

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DIURNAL ACTIVITIES OF GREATER
MOUSE DEER (*Tragulus napu*) IN CAPTIVE

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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE
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**OBSERVATIONS ON THE DIURNAL ACTIVITIES OF
GREATER MOUSE DEER (*Tragulus napu*) IN CAPTIVE**

BY

TAN AI KIM

*A research project report submitted
in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Science (Hons) Biology*

**DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE
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BORANG PENCEKSAAN DAN KELULURAN
LAPORAN AKHIR PROJEK

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Topik Projek : OBSERVATIONS ON THE DIURNAL ACTIVITIES OF
GREATER MOUSE DEER (*TRAGULUS NAPU*) IN CAPTIVITY

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berkepentingan. Dated this 10th day of August 2000 at Terengganu.
Penyelia Projek, Dr. Syedahy Ahmad Wahid, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Terengganu.

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BORANG PENGESAHAN DAN KELULUSAN
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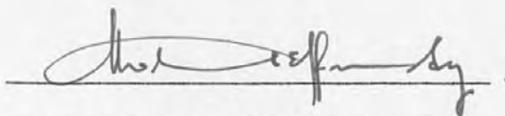
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Tajuk Projek : OBSERVATIONS ON THE DIURNAL ACTIVITIES OF
GREATER MOUSE DEER (*Tragulus napu*) IN CAPTIVE

Dengan ini disahkan bahawa saya telah menyemak laporan projek ini dan:

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- ii. laporan ini telah mengikut format yang diberikan dalam Panduan BIO 4999 (Projek) Jabatan Sains Biologi, Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi, Kolej Univesiti Terengganu, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 1999/2000.



(DR.EFFENDY ABDUL WAHID)

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My heartfelt gratitude also extends to Mr. David Holliman, the founder of Ultimate Language Page who had generously dedicated his precious time to answer my questions, for inspiring my final involvement who had being helpful in assisting in the whole regarding my project. Also to my family who had also spent precious moments in the zoo with me this time and you all! Once hanging around in the zoo with you I would like to convey my deepest gratitude to everyone who had indirectly aided me in my project. Thank you very much for the great support.

Lastly, I would like to dedicate my humble piece of work to the only Mother Nature herself. Truly it is simply beautiful because of its grace and nothing else. Let the things be let the things be. Thank you.

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I would like to express my deepest gratitude to both my supervisor and co-supervisor, Dr. Effendy Abdul Wahid and Dr. Razeem Mazlan Abdullah for their endurance in assisting me throughout the completion of my project. Thank you very much for your kind assistance. This project might not be completed to this superb stage without the aid from the both of you. Also not forgetting Mr. Azlan, the record keeper of Malacca Zoo who had enthralled me with information about the subjects of my observation. A big thank you is also extended to the director of Malacca Zoo and to all the curators of the zoo for the warm hospitality throughout my entire stay in the zoo.

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Lastly, I would like to dedicate my humble piece of work to no other than Mother Nature herself. Earth is divinely beautiful because of its nature and nothing else. Let live nature as let live human. Thank you.

ABSTRACT

The diurnal activities and some other stereotype behaviors of the *Tragulus napu rufulus* in captive were studied. The naturalistic observation were conducted for 21 days with an extra of 14 days prior to the actual observation.

Result shows that in captive, *Tragulus napu rufulus* move and rest at specific intervals in the day and were seen to be most active in the early morning hours before 0700 hours and later in the evening hours at 1900 hours onwards. *Tragulus napu rufulus* spent 61.1 % of their day time idling, 19.0 % roaming, 11.4 % ruminating and 8.5 % feeding in captive. They were also noted to rest mostly as a solitary individuals. Feeding time for these captive chevrotains were found not to be congruent with the time food is provided. Preference for roaming sites by the *Tragulus napu rufulus* were displayed in the enclosure whereby roaming activities by the banks of the artificial pond were tremendously higher by 60% than those occurred at the center of the enclosure. Roaming activities were least noted during the afternoon period from hours 1300 to 1500.

Besides the above, other activities by the captive *Tragulus napu rufulus* were also documented descriptively. Behaviors of these captive chevrotains were found to be quite similar to those in the wild. Therefore, these accumulated data will subsequently serve as one of the foremost information available on *Tragulus napu rufulus*. Thus, future research can be conducted on not only chevrotains but also as a comparison to other ruminants.

ABSTRAK

Perlakuan *Tragulus napu rufulus* pada siang hari dalam kurungan telah diperhatikan. Pemerhatian telah berlangsung selama 21 hari berserta dengan tambahan 14 hari sebelum pemerhatian sebenar dijalankan.

Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa perlakuan *Tragulus napu rufulus* adalah khusus mengikut masa. Mereka kelihatan paling aktif pada waktu pagi sebelum jam 0700 dan di sebelah petang selepas jam 1900. Mereka menghabiskan 61.1% waktu siang berehat, 19.0 % merayau, 11.4% ruminasi dan 8.5 % makan. *Tragulus napu rufulus* juga biasanya kelihatan berehat secara individu. Masa makan bagi *Tragulus napu rufulus* adalah tidak relatif dengan masa makanan dibekalkan. *Tragulus napu rufulus* juga diperhatikan lebih gemar merayau di kawasan tepi kolam berbanding dengan kawasan di tengah kurungan di mana kekerapan merayau di tepi kolam adalah 60 % lebih tinggi daripada di kawasan tengah kurungan. *Tragulus napu rufulus* kelihatan paling pasif pada waktu tengahari dari jam 1300 hingga jam 1500.

Selain daripada hasil kajian yang dilaporkan di atas, aktiviti lain yang telah diperhatikan turut didokumentasikan secara diskriptif. Ada di antara perlakuan *Tragulus napu rufulus* yang didapati seiras dengan kelakuan semulajadinya di hutan. Yakni, data yang telah dikumpulkan merupakan pelopor mengenai *Tragulus napu rufulus*. Oleh yang demikian, kajian yang lebih mendalam dapat dijalankan bukan sahaja terhadap pelanduk dan napoh tetapi juga sebagai perbandingan terhadap haiwan ruminan yang lain.