

PRELIMINARY STUDY ON MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF *Cervus timorensis* IN MALAYSIA

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Cervus timorensis or locally known as Timor Deer and Java deer is believed to be native to Java and Bali in Indonesia (1). It has been introduced into other countries for decades, including Malaysia in the year 1990. *Cervus timorensis* was listed in IUCN Red List as Vulnerable because its total native population in Indonesia is estimated to be fewer than 10,000 mature individuals (1). Although listed as vulnerable, a study showed that the population in Malaysia does not suffer from ill effects of inbreeding (2). Most farmers rear *Cervus timorensis* for their exotic meat which has a high economic value (3). As there is a dearth of information on the performance of *Cervus timorensis* in Malaysia, this preliminary paper reports on the basic morphological characteristics of this deer breed.

A total number of 30 individuals (4 males and 26 females) of *Cervus timorensis* aged a year and above from Pusat Ternakan Haiwan, Lenggong were used in this study. The animals were allowed to free graze inside the farm. Body weight for each animal was measured using a weighing machine. Body measurements for body weight, body length, withers height, rump height, heart girth and body circumference were recorded using tailor's tape. The data generated was analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science (Ver. 17.0).

Table 1: Body weight and average linear body measurements of *Cervus timorensis*.

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error
Male			
Body Weight	4	50.0000	7.26579
Body Length	4	84.0000	6.05530
Withers Height	4	77.0000	3.48807
Rump Height	4	85.7500	4.60751
Girth	4	84.7500	2.56174
Body Circumference	4	94.2500	3.79418
Female			
Body Weight	26	57.4423	2.41762
Body Length	26	82.8077	1.37787
Withers Height	26	77.6538	1.16083
Rump Height	26	85.0769	1.30552
Girth	26	90.1538	1.76172
Body Circumference	26	103.7308	1.95216

The result shown above can be further strengthened by increasing the sample size of other *Cervus timorensis* in other population in Malaysia. This result can serve as a preliminary information on this deer breed in Malaysia. Certainly, conservation and breeding projects associated with this breed need to be done so that the nation can benefit from the utilization of this genetic resources.

References

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