

MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SKULL **OF MALAYAN TAPIR (***Tapirus indicus***)**

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STUDY PROGRAMME OF VETERINARY MEDICINE SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES **IPB UNIVERSITY BOGOR** 2024





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Bogor, July 2024

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ABSTRAK

NUR ASYIQIN BINTI FIRDAUS MARZUKI. Karakteristik morfologi tengkorak tapir (*Tapirus indicus*). Dibimbing oleh SAVITRI NOVELINA dan NURHIDAYAT.

Tapir/Malayan tapir (Tapirus indicus) merupakan mamalia herbivora ikonik di Asia Tenggara, mempunyai ciri khas yaitu mempunyai belalai, warnanya yang khas dan mempunyai peran ekologis yang penting. Status hewan ini menurut IUCN adalah spesies terancam punah. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mempelajari morfologi tengkorak tapir, yang dikaitkan dengan perilaku makan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif, membandingkan dengan tengkorak kuda (genus Equus) dan tapir Brazil (Tapirus terrestris). Tapir mempunyai bentuk tengkorak relative lebih bulat, os nasale tebal dan pendek, fossa masseterica lebih dalam, apertura cavum nasi lebih luas dibandingkan pada kuda. Perbedaan lain adalah orbita mata pada tapir terbuka sedangkan pada kuda tertutup. Tapir mempunyai gigi brachydont dengan karakteristik bilophodont untuk mendukung gerakan mastikasi orthal. Struktur ini menunjang adaptasi perilaku makan dan aktivitas nokturnal tapir. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada upaya konservasi untuk melestarikan populasi tapir dan habitatnya.

Kata kunci: Belalai, morfologi tengkorak, perilaku makan, tapir

ABSTRACT

NUR ASYIQIN BINTI FIRDAUS MARZUKI. Morphological Characteristics of Skull of Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*). Supervised by SAVITRI NOVELINA and. NURHIDAYAT.

The Malayan Tapir (Tapirus indicus) is an iconic herbivorous mammal in Southeast Asia, characterized by having a proboscis, a distinctive color and an important ecological role. The status of this animal according to the IUCN is a threatened species. This research aims to study the morphology of the skull of Malayan tapir, which is associated with feeding behaviour. This research used a descriptive method, comparing the skulls of horses (genus Equus) and Brazilian tapirs (Tapirus terrestris). Tapir relatively has rounder shaped skull, shorter and thicker os nasale, deeper fossa masseterica, and wider apertura cavum nasi than horse. Other differences are the eye orbit is open while in horse is closed. Tapirs exhibit ortal masticatory movements, driven by brachydont teeth with bilophodont characteristics, which are very different from horse hypsodont teeth designed for lateral movement. The proboscis of the tapir is unique has a muscular structure than in horse, including the nasal bones, that is shorter and thicker than that of horses. These differences have influenced the feeding behaviour of tapir species and for tapir nocturnal activity. This research contributes to broader conservation efforts aimed at conserving tapir populations and their habitats.

Keywords: Feeding behaviour, tapir, proboscis, skull morphology

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MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SKULL OF MALAYAN TAPIR (*Tapirus indicus*)

NUR ASYIQIN BINTI FIRDAUS MARZUKI

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I am hopeful that this research will benefit readers, mainly those who are are interested in conservation of tapir species in Southeast Asia and for improvement in scientific progress.

Bogor, July 2024

Nur Asyiqin Binti Firdaus Marzuki







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