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## An observation of a Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus* nest in Pasoh Forest Reserve, Peninsular Malaysia

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During a three week visit to Peninsular Malaysia in March 1997 the author stayed at Pasoh Forest Reserve in the state of Negri Sembilan for four days. This reserve is administered by the Forestry Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) and is well known amongst birders as an area with particularly high diversity. The reserve covers an area of approximately 24 km<sup>2</sup> and the ecotype is classified as lowland tropical rain forest. This habitat once constituted the main forest formation in Peninsular Malaysia but is now restricted to a handful of remnant areas (Collins *et al.* 1991). The headquarters at Pasoh is located in an approximately 1 hectare clearing.

Most birds seen during a four-day stay were observed from, or within this clearing. This was due partly to the relative ease with which birds could be viewed and to the creation of an artificial 'forest edge' habitat. Of particular note was an observation of a pair of Banded Broadbills *Eurylaimus javanicus* attending a nest situated within the clearing. The nest was located in a very large dipterocarp tree, adjacent to one of the accommodation huts. The tree was approximately 30 m tall with breast height circumference of approximately 3 m. The lower half of the trunk was branchless. On the lowest branch, approximately 15 m above the ground, the broadbill's nest was suspended from a thin lateral branch. The nest was suspended by a fine 'string' and had been constructed from dead leaves, green moss and possibly thin twigs. It appeared to have an overhanging porch obscuring the entrance so that once the adult bird entered the nest it could not be seen at all. The entrance was situated close to the top of the nest. It had a 'tail' consisting of leaves and twigs hanging down from the main body of the nest. It was situated in a very conspicuous place and the birds were also very vocal, enabling easy detection. Between the tree trunk and the nest (approximately 0.5 m from the nest) was a large active beehive, located underneath the branch, which was laterally compressed and approximately 1 m in

length. The bees could be seen moving in a wave-like motion over the surface of the hive. Due to the height of the hive from the ground, identification of the bees was not possible, although they were clearly about 2 cm in length.

The female broadbill was observed flying onto the branch a short distance above and away from the hive, calling loudly and then entering the nest. The male was also observed calling near the nest but not entering it. Both these behaviours were noted on three or four occasions, usually at intervals of up to an hour or so apart.

Instances of Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus* locating their nests close to beehives have been recorded in Sarawak (Lambert and Woodcock 1996) but no references to this type of behaviour in Banded Broadbill has been reported. Due to the fact that the nest was located in a very exposed, conspicuous location it may be that the beehive provides a degree of protection, as does the actual construction of the nest itself, to adults and young alike. Any predatory mammal or reptile may be deterred by the presence of a large number of potentially aggressive bees. Alternatively, or possibly in conjunction with this, the bees may provide a ready source of food for the broadbills, although they are thought to feed predominantly on orthopterans (Lambert and Woodcock 1996) and the author did not observe any such behaviour.

### REFERENCES

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