

SQUAMATA (ANIMALIA: REPTILIA) OF THE TEN TRADE
SPECIALIZING MALAYSIA

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SQUAMATA (ANIMALIA: REPTILIA) IN THE PET TRADE IN PENINSULAR
MALAYSIA

By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	vi
LIST OF APPENDICES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF PLATES	ix
LIST OF TABLES	x
ABSTRACT	xi
ABSTRAK	xii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Objectives	6
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Pet Trade in the World	7
2.2 Pet Trade in Malaysia	9
2.3 Squamata in the Pet Trade	9
2.4 Conservation and Management Efforts of Animals in the Pet Trade	11

CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1	Study Area	13
3.2	Methodology	13
3.2.1	Interview	14
3.2.2	Visual Survey	15
3.2.3	Data Collection	15
3.3	Statistical Analysis	16
3.3.1	Sorenson' Coefficient of Similarity	16
3.3.2	Completely Randomized One-way ANOVA	17
3.3.3	Correlation Analysis	17

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS

4.1	Pet and Aquarium Shops in Four Cities	18
4.2	Snakes in the Pet Trade	19
4.2.1	Abundance of snakes according to city	19
4.2.2	Price of snakes in four major cities in Peninsular Malaysia	23
4.3	Lizards in the Pet Trade	25
4.3.1	Abundance of lizards according to city	25
4.3.2	Price of lizards in four major cities in Peninsular Malaysia	29
4.4	Demographics of the Cities Surveyed	31
4.5	IUCN red list of threatened animals	31
4.6	The International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	32

4.7	Study of Distribution of Squamata Recorded	32
4.8	Statistical Analysis	33
4.8.1	Snakes	34
4.8.2	Lizards	36

CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION

5.1	Status of Pet and Aquarium Shops	38
5.2	Abundance of Squamata According to City	39
5.2.1	Penang Island	39
5.2.2	Ipoh	42
5.2.3	Johor Bahru	44
5.2.4	Kuala Lumpur	45
5.3	Market Value of Squamata in the Four Major Cities	48
5.3.1	Snakes	49
5.3.2	Lizards	52
5.4	National and International Legislations on Squamatas	56
5.5	Impacts of the Pet Trade	57

CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1	Conclusion	59
6.2	Recommendation	60

REFERENCES

61

APPENDICES

CURRICULUM VITAE

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CITES	-	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
AFP	-	Agence France-Presse
PETA	-	People for Ethical Treatments of Animals
PERHILITAN-		Department of Wildlife and National Parks
ANOVA	-	Analysis of Varians
SEA	-	South East Asia
USA	-	United States of America
IUCN	-	World Conservation Union
LR/nt	-	lower risk/near threatened

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix

- 1: Summary of Completely Randomized One-way ANOVA for Snakes
- 2: Summary of Completely Randomized One-way ANOVA for Lizards
- 3: Correlation
- 4: A whooping haul of 238 pythons
- 5: Step up Customs checks
- 6: Common name, species name, distribution, price range and total count of snakes recorded
- 7: Common name, species name, distribution, price range and total count of lizards recorded

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1: The map of Peninsular Malaysia showing the cities visited in this study	14
2: Status of pet and aquarium shops surveyed at the four cities in Peninsular Malaysia	18
3: Number of snakes recorded in all four cities	23
4: Number of lizards recorded in all four cities	29

LIST OF PLATES

Plate	Page
1: Burmese Python (<i>Python molurus bivittatus</i>)	42
2: Bearded Dragon (<i>Pogona barbata</i>)	42
3: Green Crested Lizard (<i>Bronchocela cristatella</i>)	43
4: Australian Water Dragon (<i>Physignathus lesueurii</i>)	48
5: Reticulated Python (<i>Python reticulatus</i>)	50
6: Green Tree Python (<i>Morelia viridis</i>)	50
7: Corn Snake (<i>Elaphe guttata</i>)	52
8: Desert Iguana (<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>)	53
9: Common Chameleon (<i>Chamaeleo chamaeleon</i>)	54
10: Green Iguana (<i>Iguana iguana</i>)	55

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1: Species abundance, common name and geographic range of snakes recorded in Penang Islands	20
2: Species abundance, common name and geographic range of snakes recorded in Ipoh	20
3: Species abundance, common name and geographic range of snakes recorded in Johor Bahru	21
4: Species abundance, common name and geographic range of snakes recorded in Kuala Lumpur	22
5: Common name, species name and price range of snakes recorded in four major cities	23
6: Species abundance, common name and geographic range of lizards recorded in Penang Island	26
7: Species abundance, common name and geographic range of lizards recorded in Ipoh	26
8: Species abundance, common name and geographic range of lizards recorded in Johor Bahru	27
9: Species abundance, common name and geographic range of lizards recorded in Kuala Lumpur	28
10: Common name, species name and price range of lizards in the four major Cities	30
11: Race composition in the four cities surveyed in Peninsular Malaysia	31
12: Geographic range, number of species and percentage of species recorded	33
13: Sorenson (S) Index of Similarity and number of species similar to each paired state	34
14: Sorenson (S) Index of Similarity and number of species similar to each paired state	36

ABSTRACT

The pet trade is defined as the buying and selling of animals as pets. Squamatas have a growing market in the Peninsular Malaysian pet trade. This study surveys the snakes and lizards available in pet and aquarium shops in Penang Island, Ipoh, Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur. Informal interviews and visual surveys was conducted. A total of 22 pet shops out of 88 had at least one squamata species. A total of 107 individuals from 33 species of snakes and 438 individuals from 24 species of lizards were recorded throughout the survey. Kuala Lumpur had the highest number of squamata with 323 individuals (60.37%) and 41 species (60.29%) while Ipoh had the lowest with 31 individuals (8.78%) and 4 species (5.88%). Kuala Lumpur also recorded the highest in price range. The most expensive species recorded in the pet trade was an Albino Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*) with RM 23,000.00 for one individual. The most abundant species found for snakes was the Burmese Python (*Python molurus bivittatus*) with 34 (31.78%) individuals and for lizards was the Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) with 347 (79.22%). Not enough coverage in PERHILITAN, CITES and IUCN is done on these squamata species. More effort should be done by local authorities, international organizations and the general public to help control and manage the pet trade and its effects.

SQUAMATA (ANIMALIA:REPTILIA) DALAM PERDAGANGAN HAIWAN PELIHARAAN DI SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA.

ABSTRAK

Perdagangan haiwan peliharaan boleh didefinisikan sebagai jual beli haiwan untuk dipelihara. Kajian ini mengambil kira squamata yang terdapat di kedai haiwan dan akuarium di Pulau Pinang, Ipoh, Johor Bahru dan Kuala Lumpur. Sejumlah 22 daripada 88 kedai haiwan yang dilawati mempunyai spesies squamata. Terdapat 107 individu dari 33 spesies ular dan 438 individu dari 24 spesies cicak yang dijumpai semasa kajian. Kuala Lumpur mempunyai bilangan squamata tertinggi dengan 323 individu (60.37%) dan 41 spesies (60.29%) manakala Ipoh adalah yang terendah dengan 31 individu (8.78%) dan 4 spesies (5.88%). Kuala Lumpur telah merakamkan julat harga tertinggi bagi squamata. Spesies termahal yang dijumpai adalah Ular Sawa Batik albino (*Python reticulatus*) dengan harga RM 23,000.00 seekor. Spesies ular yang paling banyak ditemui adalah Ular Sawa Burma (*Python molurus bivittatus*) dengan 34 (31.78%) individu manakala bagi cicak pula Iguana Hijau (*Iguana iguana*) paling banyak ditemui dengan 347 individu (79.22%). PERHILITAN, CITES dan IUCN kurang memberi tumpuan dan tekanan kepada spesies-spesies squamata ini. Pihak kerajaan, organisasi antarabangsa dan juga rakyat setempat harus lebih mengambil berat dan melebihkan usaha untuk mengawal dan mengurus perdagangan ini.