

THE EVALUATION OF THE WILD EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLET IN REDANG ISLAND

Norhayati. N, S. A. Hashim, M. R. Mohamad Rejab, and K. Mahmud

Faculty of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Kota Campus, Jalan Sultan Mahmud, 20400 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, MALAYSIA.

Abstract

The edible-nest swiftlet (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) is one of the swiftlet species in Apodidae family. Generally, it is found in South East Asia including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. In Terengganu, the wild edible-nest swiftlet communities can be found in Redang Island. In 1995, Siti Hawa et al. estimated a total of 655 to 1,035 edible-nest swiftlets and 3,645 to 4,213 black-nest swiftlets using the capture and recapture method. This study was done in May and June 2011 to evaluate edible-nest swiftlet. A total of 40 respondents from the residency and authority of Gua Kawah and Redang Island were interviewed. A land classification and land surface temperature were classified using QuickBird satellite image to evaluate the current environment conditions in Redang Island. The observation has showed presence of the first human-made swiftlet house in Redang Island which is located in Pengkalan Hulu and Berjaya Hotel area. The house was built by a resident of Kampung Baru Redang Island. After the evaluation of environment condition, it is conclude that Redang Island is a requisite place for human-made swiftlet house development. This industry may become the source of income for the residents of Redang Island and it will also help to conserve the edible-nest swiftlet population.

Keywords: Pulau Redang, edible-nest swiftlet, *Aerodramus fuciphagus*