



24 HOURS IN BANTIMURUNG NP, MAKASSAR SULAWESI

With a very short stopover in Makassar on my way to West Papua, mostly to pass the Jetlag, I had the chance to see some mammals in the Bantimurung NP. Its located near the Makassar airport and the drive to the place doesn't take much longer than one hour.

First, I went for a night walk around Karaenta. I was tired as a zombie but I still managed to find some good mammals. Some **Sulawesi Striped-faced Fruit Bats** were visiting a fruiting tree by the roadside, giving excellent views.



A short walk into the karst delivered first a well behaved **Bonthain Rat**, a bit high on a tree.



Then I found another spectacular rodent that I had no idea what it was. Thankfully it stayed still for some photos, turned out as **Sulawesi Forest Rat** or **Reddish-furred Taeromys**, an incredibly poorly known species, known only from two specimens caught at the type locality, few subfossil fragments collected on a nearby cave and three individuals caught in 2000-2001. Really mega!



I saw two more rodents that I couldn't identify or photograph so I called it a night, a quite successful one actually!

Once back at the hotel, the parking lot was teeming on **Black Rats**.

Next morning, I was up for some caving inside the national park. The Gua Batu hosted a bunch of **Small Asian Sheat-tailed Bat** meanwhile the Gua Mimpi hosted quite a lot of **Geoffroy's Rousette, Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat** and **Fawn Leaf-nosed Bat**







All of them pretty common species but this can be a great introduction to someone that hasn't done much batting in Indonesia. The caves are very accessible and visited by hundreds of Indonesians every week so bats seem to be fairly habituated.

Later in the afternoon, was time to look for the SW Sulawesi endemic Tarsius, the **Makassar Tarsier**. Thanks to the help of the staff of the National Park, I had five individuals almost as soon it got dark. Lovely animals and very interesting to see a karst-specialized tarsius. On the way to the Tarsius spot, some **Moor Macaques** were hanging around the road, as usual.

So I ended seeing 10 species plus two rodents that I couldn't identify down to species level. Not a bad haul!

STUFF I MISSED

Actually quite a lot. I was deadly jetlagged so after lunch I took a 3 hours nap instead of visiting some nearby **Celebes Flying Fox** roost, going to Salukang Kallang cave, where before I have seen stuff like **Celebes Rousette** and **Philippine Horseshoe Bat** or do some birding and mammalwatching along the road, where in previous visits I've seen several species of Squirrels, including **Sulawesi Giant Squirrel** and bigger fish like **Sulawesi Bear Cuscus**