, or bibliographic reference to such information accompanies the name, it is a nomen nudum under Article 12 of the ‘International Code of Zoological Nomenclature’ (hereafter the Code, ICZN, 1999: 16, 17). Therefore, the name *Semnopithecus femoralis* as published by Sophia Raffles (1830: 642) is neither available nor valid. The same applies to

### ***S. femoralis*, Horsf. White-thighed Monkey.**

Top of the head and occipital tuft of hair, back, and shoulders to the elbows, dusky greyish brown; the frontal hairs, which diverge forwards, the sides of the head and body, the fore arms and outside of the thighs, the legs, hands, feet, and tail, black, slightly grizzled, especially the fore arms, with white; the chin white; as is also a line down the chest and abdomen to the lower part, which is all white; the inside of the *humerus* from the *axilla*, and the inside of the thighs, white, with an abrupt margin. No tuft on the sides of the face; a line of short black hairs on the molar bones.

Length 19 inches; tail 22½ inches.

*Habitat* Sumatra, &c.

Syn.—“*Simia Maura* ?” of Sir S. Raffles, in Linn. Trans. vol. xiii. but not the *S. Maura* of Schreber.

*Lotong* of the Malays.

*Cercopithecus albo-cinereus*, Desm. ?

the name “*Semnopithecus femoralis*. Horsf.” as used by Waterhouse (1838: 5) in a catalogue of mammals in the collections of the East India Company.

The attribution of the name to Thomas Horsfield is likely then to have been a result of the use of one or more manuscripts of Thomas Horsfield which came into the hands of Sophia Raffles (1830: 642) and Waterhouse (1838: 5). Elsewhere, there is no description of *Semnopithecus femoralis* published by Horsfield. Martin (1838: 436), therefore, becomes the author of *Semnopithecus femoralis* as his is the first publication to use the name and fulfil all criteria for making the name available (Articles 10–12 of the Code, ICZN, 1999: 8–17). The above was also noted by Pocock (1928: 675 as *Pithecus femoralis*), but subsequently not mentioned by later authors such as Corbet & Hill (1992: 172), Brandon-Jones et al. (2004: 123), Groves (2001: 277; 2005: 171), Meyer et al. (2011: 317), and Roos et al. (2014: 10).

According to Martin (1838: 436), the geographic distribution of *Semnopithecus femoralis* is “Sumatra, &c.”. It includes all the source localities of the material referred to by him which, apart from Sumatra, would also include Singapore and Penang (Raffles, 1821: 247 as *Simia maura* ?). These discrepancies in the type localities given for *Semnopithecus femoralis* have led to confusion. Raffles (1821: 247 as *Simia maura* ?) gives “Singapore and Penang”, Martin (1838: 436 as *Semnopithecus femoralis*) and Horsfield (1851: 10 as *Semnopithecus femoralis*) both give “Sumatra”, Martin (1841: 480) gives “Borneo, Java (?), Sumatra (?)”, while Thomas (1886: 66 as *Semnopithecus femoralis*) and Eliot (1912: 45 as *Pygathrix femoralis*) both give “Bankasun”.

As noted by Pocock (1935: 901, footnote), the matter of the type locality was finally resolved by Miller (1913: 28, 29) who clearly considered the Sumatran locality to be erroneous and restricted the type locality of *Semnopithecus femoralis* to “Singapore”. Miller (1913: 28, 29) stated that “[i]n the original description of *Presbytis femoralis*, supposed to equal ‘*Simia maura* ?’ of Raffles, the type-locality is said to be ‘Sumatra, etc.’ As the carefully written account of the animal’s color is not appropriate to any of the known Sumatran forms of the group, while it exactly applies to the one occurring on Singapore Island, where Raffles obtained much of his material, I have no hesitation in regarding Singapore as the true type-locality”. His action is in agreement with Recommendation 76A.2 of the Code (ICZN, 1999: 87) which states that “[a] statement of type locality that is found to be erroneous should be corrected”.

The correction of type locality by Miller (1913: 28, 29) was also recognised by Pocock (1935: 901, 902) and Napier (1985: 41). Miller (1934: 130) later provided an additional discussion on the justification for the restriction of type locality. Thomas (1886: 66) and Pocock (1928: 675; 1935: 901, 902) stated that the type of *Semnopithecus femoralis* Martin, 1838, is in the British Museum (Natural History) (now the Natural History Museum). Napier (1985: 43) correctly stated that this is a syntype of *Semnopithecus femoralis* Martin, 1838, and is comprised of a skull and skin from a juvenile male and is accessioned as NHMUK 1879.11.21.594. It was previously held in the collections of the East India Company and was presented by Thomas Stamford Raffles (see Waterhouse, 1838: 5).

It must be noted that the blackish langurs (the *Simia maura* ? of Raffles, 1821: 247) of Singapore and Penang are not conspecific at both localities. The nominate subspecies of *Presbytis femoralis*, occurs in Singapore, while Penang is inhabited by *Trachypithecus obscurus halonifer* (see Roos et al., 2014: 10, 13). While both species are sympatric on the mainland of the Malay Peninsula, they do not occur together on either Singapore or Penang (see Medway, 1983: 49, 50, as *Presbytis obscura halonifer* and *Presbytis melalophos femoralis*).

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