



Project description

Molecular Phylogeny, Taxonomy and Biogeography of the Leaf Monkey, Genus *Presbytis*

Presbytis represents one of the most diverse genera within the Old World monkeys (Cercopethicoidea). Its geographic range is confined to Sundaland, a region comprising Borneo, Java, Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula and the Mentawai Islands, which has been affected by a series of important geological and climatical changes over the past 5 million years. Temporary connections between islands based on fluctuating sea levels and changing environmental conditions gave rise to a high degree of diversity and complex distribution patterns of certain *Presbytis* species. However, the biogeographic patterns that led to the current distribution are not clear and the taxonomy and phylogeny are still controversial. Previous classifications based predominantly on the examination of anatomical features, in particular on the coat colouration, while genetic data are inadequate and based predominantly on captive animals. The overall goals of the project are to clarify the taxonomy, phylogeny and biogeography of *Presbytis* incorporating a combination of genetic, morphometric and bioacoustic data. The study includes the first genetic analysis based on faecal samples from non-habituated wild animals from Indonesian territories. The taxonomic results will also contribute towards the assessment of the conservation status of *Presbytis*.