

## Accidental mistnet capture of *Viverra tangalunga* Gray 1832 (Viverridae) in Del Carmen Watershed, Siargao Island, Philippines

Desamarie Antonette P. FERNANDEZ and Ace Kevin S. AMARGA  
[dpfernandez1@up.edu.ph](mailto:dpfernandez1@up.edu.ph) (Fernandez), [ace\\_amarga061@yahoo.com](mailto:ace_amarga061@yahoo.com) (Amarga)

**Collaborator:** Roel Alfredo D. Ruzol.

**Photograph by:** Roel Alfredo D. Ruzol.

**Subject identified by:** Ace Kevin S. Amarga, Desamarie Antonette P. Fernandez.

**Location:** Barangay Esperanza, Del Carmen Watershed, Siargao Island, Philippines.

**Elevation:** 20 metres ASL.

**Habitat:** Agroforest area with a stream flowing from a cave.

**Date and time:** 03 October 2016, 06:00 hrs.

**Identity of subject:** Malay Civet, *Viverra tangalunga* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Viverridae).

### Description of record:

During a bat survey, an adult male *Viverra tangalunga* was found with its forearms and claws entangled at the base of a mist net. Presumably, it had been attempting to eat the netted bats (Fig. 1). It was released unharmed.

### Remarks:

The individual was identified as a Malay civet (*Viverra tangalunga*) by its characteristic long snout, feline-like appearance, alternating black and white bands around the neck, grey-brown body fur bearing prominent black spots forming rows on the dorsal area, and tail bearing narrow, black bands (Gray 1832; Heaney et al. 2010). The Malay civet was first described from a specimen retrieved from Sumatra, Indonesia (Gray 1832). The ancestral population of this species was inferred to have originated from the island of Borneo, and its current distribution spans across the Sundaic and Wallacea regions within Southeast Asia (Veron et al. 2014).



Fig. 1.

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In the Philippines, the Malay civet has been reported from the islands of Bohol, Busuanga, Catanduanes, mainland Luzon, mainland Mindanao, mainland Palawan, Mindoro, Negros, Panay, Samar, Sibuyan, and Siquijor (Timm and Birney 1980; Heaney et al. 1991; 2006; 2010; 2016). This report provides the first documentation of the species in Del Carmen Watershed, Siargao Island, as it was not reported in previous published surveys by Heaney & Rabor (1982) and Pedregosa-Hospodarsky (2009). In another report by Pedregosa-Hospodarsky (2008), there is a photo of a Malay civet captured in Siargao Island by a hunter but no other description or exact capture location was given.

This report emphasizes the value of closely monitoring mist nets to avoid predation of netted bats. The Malay civet exhibits an omnivorous diet and is known to consume fruits, invertebrates (such as crickets, scorpions and centipedes), birds, and rodents (Kitchener et al. 1993; Colon and Sugau 2012). It is known to inhabit a wide range of habitats from primary and secondary tropical forest to agricultural landscapes (Jennings and Veron, 2011). Because of its relatively wide geographic distribution and ability to tolerate habitats with anthropogenic disturbances, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed the Malay civet under the “Least Concern” category (Duckworth et al. 2016).

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