SIAMANG (*Symphalangus syndactylus*) VENTURE TO THE GROUND IN SUNGAI YU ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR, PAHANG

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All species of gibbons (including siamangs) are threatened with extinction, with four listed as "Critically Endangered", 11 "Endangered" and one as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. This is largely due to habitat loss and habitat degradation (Nijman *et al*., 2020). There are two recognised subspecies (*Symphalangus syndactylus syndactylus* and *Symphalangus syndactylus continentis*), which are less widely distributed and restricted to Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Thailand (Gron, 2008). The siamang is categorised as "Endangered" (Nijman *et al*., 2020). Siamangs mostly spend their lives high on the canopy and rarely venture to the ground (Bartlett, 2007). These species are obligate canopy dwellers and require intact and connected tree canopy structures for all aspects of their behavioural ecology (Cheyne, 2010; Hamard *et al*., 2010; Marshall, 2010).

Here we reported the first record of camera trap images for the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) of siamang venturing on the ground, walking with two legs on the ground with its arms upright. These images of siamang venturing on the ground were obtained during the wildlife survey conducted in Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor, Pahang, from February 2017 until July 2017 (Figure 1). The camera trapping method was used in the study area for three months to determine the diversity of mammal species. A total of 28 species of mammals were detected using camera traps within the study site.

This includes the primates such as pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*), long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*), white-thighed langur (*Presbytis siamensis*) and siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*). Three images of *Symphalangus syndactylus* were captured in the camera trap. Two of these images were a visual of an individual of siamang walking on the ground bipedally with both arms held upright (Figure 2). Gibbons have an unusually erect posture and are never seen moving quadrupedally and only rarely seen walking bipedally (Rowe, 1996; Geissmann *et al.*, 2000). When they are seen walking bipedally, they hold their long arms above their heads for balance (Nowak, 1999).

We suggest that siamangs are on the ground use to find water or salt-licks. Like other primates, in Borneo, orangutans were detected on the ground at saltlick areas for minerals and water (Matsubayashi *et al.*, 2007), while in the Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve, it is common to observe the pig-tailed macaque in salt-lick areas (Nor-Hani & Mohd-Taufik, 2008). This finding represents a new record (in the wild) of the venture to the ground in the Sungai Yu Ecological Corridors, Pahang, using camera trapping during a wildlife survey conducted from February 2017 until July 2017.

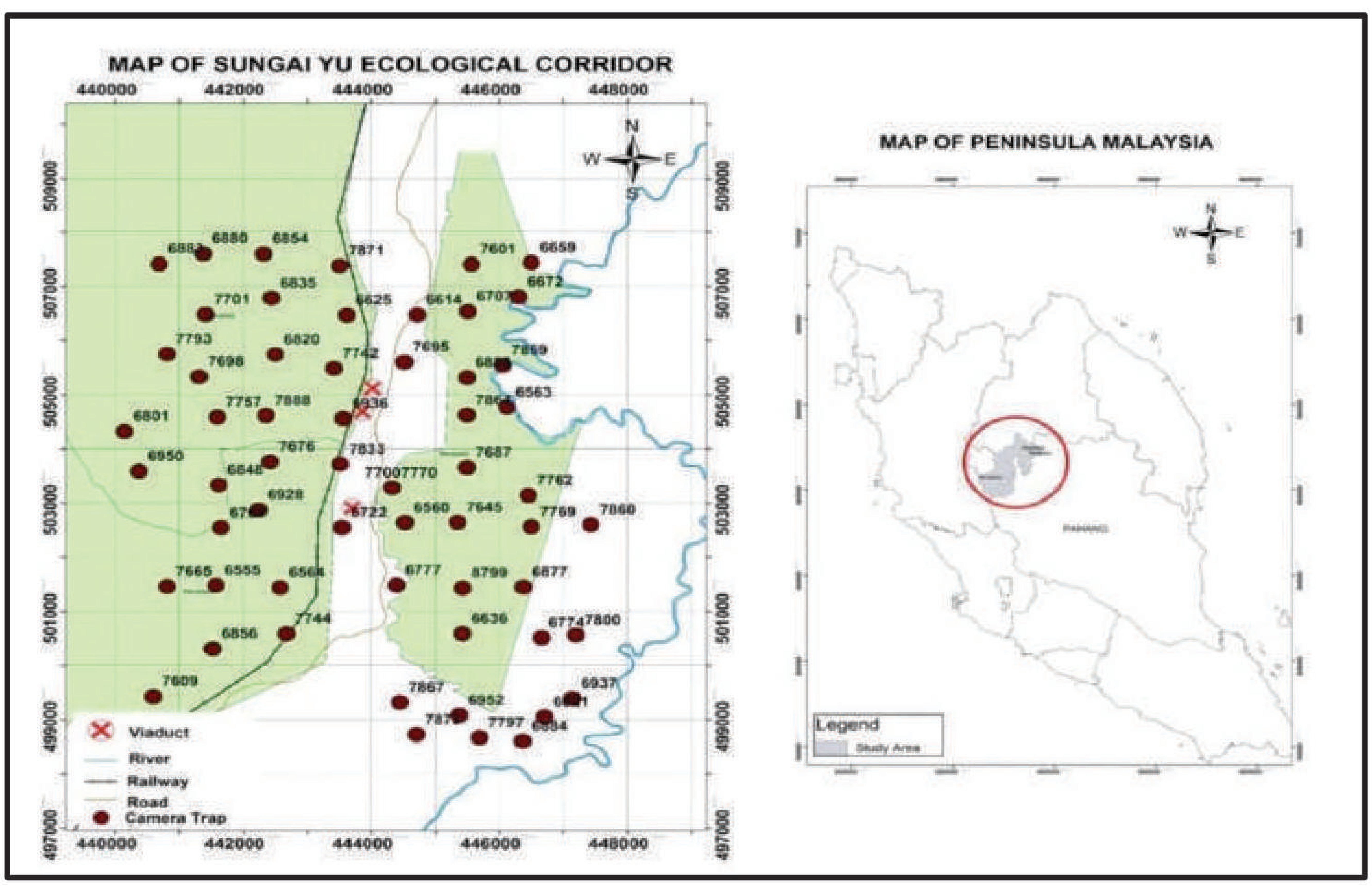

Figure 1. Map showing Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor with the red dot indication camera trap locations.

Figures 2. A & B; Pictures of siamang walking on the ground captured by camera trap.

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