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9 **The first recorded activity pattern for the Sunda stink-badger *Mydaus javanensis* (Mammalia:**  
10 **Carnivora: Mephitidae) using camera traps**

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25

26 **Abstract** The Sunda stink-badger *Mydaus javanensis* is a small carnivore inhabiting the Southeast  
27 Asian islands of Borneo, Java, Sumatra, and the Natuna Archipelago. Documented sightings are  
28 relatively common, yet the species' behavioural ecology remains poorly understood. Whilst the  
29 species is reported to be broadly nocturnal, its detailed activity pattern has never been quantified.  
30 This study analysed photographic events from a large scale, long-term camera trapping study to  
31 assess times of activity for the Sunda stink-badger. The study took place within the lowland riparian  
32 forest corridor of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary (LKWS) in the Northeast Bornean  
33 state of Sabah. Through 2010–2015, 24,506 potential trap nights collected 2,268 Sunda stink-badger  
34 images across 470 unique events. Sunda stink-badger activity pattern was modelled using kernel  
35 density estimation, and indicated a highly nocturnal activity pattern with no detected activity during  
36 the diurnal hours, consistent with previous records. All photographs were taken between 1839 h and  
37 0627 h, and modelling indicated two clear peaks in nocturnal activity, the first at 2100 h and the  
38 second at 0500 h. Overlap in activity patterns was found to be high ( $\geq 80\%$ ) between wet and dry  
39 seasons, and also between moon phases, indicating a lack of seasonal or lunar effects on Sunda  
40 stink-badger activity. An encounter rate of 1.92 unique Sunda stink-badger events per 100 potential  
41 trap nights was recorded for the LKWS. This encounter rate was lower than those found in other  
42 regional studies with lower levels of anthropogenic disturbance, suggesting extensive  
43 anthropogenic disturbance may pose a potential negative impact to the species. Whilst activity  
44 patterns derived from camera trapping are restricted to movement through the environment, these  
45 results have established a baseline for Sunda stink-badger activity patterns within a fragmented  
46 habitat subjected to high levels of anthropogenic disturbance, and have improved the basic  
47 ecological understanding of the species.

48 **Key words.** camera trapping, Borneo, carnivore, animal behaviour, overlap

49

50

## INTRODUCTION

51 The Bornean carnivore guild is a highly biodiverse and highly threatened guild of 25 species  
52 (Shepherd et al., 2011); despite increasing research efforts in the region, the behavioural ecology of  
53 these species remains poorly understood. Many of the Bornean carnivores reside in remote habitats  
54 or at low densities; however, it is their tendencies to display secretive behaviours and nocturnal  
55 activity patterns that present the most significant challenges to behavioural studies (Sunarto et al.,  
56 2013). Until recently, studies that did occur required long term, large scale, highly expensive or  
57 logistically demanding methodologies. To address these issues, camera traps are now being widely  
58 utilised to study the guild and have been effective tools to counter some of the difficulties  
59 associated with researching tropical carnivores (Sunarto et al., 2013). Within the Bornean carnivore  
60 guild is the Sunda stink-badger *Mydaus javanensis* (Leschenault, in Desmarest) (Fig. A1, Fig. A3);  
61 a small, robust-bodied carnivore found across the Southeast Asian islands of Java, Sumatra,  
62 Borneo, and the Natuna Archipelago. The species is amongst the least-studied within the Bornean  
63 carnivore guild, yet is well known throughout the region for its “abominable odour” (Brehm, 1896).  
64 Whilst the species is not considered under immediate threat, it is this lack of studies which makes  
65 the Sunda stink-badger suitable for single-species targeted research.

66 The Sunda stink-badger is a nocturnal ground-dwelling skunk (Mephitidae) weighing 1.4–3.6 kg,  
67 with a head-body length of 375–510 mm (Hwang & Lariviere, 2003). As is the case with nearly all  
68 other carnivores in the region, there is a paucity of ecological data for the Sunda stink-badger.  
69 Comments on its habitat use have varied significantly, with some sources suggesting it is mainly  
70 found at high altitudes (Hwang & Lariviere, 2003); however, in some of its range the species has  
71 shown extensive use of lowland plains (e.g. Sabah; Payne et al., 1985; Samejima et al., 2016). Little  
72 is known of the threats facing the Sunda stink-badger, and it is currently listed as Least Concern by  
73 the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Wilting et al., 2015). This listing is based on the  
74 apparent ability of Sunda stink-badgers to withstand habitat degradation and fragmentation, paired  
75 with the lack of records in large-scale bushmeat hunting reports, in the context of its large (relative  
76 to Red List thresholds) geographical range and inferred large population (Samejima et al., 2016).

77 There are indications of a historical reduction in the distribution of the Sunda stink-badger in parts  
78 of Borneo; however, these suspected declines are poorly understood and there is only speculation as  
79 to the causes (Samejima et al., 2016).

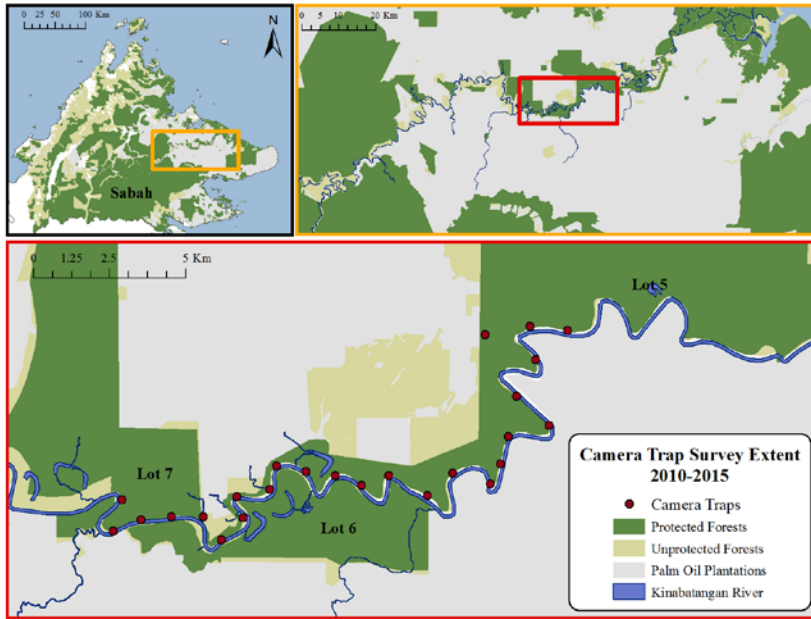
80 An aspect largely unstudied in the Sunda stink-badger is its circadian activity pattern. This is the 24  
81 h cyclical pattern describing when a species is active (i.e. not resting), something that is often  
82 variable between species, seasons of the year, and habitats. Historically, the frequency or proportion  
83 of species' detection records within sections of the diel have been widely used to report activity  
84 patterns (e.g.: Azlan & Lading, 2006); however, this outdated approach has been replaced by more  
85 accurate statistical modelling methodologies such as kernel density estimators (Ridout & Linkie,  
86 2009; Linkie & Ridout, 2011). Currently, broadly nocturnal activity is universally reported for the  
87 Sunda stink-badger (Samejima et al., 2016); however, no more precise pattern has been  
88 documented. Understanding the daily cyclical patterns of species activity is intrinsically valuable  
89 for furthering our understanding of a species and its niche, but it can also be utilised as an indicator  
90 of species' responses to ecological change. Analysis of long-term camera trapping data from the  
91 Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary was undertaken to develop the first detailed circadian  
92 activity pattern for the Sunda stink-badger. Activity here refers to movement along and around  
93 wildlife trails, as detectable by the study design. Any behaviours that may not occur on trails would  
94 thus not be detected. These baseline data will contribute to a greater understanding of this poorly  
95 known species in the lowland plains of Malaysian Borneo.

## 96 MATERIALS AND METHODS

97 **Study area.** The Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary (LKWS, 279.6 km<sup>2</sup>, elevation 10–200 m)  
98 is situated in the Lower Kinabatangan floodplain of Eastern Sabah, Malaysian Borneo (5°10'–  
99 5°50'N, 117°40'–118°30'E). Running through the sanctuary is the 560 km long Kinabatangan River,  
100 which has an extensive floodplain with limestone ridge formations. The sanctuary consists of 10  
101 protected lots with varying degrees of disturbance history and isolation from extensive native forest.

102 Lots are comprised of a mixture of semi-inundated, humid forest systems, along with regions of  
103 permanent swamp, grasslands, and eventually mangroves at the coast. The area is recovering from  
104 selective logging that occurred repeatedly over the past century (Brookfield & Byron, 1990) and is  
105 surrounded by large areas of agricultural oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) plantations. Temperature  
106 fluctuations are low with a mean monthly temperature range of 21°–34° Celsius, and annual rainfall  
107 averages 3,000 mm (Ancrenaz et al., 2004).

108 **Camera trapping.** Biodiversity monitoring of the wildlife sanctuary was undertaken using camera  
109 traps from 12 November 2010 until 09 May 2015, and camera trap placements were designed to  
110 optimise the probability of recording Sunda clouded leopards *Neofelis diardi*. Cameras were active  
111 throughout the study period with the exception of a 7-month break in camera trapping between  
112 March and November of 2011. A total of 25 camera stations were utilised during the study effort;  
113 however, active stations varied in number. Each station consisted of two Reconyx HyperFire  
114 Professional Infrared (IR) passive camera traps (Model HC500 or PC800, Reconyx, Holmen, USA)  
115 placed in armour casing to protect from damage and theft. Cameras were set ~0.5 m above ground  
116 level on trees facing each other but were placed slightly off-set to avoid camera flash obstructing  
117 the opposing unit. Cameras were active throughout the diel, and when movement across the IR  
118 detection beam of an object with a different surface temperature from background objects  
119 occurred, a series of three photos at 1-second intervals were taken. At low light conditions, an IR  
120 flash illuminated the subject, as this allows for successful imaging of an animal subject with lower  
121 disturbance than with white light (Ancrenaz et al., 2012). Stations were selected on existing riverine  
122 wildlife trails and were cleared of ground foliage to improve picture quality and reduce false camera  
123 triggers. Stations were not baited during the study effort. Camera traps were situated within a strip  
124 of LKWS forest along the northern bank of the Kinabatangan River, which acts as a wildlife  
125 corridor between two larger forest blocks. This corridor is part of Lot 5 of the LKWS and is flanked  
126 by the Kinabatangan River and a large oil palm plantation (Fig. 1). Camera trap stations were  
127 spaced at least 1 km apart in order to minimize spatial autocorrelation.



128

129 Fig. 1. Location of the camera trap stations in Lots 5 and 7 of the LKWS along the northern bank of the Kinabatangan River, Sabah,  
 130 Malaysian Borneo.

131 **Data entry and analysis.** Prior to analysis, metadata were extracted from the images, including  
 132 time, date, moon phase, image number, and a range of image quality specifics. Metadata extraction  
 133 was completed using ExifTool 9.6.8.0. Images were individually examined and the species  
 134 identified and logged. Each burst of three images was considered a single photo-capture. In order to  
 135 reduce pseudoreplication, photo-captures were classed as unique and separate photographic events  
 136 when an interval of >30 minutes between photo-captures of the same species were recorded, per  
 137 Yasuda & Tsuyuki (2012). Sunda stink-badger encounter rate was defined as the number of unique  
 138 Sunda stink-badger photographic events recorded per 100 potential trap nights. Events were  
 139 compiled and the timestamps of the first photo in each unique event were used to model the activity  
 140 pattern. Group size was not taken into consideration for these analyses, such that photo-captures  
 141 containing multiple individuals were considered a single event. Day-night cycles remain nearly  
 142 constant throughout the year in the study area, with sunrise and sunset occurring at approximately  
 143 0600 h and 1800 h local time (GMT +8), respectively. In this study, nocturnal activity was defined  
 144 as photographic events between 1900–0459 h, diurnal as 0700–1659 h, and crepuscular as the

145 periods of 0500–0659 h and 1700–1859 h, following the design set by other researchers within the  
146 region (Ross et al., 2013).

147 Sunda stink-badger activity pattern was modelled using kernel density estimators following the  
148 methodology of Ridout & Linkie (2009) and the package ‘overlap’ (Meredith & Ridout, 2014);  
149 with a bandwidth adjust value of 2 as per recommendations from Rowcliffe et al. (2014). To  
150 evaluate the effects of season and lunar phase on badger behaviour, activity patterns were generated  
151 for subsets of the data and an overlap analysis conducted between the two activity patterns.  
152 Analysis of overlap in activity patterns was completed utilising the Ridout & Linkie (2009)  
153 methodology and the package ‘overlap’ (Meredith & Ridout, 2014), with Dhat 4 estimator of  
154 overlap, 10,000 bootstrap replicates, and the basic0 output for bootstrap confidence intervals. The  
155 package ‘activity’ (Rowcliffe, 2015) was then used with 10,000 bootstrap replicates to statistically  
156 test the probability that the two sets of observations came from the same distribution. Analysis of  
157 overlap in activity patterns was completed between three pairings; the dry season (March–October)  
158 compared to the wet season (November–February), full moon nights compared to new moon nights  
159 (including two nights before and after the full and new moon nights), and ‘bright’ nights (full moon,  
160 waxing gibbous, and waning gibbous) compared to ‘dim’ nights (new moon, new crescent, and old  
161 crescent). Statistical analyses were conducted using the statistical software R (version 3.2.1, R  
162 Development Core Team, 2015).

163

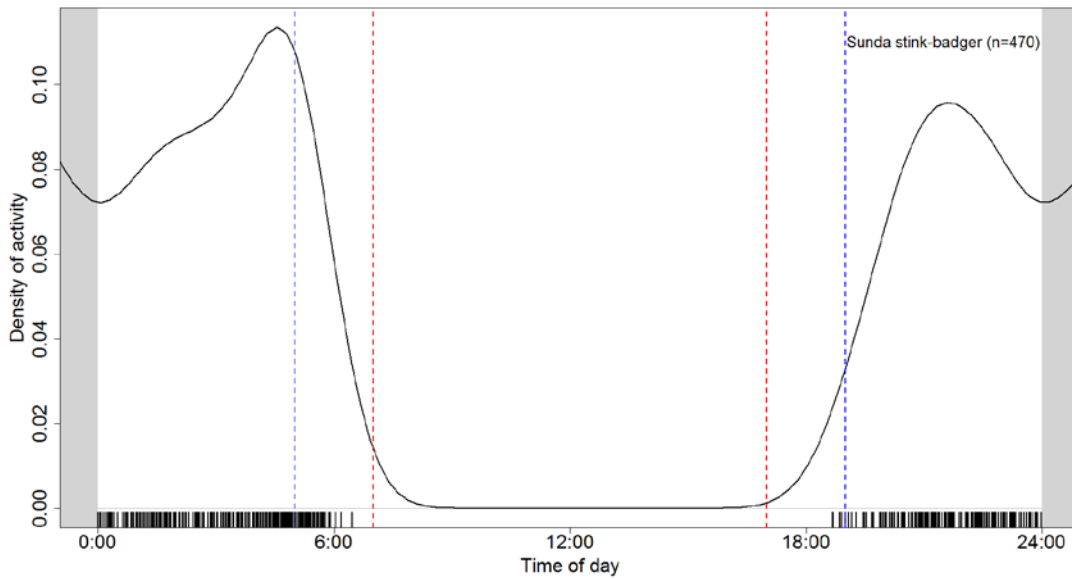
## RESULTS

164 **Camera trapping overview.** The camera trapping effort ran for 48 non-consecutive months and  
165 resulted in 24,506 total potential trap nights (sum of active calendar nights x number of active  
166 camera traps). Potential trap nights have been used as a metric of data collection effort as the  
167 precise timing of any camera malfunctions or battery death were not possible to ascertain. A total of  
168 2,268 raw *M. javanensis* images (756 photo-captures) across 470 unique events were collected from  
169 18 of the 25 camera stations. Single Sunda stink-badgers were recorded in the majority of events



170 (98.7%), with groupings of two individuals imaged in six unique events and never larger groupings  
171 (Fig. A1), supporting the notion that the Sunda stink-badger is a solitary species (Samejima et al.,  
172 2016). In all six events in which a duo was imaged, individuals were travelling the same direction  
173 and route through the imaged area, were of similar size, and were assumed to be adults. All co-  
174 occurrence events took place between the months of March–July; however, there was no distinctive  
175 pattern in timing of these events in the diel. Whilst this could be an early indication of seasonal  
176 mating or courtship, visual sexing was not possible, and as such, this assumption cannot be made.  
177 Overall, the camera trapping effort returned 1.92 unique Sunda stink-badger events every 100  
178 potential trap nights.

179 **Camera trap activity patterns.** The activity pattern of the Sunda stink-badger was modelled using  
180 470 photographic events (Fig. 2). Within the LKWS, the Sunda stink-badger displayed a highly  
181 nocturnal activity pattern, with no photographic events recorded within diurnal hours. The earliest  
182 time in the evening a stink-badger was recorded was 1839 h, and the latest morning detection was  
183 0627 h. Activity began and rose sharply within the crepuscular time period of 1700–1859 h and  
184 then continued throughout nocturnal hours. Once the morning crepuscular hours (0500–0659 h)  
185 began, stink-badger activity quickly fell. Sunda stink-badgers demonstrated two clear peaks in  
186 activity, the first occurred around 2100 h, and the second around 0500 h with a greater magnitude.



187

188 Fig. 2. Daily activity patterns of Sunda stink-badger within Lot 5 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Sabah, Malaysian  
 189 Borneo. The grey areas represent an extension of the activity pattern to depict its circular nature, and ‘carpet’ marks along the x-axis  
 190 represent individual photographic events. Vertical dashed red lines indicate either the end or beginning of the diurnal phase of the  
 191 diel (0700–1659h). Vertical blue lines indicate either the end or beginning of the nocturnal phase of the diel (1900–0459h). Regions  
 192 between red and blue lines represent the crepuscular regions of the diel (0500–0659h and 1700–1859h).

193 **Seasonal and lunar effects.** All tested overlaps of modelled activity patterns using subsets of  
 194 Sunda stink-badger events were found to have high coefficients of overlap ( $\geq 0.8$ ) (Table 1; Fig.  
 195 A2). Statistical analysis found that none of the analysed overlaps were significantly different (Table  
 196 1), indicating that the activity pattern of the Sunda stink-badger does not significantly vary between  
 197 seasons or moon phase.

198 Table 1. Overlap coefficients for Sunda stink badger activity patterns across seasonal and lunar variation.

Activity pattern 1	Sample size (N) unique Sunda stink-badger events	Activity Pattern 2	Sample size (N) unique Sunda stink-badger events	Coefficient of overlap (Confidence interval)	P-value
Dry season (March-October)	339	Wet season (November-February).	131	0.90 (0.89-0.96)	0.69
Full moon	58	New moon	64	0.81 (0.71-0.93)	0.26
‘Bright’ nights (full moon, waxing gibbous, and waning gibbous)	165	‘Dim’ nights (new moon, new crescent, and old crescent).	183	0.90 (0.88-0.97)	0.72

199

200

## DISCUSSION

201 These results provide the first detailed 24 h daily activity pattern for the Sunda stink-badger, a  
202 metric currently only available for few of the Bornean carnivores, e.g. Sunda clouded leopard  
203 *Neofelis diardi* (Cuvier) (Ross et al., 2013) and sun bear *Helarctos Malayanus* (Raffles) (Wong et  
204 al., 2004). The Sunda stink-badger was found to be highly nocturnal, with activity primarily  
205 between the hours of 1800 h and 0600 h. Furthermore, activity was not uniform throughout this  
206 period and displayed two peaks at 2100 h and 0500 h. Whilst nocturnal activity between the hours  
207 of 1800 h and 0600 h has been previously reported (Samejima et al., 2016), this is the first study to  
208 show the intricacies of activity between these hours for this species. Over the five-year study  
209 period, the study collected 470 photographic events of the Sunda stink-badger, the largest reported  
210 collection of photographic events for this species in the wild at the time of publication. This  
211 extensive data set has enabled a high level of accuracy within the kernel density modelled activity  
212 pattern, avoiding accuracy issues associated with small sample sizes and seasonal biases that may  
213 occur with shorter camera trapping studies (Oliveira-Santos et al., 2008; Chen et al., 2009; Cheyne  
214 et al., 2010).

215 It is, however, important to note the potential bias within this study based on the trail-based  
216 positioning of camera stations. The Sunda stink-badger's activity pattern presented here should  
217 therefore be interpreted as its activity along wildlife trails. As an example, the lack of a single  
218 image containing visibly young stink-badgers within such an extensive dataset supports the belief  
219 that Sunda stink-badgers raise their young in secluded dens (Long & Killingley, 1983), a behaviour  
220 unlikely to be detected with trail-based camera traps. Furthermore, the paucity of apparent mating  
221 images similarly suggests this species may conduct reproductive courtship behaviours away from  
222 wildlife trails, and future targeted studies should seek to place camera traps throughout a variety of  
223 forest microhabitats. The deployment of technologies alternative to camera traps, such as radio  
224 telemetry, satellite tracking, or collar-based accelerometers could provide researchers with even  
225 more accurate insights into stink-badger activity patterns, especially for more fine-scale behaviours,

226 those involving little movement through the habitat, or those occurring off-trail (Shepard et al.,  
227 2008; Nathan et al., 2012); however, these techniques do suffer from practical limitations of high  
228 costs and limited sample sizes compared with camera trapping efforts. The most informative picture  
229 of Sunda stink-badger ecology is therefore most likely to be generated from a mixture of research  
230 methodologies deployed simultaneously, when financially viable. Despite the limitations of camera  
231 trapping when deployed alone, the results of the activity pattern modelling have enhanced  
232 understanding of the behavioural ecology of the Sunda stink-badger, and will act as baseline for  
233 future ecological studies aiming to assess the species' activity pattern.

234 The analysis of a species' activity pattern can indicate how a species responds to environmental and  
235 biological pressures. Seasonal variations in activity patterns have been recorded for many species  
236 (Patterson et al., 1999; Donadio et al., 2006); however, no such variation was found for the Sunda  
237 stink-badger in this study. Additionally, many nocturnal species also vary their activity across the  
238 lunar cycle (Di Bitetti et al., 2006; Donadio et al., 2006), yet no such behaviour was documented for  
239 the Sunda stink-badger. Activity patterns may also vary due to inter- and intra-specific competition,  
240 which often results in temporal niche partitioning (Lucherini et al., 2009), or predator-prey  
241 interactions, whereby species can shift activity patterns to either increase hunting success as  
242 predators or maximise survival as prey (Ross et al., 2013). Predation pressures on the Sunda stink-  
243 badger are expected to be limited due to the stink-badger's anal scent-gland secretions acting as a  
244 powerful deterrent to any potential predators. Although there are unsubstantiated reports of civets  
245 preying upon Sunda stink-badgers from popular science websites (Krauskopf, 2002), in four of our  
246 470 photographic events (0.85%), a Sunda stink-badger was photographed co-occurring with a  
247 Malay civet (*Viverra zibethica*). In all co-occurrence events, there were no observed indications  
248 of physical contact or any behavioural interactions between the two species (Fig. A3). All instances  
249 of co-occurrence took place within areas with no obviously discernable presence of a concentrator  
250 of activity (e.g salt lick), and are instances of photographic events where both species were imaged

251 simultaneously in the same frame. This represents one of very few documented cases of Sunda  
252 stink-badger in close proximity to another species of carnivore.

253 Activity is, however, also heavily influenced by dietary demands in carnivores (Ross et al., 2013).  
254 Understanding of Sunda stink-badger diet is limited, although an omnivorous diet is reported  
255 (Payne et al., 1985) and the stomach contents of a dissected individual indicated a diet abundant in  
256 large earthworm species (Davis, 1961). Nocturnality in predators of earthworms is common, and is  
257 believed to be a result of nocturnal vertical migration to the soil surface by some earthworm species  
258 (Duriez et al., 2006). This may help explain the nocturnal activity pattern found in the Sunda stink-  
259 badger, perhaps even the two peaks in activity, as some earthworm species surface in the early  
260 evening and early morning (Lee, 1985).

261 Whilst dietary pressures are suspected to be the predominant generator of the broad activity pattern  
262 for Sunda stink-badgers in the LKWS, pressures may also be anthropogenic in nature. For example,  
263 the activity pattern of a species can vary in response to pressures such as hunting, habitat  
264 destruction, and other anthropogenic activities (Frederick, 2008; Presley et al., 2009; Marchand et  
265 al., 2014; Poudel et al., 2015). Close proximity to oil palm plantations, local road infrastructure, and  
266 the Kinabatangan River increases human accessibility into the LKWS, bringing tourism, fishermen,  
267 and illegal hunters, all of which heighten anthropogenic disturbances within the sanctuary. This  
268 anthropogenic disturbance is also exacerbated by the considerable historical habitat degradation that  
269 has occurred in the area through repeated selective logging during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As such, the  
270 stink-badger's activity pattern presented here could be reflective of the highly disturbed  
271 environment within the LKWS.

272 Despite many records of Sunda stink-badger being available (Samejima et al., 2016), very few  
273 studies have obtained sizeable encounter datasets within a single area as presented here  
274 (Matsubayashi et al., 2007; Wilting et al., 2010; Bernard et al., 2013). Of those studies with many  
275 Sunda stink-badger records, all have occurred within the Malaysian state of Sabah; however, even

276 within this limited scope, discernible differences in site ecology and disturbance regimes can allow  
277 for preliminary comparisons between studies. Within our LKWS camera trapping effort, 1.92  
278 unique Sunda stink-badger events were recorded every 100 trap nights and the species was the  
279 second most commonly imaged carnivore in the survey (Evans et al., 2016). This encounter rate can  
280 be compared with other studies in an attempt to analyse the effect of site differences on local  
281 abundance. Whilst encounter rates (often naively but inappropriately termed Relative Abundance  
282 Indices) are increasingly considered a dated methodology for assessing abundances, particularly  
283 between species (Sollmann et al., 2013), with so few studies assessing Sunda stink-badger  
284 photographic rates (Matsubayashi et al., 2007; Wilting et al., 2010; Bernard et al., 2013), an  
285 encounter rate provides a comparative preliminary indicator of status for this under-studied species.  
286 Only three other studies have produced this measure or provided sufficient information for an  
287 encounter rate to be calculated for the Sunda stink-badger (Table A1), two of which were  
288 undertaken within the Deramakot Forest Reserve (DFR) situated further upstream on the  
289 Kinabatangan River. The third study was undertaken within Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Sabah;  
290 however, due to very low sample size, the results are not suitable for comparison here (Bernard et  
291 al., 2013). The two studies at DFR recorded 3.66 (Matsubayashi et al., 2007) and 3.60 (Wilting et  
292 al., 2010) unique Sunda stink-badger photographic events per 100 trap nights, which may be an  
293 indication that the species is comparatively less common in the LKWS than in DFR (Table A1).  
294 Given the higher amounts of habitat degradation and anthropogenic disturbance within the LKWS  
295 area compared to DFR (the LKWS is smaller, more fragmented, and more isolated from other  
296 native forest); these results may suggest that the Sunda stink-badger is more susceptible to  
297 anthropogenic disturbance than previously thought. However, caution must be advised with this  
298 interpretation due to differences in study methodologies and relatively small sample sizes; for  
299 example, whilst cameras were set on wildlife trails in both of the compared studies, localised  
300 features such as rivers and salt licks varied. This variation in relative encounter rate between study

301 areas does, however, emphasise the importance of understanding how the behavioural ecology of  
302 this species may also vary across study sites.

303 Sunda stink-badgers have been observed in a wide variety of habitats including lowland forest,  
304 montane forests, forest mosaic, and non-forest at both protected and unprotected sites. Whilst  
305 presence may indicate human-modified habitats in the LKWS are used by the species, it does not  
306 necessarily indicate optimal habitat and gaining a greater understanding of Sunda stink-badger  
307 species' ecology remains pertinent. Particularly given the suggestion, above, that encounter rates  
308 (and thus perhaps population densities) might be lower in more degraded and fragmented habitats,  
309 further studies of Sunda stink-badger behaviour are warranted to investigate to what extent habitat  
310 quality and human disturbance may be impacting the species. Whilst the persistence of Sunda stink-  
311 badger is not considered to be in immediate danger, improving knowledge of the species' ecology is  
312 nevertheless useful. Furthermore, the methodology utilised here is easily adopted and, due to the  
313 vast volume of camera trapping taking place within the region, can be applied to a plethora of other  
314 under-studied ground-dwelling species.

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326 manuscript greatly.

327 **LITERATURE CITED**

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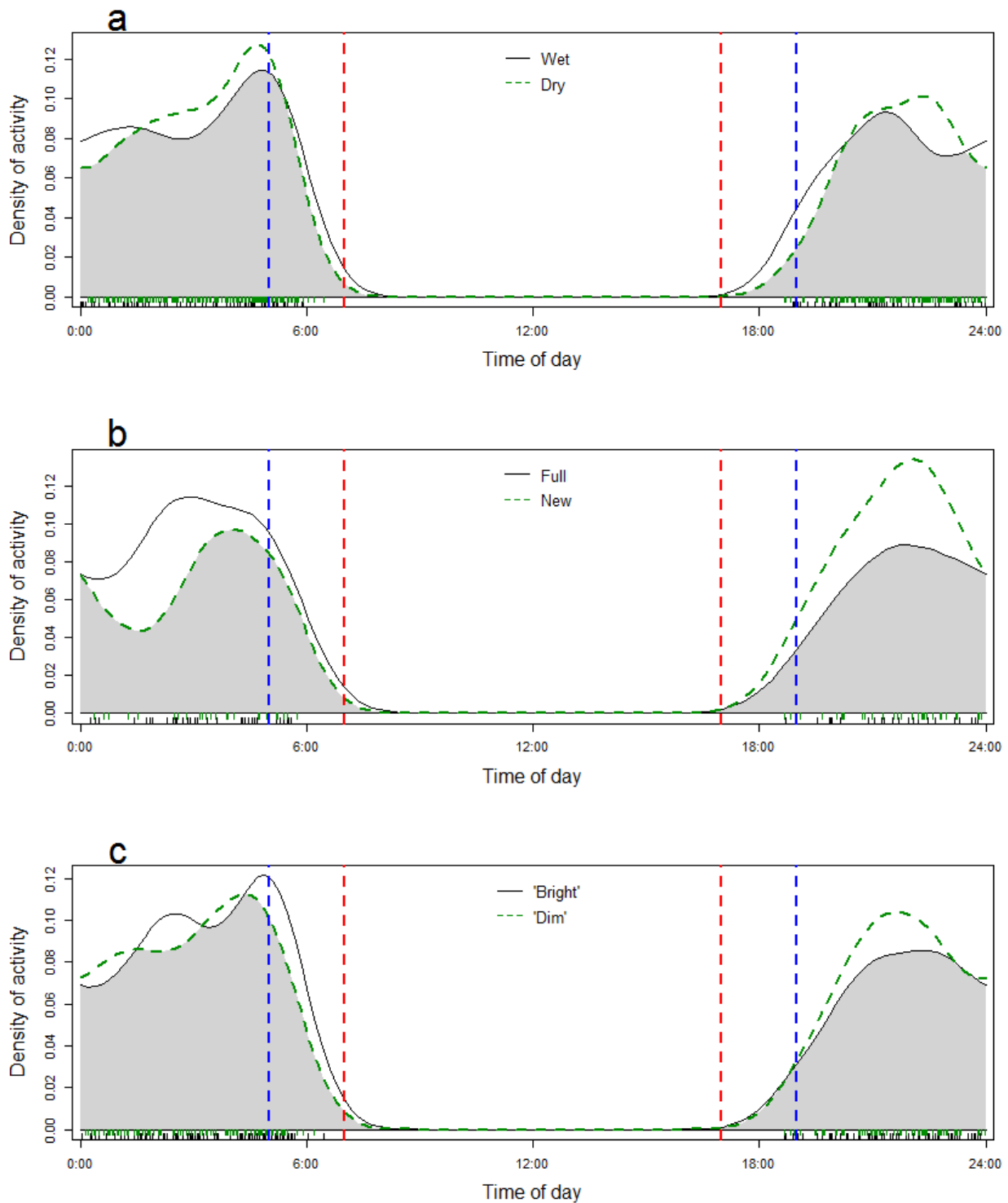
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437

438 Fig. A1. A pair of Sunda stink-badgers *Mydaus javanensis* photo-captured in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Sabah,  
439 Malaysian Borneo on 09 March 2009.



440

441 Fig. A2. Kernel density modelled activity patterns for the Sunda stink-badger during different periods; overlap between activity  
 442 patterns is indicated by the shaded regions. Vertical dashed red lines indicate either the end or beginning of the diurnal phase of the  
 443 diel (0700–1659h). Vertical blue lines indicate either the end or beginning of the nocturnal phase of the diel (1900–0459h). Regions  
 444 between red and blue lines represent the crepuscular regions of the diel (0500–0659h and 1700–1859h). ‘Carpet’ marks along the x-  
 445 axis represent individual photographic events, and are colour co-ordinated to their respective activity pattern. Top (a): Overlap in  
 446 kernel density modelled activity pattern in the wet season (November-February) compared to the dry season (March-October).

447 Middle (b): Overlap in kernel density modelled activity pattern on full moon nights compared to new moon nights. Bottom (c):  
 448 Overlap in kernel density modelled activity pattern on 'bright' nights (full moon, waxing gibbous, and waning gibbous) compared to  
 449 'dim' nights (new moon, new crescent, and old crescent).



450  
 451 Fig. A3. Co-occurrence of Sunda stink-badger *Mydaus javanensis* and Malay civet *Viverra zibetha* photo-captured in the Lower  
 452 Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Sabah, Malaysian Borneo on 13 June 2013.

453 Table A1. Comparisons between remote camera trapping studies that have observed the Sunda stink-badger *Mydaus javanensis*.

Reference	Study site	Trap nights	Photographic Events	No. of unique photographic events per 100 potential trap nights	Notes	Study period
Matsubayashi et al., 2007	Deramakot Forest Reserve	981	36	3.66	Salt lick at 5 of 15 sites, area sustainably logged during study period.	June 2003 – October 2005
Wilting et al., 2010	Deramakot Forest Reserve	1,916	69	3.60	Camera traps placed within large contiguous forest patch.	July 2008 – January 2009
Bernard et al., 2013	Tabin Wildlife Reserve	307	2	0.65	Forest patch within oil palm plantation.	September 2009 – December 2009 and May 2010 – August 2010



Bernard et al., 2013	Tabin Wildlife Reserve	229	1	0.44	Forest patch within oil palm plantation.	September 2009 – December 2009 and May 2010 – August 2010
Current study	Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary	24,506	470	1.92	Highly fragmented riverine study site, with extensive areas of oil palm plantations.	November 2010 – May 2015

454

455 **Figure Captions:**

456 Fig. 1. Location of the camera trap stations in Lots 5 and 7 of the LKWS along the northern bank of the Kinabatangan River, Sabah,  
457 Borneo.

458 Fig. 2. Daily activity patterns of Sunda stink-badger within Lot 5 of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Sabah, Borneo. The  
459 grey areas represent an extension of the activity pattern to depict its circular nature, and 'carpet' marks along the x-axis represent  
460 individual photographic events. Vertical dashed red lines indicate either the end or beginning of the diurnal phase of the diel (0700–  
461 1659h). Vertical blue lines indicate either the end or beginning of the nocturnal phase of the diel (1900–0459h). Regions between red  
462 and blue lines represent the crepuscular regions of the diel (0500–0659h and 1700–1859h).

463 **Tables:**

464 Table 1. Overlap coefficients for Sunda stink badger activity patterns across seasonal and lunar variation.

Activity pattern 1	Sample size (N) of unique Sunda stink-badger events	Activity Pattern 2	Sample size (N) of unique Sunda stink-badger events	Coefficient of overlap (Confidence interval)	P-value
Dry season (March-October)	339	Wet season (November-February)	131	0.90 (0.89-0.96)	0.69
Full moon	58	New moon	64	0.81 (0.71-0.93)	0.26
'Bright' nights (full moon, waxing gibbous, and waning gibbous)	165	'Dim' nights (new moon, new crescent, and old crescent)	183	0.90 (0.88-0.97)	0.72

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