

## Taxonomy, geographic variation and population genetics of Bornean and Sumatran orangutans

### Abstract

This chapter reviews the published data and discusses the taxonomy and population genetics of orangutans. The orangutan was traditionally classified as two separate subspecies, *Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus* in Borneo and *P. p. abelii* in Sumatra. Recent molecular data have suggested a re-classification into two separate species: *P. pygmaeus* in Borneo and *P. abelii* in Sumatra. Moreover, three subspecies have been described on Borneo Island: *P. p. pygmaeus* in Sarawak and west Kalimantan, *P. p. morio* in Sabah and east Kalimantan and *P. p. wurmbii* in central and south Kalimantan. Despite this, little is known about the intra-subspecific variation between isolated Bornean populations and among the Sumatran populations. More data are needed, which should include a large sampling of all geographically separated populations in Borneo and Sumatra in order to provide a more complete genetic information database.