

Frugivorous carnivores, common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*): the ecology and ecological functions in the rainforest, Sabah, Malaysia.

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The common palm civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* is a frugivorous carnivores that is distributed in South and Southeast Asia. Few studies have been conducted on the ecology, and little is known on the ranging behavior. In this study, I radio-tracked 12 common palm civets to reveal the determinants of space use in Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Sabah, Malaysia. The results showed that their space use is largely affected by fruit availability. Specifically, civets increased home range size (95% MCP) during the fruiting season of specific pioneer plants: they visited the fruiting trees of those plants outside the ranging area of non-fruiting season. They also increased the daily path length during this season. They often left the fruiting tree even when a number of fruits have still remained in trees. These results suggest the fruits available for the civets may be limited (possibly to mature fruits) in the fruiting trees. Given that their intestine and dental morphology is not particularly well adapted to frugivory, acquiring a sufficient amount of fruits is a difficult task for them. In my presentation, I will suggest that limited efficiency of fruit consumptions may affect not only ranging behaviors but also their social relations among the civet individuals.