

## A brief encounter with a pack of Dhole *Cuon alpinus* at Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand

Charles CURRIN  
[cbcurrin@hotmail.com](mailto:cbcurrin@hotmail.com)

---

**Observer:** Charles Currin.  
**Photographs by:** Charles Currin.  
**Subject identified by:** Charles Currin.

**Location:** 8 km west of Dan Khao Sam Yot Gate, Kaeng Krachan National Park (KKNP), Thailand.  
**Elevation:** 340 metres (estimated from Google Earth).  
**Habitats:** Tall, Secondary lowland forest.  
**Date and time:** 01 June 2017, 07:30 hrs.

**Identity of subjects:** Dhole, *Cuon alpinus* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Canidae).

**Description of record:** A pack of Dhole, comprising at least 5 adults, was observed active at the side of the main road between Dan Khao Sam Yot Gate and Ban Krang Campsite, near the 8 kilometre mark. All but one member of the pack quickly retreated into the forest. The remaining individual lingered on the road for several seconds (Figs. 1 and 2). The remains of the carcass of a deer (of unknown species), which appeared to be a few days old, was later found in the forest in a shallow creek about 20 meters from the road. Dhole were not observed feeding on the carcass, nor was it possible to ascertain whether the deer had been killed by Dhole.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

All images © Charles Currin

**Remarks:** The canid in these images is identified as Dhole based on (i) a black, bushy tail, (ii) orange-brown fur and (iii) rounded ears (Francis, 2008). This is the first encounter the observer has had with the species after visiting the park an estimated 50 times: the species is considered to be shy and prefers to avoid contact with humans (Lekagul, 1977). Dhole are known to hunt in packs of 6 to 8 animals, and are known to kill deer as large as Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*). They seldom eat carrion (Lekagul, 1977).

Dhole are treated as extant in KKNP by Ngoprasert & Lynam (2002) and Jenks *et al* (2012), but both publications give no specific sighting details.

### References:

- Francis, C. M. (2008). *A Field Guide to the Mammals of South-East Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 392 pp.
- Jenks, K. E., Kitamura, S., Lynam, A. J., Ngoprasert, D., Chutipong, W., Steinmetz, R., Sukmasuang, R., Grassman Jr., L. I., Cutter, P., Tantipisanuh, N., Bhumpakphan, N., Gale, G. A., Reed, D. H., Leimgruber, P. & Songsasen, N. (2012). Mapping the distribution of dholes, *Cuon alpinus* (Canidae, Carnivora), in Thailand. *Mammalia*, 76(2), 175-184.

Lekagul, B. & McNeely, J. A. (1977). *Mammals of Thailand*. 758 pp.

Ngoprasoet, D. & Lynam, A. J. (2002). Preliminary survey of tiger and other large mammals at Kaeng Krachan National Park, Phetchaburi province, Thailand. Warasan Satpa Muang Thai.