

MALEO ON BUTON

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Ringkasan

Bukti-bukti menunjukkan bahwa *Macroxephalon maleo* berblak di Pulau Buton, Sulawesi Tenggara.

While studying the Buton Macaque *Macaco brunnescens* on Buton Island, S.E. Sulawesi, from April to November 1988, I stayed at the village of Maligano on the west border of Buton Utara Game Reserve. On one occasion I saw eggs of the Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* on sale in Maligano market. The vendor informed me that he had taken the eggs from a sandy area around the headwaters of Lebo river, inside the Reserve, north of the village. I also met with people who were accustomed to hunting the eggs.

Dekker (1990, p.47) notes that Maleo are alleged to occur on Buton but this has not yet been proven. However, there does appear to be official knowledge of the presence of the bird on Buton, because the 82,000 ha Buton Utara Game Reserve is designed to protect the Lowland *Aoa. Anoa depressicomis* and the Maleo (Anon. 1983).

While definitive proof is still awaited, the present observation provides strong circumstantial evidence of the presence of Maleo on Buton Island.

References

- Anonymous.** 1983. *Mengenal Suaka Atom di Sulawesi Tenggara*. Sub-Balai Perlindungan dan Pelestarian Alam Sulawesi Tenggara.
- Dekker, R.W.R.J. 1990. *Conservation and biology of Megapodes (Megapodiidae, Galliformes, Aves)*. Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoologie, Universiteit van Amsterdam.

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