

MITOCHONDRIAL DNA COMPARISON OF LONG TAILED MACAQUE (*Macaca fascicularis*) BETWEEN SABAH ISLANDS AND MAINLAND

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The long tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) or also known as the crab eating macaque is widely distributed throughout the South East Asia region and its conservation status is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List 2009. Despite the status, the population number and size are decreasing due to habitat exploitation. Recent genetic studies done on the species have shown genetic differences between island and mainland populations. It is suggested that there are a certain amount of similarities between populations where the difference was caused by the most recent gene flow during the late Pleistocene. In this study, I looked at the mtDNA sequences of populations between island and mainland by comparing the genetic materials collected from four islands off the coast of Sabah and compared them to the results of a previous study done by Jalil (2006) concerning long-tailed macaques of Lower Kinabatangan River.

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