

***Plasmodium* sp. INFECTIONS IN EX-CAPTIVE BORNEAN  
ORANGUTANS (*Pongo pygmaeus*) HOUSED AT THE  
ORANGUTAN CARE CENTER AND QUARANTINE, PASIR  
PANJANG, KALIMANTAN TENGAH, INDONESIA**

by

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis reports infections of *Plasmodium* sp. in wild-born, ex-captive orangutans housed at the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCC&Q) in Kalimantan, Indonesia. We microscopically examined blood from 1) OCC&Q residents (n=69); 2) newly confiscated orangutans (n=14); and 3) previously released ex-captives (n=2). We observed *Plasmodium* sp. parasites in blood smears collected from 24 individuals. Blood from these individuals was collected and preserved for species determination using Polymerase Chain Reaction and sequence alignment tools.

We amplified, cloned, and sequenced a ~1500 bp region of the 18S rRNA from 13 of 24 *Plasmodium* sp. infected animals. Our sequences formed four distinct groupings at the nucleotide level which may represent four *Plasmodium* sp. infecting orangutans at OCC&Q. Our data suggest cross species infection of orangutans with macaque (*Macaca* sp.) and human plasmodia, which may have serious implications for conservation and rehabilitation efforts of endangered species.

## **DEDICATION**

To Intan, Oro and the other orphans who have lost the battle. May your losses not be in vain.

To Yuda, Ucok, Yayat and the other orangutans I have gotten to know. Thank you for introducing me to your world and showing me how we can make a difference.

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## GLOSSARY

1. NHP=non human primate
2. MYA=million years ago
3. mm=millimetres
4. km<sup>2</sup>=square kilometres
5. a.s.l.=above sea level
6. SORC= SEPILOK Orangutan Rehabilitation Center
7. GAHMU=Great Ape Health Monitoring Unit
8. PCR=polymerase chain reaction
9. OWM=Old World Monkey
10. NWM=New World Monkey

# Chapter 1

## EVOLUTION OF THE ORANGUTAN (*Pongo* sp.): BIOGEOGRAPHY OF THE PAST

### 1.1 Introduction

Currently orangutans are classified into two species; the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and the Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*). Where do these modern orangutan species originate? Where and when did they evolve and what is/are their ancestor species and/or subspecies? Fortunately, orangutans are unlike African apes in that a fossil record exists which allows us to answer some of these questions. This chapter will discuss the “pre-*Pongo*” origins of the orangutan. This will be followed by a discussion of the South East Asian sites where *Pongo* fossils have been found. This chapter concludes with a look at the genetics of the modern orangutan and a discussion as to whether they are in fact one species or two.

### 1.2 Pre-*Pongo* Relatives of the Modern Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*)

Orangutans have been said to belong to a sister clade to the clade that represents the African apes and humans (Andrews and Cronin, 1985). This clade has been referred to as the “Orangutan Clade” and said to include *Lufengpithecus*, *Sivapithecus*, *Ouranopithecus* and *Bodvapihicus* (Schwartz, 1988). It is believed that this “Orangutan Clade” can actually be subdivided further into two additional clades. The first clade is called the Lufengpithecini and is a sister clade to the orangutan clade

which is now called the Sivapithecini and includes *Sivapithecus*, *Gigantopithecus* and *Pongo*. It is now believed that the evolutionary line leading to orangutans probably separated from the line leading to the other great apes over 13 million years ago (MYA) (Stewart and Disotell, 1998). This inference is supported by past studies which found that the nucleic acid and serum protein relationships between orangutans and the African apes indicated a separation at approximately  $10 \pm 3$  MYA (Andrews and Cronin, 1985). During the Late Miocene at approximately 12.5 MYA the most easily recognizable orangutan ancestors belong to the Genus *Sivapithecus* and evolved in India and Pakistan (Kelley, 2002). This was then followed by the rise of a younger cousin, represented by Chinese fossils which have been ascribed to the Genus *Lufengpithecus* (Harrison *et al.*, 2002 and Liu *et al.*, 2001).

### **1.2.1 *Lufengpithecus* sp.**

China has a unique and diverse hominoid fauna. It has been hypothesized that the uplift of the Tibetan Plateau that occurred between ten and eight million years ago may have played an important role in hominoid survival in the region (Harrison *et al.*, 2002). This geological occurrence is believed to have isolated the Yunnan hominoids into a region where the subtropical climate remained fairly stable, while the climate in the rest of South and East Asia was becoming increasingly seasonal (Harrison *et al.*, 2002).

Since the late 1950's, China's Yunnan Province provided several fossil hominoid sites from which *Lufengpithecus* fossils have been recovered (Harrison *et al.*, 2002). A total of four Yunnan Province site localities are discussed and reanalyzed by Harrison *et al.* (2002). These sites include Xiaolangtan (a coal mine), Shihuiba (found in a lignite horizon), the Yuanmou Basin (Xiaohe Formation Layer) and Yangyi on the eastern slopes of Gaoligangshan Mountain.

Originally the hominoid fossils at the site of Xiaolangtan were given the name *Dryopithecus keiyuanensis*. This was followed by a reclassification based on large and small size variants found at the site into one of two genera: a) *Ramapithecus* or b) *Sivapithecus*. The Xiaolangtan hominoids have been dated to 8.30 +/- 0.10 MYA (Harrison *et al.*, 2002). Recently, Harrison *et al.* (2002) reclassified the fossils from Xiaolangtan and the four Yuanmou localities as belonging to the species *Lufengpithecus keiyuanensis*. Interestingly, just one year prior, the Yuanmou fossils had been found to differ very little from the Siwaliks *Sivapithecus* fauna (Liu *et al.*, 2001), supporting the original belief that *Lufengpithecus* was a descendent of *Sivapithecus*. These authors (Liu *et al.*, 2001) believed that the Yuanmou fossils belonged to a species that was related to *Lufengpithecus lufengensis* as either a geographical or temporal variant, but do not attempt to classify them. It appears that they were right in their assumed relatedness of these fossils to *L. lufengensis*.

The fossil hominoids found at the site of Shihuiba have recently been reclassified by Harrison *et al.* (2002). The Shihuiba fossils date to approximately 7-9 MYA and include both cranial and post-cranial remains. Since their discovery in 1975, they have been classified as belonging to a number of different genera and species. It is these fossils that Harrison *et al.* (2002), believe represent the species *Lufengpithecus lufengensis*.

There are no firm dates on the recently discovered fossil material from Yangyi, but it is speculated to date to between three and five million years ago (Harrison *et al.*, 2002). If these data prove true the fossils would represent the youngest extinct Eurasian fossil hominoid other than *Gigantopithecus* (Harrison *et al.*, 2002). At this time these fossils have not been ascribed to either a genus or species.

### 1.2.2 *Khoratpithecus* sp.

*Khoratpithecus* sp. from Northern Thailand is a recently discovered fossil ape genus believed by the authors to be an ancestor to orangutans (Chaimanee *et al.*, 2004). This new ape genus is represented by two species; *Khoratpithecus (Lufengpithecus) chiangmuanensis* and *Khoratpithecus piriyai* (Chaimanee *et al.*, 2003, 2004). These fossils date to the Middle/Late Miocene and it has been proposed that they represent the closest known orangutan ancestor and may, in fact, be a direct ancestor to Pleistocene orangutans (Chaimanee *et al.*, 2004). One of the strongest indicators of this fossil ape's relatedness to extant and fossil orangutans is the lack of muscle insertion impression corresponding to the anterior digastric muscles on the mandible (Chaimanee *et al.*, 2004). This absence is seen solely in extant orangutans as a result of the development of the laryngeal air sac (Chaimanee *et al.*, 2004).

### 1.2.3 *Sivapithecus* sp.

One of the major characteristics that orangutans share with *Sivapithecus* is their thick enamel which is seen only in the members of *Pongo*, *Lufengpithecus*, *Ramapithecus* and *Sivapithecus* (Andrews and Cronin, 1985). Other indicators of shared ancestry between *Sivapithecus* and *Pongo* include characters related to the separate functional complexes of their face and dentition, eight shared measurements of the palate and lower face and distinctive facial characteristics such as the size and conformation of the zygomatic region (Andrews and Cronin, 1985). Early researchers believed that *Sivapithecus* may have ranged as far West as Turkey, Greece and the former Czechoslovakia. Included in this assumption was a fossil found in the late Miocene deposits of Turkey which was ascribed to the species *Sivapithecus metei*. This European fossil hominoid was said to be similar in morphology to modern

orangutans (Andrews and Cronin, 1985). Today, there is some uncertainty as to whether all of these fossils should continue to be ascribed to the *Sivapithecus* Genus.

Indo-Pakistan is the area from which *Sivapithecus* fossils are best known (Harrison *et al.*, 2002). In particular these fossils are very well represented in the Siwalik deposits of northern Pakistan. The Siwalik deposits provide a sample of the region's terrestrial fauna from the early Miocene until the Pleistocene (Scott *et al.*, 1999). There are a number of species of *Sivapithecus* represented in the Nagri formation of the Siwalik deposits, of which one of the largest is *Sivapithecus parvada* which was larger than the earlier Sivapithecoid (all members of the *Sivapithecus* Genus) forms (Scott *et al.*, 1999). The Siwalik deposits have produced many postcranial remains including both forelimb and hindlimb elements (Madar *et al.*, 2002). *Sivapithecus* lived in this region during the late Miocene around ten MYA (Scott *et al.*, 1999). Sivapithecoids are estimated to have been a relatively large bodied ape weighing in the region of 68 kg (Nelson and Jurmain, 1988). These arboreal apes travelled quadrupedally through the forest on the tops of medium to large sized tree branches (Madar *et al.*, 2002). This is partly supported by the palaeoenvironmental evidence of the region which suggests that this region was comprised of dense closed canopy forests at ten MYA (Scott *et al.*, 1999) indicating that this region could be home to an arboreal ape. Although this ape was arboreal, it interestingly was not as specialized in its locomotory pattern in the same way as hylobatids and humans (Madar *et al.*, 2002). Sivapithecoids probably had a degree of mobility that fell somewhere between that of extant African apes and extant *Pongo* (Madar *et al.*, 2002). Further, these apes were probably capable of a number of suspensory positions including uni- or bi-manual and perhaps even quadrepedal (Madar *et al.*, 2002). If this species was an arboreal primate what caused its extinction?

### **Siwaliks Palaeoclimate and *Sivapithecus* Habitats**

Evidence from the paleoclimatological record of the Siwalik indicates that there was a cooling event about 9.4-8.37 MYA and that this was followed by a shift in the flora of the region from C3 plants to C4 grasslands (Scott *et al.*, 1999) occurring at around eight MYA. C3 and C4 plants refer to the type of photosynthetic pathways used by the plants for their metabolic processes. A C3 photosynthetic pathway refers to plants such as trees, most shrubs, herbs and cool-season grasses, while C4 plants generally refer to tropical or warm-season grasses (Pearsall, 2000). This vegetational shift was believed to indicate a shift in the region from the dense closed canopy forests characteristic in the Siwaliks at ten MYA to a more open, perhaps even savannah type habitat by six MYA (Scott *et al.*, 1999). The most recent evidence suggests that as early as 9.3 MYA the habitat of *Sivapithecus* was not closed canopy forest but a vegetation mosaic made up of forest, woodlands and open habitats (Nelson, 2003). As the monsoons became drier and these open habitats spread into the region (Nelson, 2003), Sivapithecoids would have been forced to migrate elsewhere or go extinct.

Perhaps more interesting for those studying extant apes is the evidence indicating that *Sivapithecus* exploited an extremely seasonal environment with five to six dry months per year much like the monsoon forests of South China (Nelson, 2003). It is possible that *Sivapithecus* adapted to life in this extremely seasonal environment by being capable of fat storage much like modern orangutans (see Chapter 2), or by inhabiting gallery forests or riverine forest environments (Nelson, 2003). It is possible that the Siwalik flora was also specialized allowing *Sivapithecus* to take advantage of an otherwise less than desirable habitat. For example, it has been postulated that the Siwalik Miocene forests may have contained a huge diversity of fruiting species allowing *Sivapithecus* greater access to its preferred food (Nelson, 2003). We do know that

despite these potential adaptations to deal with their unusually seasonal environment the Sivapithecoids were unable to survive in this habitat and by seven MYA, all Sivapithecoids were extinct in the Indo-Pakistan region (Harrison et al., 2002).

### **1.3 Evidence of Past Orangutan (*Pongo*) Distributions and Their Habitats:**

Fossils of the genus *Pongo* have been found in much of South East Asia. Based on the literature, it now seems likely that orangutans migrated from China to the South East Asian regions of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, until they eventually crossed onto the islands of Sumatra, Borneo and Java. This migration route is called the Sino-Malayan route (Vu *et al.*, 1996). It is not clear whether there was only one migration or many migrations followed by extinctions and new orangutan migratory incursions. Evidence from the fossil record seems to indicate that the latter is more plausible. The *Pongo* migrations into the Greater Sunda Islands during the Pliocene or early Pleistocene probably consisted of a number of members of the *Pongo* genera. It is believed that during this migration the orangutan began a gradual decrease in dental size, with an overall 16% decrease in tooth size from the time of the Pleistocene orangutan to the appearance of the Holocene orangutan (Hooijer, 1948, 1949). This size decrease culminates in appearance of the smallest orangutan ever known, the Javan orangutan (Hooijer, 1949). This hypothesis has led to the speculation that had this orangutan species survived it would have been smaller than the extant Sumatran form (Hooijer, 1948). As with many classifications of species which are now extinct or no longer found in that region and only described from fossil remains, there is the problem of lumping and splitting species. The splitters generally believe that there is little harm done in making geographic or temporal subpopulations into distinct species. This may,

in fact have a deleterious effect on orangutan palaeontology by obscuring several aspects of species biology (Drawhorn, 1994).

Caves have been the localities from which most of the fossil orangutan faunal assemblages have been recovered. This is probably related to the excellent environmental conditions that are found in caves for preservation and fossilization. Most of the recovered fossil *Pongo* material has been in the form of teeth. These are believed to have been brought into the caves by the porcupine *Hystrix brachyurus*, who collects and gnaws on defleshed and defatted bones (Drawhorn, 1994). Perhaps some of the caves containing fossil orangutan material may be the result of faunal assemblages at kill or scavenging sites. For example, there is a cave mentioned by Drawhorn (1994) that he believes represents a scavenging site because of its unusual male to female orangutan sex ratio. The Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) may also contribute to these fossil assemblages as it tends to eat a kill in safe densely covered place (usually flora) (Borner, 1978).

### **1.3.1 China**

The *Pongo* fauna of China seems to be very extensive and has been fairly well studied (e.g., Ho *et al.* 1995, Hooijer 1948, Kahlke 1972, Liu *et al.* 2001, and von Koengswald 1982). There are still very little published data on these fossil sites such as their palaeoecology. The East Asian monsoon was probably the controlling force for palaeoenvironmental change in East Asia for the time period dating from 130,000 years ago to 20,000 years ago (An, 2000). The East Asian monsoon is formed by the interacting thermal differences between the Asian landmass and the Pacific Ocean. Some researchers believe that its intensity could be further influenced by the occurrence of the Tibetan Plateau (An, 2000). Evidence from loess-palaeosol-red clay

indicates that the East Asian monsoon has been occurring for the past 7.2million years in which winter and summer monsoons have alternated dominance regimes with major climatic oscillations occurring every ten thousand years and less major oscillations every 1,000 years (An, 2000).

The first estimate of the number of fossil *Pongo* localities in China was done by Kahlke in 1972. At this time he recognized six sites containing *Pongo* fossil material (Kahlke, 1972). By 1982, eight sites were recognized in China within the five Provinces of Kwangsi, Kwantung, Szechwan, Kiangsu and Yunnan (von Koengswald 1982). The most recent estimate of the number of Chinese *Pongo* sites was thirteen made by Ho *et al.* (1995). These 13 fossil orangutan sites range in date from the early Pleistocene (Liucheng *Gigantopithecus* cave) to the Middle Pleistocene (Guanyindon, Shuanyandong, Niushuishan and Xioshandong caves) and the Late Pleistocene (Hexiandong, Xing-An, Tangshancun, Ganqionyan, Tobo, Liujiang *Homo sapiens*, Luokeng and Qixinyan caves) (Ho *et al.* 1995).

The Chinese sites containing fossil orangutans tend to contain a very diverse faunal assemblage including animals such as the macaque (*Macaca* sp.), the panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca fovealis*), and the leopard (*Panthera pardus*) (Vu *et al.*, 1996). There has even been speculation that one of the extinct orangutan ancestors may have in fact been a mountain orangutan (von Koengswald 1982). This speculation is based on the range of higher altitude (over 600 m a.s.l.) adapted faunal material that has been discovered in association with orangutan fossils (von Koengswald 1982).

The earliest documentation of a novel fossil orangutan sub-species in China comes from Hoshangtung Cave in Southern China and consists of the lower canine from a female animal. This became the type specimen for *Pongo pygmaeus weidenreichi* dating to the lower or middle Pleistocene (Hoojier, 1948). Currently, it is believed that

the Chinese *Pongo* fossil assemblages represent two subspecies, *Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus* and Hooijer's *Pongo pygmaeus weidenreichi* (Ho *et al.*, 1995). As for the relationships between these Chinese orangutan species, it has been speculated that the Chinese orangutan fauna are the ancestral forms of the Pleistocene Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus paleosumatrensis*) or another orangutan "race" with a unique specialization (Hooijer, 1949). This orangutan seems to have been larger than extant orangutans supporting its relation to this the early Sumatran subspecies of *Pongo*. This provides further support for the hypothesis that orangutans diminished in size as they migrated from Southern China, through mainland South-East Asia and into the Sunda Shelf Islands.

### **1.3.2 Vietnam**

The orangutan fossils of Vietnam may be the most important to the palaeoprimatology community. This is not a function of their numbers or because of the amount of detail in which they have been studied, but because the Binh Province of Vietnam has produced the first and only complete fossil skeleton of an orangutan (Bacon and Vu, 2001). Previously, the orangutan fossils of Vietnam have been discussed in general by Kahlke (1972) and by Schwartz *et al.* (1995). Two separate cave systems containing fossil orangutans, such as the Lang Trang caves (Vu *et al.*, 1996) and Tham Khuyen cave (Schwartz *et al.* 1994) have also been reported.

The most important of these finds is, as mentioned above, the complete fossil orangutan skeleton found in the Binh Province of Vietnam. Interestingly, the upper and lower molars of this fossil orangutan seem to be similar to both extant subspecies; whereas at other Vietnamese orangutan fossil sites the fossil orangutan faunas seem to have tremendous variation in tooth size (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). This skeleton is

something of an ambiguity because it contains traits belonging to both extant Sumatran orangutans (*P. abelii*) and Bornean orangutans (*P. pygmaeus*) (Bacon and Vu, 2001). For example, it has a long face with a weakly prominent interorbital region and a long nuchal surface, all characteristics of modern *P. abelii*. In addition, however, it demonstrates a marked prognathism, a straight orientation of the lower teeth, a concave facial profile and a long brain case, all of which are characteristics of modern Bornean orangutans (Bacon and Vu, 2001). The confusion over this fossil orangutan does not end here, as the skull of this animal is as large as that found on an extant male, while the long bones are equivalent to a small female (Bacon and Vu, 2001). The limb bone proportions are also confusing because the upper limbs are longer than those found in either extant form (Bacon and Vu, 2001).

In 1972, only four caves had been identified as containing fossil orangutans. The Hang-Hum cave, the Tan-Van cave, the Thung-Long cave and the Hang-Quit cave were identified as containing fossil orangutan material (Kahlke, 1972). By the mid 1990's Tham Khuyen cave in North Eastern Vietnam (Schwartz *et al.*, 1994), the Lang Trang caves (Vu *et al.*, 1996) and the sites of Tham Hai, Keo Leng, Nguom rockshelter, Diea Rockshelter and Tham On cave had been identified and added to this list (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). A total of 201 fossil orangutan specimens dating to around 500,000 years BP have been recovered from the Lang Trang caves (Vu *et al.*, 1996). It has been speculated that these specimens represent a distinct orangutan subspecies *Pongo pygmaeus ciiochoni* (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995).

Originally, it was believed that the Tham Khuyen breccia cave produced two types of fossil orangutan. One was assigned to the species *Pongo pygmaeus* while the other has was assigned to the *Pongo* genus and not given a species name (Schwartz *et al.*, 1994). Further study indicated that the 300,000-250,000 year old cave actually

contained three *Pongo* morphs (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). One of these morphs was a completely new genus with no apparent orangutan affinities. It was eventually named with both a new genus and a new species name being called *Langsonia liquidens* (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). More recent studies have indicated that this orangutan is not a new Genus or Species of orangutan, but that it belongs to the orangutan subspecies *Pongo pygmaeus weidenreichi* that was described by Hooijer, (1948) (Harrison *et al.*, 2002). The second orangutan morph found at the site was the new orangutan species *Pongo hooijeri* which is larger than most fossil and extant orangutan subspecies (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). The final fossil orangutan morph located in these caves was identified as a new orangutan subspecies and given the name *Pongo pygmaeus kahlkei*. This orangutan subspecies is unique in that it has the largest molars of any orangutan subspecies (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995).

The other Vietnamese cave sites have not been as well studied for various reasons such as small samples. These sites include Tham Hai cave where one orangutan tooth was recovered, the Nguom Rockshelter where one individual orangutan dating to about 23,000 years BP was identified and Diea Rockshelter (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). A brief discussion of the orangutan fossil fauna from some of these less well known orangutan sites follows below.

The orangutan fossils in Hang Hum cave date to between 140,000 and 80,000 years BP and have been identified as belonging to a subspecies described by Hooijer (1948), *Pongo pygmaeus weidenreichi* (See Chinese orangutan fossils above) (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995), while the Tham On cave orangutans date to between 250,000 and 140,000 years BP. This earlier orangutan morph appears to be a different subspecies based on the observation that it is a markedly sexually dimorphic orangutan (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). The male dentition from this orangutan tends to be slightly

smaller than the dentition of extant males, while the female dentition is markedly smaller than that of extant females (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). As a result of this size differentiation this fossil orangutan has been assigned to the subspecies of *P.p. fromagei* (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995). It has been concluded that all of the fossil orangutans from Vietnam are probably larger on average than extant forms (Schwartz *et al.*, 1995), providing further evidence for a reduction in orangutan size between the forms that lived in Vietnam and those that migrated to the Sunda Islands.

### **1.3.3 Thailand/Laos**

Again, like much of the available fossil orangutan assemblages the fossil orangutan faunas of these two neighbouring countries are not well known. There appears to be a large void in the literature concerning the orangutan fossil assemblages of these countries yet these sites may represent important points along the migration route of orangutans from China to the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Three fossil orangutan sites have been identified in Laos. They are Tham-P'a-Loi, Tham-Hang and Houei-Hoc caves (Drawhorn 1994 and Kahlke 1972). Interestingly, there have also been three fossil orangutan sites identified in Thailand. Nam Phnom Dam and Kao Pa Nam are briefly discussed in Drawhorn (1994) while Thum Wiman Nakin cave has the remains of *Pongo pygmaeus* represented by 16 fossil teeth dating to the later mid-Pleistocene is discussed by Tougaard and Ducrocq (1999). It has been speculated that these orangutans were terrestrial and moving southward, forced by the cooling that occurred in South East Asia at this time (Tougaard and Ducrocq, 1999). This is supported by the findings of Jablonski *et al.* (2000) who found that shrinking habitats and the increased severity of seasonal climates pushed many South East Asian primates southward.

#### 1.3.4 Sumatra

The *Pongo* faunas of Sumatra are very important because it is the one place where there are both fossil and extant forms of orangutans. This presents a partial reason as to why the fossil orangutans of Sumatra have been fairly well studied, described and re-described over the years by researchers such as Hooijer (1948 and 1949) and Drawhorn (1994).

The most important fossil orangutan locality in Sumatra is the Padang Highlands with a total of 3,170 recovered fossil teeth (Table 1.1) (Hooijer, 1948). The site encompasses three very important cave sites: a) Simbrambang cave dating to the end of the Pleistocene or early Holocene having the largest collection of teeth with approximately half the total collected in the Padang Highlands, b) Lida Ajer cave dating to 80,000 BP with about 1/3 of the total tooth assemblage and c) Djamboe cave dating between 85,000 and 56,000 BP and contributes 1/9 of the fossil tooth assemblage for the region (Hooijer, 1948). A fourth unknown cave called Cave “?” was identified by Drawhorn (1994) in his reanalysis of the Sumatran fossil orangutan material. It is unclear as to where the orangutan fossils from this cave were discussed by Hooijer (1948).

The type specimen (left M<sub>3</sub>) for the novel orangutan subspecies *Pongo pygmaeus paleosumatrensis* was discovered at the Simbrambang cave site (Hooijer, 1948). It has been stated that this site was not conducive to creating a type specimen because some of the Padang Highland localities were not suitably identified by Eugene Dubois (who originally excavated these sites) and confounded by Hooijer who during his analysis of this material pooled all of the Padang Highlands localities into a single collection for description (Drawhorn, 1994) confounding the earlier problem caused by Dubois collection techniques.

Of the fossil teeth attributed to *P.p. paleosumatrensis* found in the Padang highlands a total of 312 incisors were identified (see Table 1.1) (Hooijer, 1948). The upper incisors seem to be less hypsodont than those found in extant orangutans while the lower incisors appear more hypsodont (Hooijer, 1948). A total 82 upper and 131 lower canines were also identified in this assemblage. The upper male canines are less hypsodont than those of extant orangutans while the female upper canines are larger than those of extant orangutans. The lower male canines are also larger than those of extant orangutans while the lower female canines are less hypsodont than those of extant orangutans (Hooijer, 1948). A total of 476 upper and 538 lower premolars were identified in this assemblage. Molars were very common at the Padang Highland localities. A total of 924 upper molars and 664 lower molars were recovered (Hooijer, 1948). These molars seemed to have the same basic pattern as those found in *Sivapithecus* and other Anthropoid apes, while showing a trend towards a gradual suppression of the third molar (Hooijer, 1948). A total of 43 deciduous teeth were also identified in the assemblages of these caves (Hooijer, 1948).

**Table 1.1: Fossil *Pongo pygmaeus paleosumatrensis* teeth recovered at Padang Highland localities (from Hooijer, 1948).**

Tooth Description	Total Recovered
I <sup>1</sup>	44
I <sup>2</sup>	55
I <sub>1</sub>	56
I <sub>2</sub>	154
Upper Canines	47♂ and 35♀
Lower Canines	81♂ and 50♀
P <sup>3</sup>	199
P <sup>4</sup>	277
P <sub>3</sub>	270
P <sub>4</sub>	268
M <sup>1</sup>	331
M <sup>2</sup>	353
M <sup>3</sup> and M <sup>4</sup>	240
M <sub>1</sub>	209
M <sub>2</sub>	230
M <sub>3</sub> and M <sub>4</sub>	225
Deciduous Teeth	43
Totals	3,170

There is some disagreement with the conclusions of Hooijer (1948). Drawhorn (1994) believes that the material from the Mid-Pleistocene level at Lida Ajer is probably sufficiently different to be used as a new type specimen and that it should be renamed *Pongo duboisi lidaajarensis* which he believes survived at least until the late Pleistocene at 80,000 years BP. A total of 84 individuals [Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)] of this highly sexually dimorphic and large orangutan have been identified by Drawhorn (1994). Using these MNI numbers Drawhorn (1994) attempts to estimate orangutan mortality at Lida Ajer by dividing the population into three age-classes. Drawhorn (1994) divides the sites orangutans as being adolescents, prime adults and mature adults. Based on this subdivision Drawhorn (1994) estimates male orangutan mortality at 23.8%

for adolescents, 47.6% for prime adults, and 28.6% for mature adults for this site and female mortality at 11.1% for adolescents, 55.6% for prime adults, and 33.3% for mature adults (Drawhorn, 1994). While these figures may represent the distribution of mortality based on the fossil teeth found in this locality it seems unlikely that these represent true mortality figures. Losing so many adults at the prime of their lives would quickly lead a population to extinction if over a short period of time.

This disagreement between the findings of Hooijer (1948) and Drawhorn (1994) continues into the interpretation of the Djamboe cave site. At Djamboe, Drawhorn (1994) believes that there is sufficient evidence to create another new subspecies of orangutan named *Pongo duboisi djamboensis* dating to between 85,000 and 55,000 years BP. He believes that this orangutan morph is a chronological subspecies of *Pongo duboisi lidaajarensis*. The older *Pongo duboisi djamboensis* assemblages at 70-85,000 years BP are believed to be contemporary with the orangutans at Lida Ajer until about 56,000 years BP when the Djamboe fossils become almost indistinguishable from *Pongo pygmaeus* (Drawhorn, 1994).

Based on his observations, Drawhorn (1994) develops two possible models for orangutan evolution in Sumatra's Padang Highlands. The first sees the sequence being; the Lida Ajer population → the Djamboe population → the Simbrambang population → the extant population. While the second model sees Djamboe as a temporally mixed composite of *P. duboisi* and *P.p. paleosumatrensis*, it would seem likely that the first of these models is the more accurate. Either way it can be concluded that the disappearance of *P. duboisi* and the appearance of *P. pygmaeus* coincide with the beginning of the terminal Pleistocene glaciation at the eruption of the Toba volcano and that the reduction in orangutan dentition seems to coincide with this cooler and drier period of geological time (Drawhorn, 1994).

### **1.3.5 Java**

Trinil is probably the most well known of the Javan fossil orangutan sites and has been discussed by several researchers (i.e. Drawhorn 1994, Hooijer 1948 and de Vos 1983). For once Drawhorn (1994) and Hooijer (1948) agree that this site contains a novel orangutan. It has been referred to as *Pongo brevirostris* by Drawhorn (1994) but he believes that this fossil represents a Pleistocene orangutan subspecies which he names *P.p. javenensis*. Hooijer (1948) also believed that this fossil probably represents an orangutan subspecies, but that there is too little material for it to be named. Drawhorn's (1994) suggested name of *P.p. javenensis* for the Javan orangutan of the late Pleistocene is rooted in minor differences such as an increased cingular development and increased molar crown flare. Fossil orangutans have also been discovered at the Punung Fissures (Drawhorn 1994 and de Vos 1982) and Sangiran (Drawhorn, 1994). It has been proposed that the Punung Fissures orangutan assemblage may represent an orangutan shifting towards a dryer period with a more open woodland type habitat (de Vos, 1982).

### **1.3.6 Borneo**

The fossil Bornean orangutan assemblages are another poorly researched group of fossils. Niah cave in Malaysian Borneo is often referred to but is not much discussed in much of the literature. The cave dates to approximately 50,000 years BP and was probably tropical rainforest that was attached to mainland Southeast Asia (Long *et al.* 1994). This site is currently in a region of limestone forest (MacKinnon *et al.*, 1996).

## 1.4 Biogeographical Changes to the Malay Archipelago

The islands of Sumatra, Borneo and the Malayan Peninsula occupy an ever-wet climate (Marley and Henley, 1987). Ever-wet conditions create rainforest when there is a minimum of 60 mm of rain in every month (MacKinnon *et al.*, 1996). The Malay Archipelago was created during the Mid-Miocene when the South-East Asian and Australian plates collided near Sulawesi (George, 1987). Three main types of environmental change have been identified in the region. These changes have been identified as: sea level changes, changes in the degree of seasonality as defined by precipitation, and temperature changes (Marley and Henley, 1987). The consequences of these environmental changes would have potentially provided the Malay Archipelago with land linkages from mainland South-East Asia. These land linkages might have been available to organisms that require seasonal climates and may have lowered the montane zone boundaries making the lower hills available to lower temperature adapted organisms (Marley and Henley, 1987). At the same time these Pleistocene climatic changes caused the distribution of Catarrhines to be contracted and pushed southward (Jablonski *et al.*, 2000).

Seasonality is an important aspect of some mammalian lives. Thus, we might assume that the changing seasonality of the past may have had a tremendous influence on mammal evolution, dispersal and ranging patterns in the past thus explaining their current distribution. For example, Cercopithecoids were able to flourish during the Pleistocene as a result of their greater adaptability to the more seasonal environments that arose at this time (Jablonski *et al.*, 2000). The climate of the Malay Archipelago during the late Tertiary and early Quaternary was much more seasonal than today. Today's ever-wet forests were pushed much further south during the Mid-Pleistocene drying (Marley and Henley, 1987). These dryer conditions (George, 1987) along with the

lowering of the sea levels, allowed for the creation of a savannah corridor during the Pleistocene through which animals may have been able to migrate from mainland South East Asia (namely Thailand) to Java (Marley and Henley, 1987; George, 1987). Perhaps there was even the potential for a Philippine-Sulawesi-Sunda Island migration route (George, 1987). Although this is unlikely as the flora and fauna of the island of Borneo are more like those of the Asian mainland and the other Sunda Islands than those of Sulawesi (MacKinnon *et al.*, 1996). In fact these two islands have been separated for about 10 million years ago and are the boundary of Wallace's Line (MacKinnon *et al.*, 1996). Orangutans may have been able to survive and perhaps even exploit this savanna habitat as many researchers have argued that the orangutan ancestor may have been in fact more terrestrial (Delgado and van Schaik, 2001). Peat pollen assemblages have allowed scientists to infer that this savanna corridor did exist during the Pleistocene (Marley and Henley, 1987). Other evidence for a dryer Pleistocene climate in the Sunda region comes in the form of Kunkar Nodules which only form in arid conditions and have been identified on the Sunda Shelf. This provides even greater evidence to support the idea that the Pleistocene climate of the region was drier and much more strongly seasonal (Marley and Henley, 1987). South Kalimantan has been said to have been especially strongly seasonal during the early Holocene, while Sumatra has many landforms that only form under semi-arid conditions (Marley and Henley, 1987).

The thermal changes in the Malay Peninsula region have been extremely variable with approximately 21 sea temperature variations over the last 1.6 million years (Marley and Henley, 1987). At this time sea temperature changed by approximately 2° Celsius (Marley and Henley, 1987) which probably translated into a drop in temperature of about 2-3° Celsius in the lowlands of Sumatra and about 6° Celsius in the Sumatran

highlands (Whitten *et al.*, 1997). Part of the reason for this significant cooling was the eruption of Mount Toba in Sumatra at 75,000 BP which may have been the trigger for the final dramatic global cooling of the late Pleistocene (Drawhorn, 1994). Mount Toba may have ejected as much as 1,500-2,000 km<sup>3</sup> of molten rock and debris during its eruption and created a caldera 100 km long. The extent of this volcanic explosion may have triggered local orangutan extinctions and allowed for their replacement from mainland South East Asia (Drawhorn, 1994). These changes in temperature were enough that the mountains of *Gunung Leuser* (today a rich orangutan habitat up to about 2,000 meters) probably did not deglaciate until around 14,000 to 9,000 BP, while *Gunung Kemiri* did not deglaciate until 7,590 +/- 40 BP (Marley and Henley, 1987). Evidence from glacial till on *Gunung Leuser* indicates that at 15 thousand years ago there was still a region of glaciation in excess of 100 km<sup>2</sup> and that the temperature was still 6° Celsius colder than present (Drawhorn, 1994). The region began to warm in the early Holocene around 8,300 years BP when the subalpine/montane forest boundaries climbed by 350 meters (Drawhorn, 1994).

One might not have expected such a great change in environmental conditions in a region of such low latitudes, yet the Malay Archipelago has been greatly influenced by environmental changes especially during the last glaciation of the Pleistocene. In realizing this one can gain a better appreciation for some of the climatic conditions that this region's biota may have had to deal with during their evolution and adaptation to their present habitats. We will now look at the ecology of the habitats used by modern orangutans.

## 1.5 Current Ecology of Orangutan Habitats in Borneo

As stated earlier much of the flora and fauna of the island of Borneo are more closely related to those of the South East Asian mainland rather than its eastern neighbour the island of Sulawesi (MacKinnon *et al.*, 1996). The Island of Borneo is made up of three political units. Much of the northern part of the island (about the top 1/3) is made up of the Malaysian provinces of Sabah and Sarawak along with the Sultanate of Brunei. The rest of the island is made up of the four (East, Central, West, South) provinces of the Indonesian region of Kalimantan. The most complete source on the ecology of this region is MacKinnon *et al.* (1996). For this reason this section will summarize those data and information that have been provided by these authors that are relevant to orangutans and their habitats. Unless otherwise referenced all information in this section comes from this source because of its broad scope and incredible synthesis of this island's ecology. While many of the orangutan studies do discuss the ecology of their study sites that data will be included in Chapter 2-Orangutan Ecology. This section is meant only as an overview of the ecology of Borneo and how orangutans fit into this environment.

Seven distinct biounits have been identified on the island of Borneo. These biounits are: 1) the Meratus Mountains of South Kalimantan; 2) Northeast Borneo including Northeastern Kalimantan and Sabah; 3) the North Coast including Brunei and Sarawak; 4) Northwest Borneo north of the Kapus River and including western Sarawak; 5) Southern lowland plains, this is an area of vast peat and fresh water swamp forests; 6) The East coast of Borneo and finally, 7) the hilly and mountainous central part of the island. For some unknown reason the Southeastern part of the island of Borneo has no natural orangutan populations. Based on current orangutan distribution (Singleton *et al.*,

2004) orangutans appear to be present at least in small remnant populations in six of the seven biounits with only biounit 1, the Meratus Mountains not being home to wild orangutans.

Swamp forests are the most important biounit for our study as it takes place in the peat and fresh water swamp forests of Central Kalimantan (*Kalimantan Tengah*) Indonesia. There are three distinct types of swamps and their corresponding forests. The first of these types is mangrove swamp which has no orangutans. The second swamp type is rain-fed peat swamp forest and the third is fresh water swamp. The latter two habitat types seem to be important for the orangutan (See Chapter 2- Orangutan Ecology). Most of those tree families found in lowland evergreen Dipterocarp forests are also found in these swamp forests. Freshwater swamp forests cover about 7% of Kalimantan and are one of the more productive forest types as they are regenerated by the mineral rich floodwaters that reinvigorate them with nutrients (e.g. at *Gunung Palung* an important orangutan habitat). This type of forest contains everything from low scrub forest less than ten meters in height to mixed lowland Dipterocarp-type forest.

The important tree types in swamp include *Camposperma sp.*, *Alstonia sp.*, *Eugenia sp.*, *Canarium sp.*, *Koompassia sp.*, *Culophyllum sp.* and *Melanorrhoea sp.* (MacKinnon *et al.*, 1996). Unfortunately, much of this forest has been cleared for agriculture because of its high productivity.

The lowland forests of Borneo are the most important forest type in terms of both ecology and commercial value in the Sundaland region. This forest tends to have a canopy between 45 meters and 60 meters in height in which ten percent of all trees and 80% of all emergents are Dipterocarps. The importance of this forest type to primates and orangutans can be seen in the diversity of the primate species that can be found in

lowland forests. In Borneo, as many as 13 different species of primates can be found in these forests.

A second type of lowland-type forest is ironwood forest or *ulin* which is dominated by the ironwood tree (*Eusideroxylon zwagari*). The ironwood tree is partially characterized by its extremely large seed weighing as much as 230 g. This forest type once encompassed 1440 km<sup>2</sup> of the island of Borneo but now less than 40% of it remains intact. Important orangutan habitats such as Kutai National Park (See Chapter 2-Orangutan Ecology and Rodman, 1973, 1977, 1979, and 1988) are comprised of this forest type. Ironwood forest has two canopies; a higher open canopy at 30-35 meters and a lower closed sub-canopy at 20-25 meters. Other important tree species in this forest type include *Intsia palembonica*, *Eugenia* sp. and *Palaquium* sp.

Heath forests (*kerangas*) are another type of orangutan habitat yet, generally, orangutans are found here in low densities. Heath forests are found on soils that are created from siliceous parent materials which create acidic, coarse, and free-draining soils that are often referred to white sand soils. These forests create low single layered canopies formed by the crowns of large saplings. Under the best conditions heath forest may attain canopy heights of 27-31 meters, but are more commonly characterized by small densely packed trees with small buttresses, stilt type root systems, thin climbers and epiphytes. Some of the characteristic species of heath forest include; *Casuarina sumatrana*, *Cratoxylum glaucum*, *Dacrydium elatum*, *Baectia frutescans*, and *Tristaniopsis obovata*.

Limestone forests form on the remains of what was once an ancient sea floor where the remains of calcium carbonate organisms such as corals and brachiopods have accumulated. Among these limestone forest regions is Niah Cave an important orangutan fossil site (See Chapter 1-Orangutan Origins). Five types of limestone forests

have been identified. These are: 1) lowland scree characterized by widely spaced trees dominated by massive emergents five meters in girth and 50 meters high; 2) lowland limestone cliff communities that do not contain much vegetation; 3) lowland limestone forest characterized by large Dipterocarp emergents which may reach 40 meters or more; 4) lower montane limestone forest characterized by a large deep mat of peat-like humus and a canopy under 25 meters and 5) upper montane (over 1,200 meters) characterized by small trees.

The final habitat on the island of Borneo that contains wild orangutans is the mountain habitats. Here, orangutans and other primates are limited to the lower mountain slopes and lower montane regions. There are few mountains on the island of Borneo above 2,000 meters in height. The lower mountain slopes contain habitat similar to that found in the lowland rainforests of the region, while the lower montane habitat is dominated by chestnut (*Castanopsis*) and oak (*Lithocarpus* and *Quercus*) trees. The upper montane forests generally tend to contain small and stunted trees making them less than prime habitat for primates. Thus, these forests tend not to contain any primates. For every 1,000 meters in altitude the temperature in these forests tends to drop five degrees Celsius and the daily variations in temperature become more drastic.

The climate of Borneo tends to be warm with annual average temperatures between 25 and 35° Celsius. There are two main monsoon seasons in Indonesia influencing the rainfall on the island of Borneo. The "Dry" monsoon runs from May to October while the "Wet" monsoon runs from November to April. Borneo has very few months with less than 200 mm of rain. Much of the hilly interior of the island receives between 2,000 and 4,000 mm of rain annually. Kalimantan has been divided into five broad agroclimate zones. In these zones wet months are defined as those with more than 200 mm of rain and dry months are those with less than 100 mm of rain. Zone A

covers 43% of Kalimantan and has nine or more wet months and two or less dry months. Zones B (32% of Kalimantan), C (15% of Kalimantan), D (4% of Kalimantan) and E (6% of Kalimantan) are sub-divided into zones 1 and 2. Zone B1 has between seven and nine wet months and less than two dry months; while B2 has seven to nine wet months and 2 to three dry months. Zone C1 has five to six wet months and less than two dry months; while C2 has five to six wet months and two to three dry months. Zone D1 has three to four wet months and less than two dry months; while D2 has three to four wet months and two to three dry months. Finally, zone E1 has less than three wet months and less than two dry months and zone E2 has less than three wet months and two to three dry months.

## **1.6 Current Ecology of Orangutan Habitats in Sumatra**

Data regarding the ecology of Sumatra has recently been synthesized by Whitten *et al.*, (1997). Interestingly orangutans are currently only found north of Lake Toba on the island of Sumatra. The island of Sumatra is made up of ten vegetation types. Many of the vegetational types were discussed above in the section on the ecology of Borneo and are sufficiently similar that to re-discuss them here would be redundant. These vegetation types include the three swamp forest types: mangrove, freshwater and peat, montane rainforest, lowland evergreen rainforest, semi-evergreen rainforest, heath forest, tropical pine forest, ironwood forest and forest on limestone. Of these only lowland semi-evergreen rainforest and tropical pine forest are not discussed in the ecology of Borneo above. The tropical pine forests are probably not important to orangutans as they are generally found in sub-alpine zones 2,000-2,500 meters above

sea level, and never occur under 1,000 meters, while semi-evergreen forests are not discussed as a separate habitat type.

The island of Sumatra is also in the ever-wet zone and may experience rainfall of more than 6,000 mm west of the Barisan mountain range to less than 1,500 mm in other areas. The main rainy season is between the months of May to September. As discussed above this differs from the island of Borneo which is experiencing its dry monsoon at this time. Much like the island of Borneo, the island of Sumatra has 5 agroclimatic zones (A-E). Zone A has nine or more consecutive wet months and two or less consecutive dry months. Zone B has seven to nine consecutive wet months and three or less consecutive dry months. Zone C has five to six consecutive wet months and three or less consecutive dry months. Zone D has three or four consecutive wet months and two to six dry months. Finally, Zone E has up to 3 consecutive wet months and up to 6 consecutive dry months. It is important to note that 71% of Sumatra has seven or more consecutive wet months and up to three consecutive dry months. This section is only meant as a brief overview and for a more in depth understanding of the ecology of Sumatra one should read Whitten *et al.* (1997).

## **1.7 Conclusion**

The orangutan has gone through a transition and evolution from its prehistoric predecessors *Sivapithecus*, *Lufengpithecus* and the various *Pongo* species and subspecies to become the only modern great ape other than humans to live outside of Africa. Why has this ape survived until now in Borneo and Sumatra when all of the other apes outside of Africa went extinct? It has been speculated that once *Pongo* sp. evolved and had migrated to Borneo and Sumatra this ape had advantages over mainland apes

such as decreased body size and increased arboreality making these animals harder to hunt than their mainland cousins (Harrison *et al.*, 2002).

It is clear that there is a great deal of knowledge regarding fossil orangutans that has already been discovered in many areas such as Sumatra, China and Vietnam. Yet, at the same time there is still a great deal of work to be done in more complete descriptions of the orangutan fossil faunas of places such as Thailand and Laos. The more complete our fossil descriptions are the better we will be able to interpret the migratory movements and evolution of the orangutan.

## **Chapter 2**

# **ECOLOGY OF MODERN ORANGUTANS (*Pongo* sp.) FROM THE ISLANDS OF BORNEO (*P. pygmaeus*) AND SUMATRA (*P. abelii*).**

### **2.1 Introduction**

The orangutan is an especially interesting great ape with many characteristics that make it unique from all other great apes. It is the only great ape to live a generally solitary and unsocial lifestyle and it uses vocalizations as spacing mechanisms rather than physical confrontations to protect females and territories (Galdikas, 1979). The orangutan is also the only great ape other than humans to live outside of Africa, and apparently has the longest interbirth interval of any primate species (See 2.3 Life History below). As a result of these factors the orangutan has become a popular scientific study subject and one of the most recognizable great ape and primate species in popular culture (Rijksen, 1995). The orangutan has been said to be the most endangered of the great apes (The Editors in the Preface to *The Neglected Ape*). Orangutans are in grave danger of extinction due to a dramatic decrease in numbers which was first noted in the late 1980's (Rijksen, 1995). The world's conservation community has been slow to fight to save the orangutan (Rijksen, 1995).

Orangutans once ranged over a vast area including much of South East Asia from southern China through Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and into the Sunda Islands (see Chapter 1). Orangutans have already gone extinct over much of this area and today only exist on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Two possible explanations for the

collapse of the orangutan range have been proposed. The first of these is the ecological explanation which proposes that orangutan distributions shifted southward as a result of the shifting tropical and subtropical zones of South East Asia (Delgado and van Schaik, 2001). The increase in temperature since the last glaciation has raised sea levels and perhaps restricted the amount of habitat available for large mammals such as orangutans (Delgado and van Schaik, 2001). The second hypothesis is that humans are to blame for the decline in orangutan distribution because of the fact that orangutans are fairly slow, arboreal animals making them easy to exploit while their slow reproduction makes them susceptible to extinction (Delgado and van Schaik, 2001). It seems likely that these two hypotheses should not be thought of as mutually exclusive. Both ecological and human factors have probably contributed to the elimination of orangutans from its former habitat.

Many orangutan rehabilitation centres have been established to deal with the modern threats caused by humans that are facing orangutans. These sites may at one time combine the study of wild orangutans with the conservation goal of returning wild-born ex-captive orangutans that had been confiscated by various government agencies back to the wild (see Yeager, 1997). In 1995, it was suggested that ex-captive orangutans only be released into former habitats that today contain no wild orangutans (Soemarna *et al.*, 1995). This and other recommendation made by environmental organizations eventually became part of the *Indonesian Orangutan Action Plan* (Soemarna *et al.*, 1995). These guidelines were adopted in 1995 and as a result, the Indonesian government no longer allows the release of wild-born ex-captives into areas with viable wild orangutan populations (Rijksen and Meijaard, 1999). There are some key advantages to the rehabilitation and reintroduction process. It may provide demographic and genetic reservoirs from which new populations can be established and

genetic diversity can be increased. It also reduces the threat of extinction of wild populations by increasing their numbers (Yeager, 1997).

Currently there are five active wild orangutan research sites (Delgado and van Schaik, 2001). The two current research sites in Sumatra are Ketambe and Suaq Balimbing which are both in the Gunung Leuser ecological area (Delgado and van Schaik, 2001). There are also three current research sites in Indonesian Borneo. The current Bornean research sites are Tanjung Puting National Park and Cabang Panti in Gunung Palung National Park (Delgado and van Schaik, 2001) and Danau Sentarum Wildlife Reserve (Russon *et al.*, 2001). Previously, four other orangutan research sites also existed in Borneo. These sites were Lokan, Ulu Segama, Mentoko and Renun (Delgado and van Schaik, 2001) but for whatever reason these sites are no longer active centers of wild orangutan field research. One site in Sarawak (Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary) has looked at estimates of orangutan abundance inside the wildlife sanctuary (Blouch, 1997). Yet, this project was not specific to orangutans and looked at the density of all primates in the area.

From these orangutan studies three types of ranging patterns have been postulated. These may explain why there is such variation in home range estimates at the sites discussed below. Rijksen and Meijaard, 1999) identified these three ranging patterns as: (a) residents who are those orangutans that live in an area for many years and are present in that area for much of the year; (b) commuters who are those orangutans that each year for many years visit an area and are seen regularly in that area for many weeks or months and (c) wanderers who are seen very infrequently for a period of three years and may in fact never return to the area. Males often tend to fall into the latter category and thus have been called the wandering sex (Te Boekhorst *et al.*, 1990). Both the female attraction hypothesis and the food attraction hypothesis have

been forwarded as explanations for male wandering (Te Boekhorst *et al.*, 1990). The female attraction hypothesis was originally developed by MacKinnon (1974) and was later revised by Te Boekhorst *et al.*, (1990). This hypothesis states that males move into an area when females in the area are ready to conceive. The food attraction hypothesis postulates that non-resident orangutans arrive at periods of high fruit production (Te Boekhorst *et al.*, 1990). It has been pointed out that these two hypotheses are probably not mutually exclusive (Te Boekhorst *et al.*, 1990).

## **2.2 Orangutan Home and Day Ranges, Density and Population Estimates**

### **2.2.1 Bornean Orangutan Population Estimates**

In 1995, it was estimated that between 10,282 and 15,546 orangutans lived on the island of Borneo in the remaining 22,360 km<sup>2</sup> of suitable habitat (Rijksen *et al.*, 1995). A more recent estimate of the Bornean orangutan population released in the summer of 2004 based on the creation of a new PHVA (Population and Habitat Viability Analysis) suggests that the Bornean orangutan population is actually greater than it was believed to be in 1995. This new estimate indicates that more than 40,000 orangutans survive on the island of Borneo (Singleton *et al.*, 2004). This estimate is based on the largest ever cooperative study by orangutan researchers to survey intensively all potential orangutan habitats on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. This population estimate includes very large population concentrations in Tanjung Puting National Park (6,000 individuals), Sebangau (6,900 individuals) and Arut-Belantikan (Minimum 6,000 individuals). Nine other areas in Borneo are believed to house orangutan populations numbering between 1,000 and 3,350 individuals (Singleton *et al.*, 2004). This indicates that orangutan populations are faring better than was believed prior to this PHVA.

Bornean orangutans probably numbered around 230,000 animals at the turn of

the 20<sup>th</sup> century based on available habitat (Rijksen and Meijaard, 1999). The decline in Bornean orangutan populations has been attributed to the Indonesian government's recent decision to open up Kalimantan to economic development in 1986 (Eudey, 1995). For example as many as 3,000, and at least 1,000 orangutans, were smuggled out of Kalimantan between 1988 and 1990 (Eudey, 1995).

### **Tanjung Puting**

Tanjung Puting National Park (TPNP) in the Province of Kalimantan Tengah, Indonesia is probably the best known orangutan research site in the world because it encompasses the research site of Dr. Birute Galdikas at Camp Leakey. The most recent estimate of the population of orangutans in the park is 6,000 individuals making it one of the last true strongholds for orangutans (Singleton *et al.*, 2004). The Park itself is relatively flat and low lying (Galdikas, 1978a, 1979), with most of the park being lower than 30 meters a.s.l. (Galdikas, 1988). The park is made up of 63% mixed dipterocarp forest and 27% peat swamp forest (Galdikas, 1988). There are two rainfall peaks in the park, the major one occurring between the months of December and May, followed by a second peak in the month of September (Galdikas, 1978a and 1988). The dry season tends to fall between June and August (Galdikas, 1988). The temperature in the Park varies between a maximum temperature of 37.5°C to 34°C with the lows in the park varying between 18° and 21° C (Galdikas, 1978a, 1988). Temperatures tend to vary by about 10° C during a single 24 hour period (Galdikas, 1978a).

The orangutans at TPNP tend to live in one of three group types; either as a solitary male, an adult female with one or two dependant offspring or immature animals who are in a transitory phase between living with their mothers and having their own separate independent life (Galdikas, 1979). Female and male orangutans in the

park tend to have different sized home ranges, but these home ranges themselves tend to overlap (Galdikas, 1978a). A home range can be defined as “the area a group or individual uses” (Strier, 2000: 376). There is uncertainty at TPNP as to the true size of male home ranges other than to say they are very large and in some instances may be larger than the study area of Camp Leakey (Galdikas and Teleki, 1981). Female orangutans within the park tend to have home ranges that vary based on their age (see Table 2.1) (Galdikas, 1978a and 1988).

Orangutan day ranges tend to vary greatly between males and females at TPNPk. The average day range for an orangutan is between 90 and 3,050 meters with a mean value of 790 meters (Galdikas, 1988). Males tend to travel farther and faster than females during the day with a mean day range of 850 meters with a maximum of four kilometers (Galdikas, 1988). Females tend to travel slower than males and thus tend to have smaller day ranges than males averaging about 710 meters with a maximum recorded value of 2.5 kilometers (Galdikas, 1988). Orangutan densities in the Park have been observed to fluctuate as orangutans seek seasonally available food sources (Galdikas, 1979). This corresponds to the predictions made by Te Beekhorst *et al.*'s (1990) food attraction hypothesis.

### **Gunung Palung: Cabang Panti**

Gunung Palung National Park and the research site of Cabang Panti is currently the only other active site of long term wild orangutan research on the island of Borneo. The research being conducted at this park has just begun to be published over the past few years and doesn't have the time depth of sites like Tanjung Puting can provide. The site is made up of peat swamp forest, freshwater swamp forest, alluvial terrace forest, lowland sandstone forest, lowland and upland granite forest (Knott, 1997). Mast (or mass) fruitings have occurred at the site in 1987, 1991 and 1995 (Knott, 1997).

Gunung Palung has both prime orangutan habitat and a less desirable orangutan habitat. For the prime orangutan habitat available in the park orangutan populations have been estimated as high as 2,100 orangutans (Rijksen et al., 1995). The less desirable orangutan habitat in the park and along its boundaries had an estimated population of 1,650 animals (Rijksen et al., 1995). More recent estimates indicate that the orangutan populations in this park may have dropped to a total of 2,500 individuals (Singleton et al., 2004). To help save wildlife in this park an experimental type of forest buffering was established at this site in the early 1990's. These forest buffers generally take one of two forms. They are either forest extension buffers which increase the forest habitat available for the local flora and fauna, or they are sociobuffering zones that allow the local peoples living around the park to use them for goods and services (Salafsky, 1993). Unfortunately, there are no published accounts of orangutan home range or day range size for this park.

#### **Kutai: Mentoko**

The Kutai research site (Mentoko) was at one time a well studied site focusing on wild orangutans (e.g. Rodman, 1973, 1977, 1979 and 1988). Unfortunately, according to Delgado and van Schaik (2001) this site is no longer active in terms of wild orangutan research. The Kutai Nature Reserve (Now Kutai National Park) is located in East Kalimantan and is made-up of primary dipterocarp forest (Rodman, 1979). The monthly maximum for rainfall in the park is 355.12 mm while the monthly minimum is 124.54 mm (Rodman, 1973). The site is often flooded by the nearby river (Rodman, 1973) increasing the amount of river silts that provide excellent conditions for dipterocarp growth (MacKinnon et al., 1996).

A current estimate indicates that more than 600 orangutans live in the Kutai region (Singleton *et al.*, 2004). Estimates of orangutan densities in the park range from

3/km<sup>2</sup> (Rodman, 1973) to 1/km<sup>2</sup> (Rijksen *et al.*, 1995). Unlike Tanjung Puting, the male orangutans at Kutai tend to have small discrete home ranges (See Table 2.1) (Rodman, 1973). The female home range at Kutai may also be smaller than those at Tanjung Puting and are estimated at between 0.4km<sup>2</sup> and 0.6 km<sup>2</sup> (Rodman, 1971) to 1.5km<sup>2</sup> (Rodman and Mitani, 1987 as discussed by Rodman, 1988). The average day range at Kutai is an average of 305 meters per day (Rodman, 1977 and 1988). This is also very small when compared to those data for Tanjung Puting National Park.

### **Danau Sentarum**

This site has only recently been studied and the authors caution that estimates of orangutan density based on nests can be inaccurate. For nest surveys to be representative of the actual population a valid estimate needs to be established for the proportion of nest builders who are mothers with dependent offspring. A proper estimate of nest decay rates must be also be established though it should be noted that these estimates can't be used to extrapolate populations over a wide area (Russon *et al.*, 2001). The site contains four forest types: 1) swamp and peat swamp forest; 2) lowland hill forest; 3) farmland, clearing or secondary forest and 4) unusable forest (Ibid). There are three proposed protected areas at the study site with a total population of 3771 orangutans divided as follows: DSWR-206 orangutans; DSWR-M-1024 orangutans and SSWR-G-2741 orangutans. The best habitat at the site is swamp or peat forest and lowland forest (Russon *et al.*, 2001). The estimated orangutan densities range between 4.09 orangutans per km<sup>2</sup> in best habitat comprising of low swamp forest to a low of 0.43/km<sup>2</sup> in high swamp forest (Ibid). The most up to date population estimates for Denau Sentarum indicate that this population has also seen a decline over the past few years with only 1,500 individuals remaining in this region (Singleton *et al.*, 2004). Unfortunately, there is little other information available for this site.

### **Ulu Segama**

The research site in the Ulu Segama Reserve, Sabah, Malaysia was used between 1968 and 1970 by John MacKinnon (MacKinnon, 1974a and 1974b). In 1995 the total number of orangutans living in all of Sabah was inaccurately estimated at between 456 to 760 orangutans (Rijksen et al., 1995). More recently, an estimate of approximately 13,615 orangutans living in Sabah was provided by Singleton et al., (2004) indicates that the orangutan population in Sabah is much healthier than was previously believed. The Ulu Segama Reserve is at an elevation of between 400 and 500+ meters above sea level, and is made up of mixed dipterocarp forest. January and December are the wettest months, experiencing approximately 700mm and 600mm of rain respectively, but the region receives a large amount of rainfall throughout the year (MacKinnon, 1974a). Ulu Segama was divided into three regions by MacKinnon (1974). Segama A has an estimated orangutan density of 1.5/km<sup>2</sup>, Segama B an estimated orangutan density of between 1 and 2/km<sup>2</sup> and Segama C an estimated orangutan density of less than 1/km<sup>2</sup> (MacKinnon, 1974a).

### **Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary, Sarawak Malaysia**

The Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary contains the only viable population of orangutans living in the Malaysian Province of Sarawak (Blouch, 1997). The sanctuary is located at an elevation ranging from 100 to 1,284 meters above sea level (Blouch, 1997). The forest at the site is a mixture of lowland and submontane evergreen rainforest dominated by dipterocarps (Blouch, 1997). There is a total annual rainfall here of about 3,500mm with the driest months receiving about 200mm of rain (Blouch, 1997). The site is estimated to have approximately 1,000 (1,024-1,181) orangutans but their densities are controlled by food availability and hunting pressure (Blouch, 1997, Singleton et al., 2004). The overall orangutan density at the site is about 0.5/km<sup>2</sup>, but this number increases to 1.73/km<sup>2</sup> in the south region of the sanctuary

where the greatest densities of fruit trees are found (Blouch, 1997). There is no published literature pertaining to this site. This region offers the best site for orangutan research in Sarawak simply because it contains that Province's only viable orangutan population.

**Table 2.1: Ecological Variables from Bornean Orangutan Research Sites**

Site	Park Size	Orangutan Density /km <sup>2</sup>	Orangutan HR km <sup>2</sup>	Annual Temp.	Annual Rainfall
Tanjung Puting	415,040 ha.	1-2	♂ 20+? ♀ 3.5-6	37.5°C-18°C	Up to 3,819 mm
Gunung Palung	90,000 ha.	3	n/a	n/a	4,300 mm
Kutai	198,629 ha.	1-3	♂ 0.8-1.6 ♀ 0.4-1.5	30.55°C-18.88°C	2,364.74 mm
Danau Sentarum	109,000-190,000 ha.	0.43-4.09	n/a	n/a	Na
Ulu Segama	n/a	1-2	♂ 2+ ♀ much smaller	n/a	Up to 700 mm per month
Lanjak Entimau	168,768 ha.	0.5/km <sup>2</sup> -1.73/km <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	3,500 mm

## 2.2.2 Sumatran Orangutan Population Estimates

The Sumatran orangutan is currently restricted to the northern part of the island. Five distinct populations were identified by van Schaik et al., (1995). They include 1) The Singkil Population; 2) the Sembabala-Dolok Sembelin Population; 3) The Greater Gunung Leuser West Population; 4) The Greater Gunung Leuser East Population and 5) A small population west of Takegnon may exist but cannot be confirmed because of conflicting reports (van Schaik et al., 1995). The overall population of the Sumatran orangutan has decreased on the island by about 86% in the last 100 years (Rijksen and Meijaard, 1999). The number of Sumatran orangutans at the beginning of the Twentieth century has been estimated at 85,000 animals (Rijksen and Meijaard, 1999). There are some discrepancies as to how many orangutans are left in Sumatra. A generous estimate of about 12,000 animals is given by Rijksen and Meijaard (1999), while the total

population estimate in 1995 was 9,200 orangutans according to van Schaik et al., (1995). Today a total of approximately 7,501 orangutans are believed to survive on the island of Sumatra (Singleton et al., 2004). By 1999 the estimated number of orangutan living in the Leuser Ecosystem had decreased to less than 6,500 (van Schaik et al., 2001). Logging is the most serious threat to orangutans in Sumatra (Robertson and van Schaik, 2001) as it is to orangutans in Borneo. The forests in which Sumatran orangutans live are being lost, degraded and fragmented pushing them towards rapid extinction (Robertson and van Schaik, 2001). In 1999 it was predicted that the Sumatra orangutan would be extinct within a decade because as many as 1,000 animals were being lost each year (van Schaik et al., 2001).

Both Ketambe and Suaq Balimbing research sites are located inside the Gunung Leuser Ecosystem which encompasses about 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> (van Schaik et al., 2001). The Gunung Leuser National Park is currently insufficiently protected (Robertson and van Schaik, 2001). This has led to a proposal to create a private management system to protect the entire 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> habitat. This project is aimed at conserving the Leuser Ecosystem and securing a basis for sustainable economic development in the surrounding regions (Robertson and van Schaik, 2001). The project hopes to accomplish these goals by establishing and protecting a new nature conservation area in which there are intact ecologically sustainable boundaries keeping the area as untouched as possible. Likewise, the project will need to facilitate the creation of sustainable buffer zones inside the ecosystem and the excellent production forests that surround it (Robertson and van Schaik, 2001).

Population estimates within the Leuser ecosystem have been made based on habitat type along with the corresponding orangutan densities for each habitat type. The West Leuser region has an estimated 7,639 orangutans with a corrected value of 5,700

orangutans (van Schaik et al., 1995), while the East Leuser region has an estimated population of 4,636 orangutans. These data are summarized in Tables 2.2 and 2.3.

**Table 2.2: Ecological Variables from Bornean Orangutan Research Sites**

Habitat Type	Population Size (#of Ind.)	Population Density /km <sup>2</sup>
Secondary Forest	6	0.5
Swamp Forest	255	5
Below 500m a.s.l.	2,079	2.5
500-1,000m a.s.l.	4,161	1.8
1,000-1,800m a.s.l.	1,138	0.4

**Table 2.3: Orangutan Densities in the East Leuser Region of Sumatra**

Habitat Type	Population Size (# of Ind.)	Population Density /km <sup>2</sup>
Secondary Forest	43	0.5
Under 500 m a.s.l.	592	2.5
Logged Lowland	177	1.0
Under 1,000m a.s.l.	3,015	1.8
1,000-1,800m a.s.l.	809	0.4

If the Gunung Leuser National Park in Sumatra was lost, the orangutan population in the Leuser Ecosystem would probably quickly drop to 3,325 animals (Faust *et al.*, 1995).

### **Ketambe**

Ketambe is perhaps the second best studied orangutan research site in terms of site ecology and the wild orangutans that live in it (see Table 2.4). At this time it is the best studied of the Sumatran orangutan research sites. It owes this to the fact that research at the site has been conducted since June, 1971 (Rijksen, 1978). The site consists of pristine rainforest at an altitude varying between 250 and 2,000 meters above sea level (Buij *et al.*, 2002) making part of the region mixed hill or upland rainforest (Rijksen, 1978). The forest ranges from swamp and lowland dipterocarp forest to hill

and mountain forests (Rijksen, 1978). The temperature at Ketambe has a number of similarities with Tanjung Puting in that the yearly average is 29.2°C (Rijksen, 1978). Two dry seasons exist at the site, one from January to February, and the other from July to August (Rijksen, 1978). The annual rainfall at the site is around 3000mm with 2827mm of precipitation in a very dry year and 3744mm of precipitation in a very wet year (Wich and van Schaik, 2000). Ketambe has experienced mastfruiting episodes at a rate of 0.29 for the years spanning 1971-1998 (Wich and van Schaik, 2000). This includes episodes in 1981, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1995 and 1998 (Wich and van Schaik, 2000).

Orangutan populations within the park have been estimated at 3,450 for the western extent of the park and 2,400 for the eastern extent of the park (van Schaik *et al.*, 1995). Orangutan densities in the park range between 7/km<sup>2</sup> in the prime habitat type of coastal swamps to 1/km<sup>2</sup> in good habitats (van Schaik *et al.*, 2001). Orangutan densities correlate with the number of fruit sources at each elevation (Buij *et al.*, 2002). This may indicate that the Ketambe orangutans follow a seasonal migration following the shifting phases of fruit ripening from the lowland to the intermediate elevation zone and finally into the highlands as the fruit in each of these zones ripen (Buij *et al.*, 2002). Observations at Ketambe indicate that in the lowland regions “strange” orangutans do tend to enter the study area when fruit is abundant and resident animals tend to leave the area only when fruit is very scarce (Buij *et al.*, 2002). Some researchers believe that this fruiting cycle controls the density of orangutans at Ketambe with it being a major contributor to the site’s carrying capacity during non-fruiting seasons, while becoming an available resource to visitors during fruiting season (Te Boekhorst *et al.*, 1990).

Orangutans at Ketambe have overlapping home ranges estimated at 1-2km<sup>2</sup> for adult females and 2km<sup>2</sup> for adult males (Rijksen, 1978 and reviewed in Rodman, 1988).

It is very interesting that these numbers differ from the maximum home ranges observed at Suaq Balimbing (see next section below) considering how close they are in geographical proximity. The day ranges for individual orangutans at Ketambe averaged 480 meters for an adult male, 550 meters for a female and 890 meters for a subadult male (Rijksen, 1978 and reviewed in Rodman, 1988).

### **Suaq Balimbing**

The site of Suaq Balimbing is a fairly young center of wild orangutan research. It was established in 1992 and was expanded between 1992 and 1996 (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). As a result there is very little published data on the site, but it is part of the Leuser Ecosystem and thus may be considered similar to Ketambe. Suaq Balimbing has two rainy and two dry seasons with a total annual rainfall in the region of 3,500mm (Fox *et al.*, 1999) The site contains four main habitat types; tall riverine forest; regularly flooded backswamps; closed canopy peat swamp forest and mixed dipterocarp forest (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). Both male and female orangutans have overlapping home ranges, but these vary widely depending on the method used to estimate home range size (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). The home ranges for the orangutan population at Suaq Balimbing is quite large when they are compared to the home range estimates from other sites (see Table 2.4) (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). The typical home ranges at the site are in the range of 8.5km<sup>2</sup> for adult females and 25 km<sup>2</sup> for adult males (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). Orangutan density at the site is believed to be between 6 and 6.5/km<sup>2</sup> (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). These estimates of home range size are much higher than those obtained by researchers at other sites and may be attributed to either the swamp habitats patchiness or the definition of home range (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). Food abundance does not explain the extreme variation that is seen in orangutan home range size at this

site (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). The poor swamp habitats and their lowered species richness may force orangutans to use larger areas to obtain food (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). Two reasons are postulated: 1) the trees in the swamp which represent a limited number of species may fruit during different periods due to regional variations in cloudiness or the availability of suitable water and nutrients; and 2) the fact that trees are clumped in distribution throughout the swamp may force orangutans to range widely because of the time variations that may be seen in the fruiting of the important tree species (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001). These large home ranges incorporate both areas of hill and swamp forest (Singleton and van Schaik, 2001).

#### **The Other Sumatran Sites: West Langkat, Ranun S. and N.**

The “other” Sumatran sites used for the study of wild orangutans are very limited in the information that they provide because of the relatively short period of study conducted there and the fact that only one researcher visited these sites between April and November 1971 (Mackinnon, 1974a). The elevation at the sites was as high as 2,000 meters at West Langkat and as low as 300 meters at Ranun (Mackinnon, 1974a). The only information that is important for this section is the estimates of orangutan densities. At West Langkat orangutans have a density of between 1 and 2/km<sup>2</sup>, at Ranun South the estimate was 1/km<sup>2</sup> and at Ranun north it was <1/km<sup>2</sup> (Mackinnon, 1974a). It is clear that these sites were not well studied during MacKinnon’s (1974a) time. These sites were the scene of “quick and dirty” studies providing comparisons between Sumatran orangutans and the orangutans observed in his longer study in Borneo.

**Table 2.4: Ecological Variables from Sumatran Orangutan Research Sites**

Site	Altitude	Annual Temp	Humidity	Annual Rainfall	Orangutan Densities /km <sup>2</sup>	Home Ranges
Ketembe	250-2,000 m a.s.l.	34.2°-17°C	62-100% Avg. = 86.9%	2,827 mm-3,744 mm	1-7	♂2km <sup>2</sup> ♀1-2km <sup>2</sup>
Suaq Balimbing	See Ketembe	See Ketembe	See Ketembe	3,500 mm	6.-6.5	♂0.59-39.12 km <sup>2</sup> ♀0.65-26.92 km <sup>2</sup>
Others	300-2,000m a.s.l.	n/a	n/a	n/a	Less than 1-2	n/a

### 2.2.3 Conclusions on Populations, Densities, Home and Day Ranges

Orangutans live in a fairly diverse type of habitat. This habitat tends to be very wet rainforest where precipitation is in the range of 3,000mm or more per year in a normal non-drought year. Based on the current orangutan populations and densities it appears that orangutans are making the most of the little pristine habitat that still exists, while not thriving in disturbed habitats (Felton *et al.*, 2003; van Schaik *et al.*, 2001). Orangutans are most abundant in lowland forests, probably reflecting that this is the preferred type of “good” habitat left. Of these habitats lowland and good swamp forests support the highest orangutan population densities while orangutan population densities decline as the site’s elevation increases. Orangutan densities vary greatly and no one explanation can be used as a reason for this variation. Yet habitat type, fruiting tree densities and availability probably do have some impact on these home range sizes. The average orangutan home range is probably in the region of 5-7 km<sup>2</sup> for adult females living in swamp forests, and 25+km<sup>2</sup> for male orangutans living in swamp forest. These home ranges may decline significantly in prime lowland forest but an estimate of about 2km<sup>2</sup> for adult females and 5km<sup>2</sup> for adult males is probably fairly accurate. Orangutan home ranges overlap for both adult males and adult females and those sites where this has not been found to be the case, occur where only short term and limited

research studies have been conducted. Orangutans probably do not choose to live on mountains or mountain slopes above 1,800 meters above sea level, this may also be related to fruit trees and other environmental factors at these elevations. Orangutan day ranges also seem to vary greatly, but an average of 0.5-1.0 kilometers per day is probably fairly accurate.

There do not appear to be a great number of differences between Sumatran and Bornean orangutans in terms of the discussion provided here. Densities of orangutans are significantly higher in Sumatra. So far no definitive explanation has been provided to explain this difference, though hypotheses based on quality of the habitat in Sumatra as compared to Borneo have been presented in the past. It is unclear as to how one might quantify a study to examine such a question. Is the orangutan habitat of Sumatra that much better than any place where orangutans are currently being, or have been, in the past studied on the island of Borneo? It seems highly unlikely to me, but perhaps a difference in certain important plant species could potentially cause such interesting differences in densities between the islands. Otherwise much of the data summarized here seems to indicate that orangutans on both islands generally share similar day ranging and home ranging patterns.

## **2.2 Feeding Ecology of the Orangutan**

The orangutan is frugivorous. This implies that the orangutan must have some dietary flexibility because fruit lacks some of the required essential amino acids (Chivers, 1998). Orangutans are believed to have three categories of food preference. Esteemed foods attract temporary associations of two or more orangutans, while preferred food sources are those visited by more than three orangutans during a fruiting season. The final food preference type consists of all those foods that do not fit into the

above two groups (Rijksen, 1978). The most common method used to estimate diet is to study the time spent feeding on different food types (Chivers, 1998). The orangutan along with other primates should be selective about their diet in terms of the intake of essential nutrients, the reduced consumption of indigestible plant components and in the intake of plant secondary compounds such as alkaloids and tannins (Hamilton and Galdikas, 1994). This last point is especially important as orangutans lack the enzyme uricase which means that they have more difficulty in dealing with tannins than some other primates (Chivers, 1998). Rijksen (1978) originally divided orangutan food types into five broad categories: 1) fruit; 2) leaf material; 3) bark; 4) insects and 5) miscellaneous. These categories along with the sixth category of flowers and their parts will be used to help organize the discussion of orangutan feeding ecology.

### **2.2.1 Orangutan Energy Requirements**

Before discussing the common diet of an orangutan it is first necessary to review the energetic requirements of the species. To get an accurate estimate of orangutan metabolism one needs to examine a number of variables. These estimates should use the variables of: the time spent feeding on each item, the food type, the weight of each food item, the rate of intake and the composition of each food in terms of sugars, proteins, fats, minerals, vitamins, and secondary compounds such as alkaloids and tannins (Chivers, 1998). The first attempt to estimate orangutan dietary requirements was done by Rodman (1979). He estimated these requirements based on the formula:

$$M_{tot} = 70 W^{0.75} + 34 DW^{0.75} + 2.3 DW$$

Where M= metabolic requirements, W= weight, D= day Journey in km, and 2.3 DW is the cost of vertical changes in the canopy. So for example, Rodman (1979) estimated the average weight of an adult male orangutan at 90kg and average daily

travel distance of 0.4 km to estimate adult male orangutan daily caloric needs. Based on this Rodman (1979) calculated the following:

$$M_{tot} = 70 (90)^{0.75} + 34 [(0.4)(90)]^{0.75} + 2.3 [(0.4)(90)]$$

With this calculation Rodman (1979) estimated that an adult male orangutan has a daily caloric requirement of 2,530 Kcal. He repeated this equation using a 50 kg estimate for the average mass of an adult female orangutan and 30 kg for the average mass of a juvenile female orangutan. These resulted in daily caloric estimates of 1620 Kcal for an adult female and 1100 Kcal for a juvenile female (Rodman, 1979). These values do not include any correction for thermoregulation, growth, pregnancy, lactation (Rodman, 1979) and disease.

A seemingly more accurate measurement of orangutan metabolic needs is provided by Knott (1997). This method used a human model based on weight and activity level and came up with figures of 3,344 Kcal for adult males and 1,512 Kcal for females (Knott, 1997). As with Rodman's metabolic estimates these figures do not take into consideration the energetic requirements of pregnancy, lactation and disease (Knott, 1997). The estimation by Knott is probably a little low as ketones, otherwise known as the products of metabolized fat stores, were recovered from animals eating diets estimated at 3,824 Kcal per day for adult males and 1,793 Kcal per day for adult females (Knott, 1997). One conclusion that could be made from this study is that males ate more than females by a significant margin and were undernourished (Knott, 1997) (See section 2.2.4 below).

## **2.2.2 Fruit**

As stated above the highest proportion of the orangutan diet in all studies is made up of fruit. Orangutans normally will eat several fruits at once, processing them

with their lips and teeth (Rodman, 1988). Generally, this is done very sloppily, resulting in a great deal of waste (MacKinnon, 1974a). Orangutans also tend to be very selective in the type of fruits that they prefer eating those fruits with ripe mature mesocarps (i.e. fleshy fruits) (Rodman, 1988). While frugivory is a commonality for all orangutans, slight differences among various orangutan research sites have been observed in terms of the time spent eating fruit and the species of fruits eaten. At Ketambe a total of 92 different fruit types are eaten making up a total of 58% of the total feeding time and thus constituting the staple dietary component for orangutans at Ketambe (Rijksen, 1978). At Tanjung Puting orangutans eat a great deal more fruit species at 169 with, fruit accounting for 50% of their diet (Galdikas, 1988). In 1977 (Rodman, 1977) the orangutans at Kutai were reported to spend 53.8% of their feeding time eating fruit, but in 1979 (Rodman, 1979) this figure increased slightly to 61.2% of their diet. The orangutans at Kutai rely on two very important fruiting tree species; *Draconium mangiferum* and *Koordersiodendron pinnatum* (Rodman, 1977). The total percentage of fruit in the diet at Ulu Segama based on data from MacKinnon (1974a) was 62% (Rodman, 1988). A similar estimation was done by Rodman (1988) based on data from MacKinnon (1974a) for Ranun and an estimate of 84.7% of the orangutan diet at this site was fruit. The fruit component of the orangutan diets at these sites seems to be high and may reflect the shorter length of time spent by researchers at these study sites.

Different orangutan research sites do have different floral compositions and thus these sites differ in the type of fruits eaten by each respective site's orangutans. This might be expected because these research sites are on two separate islands. Apparently, there is also a great deal of variation on the islands as only a total of 32 plant species used by orangutans for food (not just fruit species) were eaten at both sites (Rodman, 1988). This raises a huge question as to why the diet is so different between

the research sites. As yet no study has attempted to deal with this question. Figs are a very important aspect of the orangutan diet at Ketambe representing a total of 54% of the fruit eaten (Rijksen, 1978). There are five types of fig plants at Ketambe: free standing trees; terrestrial shrubs; epiphytes; climbers and stranglers (Rijksen, 1978). Tanjung Puting differs in that it has a complete absence of large figs for the orangutans to feed on (Galdikas, 1988). Orangutans only spend 0.4% of their feeding time eating figs at that site (Galdikas, 1988). Lanjak Entimau is similar in that strangling figs are rare and thus not a major part of the orangutan diet (Blouch, 1997). Figs are also an important part of the orangutan diet at Ulu Segama but no exact figures are provided (MacKinnon, 1974a). At Kutai figs tend to be an important food source when other fruit sources were not in season (Rodman, 1979). *Ficus sp.* may be especially important to the orangutan in part because they may fruit as often as once every four to five months (Rodman, 1978). Orangutans may even form temporary groups when large fig trees are fruiting and the size of these aggregations appear to be correlated to the quality of the fruit patch (Utami *et al.*, 1997).

#### **2.2.4 Seeds**

Another important aspect of the orangutan fruit diet is what happens to the seeds. Are they eaten and digested or do they pass through the system unharmed or perhaps even enhanced as was suggested for the seeds of *Koordersiodendron pinnatum* (Rodman, 1977). The answer to both questions is yes. As part of their fruit diet orangutans do consume fruit seeds. Some of these seeds such as those of the *Neesia sp.* fruit are very high in fat (approximately 46%) (Knott, 1997). Orangutans are also seen as the most important non-flying seed dispersers at the site of Tanjung Puting because of their arboreality, large size, long ranging distances and their ability to move between habitat types taking seeds from the fruits that they eat with them (Galdikas,

1982). In 29% of seed consumption the seeds were chewed and presumably consumed (Galdikas, 1982). Three types of orangutan seed dispersion have been identified by Galdikas (1982). Orangutans may eat fruits with intact seeds, swallow them, and then pass them unharmed in their faeces. They may carry fruit flesh and fibers for long distances before spitting out a wad of seeds. They may carry a completely intact fruit in their mouth a considerable distance and their sloppy eating habits may result in the droppage and wastage of fruits that are eaten by other animals on the ground who in turn deposit those seeds in their feces (Galdikas, 1982). Seeds at Kutai were commonly observed to be swallowed and dispersed in the faeces (Rodman, 1977). A total of 14% of orangutan faeces at Ketambe had seeds in them (Rijksen, 1978). The three most common seeds seen in the Ketambe orangutan faeces were *Aglaia speciosa*, *Mallotus sphaerocarpus* and *Xerospermum sp.* (Rijksen, 1978). Galdikas (1982) reported a total of 94% of faecal samples containing at least one seed and 78% had the intact seeds of two or more plant species, supporting the hypothesis that orangutans are important seed dispersers.

### **2.2.5 Mass Fruiting and Flowering**

The tropical forests of South East Asia are unique in that the plants living here tend to have phenological (i.e. flowering and fruiting) cycles that are much more seasonal than in the tropical zones of Africa and South America (Appanah, 1993). These variable phenological cycles are not seen in other parts of the world, especially not to the same intensity (Appanah, 1993). Two types of flowering trees can be identified in South East Asia; those that flower mainly during mass flowering events and those that flower outside mass flowering events (Appanah, 1993). The trees that flower outside the mass flowering events generally flower annually but may skip a year or two, while those that flower at irregular intervals may flower every two or three years

(Appanah, 1993). Mass flowering events occur at varying intervals of between two and ten years (Appanah, 1993). These mass events have been postulated to relate to irradiation (i.e. more hours of direct sunlight per day), drier than normal weather conditions and sharp drops in the night-time temperature (Appanah, 1993; Wich and van Schaik, 2000). These mass flowerings generally lead to mass fruitings, but is not always the case as observed at Ketambe in 1997 (Wich and van Schaik, 2000). Mass fruiting episodes have been suggested as a strong selection force for orangutans, determining when they might maximize their caloric intake to sustain them during lean times (Knott, 1997). Mass fruitings in eastern and western Borneo and peninsular Malaysia are more likely to occur following an El Nino-Southern Oscillation event but this is not true of Sumatran mass fruiting events (Wich and van Schaik, 2000). Foods that are available during mass fruiting events tend to be higher in caloric intake than those foods available during non-mass events (Knott, 1997). Adult orangutan males have been estimated to increase their caloric intake during a mass fruiting event by almost 5,000 Kcal per day, and adult females may increase their caloric intake to almost 6,000 Kcal per day (Knott, 1997). This may translate into a weight gain of 0.66 kg per day per orangutan (Knott, 1997). Even if a mass event only lasted one month an orangutan could conceivably gain 19.8 kilograms.

### **2.2.6 Leaves**

Leaf material is generally the second most common type of food consumed by orangutans. At Kutai, leaves account for 29% of the time spent feeding (Rodman, 1977). At Ketambe this figure was slightly lower taking up to 25% of the total feeding time and including the consumption of leaf galls, epiphytic fungi, aerial roots and 22 other vegetative materials (Rijksen, 1978). Tanjung Puting had a much lower rate of leaf consumption with leaves representing merely 15% of the total feeding time

(Galdikas, 1988). 43% of the leaf-eating bouts by orangutans at Tanjung Puting consisted of *Gironniera nervosa* and *Xanthophyllum rufum* or *G. nervosa* and *Melanorrhoea wallichii* (Galdikas, 1988). Young leaves are the preferred choice among orangutans (Galdikas, 1988). *Xanthophyllum sp.* account of as much as 50% of the foraging time spent eating young leaves (Hamilton and Galdikas, 1994). This may be correlated to the fact that the young leaves of this plant have the most available crude protein and the general young leaf qualities of high water content and high crude protein to fiber ratios (Hamilton and Galdikas, 1994).

### **2.2.7 Bark**

Bark consumption in orangutans may be the most interesting part of their feeding ecology because of a common trend seen at many sites. This trend is the observation that orangutans will often consume bark by chewing it into a wadge, sucking on it for a while and then spitting out (Description from Galdikas, 1988). This behaviour has been reported at many of major orangutan research centers including Tanjung Puting (Galdikas, 1988), Ketambe (Rijksen, 1978), Ulu Segama (MacKinnon, 1974a) and Kutai (Rodman, 1977). This behaviour could possibly be like bitter pith chewing reported in chimpanzees and has been hypothesized to be used by chimpanzees as a control measure against parasitic nematodes (Huffman, 1997). Secondary compounds possibly available in the bark and cambium wadges eaten by orangutans may have an anti-parasitic or a similar function. If this were true, bark as a proportion of the orangutan diet would certainly decrease because it is not being consumed for nutritional value. However, bark as a portion of the orangutan diet has been reported to be the primary source of dietary sustenance at certain times of the year (Knott, 1997). At Ketambe, bark was only observed to make up 3% of the total time spent feeding and this included chewing on wadges (Rijksen, 1978). Bark as a part of the orangutan diet is much more

common at Kutai and Tanjung Puting. At Kutai bark accounts for 14.2% of orangutan feeding time (Rodman, 1977) and at Tanjung Puting a total of 55 species of bark were consumed accounting for 11% of the total foraging time (Galdikas, 1988). Rodman (1979) identified a total of three tree species from which orangutans seemed to chew the tree's cambium then spit it out. He identified these trees as *Uncario sp.*, *Cratoxylon sp.* and *Shorea sp.* (Rodman, 1979).

### **2.2.8 Flowers**

The part of the orangutan diet that includes flowers is often clumped in with "other" foods because orangutans do not eat much in the way of flowers. Flowers though may be at times an important aspect of orangutan diet that is often glossed over. For example flowers such as those from *Dillenia sp.* and *Xanthophyllum sp.* with available crude protein values of 16.6% and 18.6% respectively had the highest available crude protein values of any of the orangutan food types tested by Hamilton and Galdikas (1994). Because they often make up a very small proportion of the diet, however, they have in the past been undervalued in their importance to orangutans. At Kutai, flowers only account for 2.2% of orangutan feeding time (Rodman, 1978), and at Tanjung Puting flowers account for only 4% of the time spent feeding (Galdikas, 1988). When a food type makes up such a small proportion of the overall diet such as is seen in the case of flowers it is easy to understand how their importance to the overall diet may be overlooked.

### **2.2.9 Insects**

Insects are an interesting aspect of the orangutan diet as there is great variation in the amount and types of insects eaten at some of the major research sites. At Kutai orangutans were seen to eat ants and termites, spending a total of 0.8% of their total

feeding time in this pursuit (Rodman, 1977). At Ulu Segama honey bees, Meliponid bees, termites, ants and wasp galls were all observed to be eaten (MacKinnon, 1974a). The Ketambe orangutans were estimated to spend 14.4% of their total feeding time searching for and eating insects with a total of 17 insect species being included in their diet (Rijksen, 1978). Ants of the genera *Camponotus* and *Polyrhachis* were identified along with two species of termites; *Nasutitermes matagensis* and *Captotermes curvingnatus* as being part of the orangutan diet here, along with lesser amounts of caterpillars, crickets, moths and other insect eggs (Rijksen, 1978). At Tanjung Puting termites are eaten on the ground, though this behaviour is generally found only among males (Galdikas, 1988). These termite feeding bouts account for about 4% of the total orangutan feeding time at Tanjung Puting (Galdikas, 1988). Wasps are also eaten by orangutans unintentionally. The remains of fig wasps (*Blastophaga*) are eaten incidentally along with the rest of the fig by orangutans (Rijksen, 1978).

#### **2.2.10 “Other” Foods**

The final category of orangutan food types has been termed “other” and includes all those foods that are not encompassed in the above four categories. Other foods include a potentially long list of items such as vertebrate meat (Utami and van Hooff, 1997), bird eggs (MacKinnon, 1974a and Rijksen, 1978), cob webs (Rodman, 1978), and soil (MacKinnon, 1974a). Meat eating has only been observed in Sumatra and is probably an idiosyncratic and opportunistic occurrence rather than representative of true “hunting” behaviour (Utami and van Hooff, 1997). In all the reported incidents of orangutan meat-eating, the choice of prey was another primate; the slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*). It would seem that all of these “other” food types could probably be classified as rare and opportunistic food types. They are probably not overly important to overall nutrition of the orangutan. Soil eating, also referred to as geophagy,

could be an exception to this rule, however. The soils eaten by orangutans in Ulu Segama and in Sumatra as observed by MacKinnon (1974a) were soils that were very rich in minerals, especially alkaline metals such as sodium, potassium and calcium. These metals could be important to the orangutan in more than one way. They may provide the orangutan with some essential minerals that are lacking or rare in their diet. Geophagy is seen in many primates such as rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) and mountain gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla beringei*) (Huffman, 1997). This dietary behaviour may help ease symptoms of stomach upset. This would be especially true if the soils that orangutans eat were mineral rich clay soils (Huffman, 1997).

### **2.2.11 Tool Use to Get at Prized Food Items**

Orangutans have occasionally been observed to make and use tools as an aid in acquiring or processing foods. It has been observed that Sumatran orangutans will use sticks for help in extracting insects or honey from tree holes and for prying the seeds out of hard husked fruits (Fox *et al.*, 1999). Orangutans also use leaves in feeding on *Erythrina* trees (Fox and bin'Muhammad, 2002). Tool use in orangutans has only been reported in Sumatra even though the same foods which the Sumatran orangutans use tools to process or acquire may be eaten in Borneo (van Schaik and Knott, 2001). It is interesting that this behaviour is only seen on the island of Sumatra and it is most likely a local, learned tradition.

### **2.2.12 Drinking**

Young leaves are high in water content and may determine the amount of water an orangutan takes in, but in addition, orangutans have been observed to drink about once a day from the water that accumulated in natural tree bowls (Rijksen, 1978). This

may increase when feeding on *Neesia sp.* fruit as was observed at Suaq Balimbing (van Schaik and Knott, 2001).

## **2.3 Orangutan Life History**

### **2.3.1 General Life History**

The life stages of the orangutan are probably best represented by the divisions established by Rijksen (1978). He believes that there are four major life stages for females and five for males. There are probably five life stages for both sexes but detecting the difference between subadult and fully adult female is more difficult if the age of the animal is not known. A female subadult could be classified as any female between 8-13 years which would roughly end at the time when wild females are most likely to have their first offspring. The currently accepted life stages include infants (0-2½ years of age), juveniles (2½-5 years), adolescents (5-8 years), adult females (8+ years), subadult males (8 to between 13 and 15 years), and adult males (between 13 and 15 years +). The first permanent teeth of the orangutan appear between the ages of 5 and 7 years with the canines and the third molars taking much longer to develop fully (Beynon *et al.*, 1991). Orangutan canines develop differently between the sexes though. Female canine crowns are completed around the age of 5.47±0.73 years, while male canine crowns are completed around the age of 8.73±0.86 years (Schwartz and Dean, 2001). Orangutans are considered to be adults only after their adult dentition has fully erupted (Rijksen, 1978). This will occur only after the age of 9+ years when the third molar erupts (Beynon *et al.*, 1991)

The life history of the orangutan was studied in detail and summarized by Leighton *et al.* (1995) as part of the Habitat Viability Analysis Workshop (HVAW) for orangutans. Much of the information was compiled from the study sites of Ketembe (see

Rijksen, 1978) and Tanjung Puting (see Galdikas, e.g. 1978). More recently, the accumulated data from two Sumatran sites [Ketembe and Suaq Balimbing (See Section 2.1.2)] collected over the length of each study (32 and 5½ years respectively) were presented by Wich *et al.* (2004). Based on the accumulated data the HVA workshop established ten aspects of orangutan life history that help define how orangutans live, important life milestones, and population characteristics. As a result of the new data provided by Wich *et al.* (2004) we can get a more detailed estimate of life history for Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*). Orangutans birth occur at an approximate 1:1 sex ratio, and that during the first year infant mortality rates for orangutans aged 0-1 was under 10% (6.9% at Ketembe) (Leighton *et al.*, 1995; Wich *et al.*, 2004). This is considerably higher than the infant mortality rates found at Wamba for the gracile chimpanzee (or Bonobo) which averaged only 4% (Coxe *et al.*, 2000). Orangutan infant mortality may rise to 30% during periods of extreme food shortage which tend to happen one to ten times per century. Between 56 and 67% of all infants survive until at least 11 years of age (Wich *et al.*, 2004). Females first reproduce around the age of 15 with a range of 13-17 years, while males don't reproduce until around the age of twenty (Leighton *et al.*, 1995; Wich *et al.*, 2004). Female orangutans have one of the longest inter-birth intervals (IBI) of any mammal at between eight years for Bornean orangutans (Galdikas and Teleki, 1981) and 9.3 years for Sumatran orangutans (Wich *et al.*, 2004). It is estimated that each year 87.5% of all adult female orangutans will produce no offspring (Leighton *et al.*, 1995). This being said, females may continue to give birth to healthy offspring between until the ages of 40 and 50 (Wich *et al.*, 2004). The maximum age for both male and female orangutans was estimated at 45 years in the wild by Leighton *et al.*, (1995), but the long-term data from Ketembe indicates that orangutans (at least the Sumatran species) may live well into their 50s and perhaps to almost 60 years (Wich *et al.*, 2004).

### 2.3.2 Two Adult Male Morphs

The male orangutan may go through two stages of adulthood. The first is a fully mature male cheekpadder which is the adult male morph that the general public is most likely to recognize. These males display very well-developed secondary sexual characteristics such as well-developed throat pouches, wide cheek pads, and long dense hair (Delgado and van Schaik, 2000). The second type of adult male orangutan is the unflanged adult male. These are the adult males who have not yet developed secondary sexual characteristics. They are also much smaller having not yet attained the size of the cheekpadder males, thus weighing about the same as an adult female (Delgado and van Schaik, 2000).

Why do these two male morphs exist? It has been speculated that the developmentally arrested male may avoid the metabolic and stress related costs of the secondary sexual characteristics of the cheekpadder males (Maggioncalda *et al.*, 2002). Somewhat different is the hypothesis set forward by Utami *et al.*, (1996a) who take the metabolic and stress related costs of the secondary sexual characteristics into consideration while relating the occurrence of the two male morphs to different reproductive strategies. At Ketembe, Utami *et al.*, (1996a) found that six out of ten offspring tested were fathered by unflanged males while only 4 were fathered by flanged males. They felt that this evidence supports the “frequency-dependent two-strategies” hypothesis (Utami *et al.*, 1996b) where flanged males trade the high cost contest competition between flanged males for access to females with the attractive nature of their secondary sexual characteristics to females. While unflanged males do not have the high cost contest competition for females they must expend more energy to find and convince females to mate with them.

### **2.3.3 Diseases and Health of the Wild Orangutan**

Orangutans suffer from a number of diseases including protozoans such as malaria, intestinal parasites and ectoparasites, viruses and bacteria. While there is some limited knowledge concerning the diseases affecting orangutans, very little of this knowledge has been obtained through the study of wild orangutans. One reason for this is that wild orangutans will not allow a human to poke and prod them meaning that animals must be anesthetized before examination. There is an inherent risk in the anesthetization of any animal and orangutans are no exception to this rule. A recent study exploring which drugs were the “best” drugs for orangutan anaesthesia experienced two fatalities, one was an infant shot with a dart meant for its mother and the other was an animal that fell asleep in direct sunshine and died from overheating (Hiang *et al.*, 1995). Thus, people have been very apprehensive and selective about capturing wild orangutans for medical diagnosis unless the situation is critical or the animal needs to be captured for some other reason such as translocation.

#### **Intestinal Parasites and Ectoparasites**

The intestinal parasitic fauna of the orangutan represents one of the more studied medical/disease aspects of wild orangutans. The most complete published study was by Collet *et al.* (1985), but intestinal parasitic data were also reported by MacKinnon (1974a) and by Rijksen (1978). Recently, intestinal parasitic data has been accumulated by Skinner (unpublished raw data). In a study of 89 orangutan faecal samples, Collet *et al.* (1985) identified four types of gastro-intestinal parasite (GIP). This is low in comparison with Rijksen (1978) who identified eight species of GIP. MacKinnon (1974a) does not report how many types of GIP were found in the orangutans he studied but he reports that only seven of the twenty-four orangutan faecal samples collected contained any kind of GIP. Orangutans seem to commonly suffer from infections of

*Strongyloides* sp. (Collet *et al.* 1985, Rijksen 1978 and Uemura *et al.* 1979). These infections may affect a large number of animals at a particular site such as the 78.7% of animals that tested positive for this parasite at Tanjung Puting (Collet *et al.*, 1985). This parasite is supposed to be fairly benign (Uemura *et al.*, 1979) but has been also known to cause deaths in young orangutans (Uemura *et al.*, 1979 and Dr. Kay Mehren-Toronto Zoo, Chief of Veterinary Medicine-Pers. Comm.). *Trichuris trichuria* is probably the second most common intestinal parasite to infect wild orangutans. At Tanjung Puting 15.7% of the orangutans tested were infected with this parasite (Collet *et al.*, 1985), while at Ketambe 22% of orangutans tested were infected with this parasite (Rijksen, 1978). Orangutans are also infected from a number of other parasites such as: *Enterobius buckleyi* and *Abbreviata caucasica*, *Pithocostrongylus* sp., *Trichostrongylus* sp. and *Gastrocoides* sp. at Ketambe (Rijksen, 1978), *Oesophagostomum* sp. at Ketambe and Gunung Palung (Rijksen, 1978 and M. Skinner unpublished data), and various other strongylids, oxyurids, (Collet *et al.*, 1985) trichostrongylids (Rijksen 1978 and Skinner Data), *Necator americanus*, *Enterobius vermicularis*, *Giardia lamblia* and *Cyclospora* (M. Skinner unpublished data). With regards to these parasites, there is a lack of epidemiological data in terms of how these parasites influence the lives of the primates that they infect. Unfortunately, while there has been a fair amount of work done on the parasites of these animals nobody as of yet has attempted to correlate these parasite infections to behaviour changes such as increased lethargy, decreased appetite (measured by studying feeding time) and possible zoopharmacognosy (animals using plant medicines to cure themselves or relieve symptoms) in orangutans such as the bark and pith chewing discussed above. Other GIP's have been identified in orangutans that have had contact with humans such as *Platynosomum fastosum* (Warren *et al.*, 1998) and *Balamuthia mandrillaris* (Canfield *et al.*, 1997).

Orangutans may also suffer from ectoparasites. Although, MacKinnon (1974a) found that all the orangutans that he tested were ectoparasite free Rijkssen (1978) reports that ex-captive orangutans under his care were found to suffer from red chiggers (*Eutrombicala wickmanni*) and ticks (*Haemaphysalis cornigera*).

### **Viruses**

Orangutans carry a great number of viral diseases such as a Simian T-Lymphotropic Viruses (STLV) (Ibuki *et al.*, 1997 and Verschoor *et al.*, 1998), Hepadnaviruses (Warren *et al.*, 1999 and Verschoor *et al.*, 2001), simian retroviruses (probably a cross infection from a macaque) (Warren *et al.*, 1998), and herpes virus (Warren *et al.*, 1998). While it is great that scientists have been able to determine the existence of these viruses in orangutans there is really no literature base on which diseases if any are important in the everyday lives of wild orangutans. Questions regarding how these viruses contribute to wild orangutan morbidity and mortality have not yet been answered. This is a common occurrence for primates in general.

### **Falls**

While not a disease, another important factor in orangutan health is that of falling from trees. Orangutans tend to spend most of their time in the trees and it can be expected they would fall from these trees on occasion. Adult male orangutans tend to use the lower parts of a tree probably in part because of their size, while females and younger orangutans use the higher parts of a tree (Sugardjito, 1988). It has been estimated that adult male Sumatran orangutans will fall on average two times per day (Delgado and van Schaik, 2000). This is reflected in the high number of healed fractures that have been found in orangutan long bones (Lovell, 1990). The bones that can be studied have healed fractures because these animals were collected live and so we do not see the remains of those wild orangutans that fall to their deaths. Nonetheless, this

phenomenon may be more prevalent than we would like to believe. At Ketambe one adult female was observed to fall, become a paraplegic and eventually die, while another young ex-captive orangutan fell and died from a broken neck (Rijksen, 1978). While we would like to believe that orangutans are quick, agile and beautifully coordinated forest travellers, it is clear that on occasion they fall whether it is from a branch breaking or misjudgement of the distance between trees. Furthermore, these falls can be very serious and even deadly.

#### **2.3.4 Other Aspects of Orangutan Ecology**

There are two major aspects of orangutan ecology that have yet to be discussed. The first is sympatric primates and other mammals, while the second is predation. These two aspects of orangutan ecology are sometimes under-studied by researchers not only in orangutan studies but in the studies of many primates.

##### **Sympatric Primates and Other Animals**

There are 14 species of primates on Borneo that may or may not always be sympatric with orangutans. These include prosimians such as the slow loris (*Nyceticebus coucang*) and the western tarsier (*Tarsius bancanus*); monkeys such as the maroon langur (*Presbytis rubicunda*), Hose's langur (*Presbytis hosei*-3 subspecies), the white-fronted langur (*Presbytis frontata*), the silvered langur (*Presbytis cristata*), the banded langur (*Presbytis melalophos*), the proboscis monkey (*Nasalus larvatus*), the crab eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) and the pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*); and lesser apes such as the agile gibbon (*Hylobates agilis*) and the Bornean gibbon (*Hylobates muelleri*) (Payne and Francis, 1998). Rodman (1973) discusses the presence of eight other primate species at Kutai, while at Ketambe both species of macaques, the Thomas' langur (*Presbytis thomasi*), the white-handed gibbon

(*Hylobates lar*) and the siamang (*Symphangus (Hylobates) syndactylus*) have been reported (Rijksen, 1978). It is well known that gibbons and siamangs are also frugivorous primates. These are the primates that are most likely to compete with orangutans for fruit foods, although macaques may occasionally also feed on fruits (Rijksen, 1978). Other animals such as hornbills, fruit bats, Malayan sun bears (*Helarctos malayanus*) and the binterong (*Arctitis binturong*) may also compete with orangutans for fruit, especially for figs (Rijksen, 1978). The leaf monkeys (genus *Presbytis*) and the proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) are mainly leaf eaters and probably don't usually compete directly with orangutans for food, but as we have seen leaves, though not eating in great quantity may be an important component of the orangutan diet.

### **Predation**

Since the observation indicating that Sumatran orangutans are less terrestrial than Bornean orangutans was first made it has been speculated that Sumatran orangutans may avoid ground travel because of the existence of the Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*). Even adult male orangutans have been known to be killed and eaten by Sumatran tigers (Borner, 1978). Sumatran tigers have a large home range of about 100km<sup>2</sup> (Borner, 1978). The tiger's home range would encompass the home ranges of many orangutans at a density like those seen at Ketambe of 5/km<sup>2</sup>. Other animals have also been known to eat orangutans such as the Bornean bearded pig (*Sus barbatus*) (Galdikas, 1978b). Whether this was a case of opportunistic predation on a past prime male is unknown, but it has been speculated that wild pigs probably do play an important role in at least the scavenging of orangutan remains (Galdikas, 1978b). There has been speculation and rare observations of other animals preying on orangutans. MacKinnon (1974a) has speculated that the eagles

such as *Ictinaetus malayensis*, the reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*), the panther (*Panthera pardus*)<sup>1</sup> (only in Sumatra), the golden cat (*Felis temminchi*) (only in Sumatra), the dhole (*Cuon javanica*-a type of wild hunting dog found only in Sumatra) and the clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) may also be capable of taking orangutans. All of these animals may not be capable of taking on adult orangutans, but they may play a role in the predation mortality of infants and juveniles. Rijksen (1978) witnessed a number of juvenile ex-captive orangutans being hunted and eaten by a clouded leopard and speculated that these may be orangutan predators until the point where juvenile orangutans reach about ten kilograms. Some if not all of these animals would probably take an appropriately sized orangutan if the opportunity presented itself.

## 2.4 Comparison of Sumatran and Bornean Orangutans

There are a large number of differences between Sumatran orangutans (*P. abelii*) and Bornean orangutans (*P. pygmaeus*) (see Table 2.5). There are enough differences both physical and genetic that these orangutans have now been elevated to separate species rather than their previously accepted taxonomic division at the sub specific level (See Groves, 2001 and Singleton *et al.*, 2004). There are two excellent sources that examine the variations between Bornean and Sumatran orangutans (Delgado and van Schaik, 2000 and Courtenay *et al.*, 1988). Most of the information provided here comes from one or both of these sources unless otherwise specified.

Adult male orangutans from the two islands differ in face shape, cheek pad shape, beard length and beard appearance, long call tone and intensity, and throat sacs. There are also some behaviours that only the males of one species participate in such

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<sup>1</sup> There is some confusion as to the existence of the panther in Sumatra. Various people mention it such as Rijksen (1978) and McKinnon (1974a) yet its existence in Sumatra has never been confirmed but it is highly speculated that it does exist here.

as the Sumatran male orangutan's courtship display or the long-term consort pairs that they form with females. Orangutan females also show some differences such as the appearance of a beard on Sumatran females. Overall, there are also a number of differences that are characteristic of both sexes of orangutan, such as terrestrial behaviour. Sumatran orangutans are much less terrestrial than Bornean orangutans which may reflect the presence of tigers. Bornean orangutans also seem to spend more time eating the inner cambium of tree bark than Sumatran orangutans, though Sumatran orangutans seem to eat more insects than the Bornean subspecies. Sumatran and Bornean orangutans also have a great deal of differences in their fur, such as colour (Bornean is darker), texture (Sumatran is fleecier) and cross section. Some of these differences such as the fleecier texture of Sumatran orangutans may be related to the higher altitude range at which they may be found. Sumatran orangutans also tend to be more social than Bornean orangutans. This may be reflected in the densities at which orangutans live on the different islands. There are also a number of differences in the genetics of Sumatran and Bornean orangutans. The most prevalent of these is the difference in the second and fourteenth chromosomes. Other genetic differences are discussed in the previous chapter. A difference in orangutan foot structure was noticed by MacKinnon (1974a) who saw the Sumatran orangutan as having a flatter foot, yet this observation does not appear elsewhere. While it is apparent that there are a fair number of differences between Sumatran and Bornean orangutans, the fact remains that in captivity they have produced viable hybrids that have produced viable offspring themselves.

It is worth noting that there is speculation as to another potential orangutan or great ape species living in Northern Sumatra. Local traditions refer to this animal as *orang pandek* and it is believed to inhabit the Angkola region of Sumatra (van Schaik et al., 2001). Whether this is truly a new species of orangutan is debatable as this may

simply be a local legend or myth.

## **2.5 Conclusion**

Clearly, orangutans have a very diverse ecology. This brief overview is based on thousands of pages of literature which researchers have produced as part of a devoted study of orangutans. There are very few generalizations that can be made about orangutan ecology because of the variation not only between islands but also between research sites on the islands. Orangutans are frugivorous, but as described here they eat a more diverse diet than one might expect and even have different ways of procuring these food resources. Surprisingly, there is also a great deal of information that remains to be discovered such as on the diseases of wild orangutans. One would think that of the thousands of pages dedicated to the explanation of the ecology of wild orangutans that it would be possible to locate more disease epidemiology. Much of this lack of knowledge can probably be partially blamed on the orangutan's arboreal and unsocial lifestyle. It is more difficult to study arboreal animals than it is to study terrestrial animals. The other broad sweeping generalization that can be made about the orangutan is their threat of extinction. Orangutan numbers have dropped badly over the past Century and if we do not take serious conservation action now we may never be able to fill those knowledge gaps that remain in the study of orangutan ecology.

**Table 2.5: The Major Differences Between Bornean and Sumatran Orangutans**

	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	<i>Pongo abelii</i>
Adult Male Face Shape	Concave in Profile-Clearly Expressed Suborbital Fossa	Straight in Profile-No Suborbital Fossa
Cheek Pads	Curve Forward	Flat Against The Face
Adult Male Beard	Short and Scruffy	Long, Lush, May Have Moustache
Female Beards		Long Beard
Sociality	More Aggressive-Males	More Social
Foot Structure		More Plantigrade (Flat Feet)
Genetics: Chromosome 2	Homozygous Type 1	Homozygous Type 2
Genetics: Chromosome 14		Has Rare Variant
Genetics: Other	Various Differences-See Chapter 2-Genetics of Modern Orangutans	Various Differences-See Chapter 2- Genetics of Modern Orangutans
Terrestrial Behaviour	More Terrestrial	Less Terrestrial
Fur Colour	Red, Deep Maroon or Blackish Brown	Rusty Red or Light Cinnamon
Fur Texture	Coarse	Fleecier
Fur Cross Section	Flatter, Thick Black Pigment Column	Thin, Round, Dark Central Pigment Column
Throat Sac-Adult Male	Large and Pendulous	Less Large and Less Pendulous
Maximum Altitude	Under 2,000 Meters	Have Been Found Over 2,000 Meters
Feeding Differences	Eat More Cambium	More Insect Feeding Time
Densities	Lower 1-3/km <sup>2</sup>	Higher 5-7/km <sup>2</sup>
Mating Behaviour	Short Consortships	Longer Consortships-Several Days to Several Months
Courtship		Males Have Courtship Display
Long Call	Long and Drawn Out	Short, Fast Tempo
Tool Use	No Tool Use	Use Tools to Procure Food

## Chapter 3

### ***PLASMODIUM SP.***

### **INFECTIVE TO PRIMATES**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Malaria is a disease that has been known to humanity for ages. Many of the earliest civilizations documented its presence (Schmidt and Roberts 2000). Malaria is a disease caused by a protozoan parasite of vertebrate blood belonging to the Phylum Apicomplexa, Order Haemosporidia and the Genus *Plasmodium* (Cox, 1993; Escalante and Ayala, 1994). Malaria is often referred to as being a cosmopolitan disease of the tropical and sub-tropical zones (Marquardt et al., 2000) also having species infective to rodents, birds and lizards (Escalante and Ayala, 1994). In 1955 the Eighth World Health Organization Assembly began laying the groundwork to completely eradicate malaria and its causative agent through the Malaria Eradication Program (Coatney, 1971). At that time malaria had an estimated prevalence of 350 million cases worldwide (Schmidt and Roberts, 2000). Today, we now know that this attempt to eradicate Plasmodium has been a complete failure. Current estimates put the current worldwide malaria prevalence at 439 million people with almost 1.5 billion people living in malaria endemic zones (Marquardt et al., 2000). Today, malaria remains one of the major causes of death and illness in Developing Countries (Waters et al., 1993). In these regions malaria may cause as many as three million deaths annually (Escalante and Ayala, 1994; Marquardt et al., 2000).

*Plasmodium* sp. requires two types of host to complete its lifecycle: an invertebrate vector and a vertebrate host. Some mammal plasmodia are transmitted by

female *Anopheles* mosquitoes (Cox, 1993; Marquardt *et al.*, 2000; Schmidt and Roberts, 2000; WHO, 1987). Female *Anopheles* mosquitoes do not obtain the required nutrients from taking this blood meal; rather the blood meal is used in the formation of eggs (Lowenberger Pers. Comm., 2003). Once infected female mosquitoes remain infective for life and can potentially infect any susceptible organism on which it feeds (Schmidt and Roberts, 2000). For the plasmodia, mosquitoes are considered to be the definitive hosts because sexual reproduction of *Plasmodium* sp. occurs in the mosquito while vertebrates are considered intermediate hosts because in them asexual reproduction occurs (Marquardt *et al.*, 2000). The development and lifecycle of the *Plasmodium* parasite is one that is typical to the Apicomplexan group of organisms (Marquardt *et al.*, 2000).

This section will begin with a brief discussion of the *Plasmodium* lifecycle. I will then discuss the non-human primate (NHP) malarias. Finally, this chapter will conclude with a brief discussion of the evolutionary relationships of the malarias with a special focus on the human and non-human primate malarias.

### **3.2 Life Cycle of the *Plasmodium* Parasite**

The lifecycle of *Plasmodium* has been well documented because of its relevance to human morbidity and mortality. There are an almost unlimited number of sources discussing this Protozoa's lifecycle. The sources of this *Plasmodium* lifecycle information contained in this section are from: Coatney *et al.*, (1971); Cox (1993); Magraith (1984); Marquardt *et al.*, (2000); Schmidt and Roberts (2000); and the WHO (1987) unless otherwise referenced. Members of the genus *Plasmodium* have a complicated lifecycle. Their lifecycle can be divided into three major stages: The

**invertebrate stage** which occurs in the mosquito; the **exoerythrocytic stage** and the **erythrocytic stage**, both of which occur in the vertebrate host.

### 3.2.1 The Invertebrate Stage

The lifecycle of the *Plasmodium* Protozoan begins when a female mosquito lands on an infected vertebrate host and begins to ingest blood containing gametocytes. Once the ingested gametocytes reach the stomach of the mosquito, they form male and female gametes. It is at this stage that the *Plasmodium* organism's lifecycle involves sexual reproduction as the male and female gametes fuse to form **ookinetes**.

The ookinetes eventually pierce the interior gut wall of the mosquito and encyst on the gut's epithelial cells. This is referred to as the oocyst stage. During the oocyst stage the ookinetes undergo meiotic division to form the infective stage called the sporozoites. After a maturation period ranging from seven to fifteen days, the cyst ruptures and the sporozoites invade the invertebrate host's body. Sporozoites that have migrated into the mosquito's salivary glands are then injected with the salivary juices of the mosquito during its next feeding.

### 3.2.2 The Exoerythrocytic Stage

This stage begins once the sporozoites have been injected into the vertebrate (intermediate) host's bloodstream. Sporozoites then enter the parenchymatous cells of the liver. This is facilitated by the production of the circumsporozoite protein by the sporozoites, which inhibits them from entering other cell types (Schmidt and Roberts, 2000). Once in the liver the sporozoites form **trophozoites** and begin **schizogony**. The nucleus then divides repeatedly forming daughter nuclei which form schizonts. The schizonts then proceed to mature over the next six to sixteen days when the mature schizont divides to produce **merozoites**, which are single-celled and nucleated. The

liver cells then rupture allowing merozoites to escape into the bloodstream beginning the Erythrocytic Stage.

### 3.2.3 Erythrocytic Stage

The Erythrocytic Stage begins when the **merozoites** invade the erythrocytes (or red blood cells). The merozoites then again form into **trophozoites** which uses the host cell's cytoplasm to form a large vacuole. This is often referred to as the "Ring Stage" because the young *Plasmodium* sp. parasite appears as cytoplasm with a nucleus on one edge. Pigment granules made of hemozoin then appear in the vacuoles as a result of the parasite's digestion of the host haemoglobin. These trophozoites grow and become less amoeboid in shape. The nucleus then begins to divide forming the meront. Merozoites in the meront are released when the erythrocyte ruptures. These escaped merozoites then enter other erythrocytes repeating this cycle. Some merozoites may enter erythrocytes and form gametocytes (either in the form of microgametocytes or macrogametocytes). It is these gametocytes which may be ingested by the definitive mosquito host to facilitate further transmission.

In the human *Plasmodium* species there are two time cycles on which the Erythrocytic Stage occurs. *Plasmodium malariae* is the only human plasmodia having a 72-hour Erythrocytic Stage length, while the other three species of human *Plasmodium* have 48-hour cycle Erythrocytic stages. It is for this reason that *P. malariae* is often referred to as quartan malaria, while *P. vivax* is referred to as benign tertian malaria and *P. falciparum* is referred to as malignant tertian malaria, while *P. ovale* malaria is referred to simply as tertian malaria (Marquardt *et al.*, 2000).

### 3.3 *Plasmodium* Species of the Non-Human Primates

There are a total of 29 plasmodia that are naturally infective to non-human primates (NHPs) (Gysin, 1998). These include *Plasmodium* spp. infecting prosimians, New World monkeys (NWM), the Old World monkeys (OWM), the gibbons (Hylobatidae), the African great apes (*Pan sp.*, and *Gorilla sp.* and the Asian great ape or the Orangutan (*Pongo sp.*). The two species of orangutan malaria (*P. silvaticum* and *P. pitheci*) will be discussed in greater detail than the other primate malarias because it is this thesis' focus of study.

Primate plasmodia have been of special interest to malariologists because they represent excellent animal models for human malaria (Waters *et al.*, 1993). Animal models for human malaria are seen as key components in an attempt to better understand the malaria parasite and in the development of a vaccine (Waters *et al.*, 1993). Non-human primate malarias have been hypothesized as a potential cause of **Zoonotic** disease. A zoonosis is defined as diseases and infections which naturally occur in animals and can be transmitted to humans (Coatney, 1971). Later, Robert Coatney (1971) realized that there existed a possibility that human diseases such as human *Plasmodium* sp could infect animals. He thus coined the term **Anthroponosis**. He defined an Anthroponosis as diseases and infections naturally infective to humans which may be transmitted to vertebrate animals (Coatney, 1971).

Previously, much of the research that has been done involving primates and their plasmodia has focused on using NHP hosts to study the four human *Plasmodium* sp. For example, tamarins (*Saguinus mystax* and *Saguinus fuscicolis*) have often been used as experimental hosts for *P. vivax* because of their small size and relative availability (Collins and Skinner, 1982). Use of the squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*) has also led to important findings regarding human falciparum malaria (*P. falciparum*) which is the

most severe form of malaria in humans (Gysin *et al.*, 1980). For example, experiments with *P. falciparum* malaria in the squirrel monkey allowed researchers to create a model for cerebral malaria and to ascertain its exact cause (Gysin *et al.*, 1992). Symptoms of cerebral malaria may include retinal blindness, impaired coordination, hypothermia and respiratory distress, which can lead to pulmonary edema (Gysin *et al.*, 1992).

### 3.3.1 *Plasmodium* Species of the Prosimians

Interestingly, all known prosimian plasmodia use the lemurs of Madagascar as their vertebrate hosts. A total of seven lemur plasmodia have been identified from three lemur species (*Lemur fulvus fulvus*, *Lemur fulvus rufus*, and *Lemur macaco macaco*) (Gysin, 1998; Landau *et al.*, 1989). The first lemur *Plasmodium* sp. was identified in 1951 when *Plasmodium girardi* was isolated from the blood of a lemur (*Lemur fulvus rufus*) (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). This lemur taxonomy is no longer used but we can assume that this lemur is a type of Brown Lemur (*Eulemur fulvus*). In 1964, Dunn (1964) confirmed the lack of plasmodia in lorises. That study concluded that no lorisooids were hosts for malaria parasites. For our purposes here, we must assume this to be true, but we must remain open to the fact that there very well could be *Plasmodium* spp. infective to lorisooids that have not yet been found because of the scale of study that is often necessary to find new malaria parasites in previously unidentified vertebrate hosts. African Pottos and Bush Babies have also never been identified as being infected with *Plasmodium* sp. parasites.

Recently, a number of new lemur *Plasmodium* spp. have been proposed. These include *P. uilenbergi*, *P. bucki*, *P. foleyi*, *P. percygarnhami*, and *P. coulangesi* (Landau *et al.*, 1989 and Lepers *et al.*, 1989). The diversification and classification of the *Plasmodium* sp. infective to lemurs was completely overhauled by Landau *et al.*, (1989).

This reclassification was based on a “phenomenon of vicariance” that is said to be similar to that which is found in African rodent malarias (Landau *et al.*, 1989). This refers to an interesting occurrence where *Plasmodium* sp. in one species of mammal is only slightly different than the *Plasmodium* sp. that is infecting a closely related species of mammal leading to debates on whether these species of *Plasmodium* are truly distinct. The original scientific name, *P. girardi*, now only refers to this parasite if it develops in *L. f. rufus*. The nomenclature changes to *Plasmodium* sp. if it develops in the blood of *L. f. fulvus* and changes again to *P. percygarnhami* if it develops in the blood of *L. m. macaco* (Landau *et al.*, 1989). This study also concludes that *P. lemuris* is probably not a *Plasmodium* sp. parasite but that it is probably a Haemoproteid (Landau *et al.*, 1989).

### **3.3.2 *Plasmodium* Species of the New World Monkeys**

It has long been hypothesized that the parasite causing malaria is not native to the New World, but that it was brought to the New World either by the Spanish Conquistadors or their African Slaves (Desowitz, 1991). There are currently two recognized species of NWM *Plasmodium* parasites. These are *P. simium* and *P. brasilianum* (Coatney *et al.*, 1971; Gysin, 1998; WHO 1987). *Plasmodium brasilianum* was first identified in 1908 by two German scientists in blood taken from a Cacajao (*Cacajao colvus*), while *P. simium* was first identified in 1951 by Fonseca in a Howler monkey (*Alouatta fusca*) (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). The New World monkey plasmodia are unique in that each has a direct human *Plasmodium* sp. counterpart (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). *Plasmodium brasilianum* was at one time believed to be closely related to the human malaria parasite *P. falciparum*, while *P. simium* is believed to be closely related to the human malaria, *P. vivax* (Coatney, 1971), while more recent genetic evidence indicates that *P. brasilianum* may in fact be more closely related to *P. malariae* (Leclerc *et al.*, 2004; White, 2004). *Plasmodium simium* and *P. brasilianum* may both represent

potential zoonoses in part because of their close evolutionary relationship with the human *Plasmodium* sp. (Coatney, 1971).

Interestingly, *P. simium* has reportedly only been found in regions of the New World where the mosquito vector *Anopheles cruzi* is present (Collins *et al.*, 1973). This parasite is known to naturally infect two primate species from genera that are known to live sympatrically, *Alouatta fusca* and *Brachyteles arachnoides* (WHO, 1987). The vector for *P. brasilianum* is yet unknown. *P. brasilianum* is known to infect at least twenty species of NWM representing at least ten genera including: *Alouatta*, *Aotus*, *Ateles*, *Brachyteles*, *Callicebus*, *Cebus*, *Chiropetes*, *Lagothrix*, *Saguinus* and *Saimiri* (Baerg, 1971 and WHO, 1987). Both of these parasites have been found to naturally infect humans with the greatest number of recorded cases coming from Brazil (Coatney, 1971).

### **3.3.3 *Plasmodium* Species of the Old World Monkeys**

The malaria parasites of the Old World monkeys (OWM) are some of the most studied of the non-human primate (NHP) plasmodia. This is probably due to the shared characteristics of some human and OWM plasmodia. For example, *P. fragile* has often been used as a model for human *P. falciparum* because of their shared traits such as tertian periodicity and small ring shaped trophozoites (Coatney *et al.*, 1971 and Collins *et al.*, 1974). In addition to *P. fragile*, the macaque malarias *P. fieldi*, *P. cynomolgi* and *P. semiovale* have been used as animal models for human malaria because they share a relapse mechanism that is similar to those found in two of the human malarias *P. vivax* and *P. ovale* which is caused by the persistence of the liver stages of this parasite and potentially continuing for a number of years (Coatney *et al.*, 1971, Collins *et al.*, 1974 and Sullivan *et al.*, 1998).

There are eleven currently recognized *Plasmodium* sp. found in OWM (Gysin, 1998). These include: *P. cynomolgi*, *P. knowlesi*, *P. fieldi*, *P. fragile*, *P. gonderi*, *P. semiovale*, *P. inui*, *P. coatneyi*, *P. shortii*, *P. georgesi* and *P. petersi* (Coatney et al., 1971; Gysin, 1998; Poirriez et al., 1995; and WHO, 1987). Only three of the eleven known OWM *Plasmodium* species (*P. gonderi*, *P. petersi* and *P. georgesi*) have been identified as being naturally infective to African OWM. These parasites have been found to naturally infect Drills (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), Vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus aethiops*), and the Mangabeys [e.g. the Sooty Mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus atys*); the Tana River Mangabey (*Cercocebus galeritus*); and the Gray-Cheeked Mangabey (*Lophocebus (Cercocebus) albigena*)] (Gysin, 1998; Poirriez et al., 1995; and WHO, 1987).

The other OWM malaria parasites all use Asian OWM as their vertebrate hosts. The most common OWM host are the macaques (Genus *Macaca*). *M. arctoides*, *M. cyclopsis*, *M. fascicularis*, *M. mulatta*, *M. nemestrina*, *M. radiata*, and *M. sinica* have all been identified as natural vertebrate hosts for at least one species of *Plasmodium* (WHO, 1987 and Coatney et al., 1971). At least five species of Langur (Genus *Presbytis*) are also known to be natural vertebrate hosts for OWM malaria. Some OWM plasmodia such as *P. cynomolgi* could potentially be shared by OWM in areas where macaques and langurs live sympatrically.

Of the Asian OWM plasmodia only *Plasmodium knowlesi* has been found to infect humans under completely natural conditions. In 1965, a surveyor for the United States Army was infected with this parasite while surveying in the Jungles of Peninsular Malaysia (Coatney et al., 1971), but it seems likely that the transmission of non-human primate plasmodia to humans has been occurring for millennia.

### 3.3.4 *Plasmodium* Species of the Hylobatidae

The *Plasmodium* sp. that infect gibbons are probably the least researched of the *Plasmodium* sp. infective to NHPs. To date four distinct *Plasmodium* species have been identified from gibbons. These are *P. hylobati*, *P. eyelsi*, *P. jeffreyi* and *P. youngi* (Coatney *et al.*, 1971 and Gysin, 1998). It is probably not a coincidence that three of the four gibbon malarias have been found in the white handed or lar gibbon (*Hylobates lar*) in that the lar gibbon is by far the most studied and best known member of the Hylobatidae. The only other gibbon with a known species of malaria parasite is the Silvery Javan Gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*) which is one of the least known and most endangered of the gibbons. It is currently listed as critically endangered by the IUCN (Harcourt and Parks, 2003 and Rowe, 1996). It is probable that the researchers who identified *P. hylobati* in *Hylobates moloch* from North Borneo were mistaken as *Hylobates moloch* or as it is more commonly know, the Silvery Javan Gibbon, is found only on the island of Java while *Hylobates muelleri* and *Hylobates agilis* are the two species of gibbon known from the island of Borneo (Payne *et al.*, 1998).

*Plasmodium hylobati* was first identified in 1939 by the eminent malariologist Dr. Jerome Rodhain but remained lost to science until it was re-discovered and re-described during the 1960s and 1970s (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). The controversy over this malaria's gibbon hosts is interesting because when its detailed description was published there were three criteria that were suggested for use in its identification (Collins *et al.*, 1972). One of these diagnostic criteria was this parasite's occurrence in the same species of gibbon as the type host, a Silvery Javan Gibbon identified as belonging to the species *Hylobates lensciseus* (Coatney *et al.*, 1971) which is later identified to be a synonymous name for *Hylobates moloch* (Collins *et al.*, 1972). Yet, this *Plasmodium* sp.'s detailed description was published based on its identification from an adult male *Hylobates*

*moloch* caught in Sarawak, Malaysian North Borneo (Collins *et al.*, 1972) and as mentioned above this species of gibbon is not found in that region. This detailed description used three major criteria as a guide for researchers to distinguish this gibbon *Plasmodium* sp. from the other gibbon *Plasmodium* sp. Among these criteria was this parasite's occurrence in the same species of gibbon as the type specimen (Collins *et al.*, 1972). These criteria for identification are now problematic in that we have here established that there are at least two and possibly more species of gibbon that are susceptible to this particular *Plasmodium* parasite.

A second recently identified *Plasmodium* sp. in the gibbon is *P. jeffreyi*. *P. jeffreyi* was first identified in the blood of a Lar or White Handed gibbon (*Hylobates lar*) from Kedah, a province in Peninsular Malaysia (Warren *et al.*, 1966). This parasite was identified as being found in disturbed areas where primary and secondary forests merged with treed crops (Warren *et al.*, 1966); perhaps because these type of environments are more suitable to the mosquito vector.

### **3.3.5 *Plasmodium* Species of the African Large Apes**

Three *Plasmodium* sp. (*P. schwetzi*, *P. rodhaini*, and *P. reichenowi*) have been identified from the blood of the African large apes (Coatney *et al.*, 1971; Gysin, 1998; Ollomo *et al.*, 1997). These plasmodia are known to be infective to the common chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) and the lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla* and *Gorilla gorilla graueri*) (Coatney *et al.*, 1971; Dunn, 1964 and Gysin, 1998). In addition, there have been references to malaria parasites being found in the blood of the bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) (Bray, 1963). In the case of the bonobo no novel or distinct malaria parasite species have been identified. No *Plasmodium* sp. parasites have been identified in the blood of mountain gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla beringei*). It has been suggested that the

habitat used by the mountain gorilla may prevent exposure to malaria parasites because of the altitude at which they live (over 2000 meters a.s.l) which has been identified as being beyond the altitudinal limits for *Plasmodium* sp. because their mosquito vectors do not range into higher altitudes (Dunn, 1964).

Research examining potential relatedness of the African ape and human *Plasmodium* sp. during the late 1890s concluded that each of the ape *Plasmodium* sp. had a close relative within the human *Plasmodium* sp. It was believed that *P. reichenowi* was closely related to *P. falciparum*, *P. rodhaini* was closely related to *P. vivax* and *P. schwetzi* was closely related to *P. malariae* (Gysin, 1998). It has been suggested that *P. rodhaini* was not in fact a distinct species of primate *Plasmodium* sp., as it was hypothesized that this malaria was in fact the human *Plasmodium* sp., *P. malariae* (Coatney, 1971; Coatney et al., 1971 and Dunn, 1964). This hypothesis indicated this parasite's uniqueness in that if this was the case it would be both a natural zoonosis and a natural anthroponosis (Coatney, 1971). These relationships are discussed further in the section 3.4 below.

A more recent study examined the potential transmission of *Plasmodium* parasites between humans and apes in Gabon. The study was based at the International Centre for Medical Research, which houses fifty-nine gorillas and nine chimpanzees (or 59 chimpanzees and nine gorillas-both combinations are mentioned in this article) (Ollomo *et al.*, 1997). This site was seen to be unique because it housed captive great apes near a human neighbourhood and there were wild chimpanzees and gorillas living in the forest/savannah areas surrounding the city (Ollomo *et al.*, 1997). Only indirect evidence of *Plasmodium* infections were found in 13 apes through a measurement of titres against *P. falciparum* sporozoites. Interestingly, this study still concludes that the natural infection of apes by plasmodia is limited despite an implied

infection of 13/68 animals tested (Ollomo *et al.*, 1997). This assumption seems premature without further study as almost 20% of the gorillas and chimpanzees tested for *P. falciparum* titres show exposure to this human malaria causing parasite, or could this be explained by these apes being previously infected with *P. reichenowi* which as mentioned above is very closely related to *P. falciparum*. These data have been seen by some as proof that African apes cannot act as reservoirs for human plasmodia species (Gysin, 1998). It has also been concluded that because this study did not find any development of the blood stages into the gametocytic stages that *Plasmodium* transmission in this region was nearly impossible (Gysin, 1998). This is contrary to earlier findings that *P. schweitzii* and *P. rodhaini* are infective to human hosts in a laboratory setting (Contacos *et al.*, 1970 and Coatney *et al.*, 1971). The former interpretation may be supported the fact that *P. schweitzii* was not found to be infective to African-American volunteers (Contacos *et al.*, 1970).

### **3.3.6 *Plasmodium* Species of the Asian Large Ape (The Orangutan)**

There are two recognized species of *Plasmodium* sp. that are naturally infective to orangutans. Orangutan malarias have long been considered to be a benign parasitic infection causing little morbidity (Peters *et al.*, 1976), although there are questions as to how truly benign these parasites are. The death of an orangutan believed caused by malaria occurred at the Sydney Zoological Gardens was reported by Dodd (1913-as cited in Peters *et al.*, 1976). There have never been any reports of malaria in the Sumatran subspecies (*P. abelii*). Yet, researchers working with rehabilitant orangutans in Sumatra have reported animals with symptoms consistent with malarial infections whose health recovered after treatment with antimalarial drugs (Carel van Schaik Pers. Comm. 2002).

The first *Plasmodium* sp. parasite known to be infective to the orangutan was *P. pitheci*. It was first identified and described in 1907 by two German scientists Halberstaedter and van Prowazek (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). They isolated this malaria parasite from the blood of a Bornean orangutan that had been sent to the Berlin Zoo (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). During the late 1960's and early 1970's two major expeditions were mounted to "rediscover" Halberstaedter and von Prowazek's orangutan malaria (Wolfe *et al.*, 2002). Both of these studies took place at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre (SORC) in the Malaysian Province of Sabah. At the time, these studies were undertaken because of the fear that orangutans (and thus their malaria parasites) would soon be extinct (Peters *et al.*, 1976). These expeditions eventually led to the discovery of a new orangutan *Plasmodium* sp. named *Plasmodium silvaticum* (Garnham *et al.*, 1972; Peters *et al.*, 1976).

Both *P. pitheci* and *P. silvaticum* have tertian periodicities (Coatney *et al.*, 1971, and Peters *et al.*, 1976). This periodicity refers to the length of time between the rupture of the schizonts. The rupturing schizonts are what generally cause illness in human malarias, as high malarial fevers are often associated with the mass rupture of schizonts. *Plasmodium pitheci* and *P. silvaticum* are distinguishable in a number of ways including size, shape, enlargement of the host cell and characteristic stippling effects (Peters *et al.*, 1976) (See Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Differentiating Characteristics of *P. pitheci* and *P. silvaticum***  
 (From Peters *et al.*, 1976)

	<i>Plasmodium pitheci</i>	<i>Plasmodium silvaticum</i>
Size	Smaller	Larger
Shape	Less Amoeboid	More Amoeboid
Effects on the Host Cell	Only Slight Enlargement	More Significant Enlargement
Stippling	Characteristic	Schuffner's dots
Schizony in Peripheral Blood	Profuse	Rare
Sexual Forms	Unique	Unique

The relatively high prevalence of *Plasmodium* sp. in orangutans has been noted by many researchers (i.e., Peters *et al.*, 1976 and Wolfe *et al.*, 2002). These studies questioned why orangutans show such high rates of malaria infection when they tend to be solitary animals living in low population densities (Peters *et al.*, 1976 and Wolfe *et al.*, 2002). Of the three major studies of orangutan malaria (Coatney *et al.*, 1971; Peters *et al.*, 1976; Wolfe *et al.*, 2002) all have found infection rates over 50% for the animals housed at SORC (SEPILOK Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre). The unusually high population density of orangutans at SORC which has been estimated at 100/km<sup>2</sup> (Wolfe *et al.*, 2002) may contribute to these high rates. The first major expedition to study orangutan malaria was conducted in the late 1960s. This study identified a parasite prevalence of 55.6% in the SORC orangutans (10 of 18) based on the microscopic examination of blood films (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). Peters *et al.* (1976) found a *Plasmodium* sp. prevalence of 84.6% (11 of 13) in this same orangutan population during the expedition in which they discovered *P. silvaticum*. The most recent study by Wolfe and colleagues (2002) revealed the highest *Plasmodium* sp. prevalence of all

orangutan studies at 93.5% (29 of 31). The fact that this study recorded the highest prevalences may be in part due to the use of a relatively new genetic technique, namely Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). These researchers were also the first to obtain *Plasmodium* sp. prevalences for completely wild orangutans. They reported a remarkable difference between wild and semi-captive orangutan *Plasmodium* sp. infection rates with only 11.6% (5 of 43) of the wild orangutans testing positive.

A number of factors possibly contributing to the high prevalence of *Plasmodium* sp. in semi-captive orangutans were discussed by Wolfe *et al.* (2002). They identified six potential causes including increased orangutan densities, orangutans living close to humans and human settlements, a decrease in the use of trees, smaller day ranges, unnatural social structures, abnormal stress levels and the change in diet (Wolfe *et al.*, 2002). To date no conclusions have yet been reached as to why orangutans at SEPILOK suffer from such high rates of infection with the *Plasmodium* parasite.

### **3.4 Evolutionary Relationships of the *Plasmodium* Parasite**

#### **3.4.1 Origins of Primate *Plasmodium***

Scientists debate the origins of the *Plasmodium* sp. infective to primates, including humans, to this day. In the 1971 book The Primate Malarias, Coatney and colleagues were the first to offer the hypothesis that the primate malarias arose in Southeast Asia as a result of a coevolutionary event between the parasites and their hosts. The parasites then moved into Africa with migrating hominids and into the Americas with European colonization (See discussion of this subject in Escalante *et al.*, 1998; Also thoroughly discussed in Waters *et al.*, 1993). Three factors were seen by Waters *et al.* (1993) to support this theory. First, almost all of the *Plasmodium* species infective to monkeys are found in Asia. Secondly, all four of the human malarias can be

found in Asia, Africa and the Americas. Thirdly, the primate malarias have favoured but not absolute host/parasite relationships. In 1993 only *P. falciparum* was believed to be an exception to this evolutionary hypothesis. At that time *P. falciparum* was believed to be of recent evolutionary origins arising from the chicken malaria *P. gallinaceum* (Waters *et al.*, 1993). It was believed that *P. falciparum* had arisen with the commencement of intensive agriculture as recently as 5,000-10,000 years ago (Escalante *et al.*, 1995; Waters *et al.*, 1993). Agriculture was seen as providing a suitable climatic effect so as to create favourable conditions for the transmission of highly pathogenic ailments yet not threaten entire human populations (Waters *et al.*, 1993).

There have been two major changes in the Primate *Plasmodium* sp. origins paradigm over the past few years. The first and most important in terms of human morbidity and mortality is that *P. falciparum* is not a parasite that recently jumped from bird to human hosts. The most recent genetic evidence based on analysis of (small sub-unit) SSU rRNA, the circumsporozoite protein (CSP) gene, and cytochrome *b* from (Mitochondrial DNA) mtDNA indicates that *P. falciparum* is most closely related to the chimpanzee plasmodia, *P. reichenowi* with an estimated divergence date for the two of between six and ten million years ago (Escalante and Ayala, 1994; Escalante *et al.*, 1995, 1998; Ayala *et al.*, 1998). The second major change in this paradigm is the movement away from an Asian origin for the primate plasmodia to an African origin for these parasites. Two evidentiary lines support this hypothesis; 1) the close genetic relationship of all primate malarias from Southeast Asia and 2) the positioning of the African primate malarias in the primate malaria phylogeny (Escalante *et al.*, 1998). This new paradigm is further supported by phylogenetic evidence based on CSP and cytochrome *b* genes in orangutan and gibbon plasmodia which indicates that the orangutan malarias align more closely with the Asian primate malaria clade than with the

African ape malaria clade (Wolfe *et al.*, 1999b). Evidence provided by Escalante *et al.*, (1998) further indicates that all the primate plasmodia with the exception of *P. falciparum* and *P. reichenowi* form a monophyletic group, while the African monkey plasmodia seem to form a clade with the primate plasmodia of Southeast Asia and *P. vivax*.

### **3.5 Conclusion**

Since the beginning of the academic study on the *Plasmodium* sp. of humans, NHPs and their *Plasmodium* sp. parasites have been used as models for human malaria. In fact, primates and their malarias are so important to the study of the human disease that Coatney *et al.* (1971:14) were led to state that: "No discussion of the history of man's conflict with malaria would be complete without consideration of the plasmodia of other animals." They continue (p. 14): "The evolution of an understanding of the plasmodia of non-human primates parallels, in many ways, and complements the story of human malaria."

Although studies using NHP and NHP *Plasmodium* sp. as models for human malaria continue, especially in the search for the ever-elusive vaccine, the study of NHP diseases such as malaria has begun to move from its human focus towards helping the primates that may be afflicted by these malarias. There is a great deal of basic information which is lacking regarding natural infections with NHP plasmodia and their primate hosts such as whether NHP malarias also make their host sick. These studies were ignored in the past because they seemingly had no importance to the study of human malaria. This view is beginning to change. Recent observations of plants used by chimpanzees very irregularly, or when they appeared ill has led to the discovery of two new chemical compounds called limonoids (Trichirubines A and B) which have very potent anti-malarial properties (Kreif *et al.*, 2004). At the recent conference at which the

Great Ape Health Monitoring Unit (GAHMU) was established, malaria was discussed as potentially being one of the diseases which may pose a threat to the survival of great apes in the wild at least until more is known on how apes react to *Plasmodium* sp. infections. The study of malaria in NHPs has become important in terms of conservation biology and medicine as well as public health in many regions where humans and primates live in close proximity.

## **Chapter 4**

# **METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

The methodology section of this thesis is divided into two major sections. The first section is entitled "Field Methodology". This section discusses all methodologies, including laboratory and microscopic procedures, used at the Orangutan Care Centre and Quarantine (OCC&Q), in Kalimantan Tengah, Indonesia. The second section is entitled "Laboratory Methodology". This section discusses all methodologies involved in the DNA analysis of blood samples exported to Canada. These analyses were completed in the laboratory of Dr. Carl Lowenberger in the Department of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University.

### **4.2 Field Methodology**

#### **4.2.1 Study Site and Population**

The Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCC&Q) is located in the Province of Kalimantan Tengah, Indonesian Borneo. The field portion of this study took place at the OCC&Q between July 20<sup>th</sup> 2003 and August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 which corresponded to the dry season in Kalimantan Tengah. Approximately 200 orangutans were housed at the OCC&Q at that time. Sampled individuals were chosen by the OCC&Q's head veterinarian, Dr. Rosa Garriga, from two groups of orangutans based on which orangutans were in need of routine blood checks. The first group included all orangutans arriving at the OCC&Q as part of their initial medical assessment, while the second group of blood samples were taken from resident orangutans during their semi-

annual health checks. We also took blood samples from any resident orangutans undergoing medical procedures requiring anaesthesia.

#### **4.2.2 Sample Collection**

Blood samples were collected by an OCCQ Veterinarian using a 25G 5/8 gauge PrecisionGlide™ needle and 3-ml syringe, between eight and nine AM. All blood samples were placed into plastic vials containing EDTA (an anti-coagulant and preservative for blood), then gently mixed by hand. The animal's name, size (Small-15 kilograms or less, Medium-15-30 kilograms and Large-over 30 kilograms) and gender were recorded on data sheets during the blood collection process. Blood vials were labelled with the animal's name and date.

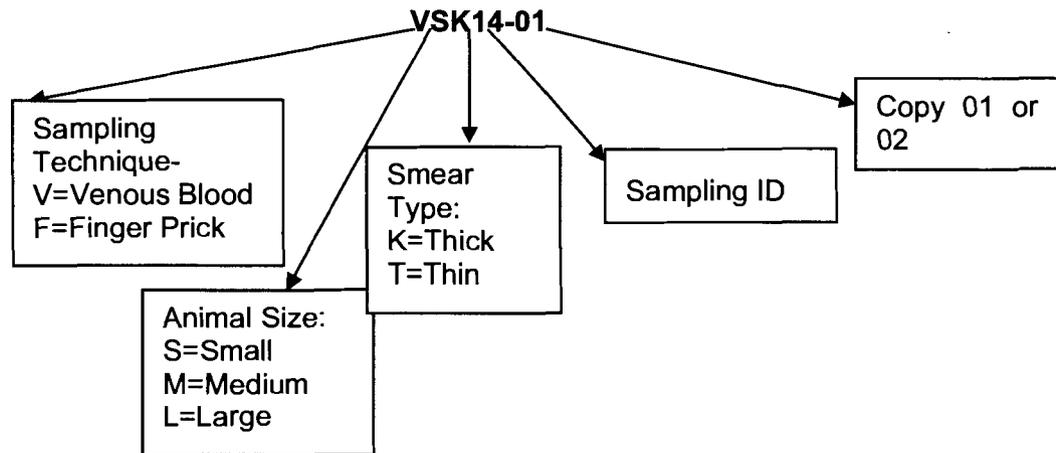
#### **4.2.3 FTA® Card Preparation**

In the OCC&Q laboratory an aliquot of blood (5-10  $\mu$ l) was pipetted onto each of four circular areas on Whatman® FTA® Classic Cards. A sampling number based on the information collected during the blood collection process was transcribed on to the FTA® cards. For example, DNA sample VS42 would indicate that this was a blood sample collected from the vein of a small animal and that it was the 42<sup>nd</sup> animal sampled. FTA® cards containing blood were allowed to dry completely overnight and placed in individual plastic bags with corresponding identification numbers for storage and transport back to Canada. Bags containing blood stained cards were placed in a cardboard box for protection and transport. The box containing Whatman® FTA® Classic Cards was stored in Indonesia from September 2003 to October 2004 when permission was obtained to send the samples to Canada. PCR analysis of the blood stored on the Whatman® FTA® cards began in November 2004.

#### 4.2.4 Blood Smear Preparation

Four blood smears were prepared from each blood sample; two thick and two thin smears for each orangutan. To prepare thick smears we placed a small amount of blood (approximately 3-4 $\mu$ l) onto the middle of a pre-cleaned slide using a 20  $\mu$ l pipette. The blood was spread into a rectangular pattern on the slide using a pipette tip (Cheersbrough, 1998). In preparing thin smears we placed a small drop (approximately 1-2 $\mu$ l) of blood at the top end of the pre-cleaned, dry slide. A clean microscope slide or cover slip approximately held at a 45° angle was placed at the bottom end of the slide and drawn up into the area of the slide containing the blood. The blood spread along the rim of the spreading slide which was then slid quickly along the smear slide creating a thin blood film encompassing approximately 2/3 of the microscope slide (Cheersbrough, 1998). All thick and thin smears were labelled with a detailed coding system that allowed subsequent identification, date and sample type (See Figure 4.1).

**Figure 4.1: Microscope Slide Numbering and Its Meaning**



All thick and thin smears were dried using a small fan. Once dry the thin smears were fixed with absolute methanol. Slides were placed facedown on toothpicks in a

plastic tray and immersed in Giemsa stain (10X dilution in physiological saline) for 30 minutes. We washed the slides under cold running water until all excess staining fluid was removed and the stained area was light pink. Thick smears were washed carefully to remove all excess stain from around the smear and slide back while not washing away stained blood. The slides were allowed to dry completely using an incubator or small battery operated fan.

We covered the stained area with cover slips to protect the prepared slides using *Micromount*<sup>TM</sup> microscope slide glue. Completely prepared microscope slides were allowed to dry in an incubator.

#### **4.2.5 Finger Prick Methodology**

One of the original goals of this study was to test the "Finger-Prick" method of blood collection on the orangutans housed at OCC&Q. We used Microtainer® Brand Safety Flow Lancets to prick a small hole in the finger, and collected blood on a clean microscope slide to make a thick smear. Because the orangutans bled very little from a finger prick and the bleeding ceased almost immediately (See Results, Chapter 5), we decided to abandon this sampling style and chose to take small amounts of blood from animals undergoing routine blood checks.

#### **4.2.6 Microscope Analysis**

We analyzed blood smears microscopically under 1000 X magnification. For all samples deemed positive for *Plasmodium* sp. we estimated the total parasitemia with standard protocols used in the OCC&Q laboratory. This technique estimates the number of parasites per volume of blood ( $\mu$ l) by counting the number of *Plasmodium* infected red blood cells (RBC), comparing this number with the number of white blood

cells (WBC) then multiplying this by the number of WBC's per volume ( $\mu\text{l}$ ) as determined with a haemocytometer (Cheesbrough, 1998). For example, when looking at the thick smear under microscopy we would count the number of *Plasmodium* infected RBC seen as we counted 200 WBC. Thus, the formula (Cheesbrough, 1998) used by the OCC&Q is:

$$\frac{\text{WBC Count}/\mu\text{l} \times \text{Red Blood Cells Infected with Parasites}}{\text{Counted WBCs up to 200}}$$

So for example, if we found a total of 65 RBCs infected for every 200 WBCs and use an average number of WBCs/ $\mu\text{l}$  of blood for an orangutan, say 12,000 (the normal range of WBCs for an orangutan is between 8,000 and 15,000/ $\mu\text{l}$ ) the formula would work as follows:

$$\frac{\text{WBC Count}/\mu\text{l} (12,000) \times 65 \text{ Infected RBCs}}{200} = 3900 \text{ parasites}/\mu\text{l}$$

All positive infections were reported to a staff veterinarian and diagnoses were confirmed by staff technicians. We examined the thin smears of individuals whose thick smears contained >30 parasites per 200 WBC. This allows a more precise *Plasmodium* sp. diagnosis and is more useful in species identification (Dr. Garriga, Pers. comm.). We took photographs of infected red blood cells in the thin smear.

#### **4.2.7 Mosquito Collection**

Every Wednesday evening between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. we collected mosquitoes from areas around the orangutan sleeping cages. We waved an insect collection net in the direction of any mosquito that was seen. Mosquitoes were sealed in glass vials and then placed in a freezer overnight. The next morning all collected mosquitoes were placed into a glass vial containing 95% ethanol.

#### **4.2.8 Division into Subpopulations**

To facilitate more accurate analyses we further subdivided our samples into four categories. 1) OCC&Q residents were individuals untreated for malaria for at least one year and had been living at OCC&Q longer a minimum of three months (n=69), 2) newly confiscated arrivals, living at OCC&Q for less than one month and with no previous treatment history for malaria (n=14), 3) newly confiscated arrivals to OCC&Q with previous history of treatment for malaria (n=1), 4) newly arrived animals that had at one time been ex-captives and previously released back into the forest (n=2) (See Figures 5.1-5.4). Both of the animals in the final category came to the OCC&Q with severe amoebic dysentery from Pondok Tanggui. The *Plasmodium* sp. infection was discovered during the routine blood work done on all new arrivals, and both animals had significant infections requiring treatment.

### **4.3 Laboratory Methodology**

#### **4.3.1 Overview**

This section discusses the procedures used in the molecular analysis of the orangutan blood samples. This section discusses DNA extraction; PCR Amplification of *Plasmodium* specific DNA; cloning of PCR products; sequencing; and data analysis.

#### **4.3.2 DNA Extraction Protocols**

Subsequent laboratory techniques required the extraction of the DNA preserved on the FTA® Cards. We extracted DNA from the Whatman® FTA® Classic Cards following the manufacturer's instructions (Whatman, 2000 and 2004), using either of two protocols. The first involved washing punched disks for direct use in PCR reactions. The second method involved the elution of DNA from punched disks into of 100 µl TE buffer.

We punched a 1.2 mm disk from a blood stained card using a Harris Micro-Punch. We placed individual disks into 0.6 ml PCR tubes and treated them with 2.5  $\mu$ l Proteinase-K (10mg/ml) in 247.5 $\mu$ l Whatman® FTA® Purification Reagent (FTA-PR), and placed them in a 65°C water bath for 30 minutes. This process removes protein and allows DNA to be accessible. We then washed each punched disk three times in 200 $\mu$ l of FTA-PR, allowing the disk to soak for five minutes per wash. We then washed the disk twice in 200 $\mu$ l TE Buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 0.1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0) incubating five minutes per wash at room temperature. The disks were allowed to dry (air dry or in 37°C incubator) before use in a PCR reaction.

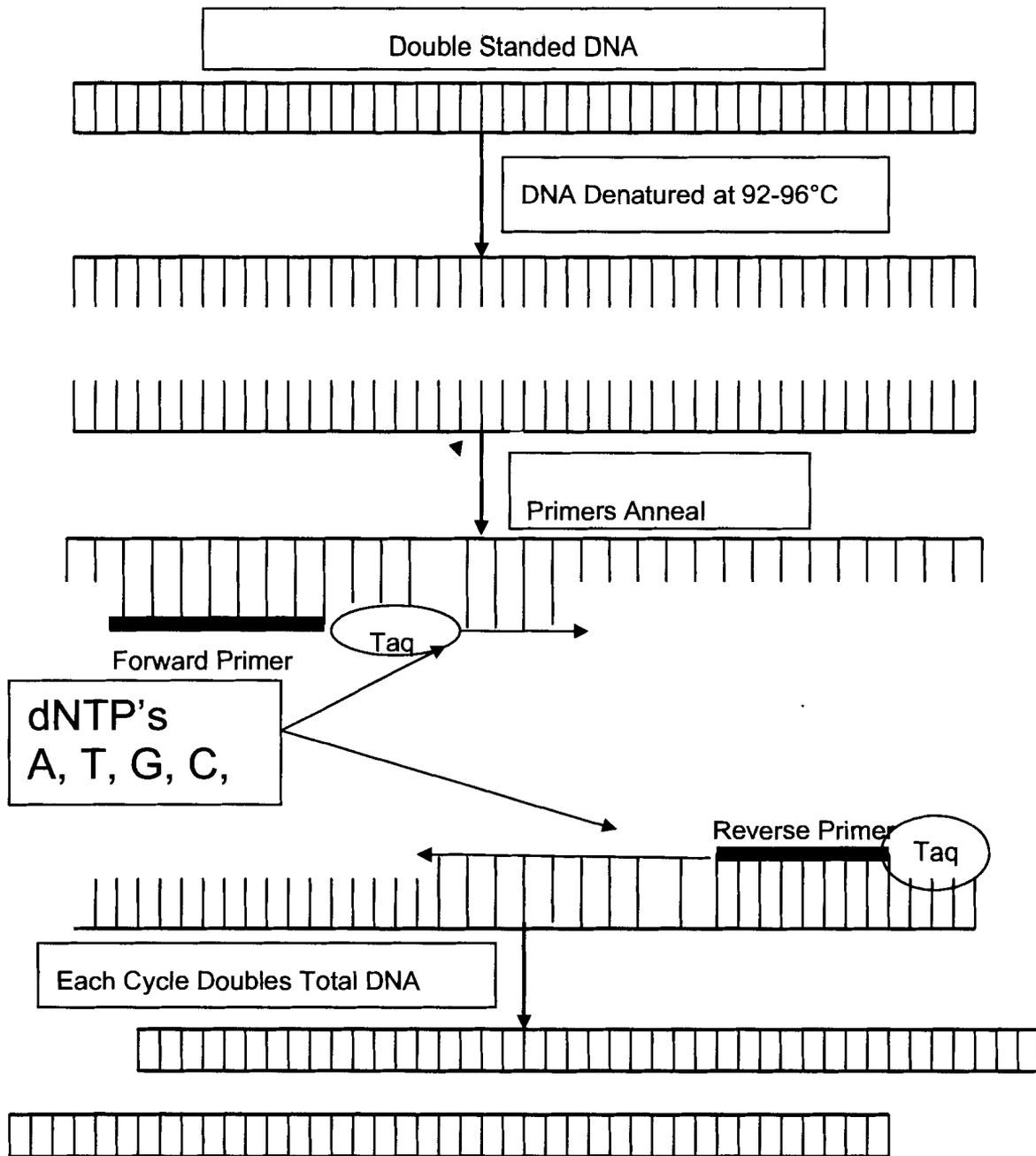
Alternatively, we eluted DNA from three to five disks per blood sample. Disks were punched and washed as described above. Once the disks had dried we added 35 $\mu$ l of Elution Solution 1 (0.1 N NaOH, 0.3 mM EDTA, pH13) to the tube and let disks soak for five minutes at room temperature. We then added 65 $\mu$ l of Elution Solution 2 (0.1M Tris-HCl, pH7.0) and vortexed five times quickly to mix and then incubated tubes for ten minutes at room temperature. The elutant was then vortexed ten times and the disks were removed. 2 $\mu$ l of elutant was used as template in the initial PCR.

### **What is Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)?**

Polymerase Chain Reaction (or PCR) is a process in which selected regions of DNA, as defined by specifically designed primers, are amplified creating >1,000,000 copies of the target DNA sequence. There are three main stages in a PCR reaction (Dieffenbach and Dveksler, 1995). In PCR double stranded DNA is denatured by heating the reaction to 92°-96°C which separates and linearizes the DNA into two strands. Subsequently, two oligonucleotides (primers) designed and purchased specifically for this purpose, anneal to their complimentary sequence on either DNA

strand. An enzyme (*Taq* polymerase) then binds to each primer and moves down the single strand enzymatically adding the complimentary nucleotides and creating two copies of the original DNA sequence. Over a number of cycles (generally 20-35) this process produces millions of copies of the sequence. Most reagents are common to all PCR reactions with the specific design of the primers allowing a specific region of DNA to be amplified (See Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: PCR in Action: dNTPs refer to Deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate.



### 4.3.3 Primer Design

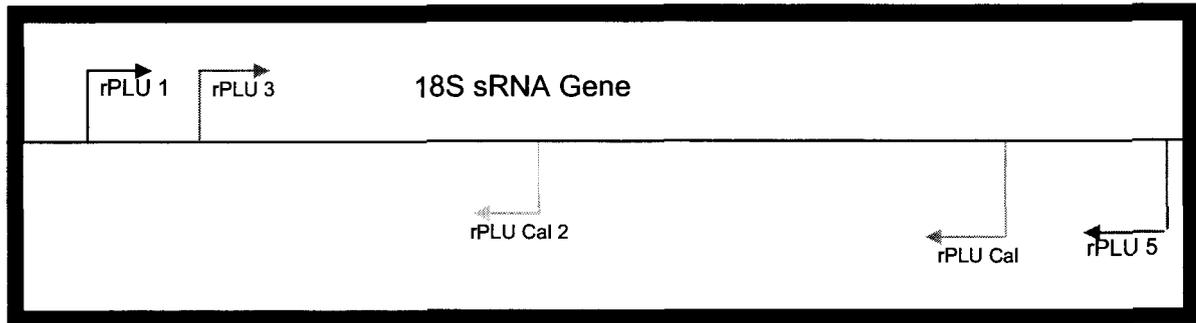
Four of the primers used during this study were designed by Singh *et al.* (1999) for human plasmodia and used by Wolfe *et al.* (2002) in a study of *Plasmodium* in

orangutans. These primers were designed against the 18s small sub-unit ribosomal RNA gene, and were designated rPLU1, rPLU3, rPLU4, and rPLU5 (See Table 4.1). We designed two additional reverse nested PCR primers (rPLUCal and rPLU Cal 2) using *Plasmodium* sp. 18S sRNA sequences available in GenBank (an NIH database). To date no species specific primers exist for *P. silvaticum* or *P. pitheci*, the *Plasmodium* sp. believed to infect orangutans. Nested PCR is a technique which increases the sensitivity of PCR reactions by using a set of internal primers in second PCR reaction with an aliquot from the initial PCR acting as template (Roux, 1995).

**Table 4.1: *Plasmodium* Genus Specific PCR Primers**

Primer Designation	Forward Primers	Tm
rPLU1	5'-TCA AAG ATT AAG CCA TGC AAG TGA-3'	66°C
rPLU3-Nested	5'-TTT TTA TAA GGA TAA CTA CGG AAA AGC TGT-3'	64°C
	Reverse Primers	
rPLU4-Nested	5'-TAC CCG TCA TAG CCA TGT TAG GCC AAT ACC-3'	74°C
rPLU5	5' -CCT GTT GTT GCC TTA AAC TCC-3'	62°C
rPLUCal-Nested	5'-ACA CAW RGT KCC TCT AAG AAG C-3'	59°C
RPLU Cal 2-Nested	5'-CGC TAT TGG AGC TGG AAT TAC C-3'	65°C

**Figure 4.3: Primers and their placement on the Desired Sequence of the *Plasmodium*18S sRNA Gene**



**Table 4.2: Primer Combinations and Their Expected Amplicon Lengths**

Forward and Reverse Primer Combinations	Expected Amplicon Length
rPLU 1 and rPLU 5	~1640 (basepair) bp
rPLU 3 and rPLU Cal 2	~500 bp
rPLU 3 and rPLU Cal	~1500bp

#### 4.3.4 Polymerase Chain Reaction Protocols (PCR)

##### Overview

Because of the intricacies and difficulties of this study we used a three step PCR process.

Step 1: PCR of DNA on the disks or from elutant with primers rPLU1 and rPLU5. This should amplify a ~1600 (basepair) bp DNA fragment.

Step 2: Because of the low amplification of large DNA segments, we tested the product obtained in Step 1 with a nested PCR reaction. Using 2µl of the product obtained in Step 1 as DNA template we performed a reaction containing primers rPLU 3 and rPLU Cal 2, which produced a 500 bp band. We used this to confirm a positive PCR reaction in Step 1.

Step 3: Using PCR samples from Step 1 that were confirmed to contain amplified DNA in Step 2, we did a third reaction using primers rPLU 3 and rPLU Cal. These nested primers amplified a ~1500 bp fragment that contains three to four variable regions that can be used for species determination. These products were used for cloning and sequencing.

### **Initial PCR Reaction**

During the initial PCR reaction a prepared 1.2 mm disk (or 2  $\mu$ l of elutant) from each animal was used as template in a 50 $\mu$ l PCR reaction containing 34.8  $\mu$ l H<sub>2</sub>O, 5  $\mu$ l 10X PCR Buffer, 2 $\mu$ l MgCl, 2 $\mu$ l dNTPs, 2 $\mu$ l Primer rPLU1, 2 $\mu$ l Primer rPLU 5 and 0.1  $\mu$ l *Taq* DNA Polymerase. This reaction was run on a PTC-2000 Thermocycler (MJ Research; Waltham MA) under the conditions of: Step 1) 94°C for 4 min, Step 2) 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 30 sec; annealing at 55°C for 1 min; extension at 72°C for 1 min; Step 3) additional extension at 72°C for 4 min; Step 4) hold PCR reaction at 4°C.

### **Nested PCR Reactions**

We used 2 $\mu$ l of the initial PCR reaction as template in a nested PCR reaction as described by Singh et al., (1999). The PCR reaction comprised 16.4 $\mu$ l H<sub>2</sub>O, 2.5 $\mu$ l 10X Buffer, 1 $\mu$ l MgCl, 1 $\mu$ l dNTPs, 1 $\mu$ l primer rPLU 3, 1 $\mu$ l primer rPLU Cal 2, and 0.1 $\mu$ l *Taq* DNA polymerase (25  $\mu$ l total volume). This reaction was run on a PTC-2000 Thermocycler (MJ Research; Waltham MA) under the conditions of: Step 1) 94°C for 4 min, Step 2) 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 10 sec; annealing at 60°C for 10 sec; extension at 72°C for 45 sec; Step 3) additional extension at 72°C for 4 min; Step 4) hold PCR reaction at 4°C.

PCR products were size fractionated on a 1% Agarose gel containing Ethidium Bromide, visualized on a BioDoc gel documentation System (UVP, California) and the size of the band was compared to a molecular marker of known size. If we found the Nested 2 reaction to be positive for the presence of *Plasmodium* sp. DNA we performed an additional reaction on the original PCR product using primers rPLU 3 and rPLU CAL to amplify a ~1500 bp section of DNA in order to obtain a longer DNA fragment for phylogenetic analysis and multiple alignment after sequencing. We used the same PCR reagents and conditions as in the initial PCR reaction but changed the primers to rPLU3 and rPLU Cal and used an annealing temperature of 55°C.

We also used a commercially available PCR kit specifically designed to amplify long DNA fragments (BD Strips, BD Biosciences Clontech, Palo Alto, Ca) We ran this 25µl reaction with 1µl rPLU 3, 1 µl rPLU CAL and 1.5-2µl template from the initial PCR reaction. The PCR conditions for these samples were 1) 95° for 1 min, 2) 35 cycles of 95° for 30, 58° for 3 min; 3) 58° for 3 min, 4) hold at 4°.

### **Analysis of PCR Products**

We used two types of agarose gels, 1.2% low melting temperature (LMT) agarose, or 1% regular agarose, both containing ethidium bromide. Bands of ~1500 bp were excised from the gel with a sterile scalpel. Bands excised from 1% Agarose gels were purified using a Qiagen Gel Purification Kit (Qiagen, Valencia Ca) following manufacturers instructions while bands excised from LMT gels were liquefied at 65°C then vortexed. The DNA fragments from Gel purified PCR products and LMTs were cloned directly into P-GEM-T-Easy vector (Promega, Madison WI, USA) following manufacturers protocols. Potential transformants were identified using blue-white screening of XL1-Blue cells (Stratagene, USA). Transformed colonies were grown overnight in 5ml LB medium with 5µl Ampicillin (100µg/µl) and purified using Wizard Plus

Miniprep DNA Purification System (Promega, Madison WI, USA). Bi-directional sequencing of PCR products (Lowenberger *et al.*, 1999) was done using Big Dye Chemistry (v3.1) (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, Ca) using plasmid vector primers SP6 and T7.

#### 4.3.5 Bioinformatics

The nucleotide (nt) sequences were compared to those *Plasmodium* sp. sequences available in public databases using BLAST N (Nucleotide-Nucleotide Blast), T-BLAST X (Translated Query-Translated Database) and BLAST X (Translated query – Protein database) public databases. BLAST N compares nucleotide sequences entered by the user to all nucleotide sequences in the databases. BLAST X translates nucleotide sequences entered by the user into all six reading frames and compares these to all proteins in the databases. T-BLAST-X translates entered nucleotide sequences into all six reading frames and compares them to translated nucleotide sequences available in the databases. This process produces a report on both DNA and protein sequences and indicates with which species our submitted sequences share the greatest homology. This usually indicates the genus and species from which the DNA originates.

All available sequences of the *Plasmodium* sp. 18S rRNA gene which contained complete sequences of our target region were downloaded. These included; *P. gallinaceum* (Chicken), *P. berghei* (Rodent), and the primate plasmodia; *P. falciparum*, *P. ovale*, *P. malariae*, *P. vivax*, *P. cynomolgi*, *P. fragile*, *P. knowlesi*, *P. reichenowi*, *P. simium* and *P. inui* (See Chapter 3 for discussion of primate plasmodia). These sequences were edited to begin and end with our primers (rPLU3 and rPLU Cal), using EditSeq (DNA Star, Madison, WI) allowing for easier comparisons between sequences. These reference sequences were also translated into proteins, using our forward primer

as a guide, with EditSeq (DNA Star, Madison, WI). Reference nucleotide sequences (Appendix 2) and their protein translations (Appendix 3) were aligned with sequences amplified from our samples and their protein translations using MegAlign (DNA Star, Madison WI). This allowed for the comparison of our DNA and protein sequences with known DNA/protein sequences.

## Chapter 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

As with the methodology section above, the results section is divided into two parts. The first part of this chapter is entitled “Field Results” and reports the findings of the microscopic analysis performed at the OCC&Q. The second part is entitled “Laboratory Results” and reports on the findings of the DNA analysis of the Whatman® FTA® Card preserved samples analyzed via PCR in the Laboratory of Dr. Carl Lowenberger at Simon Fraser University.

### 5.2 Field Results

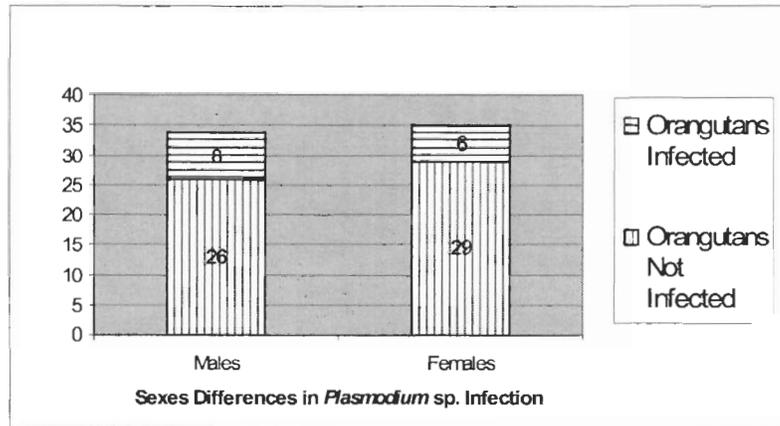
#### 5.2.1 Orangutan Blood Collection

We collected a total of 97 blood samples from 87 orangutans. Of these, 21 blood samples were from small orangutans (under 15 kg), 62 blood samples were collected from medium orangutans (15-30 kg) and the final four samples were from large orangutans (over 30 kg). Large orangutans were sampled rarely because of the difficulty in handling them. Blood samples were divided almost equally among males and females with 43 males, and 44 females sampled.

Of the 69 OCC&Q residents tested (34 males, 35 females), only 14 had *Plasmodium* sp infections (20.3%) (8 males: 23.5%, 6 females: 17.1%) (Figure 5.1). Of these 14 animals, only 3 had infections requiring medical treatment (as determined by

OCC&Q staff veterinarians) and none of the 14 animals showed any outward sign of illness as a result of the *Plasmodium* infection.

**Figure 5.1: Results of Testing OCC&Q Resident Orangutans for *Plasmodium* sp. Infections**

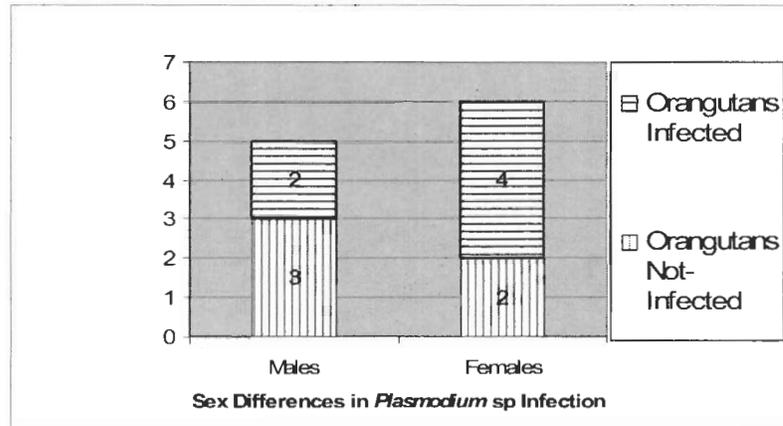


We tested 14 newly arrived orangutans for *Plasmodium* sp. infections. This represented all orangutans arriving at the OCC&Q during the study period and three females who had arrived three months previously with low level *Plasmodium* sp. infections and were being re-evaluated to determine if these infections had progressed. All of these orangutans had no known history of treatment for *Plasmodium* sp. infections during their time in captivity. Eight of these 14 animals tested positive for *Plasmodium* sp. (57%) (Figures 5.2 and 5.3). In this sample subset, variables such as sample size, individual size class and sex were uncontrollable because of the nature of the population being sampled.

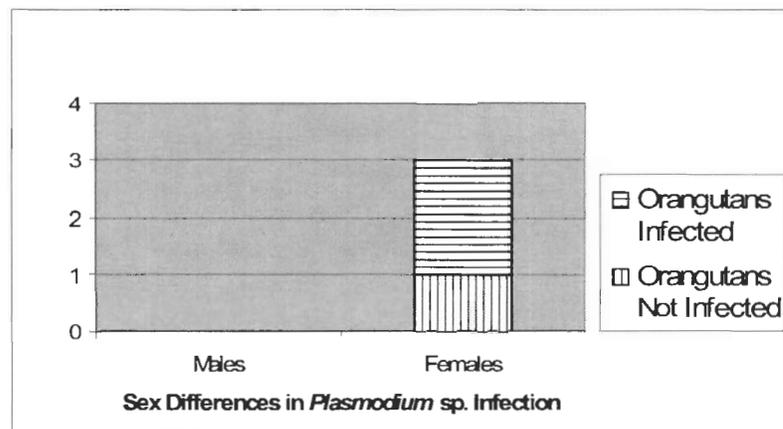
Of the eight animals with *Plasmodium* infections, four infections were deemed severe enough to require treatment by OCC&Q staff veterinarians. One of these animals (Oro-VM28) showed symptoms of lethargy, anorexia, and dehydration. We monitored this animal's activities using one 20-minute focal animal sample (Altmann, 1974) per hour during the daytime hours when orangutans tend to be most active (~between 8 AM and 4:30 PM) over two and a half days during his treatment for

*Plasmodium* sp. infection. After two and a half days the chemotherapy did not reduce the symptoms and we concluded the symptoms were being caused by some other infection.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 5.2: Sex Differences in *Plasmodium* sp. Infections Among Newly Confiscated Orangutans**



**Figure 5.3: *Plasmodium* sp. Testing of Newly Arrived Orangutans/Who Arrived with *Plasmodium* sp. Infections 3 Months Prior that Did Not Require Treatment**



Two previously released ex-captive orangutans were brought to the OCC&Q from Pondok Tangui for treatment of amoebic dysentery, which was causing severe and bloody diarrhoea. We collected blood from these animals as part of the routine

<sup>2</sup> Oro eventually died as a result of severe malnutrition prior to his arrival at OCC&Q

testing done to all new arrivals at the clinic. Both animals were found to have levels of *Plasmodium* sp. for which staff veterinarians administered treatment.

All blood smears positive for the presence of *Plasmodium* were reported to one of the OCC&Q staff veterinarians who then checked the animal's condition and decided whether the level of parasitemia was sufficient to warrant chemotherapeutic treatment or further monitoring for potential increases in parasitemia.

All orangutans treated for *Plasmodium* infections were treated with Artecef©. A loading dose of 4.8 mg/kg was given at hour 0 of treatment and subsequent doses of 1.6 mg/kg at hour 6, 24, 48 and 72 hours. All doses are given via intra-muscular injection usually in the quadriceps. At hour 96 all orangutans treated for *Plasmodium* were re-checked to ensure the effectiveness of the drug in clearing the infection.

One orangutan named "Frankie" (VM40) had the highest level of parasitemia at the OCC&Q during the field season with his maximum parasitemia estimated between ~28-30,000/ $\mu$ l of blood (calculated as per formula in Chapter 4 page 91). Blood samples for both smears and DNA diagnosis were collected from Frankie at each treatment interval to follow the effectiveness of chemotherapeutic treatment more closely. By hour-72 Frankie was microscopically free of *Plasmodium* and diagnosed negative. The final dose was given to ensure the clearance of the infection and Frankie remained negative during his post-treatment re-check.

### **5.2.2 Finger-Prick**

It quickly became apparent that for the purposes of this study, this technique was unsuitable because of the small quantity of blood acquired made accurate diagnoses and later DNA work difficult. This technique would require repeated

sampling to obtain suitable blood volumes, which would have caused needless pain and stress so this aspect of the project was abandoned.

### **5.2.3 Mosquitoes**

We collected a number of mosquitoes in and around OCC&Q during my time there. Mosquitoes were collected from dwellings, near orangutan cages, swamp ponds, orangutan Pondok and at the Lamandau release site. Because of the small sample size and time constraints this aspect of the research was not pursued.

## **5.3 Laboratory Results**

### **5.3.1 *Plasmodium* DNA Amplification**

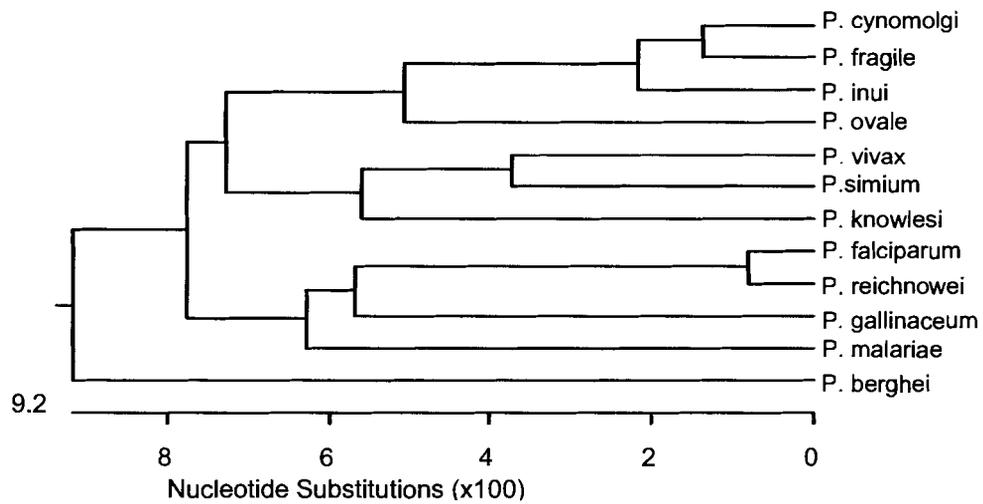
We amplified, cloned and sequenced a ~1500 bp segment of the *Plasmodium* sp. 18S rRNA gene from 13 of the 24 orangutans who were microscopically positive for *Plasmodium* sp. (Appendix 1). We were not able to amplify *Plasmodium* sp. specific DNA from some animals with very low parasitemias.

### **5.3.2 Results of Bioinformatic Analyses**

We downloaded the sequences of various plasmodia available in the databases. We aligned the sequences (See Appendix 2) and generated phylogenetic trees based on a nearest neighbour association at the nucleotide level (Figure 5.4) and at the amino acid level (Figure 5.5).

We then aligned the sequences we obtained from our 13 *Plasmodium* sp. infected orangutans at the nucleotide level (Appendix 3). Phylogenetic trees showing the nearest neighbour relationships of our sequences were created from these alignments (Figure 5.6).

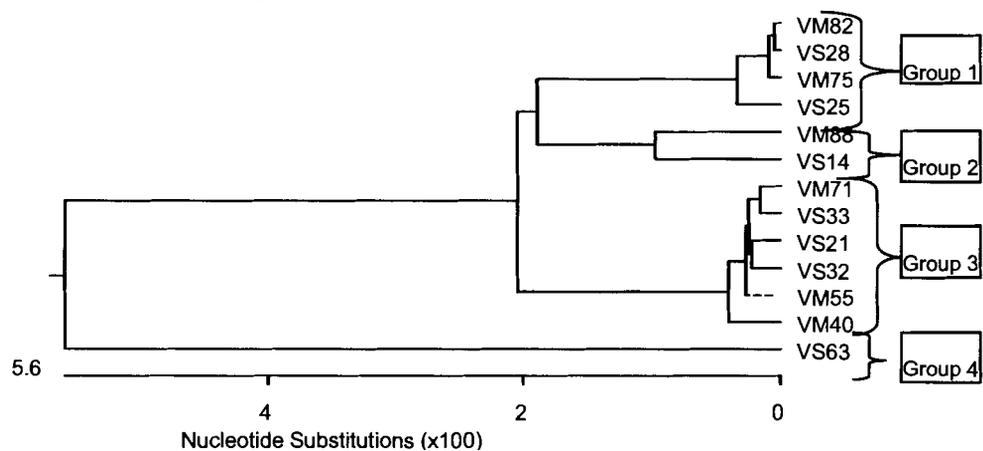
**Figure 5.4: Phylogenetic Tree of Reference Nucleotide Sequences**



**Figure 5.5: Phylogenetic Tree of Reference Sequences Translated into Putative Proteins**

Our samples form four distinct groupings at the nucleotide level. There is some variation in how our sequences align at the protein level that may be due to natural shifts in reading frame, sequencing errors that may result in premature stop codons.

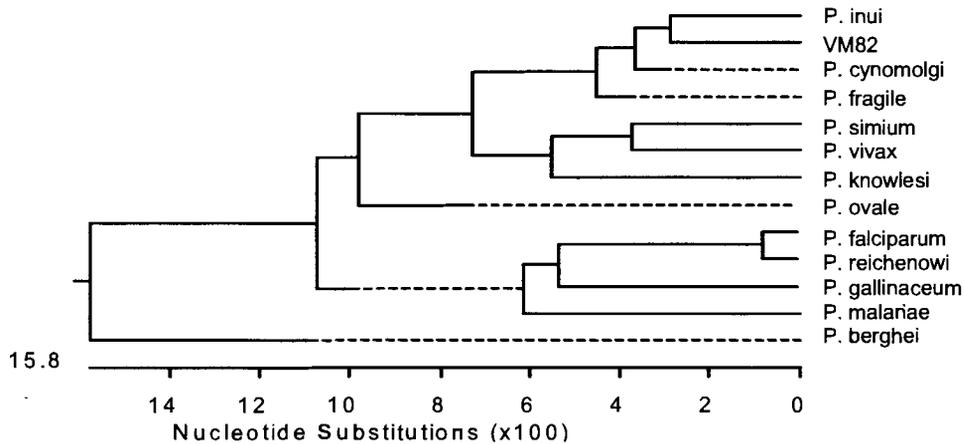
**Figure 5.6: Phylogenetic Tree of Obtained Sequences at the Nucleotide Level: Dotted lines indicate weaker relationships**



Based on these natural groupings we designated samples VS25, VS28, VM75 and VM82 as Group 1; samples VS14 and VM88 as Group 2; VS21, VS32, VS33, VM40, VM55 and VM71 as Group 3 ; and VS63 as Group 4.

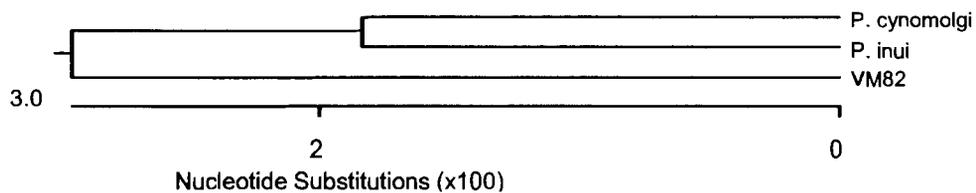
For Group 1, we randomly designated sequence VM82 as our representative sample. Sequence VM82 consists of 1519 bp at the nucleotide level and translates to a putative protein with a length of 506 amino acids. VM82 shares significant sequence identity with *P. cynomolgi* (94%) and *P. inui* (95%) in the region of bases 160-1509 (Appendix 3). A phylogenetic tree based on alignments of VM82 with our reference sequences shows closest association with *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi* (Figure 5.7).

**Figure 5.7: Sequence VM82 Aligned with Reference Sequences-Nucleotide Level**



To aid in the determination of the *Plasmodium* sp. represented by this group of sequences VM82 was aligned solely with its two closest complete homologues *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi* (Appendix 4). A phylogenetic tree showing the nearest neighbour association between these three sequences shows VM82 to be distinct from both *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi* (Figure 5.8).

**Figure 5.8: Sequence VM82 Aligned with Reference Sequences of *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi*-Nucleotide Level**

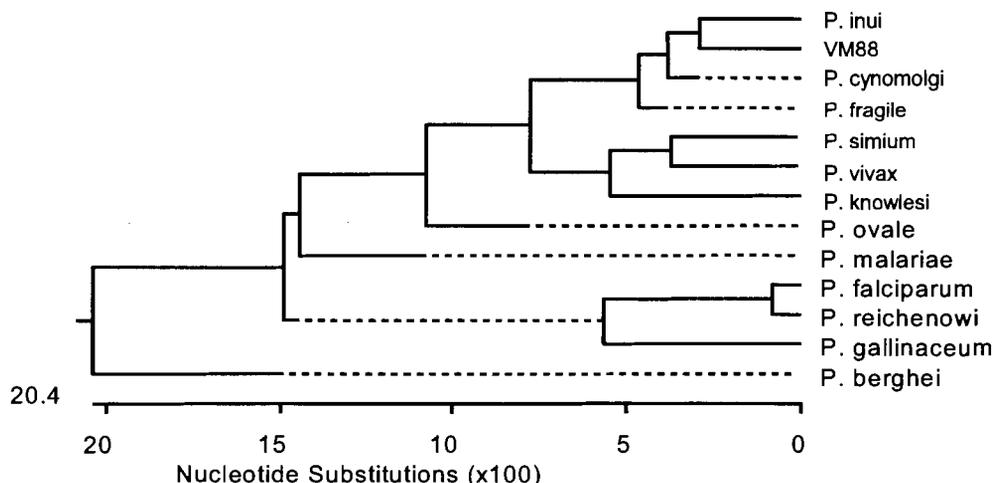


These three sequences are highly conserved showing variable areas in the region of bases 106-155, 633-672, 720-730 and 1018-1050 which indicates a closer

homology to *P. cynomolgi*. Despite sharing the greatest homology with *P. cynomolgi*, differences between VM82 and *P. cynomolgi* in the region of bases 143-155, 646-673 and 1023-1043 indicate that this is only a *P. cynomolgi*-like parasite. At the protein level, sample VM82 shares the greatest homology with *P. cynomolgi* at 85% in the region of bases 376-543, 92% in the region of bases 730-768, 92% in the region of bases 814-1023 and 96% in the region of bases 1040-1414.

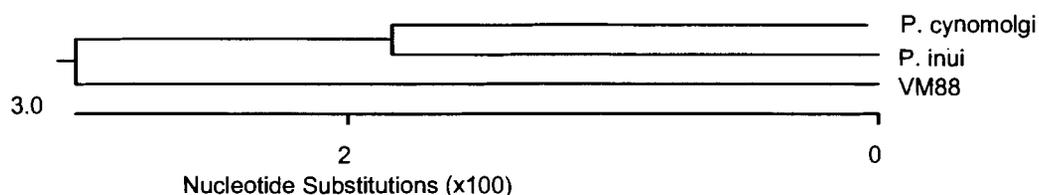
For Group 2, we designated sequence VM88 as our representative sample. Sample VM88 is 1544 bp in length and translates to a putative protein 514 amino acids in length. It shares significant similarity with *P. hylobati*, *P. inui*, *P. fieldi*, and *P. cynomolgi*. Sample VM88 shows 96% identity to *P. hylobati* in the region of bases 837-1400, 89% similarity in the region of bases 523-783 and 84% similarity in the region of bases 1436-1487. Similarity with *P. inui* is 97% in the region of bases 16-95, 96% in the region of bases 837-1408, 92% in the region of bases 1436-1487 and 90% in the region of bases 120-783. VM88 also shares 95% identity with *P. fieldi* in the region of bases 837-1408, 89% in the region of bases 525-700 and 92% in the region of bases 730-783. Finally, VM88 shares 95% identity to *P. cynomolgi* in the region of bases 837-1408, 91% identity in the region of bases 16-700, 92% in the region of bases 730-783 and 87% in the region of bases 1440-1487 (Appendix 3). A phylogenetic tree based on a nearest neighbour association of VM88 and downloaded reference sequences confirms a close association between VM88, *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi* (See Figure 5.9).

**Figure 5.9: Sequence VM88 Aligned with Reference Sequences-Nucleotide Level**



To aid in the determination of which *Plasmodium* sp. is represented by this group, sample VM88 was aligned for comparison at the nucleotide level with its two most complete homologous matches (*P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi*) (Appendix 5) and a nearest neighbour phylogenetic tree was created (Figure 5.10).

**Figure 5.10: Sequence VM88 Aligned with Reference Sequences of *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi*-Nucleotide Level**

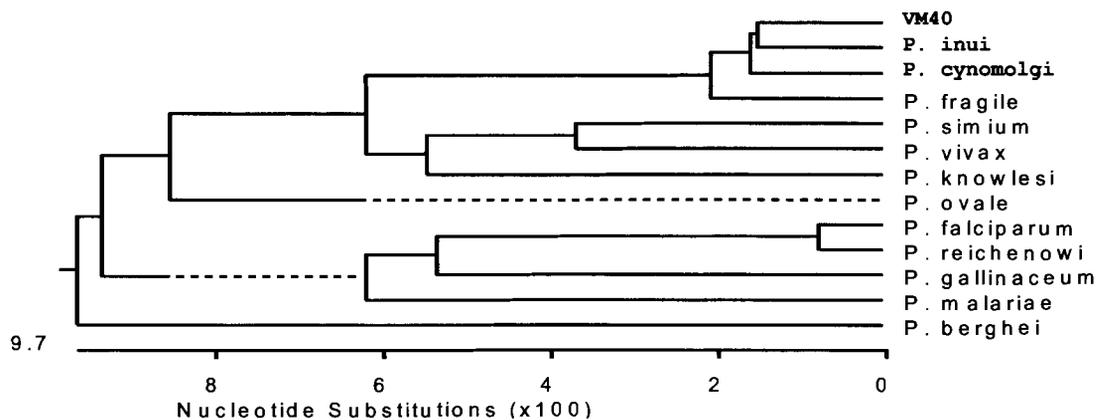


The sequences show high conservation but analysis of variable regions in these three sequences, especially two large areas in the region of bases 113-175 and 630-670, led to the identification of this *Plasmodium* sp. as being a *P. inui*-like parasite. This species is most homologous with *P. inui*, but varies from *P. inui* in the region of bases 110-175, 712-735, 789-887 and 1495-1551. At the protein level VM88 shares the greatest homology to *P. cynomolgi* at 88% in the region of bases 143-361, 44% in the

region of bases 476-610, 92% in the region of bases 914-1036, 94% in the region of bases 1053-1382.

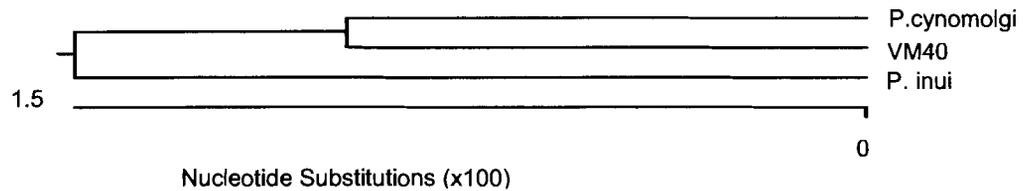
For Group 3, we designated sequence VM40 as our representative sample. VM40 is 1515 bp in length with a putative protein length of 505 amino acids. VM40 shares significant identity with three *Plasmodium* sp. at the nucleotide level: *P. hylobati*, *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi*. Sample VM40 shares 96% and 97% identities with *P. hylobati* in the region of bases 522- 641 and 675-1510 respectively. It shares 95% identity to *P. inui* between regions 10-635, and 97% identity between regions 671-1510. VM40 also shares a close identity to *P. cynomolgi* sharing 97% identity in the region of bases 4-641 and 96% identity in the region of bases 671-1510 (Appendix 3). A nearest neighbour phylogenetic tree based on the alignment of VM40 with our reference sequences showed a close association between VM40, *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi* (Figure 5.11).

**Figure 5.11: Sequence VM40 Aligned with Reference Nucleotide Sequences**



To aid in the species identification of this sample it was aligned with its two closest complete homologues in (*P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi*) (Appendix 6) and a nearest neighbour phylogenetic tree was created showing that VM40 associates more closely with *P. cynomolgi* (Figure 5.12).

**Figure 5.12: Sequence VM40 Aligned with Reference Sequences of *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi* -Nucleotide Level**

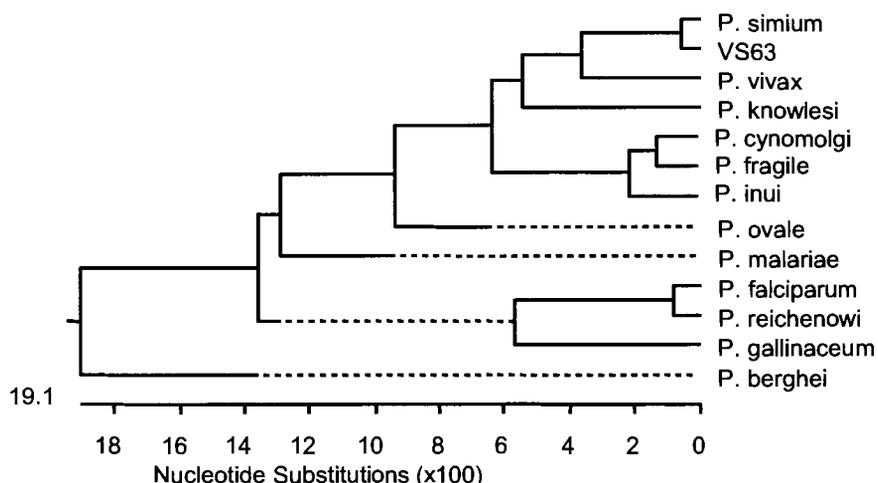


These sequences show large conserved areas but variable areas in the region of bases 143-173 and 637-671 led to the identification of this *Plasmodium* sp. as being homologous to *P. cynomolgi*.

At the protein level, T-BLAST X queries of this sequence returned 95% identity to *P. cynomolgi* in the region of bases 141-356, 100% identity in the region of bases 364-456, 97% identity in the region of bases 757-1026, and 96% identity in the region of bases 1042-1416.

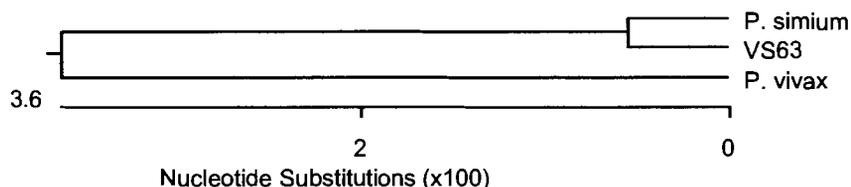
Group 4 is represented by one sequence that does not closely match any other sequences obtained in this study. This sequence (VS63) is 1582 bp in length and translates into a putative protein consisting of 526 amino acids. At the nucleotide level VS63 shows significant similarity to *P. simium* sharing 97% identity in the region of bases 10-786 and 98% identity in the region of bases 802-1582 and to *P. vivax* at 93% in the region of bases 5-786 and 98% in the region of bases 802-1358 (Appendix 3). A nearest neighbour phylogenetic tree shows the close association of VS63 with *P. simium* and *P. vivax* (See Figure 5.13).

**Figure 5.13: Sequence VS63 Aligned with Reference Nucleotide Sequences**



Sample VS63 was aligned with its two closest nucleotide homologues *P. simium* and *P. vivax* (Appendix 7) and a nearest neighbour phylogenetic tree was also created (Figure 5.14).

**Figure 5.14: Sequence VS63 Aligned with Reference Sequences of *P. simium* and *P. vivax***



Alignments of *P. vivax*, *P. simium* and VS63 at the nucleotide are highly conserved but regions of variation in the region of bases 54-74, 147-167, 569-599, 1365-1447 and 1483-1520 indicate a closer homology to *P. simium*.

This relationship is strongly supported by the results of protein searches in T-BLAST X which indicate that VS63 shares 94% identity to *P. simium* in the region of

bases 10-273, 100% identity in the region of bases 284-460 and 96% identity in the region of bases 505-603 and 659-1447.

## **Chapter 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Discussion of Field Results**

#### **6.1.1 The Usefulness of the “Finger Prick” Method**

One of the initial purposes of this research was, in part, to test for *Plasmodium* sp. infections without taking blood from the veins of orangutans through a method called the “Finger Prick” method. The success of this method has been well documented on humans in many countries. Unfortunately, orangutans are not ideal candidates for this method to collect blood samples. While it was possible to diagnose *Plasmodium* sp. infections from the “Finger Prick” it was not possible to get enough blood from an orangutan finger for more than one thick smear. At times even getting enough blood to make one thick smear was a challenge. Orangutans seem to have excellent clotting factors in their blood and combined with their thick skin and long bent fingers made it almost impossible at times to get any blood from their fingers. This technique was dropped because we decided that taking blood from the veins of an orangutan was easier and less traumatic on the animal.

#### **6.1.2 Resident Orangutans vs. Newly Arrived Orangutans**

Our results indicate that newly arrived orangutans to the OCC&Q are more likely to be infected with *Plasmodium* sp. than resident individuals ( $X^2=7.39$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=>0.01$ ) but there are no differences between the sexes. There may be a number of reasons for higher *Plasmodium* sp. infection rates among newly confiscated orangutans such as

their increased proximity to humans, lack of a nutritious and normal diet, and stress (Wolfe *et al.*, 2002). Our data support a hypothesis that increased proximity to humans may increase the risk of *Plasmodium* sp. infections for newly confiscated individuals. If human proximity played a critical role in the transmission of *Plasmodium* sp. to orangutans we would expect that these individuals would be more likely to be infected with human *Plasmodium* sp. There are a number of possible explanations for higher *Plasmodium* sp. prevalences among newly arrived orphaned orangutans versus resident individuals, such as increased stress, insufficient diet, and increased exposure to vectors.

Unfortunately, there are no data available on the level of morbidity and/or mortality suffered by orangutans due to *Plasmodium* sp. nor is there data on the potential role of the immune response in clearing these infections. Observational data collected during this study found that a sick orangutan that was positive for infection with *Plasmodium* sp. showed no improvement upon treatment with antimalarial drugs that cleared the infection. This observational data was only collected from one individual that is far too small a sample size to make any generalizations.

Our resident orangutans are most comparable to the semi-captive orangutans tested by Wolfe *et al.* (2002) whose population showed an extremely high prevalence of *Plasmodium* sp. at 93.5%. This contrasts greatly from the prevalence of *Plasmodium* sp. we found in the semi-captive orangutans housed at the OCC&Q (20.3%). Originally, because of the location of the OCC&Q in a peatswamp forest, we had expected higher rates of *Plasmodium* sp. infection similar to those found at SORC by Wolfe *et al.* (2002). Wolfe *et al.* (2002) suggested that a number of behavioural and ecological factors may contribute to higher rates of *Plasmodium* sp. infection among semi-captive orangutans such as decreased arboreality, decreased day ranges, changes in social structure, increased population density, dietary changes and stress. Each of these factors is also

present to some degree in the orangutans housed at OCC&Q. Wolfe *et al.* (2002) also discussed the potential role of human activities in the high prevalence of *Plasmodium* sp. at SORC, including proximity to humans and human settlements, and the effects of facilities such as drainage ditches which increase the availability of standing water and vector mosquito population. However there is no data on what mosquito species might transmit non-human plasmodia to orangutans. Our much lower prevalence of *Plasmodium* sp. infections in the orangutans housed at the OCC&Q may indicate the presence of some factor limiting *Plasmodium* sp. infection rates at OCC&Q which is not present at SORC.

## **6.2 Discussion of DNA Laboratory Results**

### **6.2.1 Difficulty Amplifying *Plasmodium* sp. DNA from Microscopically Positive Individuals**

There were a number of factors that need to be weighed in choosing how to collect and preserve samples. We chose Whatman® FTA® Classic Cards as our storage medium mainly because of the ease in preparing them with samples in the field. Samples were prepared and allowed to dry on the cards preserving them in a non-biohazardous format. This meant that we did not need Health Canada permits to import biohazardous materials, or Agriculture Canada permits for the importation of primate “products”. This also meant that while we waited 15 months to obtain the CITES permits necessary to export the blood samples to Canada, our samples were safely preserved.

We found difficulties in amplifying or eluting *Plasmodium* sp. DNA from individuals with low level infections. Singh *et al.* (1999) found that they were able to detect lower parasitemia levels through PCR more reliably than via microscopy. Our results are unable to support this finding as we had difficulty in amplifying *Plasmodium* sp DNA from samples estimated to have infections under 200 parasites per microlitre.

### 6.2.2 Sequencing Results

As stated at the end of Chapter 5 the results of our laboratory DNA analyses indicate the presence of four distinct groups of *Plasmodium* sp. present in the orangutans housed at the OCC&Q. This is based on sequencing a ~1500 bp segment of the 18S rRNA considered an “ideal target” for *Plasmodium* sp. identification (Li *et al.*, 1995). The isolation of four plasmodia from the blood of orangutans may be a remarkable finding. Previous *Plasmodium* sp. identification in orangutans had been based solely on parasite morphology and had identified only two plasmodia species in orangutans; *P. pitheci* and *P. silvaticum*. There are no DNA sequences for these two species with which we could compare our data. There are unpublished reports that claim that the macaque *P. inui* has also been found in orangutans housed at SORC in Sabah Malaysia (Wolfe *et al.*, 2002), but these data have yet to be published.

The finding of four species of *Plasmodium* sp. parasites in the blood of orangutans sampled at OCC&Q may be also important to the veterinary staff at OCC&Q. Until now, they believed that the OCC&Q orangutans were experiencing only infections with *P. pitheci*. This assumption was supported by the data collected at SORC by Wolfe *et al.* (2002) who also found only evidence of *P. pitheci* infections in their orangutans despite it being the only site from which samples morphologically identified as *P. silvaticum* had been found. Because we do not have access to *P. silvaticum* or *P. pitheci* sequences, it is possible that two of our four sequences may represent *P. pitheci* or *P. silvaticum*. These are *P. vivax* like plasmodia as are the macaque plasmodia *P. cynomolgi*, *P. inui*, *P. fragile* and *P. knowlesi* (Escalante and Ayala, 1995; Escalante *et al.*, 2005; Leclerc *et al.*, 2004; Mu *et al.*, 2005; Rathore *et al.*, 2001 and Waters *et al.*, 1993).

Based on our analyses we believe that the sequences described above as Group 1 represent a *P. cynomolgi*-like parasite, while the sequences described above as Group 2 represent a *P. inui*-like parasite. These two *Plasmodium* species may represent the two orangutan specific members of the *P. vivax*/Southeast Asian primate *Plasmodium* sp. group of parasites, *P. pitheci* and *P. silvaticum* which had previously been solely identified via morphological characteristics (Peters *et al.*, 1976 and Wolfe *et al.*, 2002). Unfortunately, the confirmation of, or exclusion against, these two *Plasmodium* sp. as being *P. pitheci* and/or *P. silvaticum* is not possible. There are no known reference samples of *P. pitheci* or *P. silvaticum* which have been previously identified based on morphological characteristics that we could use as genetic type specimens for comparison against our two unknown *Plasmodium* sp. sequences.

The group 3 sequences align best with *P. cynomolgi* which is another macaque specific *Plasmodium* sp. that can infect humans. *Plasmodium cynomolgi* was originally identified by Martin Mayer in 1907 in the blood of a crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) from Java (Coatney *et al.*, 1971) and is also a member of the *P. vivax*/Southeast Asian primate plasmodia group (Escalante and Ayala, 1995; Escalante *et al.*, 2005; Leclerc *et al.*, 2004; Mu *et al.*, 2005; Rathore *et al.*, 2001 and Waters *et al.*, 1993). Interestingly, this species has been studied in great detail because it shares a number of traits with *P. vivax*, such as similar trophozoites and gametocytes (Coatney *et al.*, 1971), and as a result has been studied as the primate counterpart to human *P. vivax* (Waters *et al.*, 1993).

If our interpretation is correct, and our Group 3 *Plasmodium* sp. is *P. cynomolgi* this would represent strong evidence of the cross-species transfer of *Plasmodium* sp between macaques and orangutans. Macaques are quite common throughout Kalimantan including the area surrounding the OCC&Q. They can often be seen crossing the road both into and out of the nursery forest used by orphaned orangutans

housed at OCC&Q as part of their rehabilitation process. Thus, finding a macaque *Plasmodium* sp. in orangutans sharing these forests should come as no surprise.

Until now there have never been any confirmed reports of orangutans being infected with *Plasmodium* sp. specific to other species of primate. There is one report of orangutans being infected by the macaque specific parasite *P. inui* (Wolfe *et al.*, 2002) but the data supporting this claim have never been published. Humans have been infected naturally with at least two other species of macaque plasmodia so it should not be surprising that we might find one of these species in orangutans housed at OCC&Q.

Another macaque parasite *P. knowlesi*, also may infect other primates. For over 70 years it has been known to be infective to humans and was employed as a treatment for neurosyphilis (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). Since 1965, *P. knowlesi* has been known to naturally infect humans in Malaysia (Coatney *et al.*, 1971) and it continues to be an important zoonotic infection in Southeast Asia (Jongwutiwes *et al.*, 2004 and Singh *et al.*, 2004).

The *Plasmodium* sp. represented by the sequence referred to above as Group 4 is the most surprising. As stated in Chapter 5, this sequence aligns most closely with *P. simium* and *P. vivax*. Because *P. simium* is a *Plasmodium* sp. of New World monkeys, we can be fairly certain that this infection is not *P. simium*. If we only include plasmodia known to be in Southeast Asia in our analysis of this sequence then it becomes apparent that what we truly have here is the first report of an orangutan being infected with human *P. vivax*. Our interpretation of these results is supported by the fact that many types of *P. vivax* are almost identical to *P. simium* (Escalante *et al.*, 1998 and 2005) and the fact that this individual was a recent arrival at OCC&Q, that had had extensive interactions with humans, and who arrived with this infection.

*Plasmodium vivax* is referred to as the benign tertian malaria that refers to its 48 hour asexual reproductive phase (Marquardt *et al.*, 2000) and its lower levels of mortality

than *P. falciparum*. This is one of the most widespread of the human plasmodia infecting 70-80 million humans in the low-lying, coastal or marshy areas of the temperate zones of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia (Coatney *et al.*, 1971 and Mu *et al.*, 2005). This geography and climate of Central Kalimantan in the region around the OCC&Q has the potential to harbour *P. vivax* and its vector(s) as it is warm throughout the year and is swampy. The *P. vivax* parasite(s) of Central Kalimantan have not yet been studied but we can assume they are present in the region based on the results of our sequence and reports of chloroquine resistant *P. vivax* in West Kalimantan (the next province to the west of Central Kalimantan) (Fryauff, 1998).

It should not come as a big surprise that *P. vivax* is infective to orangutans but it does have major implications for orangutan conservation initiatives. Current evidence suggests a zoonotic origin for *P. vivax* arising 10,000-81,607 years ago from a macaque *Plasmodium* sp (Escalante *et al.*, 2005; Leclerc *et al.*, 2004 and Mu *et al.*, 2005). With humans being genetically closer to orangutans than to macaques, it only seems logical that if *P. vivax* arose as a result of a recent host switch then orangutans could also be infected with *P. vivax*.

The finding that *P. vivax* may be infective to orangutans could have major implications in terms of orangutan rehabilitation and reintroduction efforts in Kalimantan and perhaps even in Sumatra. In humans, *P. vivax* can cause true relapse for 2 to 30 years (Coatney *et al.*, 1971). If this also occurs in orangutans, then individuals released back to the wild have the potential (if suitable vectors are present in the release area) to spread this parasite to other orangutans in the area. For this reason it is important that we learn how this parasite affects orangutans. We need to understand whether the human plasmodia cause morbidity or mortality in orangutans to determine whether it is a serious threat to orangutan health and conservation efforts. It may require that all orangutans coming from human captivity need to be treated with antimalarial drugs

effective at killing *P. vivax* but to date no antimalarial drugs are capable of preventing true relapse. These data may provide the impetus for studying Sumatran orangutans for the presence of *Plasmodium* sp. because even if *P. pitheci* and *P. silvaticum* are not naturally found on Sumatra, *P. vivax* is present and may infect Sumatran orangutans.

### **6.3 Recommendations for Future Research**

This section gives recommendations for future research along with suggested changes to the research methodologies used in this study. We hope that others can learn from our methods and use our recommendations to make future research on this topic easier, giving us a broader picture of how *Plasmodium* sp. infections may impact orangutan conservation efforts in Indonesian and Malaysian Borneo. This section is divided into three parts: 1) Recommendations for Future Field Research; 2) Methodology for Field Laboratory Analysis; and 3) DNA Laboratory Methodology.

#### **6.3.1 Recommendations for Future Field Research**

We have a number of recommendations for future field research and data collection techniques on this topic. The first and probably most important is a longer-term study of *Plasmodium* sp. prevalence and species abundance at OCC&Q especially, in light of our discovery of potential human *P. vivax* in orangutans. The potential role of *P. vivax* infections in orangutan rehabilitation and reintroduction needs to be further explored. This study should be focused on collecting data during the wet season as our current study provides data from the height of the dry season. This would allow for seasonal comparisons of *Plasmodium* sp. prevalence and species abundance.

Part of a longer-term field study should be a greater attempt to determine how *Plasmodium* sp. infections affect orangutans through behavioural observations and then collection of more detailed medical data. We are still uncertain as to the impact of

*Plasmodium* sp. infections in orangutans and without these data it is difficult to estimate its threat to orangutan conservation efforts. If *Plasmodium* sp. infections are found to cause morbidity and mortality in semi-captive orangutans, but not in wild orangutans then wild orangutans should be monitored and samples of any plants eaten should be collected for the analysis of any secondary compounds which may be present, such as those recently isolated by Krief et al., (2004). Such data may help explain the discrepancy between the *Plasmodium* sp. prevalence in newly confiscated orangutans and OCC&Q residents.

Another key aspect of any future research projects of *Plasmodium* sp. in orangutans should be to expand the geographical areas covered. This project is one of the first studies of *Plasmodium* sp. in Indonesian Borneo. Research needs to be expanded to cover more orangutan research and rehabilitation sites in other parts of Kalimantan. *Plasmodium* sp. research also needs to be undertaken in Sumatra. Officially, *Plasmodium* sp. does not exist in Sumatran orangutans, but there are unconfirmed reports of malaria-like symptoms and their response to antimalarial drugs, which is indicative of possible *Plasmodium* sp. infections.

Finally, it is important for any future research on this subject to include two research goals not tied directly to orangutans. The first goal should be directed at attempting to identify potential mosquito vectors in the region. This can be done both relatively easily and cheaply using baited mosquito traps hung near orangutan sleeping cages. We have no information on the potential vectors in this region, which is a key to understanding how the plasmodia in this region are transmitted. It is believed that all mammalian plasmodia are transmitted by *Anopheles* sp. mosquitoes (Cox, 1993), but there is no evidence to suggest or contradict this speculation. The second goal should study the *Plasmodium* sp. prevalence and species abundance in the human population

in the region. This would help confirm whether primate and human plasmodia are being passed between the human and nonhuman primate populations in the region.

### **6.3.2 Methodology for Field Laboratory Analyses**

There are two methodological changes to our field data collection methods that we would make to any future study of *Plasmodium* sp. in orangutans. First, we would find a better way to estimate *Plasmodium* sp. parasitemias. The current OCC&Q protocols for estimating *Plasmodium* sp. parasitemias is a modification of the method described in Cheesbrough (1999) (See page 91). This method may not be very accurate and may over or underestimate the total parasitemias because it is based on the number of WBCs present. WBC levels may be artificially inflated in these orangutans due to illness and infections thus using this technique may artificially overestimate parasitemia levels.

The other methodological change has to do with the preparation and storage of the Whatman®FTA® Cards. For any future research we would suggest collecting the maximum amount of blood (500µl) recommended by the manufacturer for each card. Also, to maximize the number of red blood cells collected we would recommend centrifuging the blood prior to loading onto the FTA® Cards in order to concentrate the blood cells and separate the blood plasma. This may allow for easier detection of low parasitemias via PCR. Genomic DNA is said to be stable for up to 11 years if preserved on Whatman® FTA® Cards (Whatman, 2002). To help ensure the best preservation of blood samples on the cards we recommend that they be stored with silica gel in order to ensure their protection from humidity and moisture (Karesh Pers. comm.).

### 6.3.3 DNA Laboratory Methodology

We only have a couple of minor recommendations for future DNA research into the plasmodia infective to orangutans. Our first recommendation is to elute DNA from the FTA® Cards. The sensitivity of our PCR reactions seemed to increase if the DNA was previously eluted from the cards prior to use in PCR reactions rather than using a cleaned disc in the PCR reaction.

## 6.4 Conclusions

This project used a combination of traditional microscopic diagnosis and molecular biological analysis via PCR to identify the *Plasmodium* sp. found in semi-captive orangutans housed at the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine in Central Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo. We microscopically examined the blood of 87 orangutans that were divided into three residence categories. We tested 69 OCC&Q resident orangutans that had been living at OCC&Q for at least three months or, if they had been resident for a year or more they could not have been treated for *Plasmodium* sp. infections during the past year. Of these 69 orangutans 14 were microscopically diagnosed with *Plasmodium* sp. We also tested 14 newly confiscated orangutans who had been living at OCC&Q for anywhere from a few hours to a maximum of three months. Of these 14 newly arrived orangutans, eight were microscopically positive for *Plasmodium* sp. Finally, we tested two previously released ex-captive orangutans from *Pondok Tanggui* who were brought to the OCC&Q to get treatment for severe amoebic dysentery infections, both of which had *Plasmodium* sp infections.

Blood samples collected and preserved on Whatman® FTA® Cards from the 24 orangutans that were microscopically positive for *Plasmodium* sp. were used in species identification via PCR. Using specially designed primers we were successfully able to

amplify, clone and sequence a ~1500 bp region of the *Plasmodium* sp. 18S rRNA gene from 13 of the 24 microscopically positive orangutans. We experienced difficulty in amplifying *Plasmodium* sp. DNA from the blood of orangutans whose parasitemia had been estimated at less than 200/ $\mu$ l.

Bioinformatic analysis of these 13 sequences indicates the presence of four *Plasmodium* sp. in the orangutans housed at the OCC&Q. Each of these *Plasmodium* species appears to be members of the *P. vivax*/Southeast Asian primate *Plasmodium* sp. group. Two of the species we detected, a *P. inui*-like parasite and a *P. cynomolgi*-like parasite, may represent the two orangutan *Plasmodium* spp. (*P. pitheci* and *P. silvaticum*) which had been previously described based on morphological characteristics. Unfortunately, no reference materials of these previously identified orangutan *Plasmodium* sp. are available for comparison. A third group of sequences appears to be a cross-species infection with the macaque *Plasmodium* sp., *P. cynomolgi*. This is the first confirmed report of a macaque *Plasmodium* sp. infecting orangutans. Our final group of genetically identified *Plasmodium* species is the human *Plasmodium* sp., *P. vivax*. This may be our most important finding for researchers involved in orangutan research and conservation efforts because it is the first scientific evidence of a human *Plasmodium* sp. infecting orangutans.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Sequences of Amplified *Plasmodium* sp. DNA from Orangutans.**

Sample ID	Sex	Resident/New Arrival/Free Ranging	Sequence Length (bp)	Group	Greatest Homology
VS14	Male	New Arrival	1518	Group 2	<i>P. inui</i> -like
VS21	Female	New Arrival	1515	Group 3	<i>P. cynomolgi</i>
VS25	Female	New Arrival	1523	Group 1	<i>P. cynomolgi</i> -like
VS28	Male	New Arrival	1520	Group 1	<i>P. cynomolgi</i> -like
VS32	Female	New Arrival	1524	Group 3	<i>P. cynomolgi</i>
VS33	Female	New Arrival	1516	Group 3	<i>P. cynomolgi</i>
VM40	Male	Resident	1515	Group 3	<i>P. cynomolgi</i>
VM55	Male	Resident	1514	Group 3	<i>P. cynomolgi</i>
VS63	Female	New Arrival	1582	Group 4	<i>P. vivax</i>
VM71	Male	Free Ranging	1518	Group 3	<i>P. cynomolgi</i>
VM75	Male	Free Ranging	1528	Group 1	<i>P. cynomolgi</i> -like
VM82	Female	Resident	1519	Group 1	<i>P. cynomolgi</i> -like
VM88	Male	Resident	1544	Group 2	<i>P. inui</i> -like

## Appendix 2: Aligned Sequences of the 18S rRNA *Plasmodium* sp. Gene Available in GenBank

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
<i>P. berghei</i>	TTTATTATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	-TTCTTATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. falcipar</i>	TTTATTATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. fragile</i>	-TCTATATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. gallinac</i>	-TTTTTATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. inui</i>	-----	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. knowlesi</i>	-TCTATATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. malariae</i>	-TTTTTATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. ovale</i>	-TACTTACAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. reicheno</i>	-TTATTATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. simium</i>	-----	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>P. vivax</i>	-TTTCTATATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA	GGATAA
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160
<i>P. berghei</i>	TGTTAAGGACC	CCTAAGAAA	AAA-T-GAT-	-ATTAAGGA	ATTATAACAA	AGAAGCAACA	CAT--AATAT	
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	AGTGTGACT	TGTTAAGCCT	T-TTAAGAAA	AAAGT-TATT	AACTTAAGGA	ATTATAACAA	AGAAGTAACA	CGT--AATGG
<i>P. falcipar</i>	GATAAGTATT	TGTTAGGCCT	T-ATAAGAAA	AAAGT-TATT	AACTTAAGGA	ATTATAACAA	AGAAGTAACA	CGT--AATAA
<i>P. fragile</i>	AGTGTGACT	TGTTAAGCCT	T-ATAAGAAA	GAAGT-TATT	AACTTAAGGA	ATTATAACAA	AGAAGTAACA	CGTGAATGG
<i>P. gallinac</i>	AACACGTATT	TGTTAAGCCT	T-ATAAGAAA	AAAGT-TATT	AATTTAAGGA	ATTATAACAA	AGAAGCAACA	CAT--AATAA
<i>P. inui</i>	AGTGTGACT	TGTTAAGCCT	T-TTAAGAAA	AAAGT-TATT	AACTTAAGGA	GTTATAACAA	AGAAGCAACA	CGT--AATAG
<i>P. knowlesi</i>	AGTGTGACT	TGTTAAGCCT	T-ATAAGAAA	AGAGT-TATT	AACTTAAGGA	ATTATAACAA	AGAAGTAACA	CGT--AATGG
<i>P. malariae</i>	AGTATGTATT	TGTTAAGCCT	T-ATAAGAGA	AAAGTATATT	AACTTAAGGA	AT-ATAACAA	AGAAGTAACA	CAT--AATAA
<i>P. ovale</i>	CGTATGTACT	TGTTAAGCCT	T--TAAAGAGA	AAAGTTTAC-	AACTTAAGGA	ATTATAACAA	AGAAGTAACA	CAT--AATAA
<i>P. reicheno</i>	GATAAGTACT	TGTTAGGCCT	T-ATAAGAAA	AAAGT-TATT	AACTTAAGGA	ATTATAACAA	AGAAGTAACA	CGT--AATAA
<i>P. simium</i>	AGCATGTACT	TGTTAAGCCT	TTATAAGAAA	AAAGT-TAAT	AACTTAAGGA	ATGATAACAA	AGAAGTGACA	CATAAAAAGG
<i>P. vivax</i>	GGCATGTACT	TGTTAAGCCT	TTATAAGAAA	AAAGT-TAAT	AACTTAAGGA	ATGATAACAA	AGAAGTGACA	CATAGAA-GG
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*** * *	*** * *	*** * *	*** * *	*** * *	*** * *	*** * *	*** * *



**P. berghei** 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400  
 GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-TAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TATAAGGCCA AATTTTGGTT  
**P. cynomolgi** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA A--TCTGGCT  
**P. falcipar** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TGCAAGGCCA ATTTTGGTT  
**P. fragile** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA A--TCTGGCT  
**P. gallinac** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA AATTTTGGTT  
**P. inui** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA A--TCTGGCT  
**P. knowlesi** GCAGCAGGCG --TAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA ATGAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA AT--CTGGCT  
**P. malariae** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA ATTTTGGTT  
**P. ovale** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA TTTTCATGGTT  
**P. reicheno** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA ATTTTGGTT  
**P. simium** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACGA TACAAGGCCA AA-ACTGGTT  
**P. vivax** GCAGCAGGCG CGTAAATTAC CCAATTCTAA A-GAAGAGAG GTAGTGACAA GAAATAACAA TACAAGGCCA AA-ACTGGTT  
**Clustal Co** \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*

**P. berghei** 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480  
 TTATAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAAAA - ATCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. cynomolgi** TTGTAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAAAA - CTCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. falcipar** TTGTAATTGG AATGGTGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAGAGT AACCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. fragile** TTGTAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAAAA - TTCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. gallinac** TTGCAATTGG AATGATAGGA AATTTAAACC TTTCCAAAA - TTCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. inui** TTGCAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAAAA - CTCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. knowlesi** TTGTAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAAAA - TTCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. malariae** TTGCAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAGAA - GGCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. ovale** TTGTAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAAAA - TTCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. reicheno** TTGTAATTGG AATGGTGGG AATTTAAACC TTTCCAGAGT AACCAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. simium** TTGTAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAATCC TTTCCATAA - TACAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**P. vivax** TTGTAATTGG AATGATGGG AATTTAAATCC TTTCCATAA - TACAATTGGA GGGCAAGTCT GGTGCCAGCA GCCGCGGTAA  
**Clustal Co** \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \*

**P. berghei**  
**P. cynomolgi**  
**P. falcipar**  
**P. fragile**  
**P. gallinac**  
**P. inui**  
**P. knowlesi**  
**P. malariae**  
**P. ovale**  
**P. reicheno**  
**P. simium**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

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490      500      510      520      530      540      550      560
TTCCAGCTCC AATAGCGTAT ATTAATAATTG TTGCAGTTAA AACGCTCGTA GTTGAACCTTC AAGGGTATAA TTATTTTAA-
TTCCAGCTCC AATAGCGTAT ATTAATAATTG TTGCAGTTAA AACGCTCGTA GTTGAATTTTC AAAGAATCGA TATTTTAAAG-
TTCCAGCTCC AATAGCGTAT ATTAATAATTG TTGCAGTTAA AACGCTCGTA GTTGAATTTTC AAAGAATCGA TATTTTAAAT-
TTCCAGCTCC AATAGCGTAT ATTAATAATTG TTGCAGTTAA AACGCTCGTA GTTGAATTTTC AAAGAATCGA TATTTTAAAG-
TTCCAGCTCC AATAGCGTAT ATTAATAATTG TTGCAGTTAA AACGCTCGTA GTTGAATTTTC AAAGAATCGA TATTTTAAAG-
TTCCAGCTCC AATAGCGTAT ATTAATAATTG TTGCAGTTAA AACGCTCGTA GTTGAATTTTC AAAGAATCGA TATTTTAAAT-
TTCCAGCTCC AATAGCGTAT ATTAATAATTG TTGCAGTTAA AACGCTCGTA GTTGAATTTTC AAAGAATCGA TATTTTAAAT-
TTCCAGCTCC AATAGCGTAT ATTAATAATTG TTGCAGTTAA AACGCTCGTA GTTGAATTTTC AAAGAATCGA TATTTTAAAT-
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**P. berghei**  
**P. cynomolgi**  
**P. falcipar**  
**P. fragile**  
**P. gallinac**  
**P. inui**  
**P. knowlesi**  
**P. malariae**  
**P. ovale**  
**P. reicheno**  
**P. simium**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

```

570      580      590      600      610      620      630      640
-----GCAA CTCACT-TGG A-----AA G--AAATCATG ACTTCTG--- -TC-ACTGCT
-----CAA CGCTTG-TAG CTTAATCCAC -----ATAA C--TGATACT ACGTATCGA- CTT-TGTGCG
-----GTAA CTATTC-TAG GGG-----AA C--TATTTTA GCTTTTCGC- TTT-AAATACG
-----TAA CGCTTT-TAG CTAAATCCAC -----ATAA C--TGATACT ACGTATCGA- CTT-TGTGCG
-----AATG CTTTAT-CGG ATGC----- --GTGTTAA A--TGGCGCT ACGGCGCATA TTT-TTCACA
-----TAG CACTTTGTAG ATTAATCCAC -----ATAA C--TGATACT ACGTATCGA- CTT-TGTG-G
-----GA TGCTGT-TAG CGAGAGCACA AAAAAAGCTAA TTCCAATATA TGTTCCTGTC TTTATGTTGCG
AATGCTTTGT ATATTTATAA CAAAGT-TGT ACATTAAGAA TAAACGCCAA G--CGTTATA TTTTTTCTGT TAC-AITTTTG
-----TAA TGCTTT-TGG TATAAGATGC -----TTAG G--CAATACA ACGTATCTG- CTC-TTTTGA
-----GTAA CTATAT-TAG GGG-----AA C--TATTTTA GCTTCGCGC- TTT-AAATACG
-----AA TGCTGT-TAG CTAGAGCCAC AAAAAAGTCAA G-CCACT--A TGGTTTCGGT TTTATGTTGCG
-----AA CGCCGT-TAG CTAGATCCAC AAGGGGTTGA G-CCAATC-A CGGTTTCGGC TTC-TGTGCG

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***P. berghei***  
***P. cynomolgi***  
***P. falcipar***  
***P. fragile***  
***P. gallinac***  
***P. inui***  
***P. knowlesi***  
***P. malariae***  
***P. ovale***  
***P. reicheno***  
***P. simium***  
***P. vivax***  
**Clustal Co**

```

650      660      670      680      690      700      710      720
TTT-ATCCTT GT-TGCA--- GTTCTTT--- TAATACAGGG CCCTTTGAGA GCCCAATTAAT T----- TATGACTGGG
CAATTTGCTA -T-TATGT-- GTTCTTTTAA TTAATAATGAT TCCTCTTTTAA GGTCCTTTCTT TTGC--TTCG GCAATTTGAAG
CTT-CCCTCA TTATTAT-- GTTCTTTTAA TAACAAGAGAT TCTTTTATAA ATCCCCACTT TTGCTTTTGC TTTTFTTGGG
CAATTTGCTA -T-TATGT-- GTTCTTTTAA TTAATAATGAT TCT-TTTTAA GGTCCTTTCTT TGGC--TCCG GC-TATGAAG
AAT-CTGATA ATATGCG--- GTTCTTTTAA TAAAAATGAT TCCTTTTAAA AATTCCTCGT T-GCCTTTTA AGTGATGAGA
CAATTTTCTA CT-TATGT-- GTTCTTTTAA TTAATAATGAT TCTTTTAAAG ACTTTCCTTT TTGC--TTCG GCAATTTTAGG
CATCCTCTAC CTATTAAGT- GTTCTTTTAA TTAATAATGAT TCTTTTAAA ATCTTCTATA ACTAATAAAA ATATATGGAA
TTTTATTAAT ATATATATGC GTTCTTTTAA TAAAAATGAT TCTTTTAAA ATTCCTTTGT GTAATTTT- TATGCAATGGG
TTC-CTTATC CAAAATGT-- GTTCTTTTAA TAAAAATGAT TCCTTTTAAA ATCTCCTTTA C-----TTT TTGTACTGGA
CTT-CCCTCA TTATTAT-- GTTCTTTTAA TAAACAAGAT TCCTTTTAAA ATCCCCACTT T-GCCTTTTAT GCTTTTGGG
CATCT-CTAC CTATCAAGTT GTTCTTTTAA TTAAGTGTTC TCTTTTAAA ATCTTCTTTA GCTTA---AA ACATATGGAA
CATC--CTAC CTATCAAGC- GTTCTTTTAA TTAAGTGTTC TCTTTTAAA ATCTTCTTTA CCTTA---AC -CATATGGAA
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***P. berghei***  
***P. cynomolgi***  
***P. falcipar***  
***P. fragile***  
***P. gallinac***  
***P. inui***  
***P. knowlesi***  
***P. malariae***  
***P. ovale***  
***P. reicheno***  
***P. simium***  
***P. vivax***  
**Clustal Co**

```

730      740      750      760      770      780      790      800
TTTCTCGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TTAAGCAAA CAGA-TAAAG CGTATTTTAC TGTGTTT-GA ATACTATAGC
AT-CTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGA-TATAG C----ATT-G CGCGTTT-GA ATACTACAGC
GATTTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGT-TAAAG C--ATTT-AC TGTGTTT-GA ATACTATAGC
AT-CTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGA-TATAA C----CTTTG TGTGTTT-GA ATACTACAGC
ATTTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGTGTATAA C--AGGCAAC TGTGTTT-GA ATACTACAGC
AGACTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGA-TATAG C----ATT-A TGCCTTT-GA ATACTACAGC
GATTTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGA-TATAT A--GCACCTG CGCGTTT-GA ATACTACAGC
AATTTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGT-TAAA C--AGTTTC TGTGTTT-GA ATACTACAGC
GATTTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGT-TAAG C--ATTTTAC TGCCTTT-GA ATACTACAGC
GGTTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGT-TAAG C--ATTTTAC TGTGTTT-GA ATACTATAGC
GATTTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAGCAAA CAGA-TATA- ---GCA-TAA TGCCTTT-GA ATACTACAGC
GATTTTGTTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAAAGTGT TCATAGCAAA CAGA-TACA- ---GCA-TTG CGCGTTTGA ATACTACAGC
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***P. berghei***  
***P. cynomolgi***  
***P. falcipar***  
***P. fragile***  
***P. gallinac***  
***P. inui***  
***P. knowlesi***  
***P. malariae***  
***P. ovale***  
***P. reicheno***  
***P. simium***  
***P. vivax***  
**Clustal Co**

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970          980          990          1000          1010          1020          1030          1040
GCCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GCCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GTCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GCCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GCCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GCCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GTCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GCCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GTCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
GTCTAAAATA CTTCCATTAA TCAAGAACGA AAGTTAAGG AGTGAAGACG ATCA-GATC CGTCGTAATC TTAACCATAA
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***P. berghei***  
***P. cynomolgi***  
***P. falcipar***  
***P. fragile***  
***P. gallinac***  
***P. inui***  
***P. knowlesi***  
***P. malariae***  
***P. ovale***  
***P. reicheno***  
***P. simium***  
***P. vivax***  
**Clustal Co**

```

1050          1060          1070          1080          1090          1100          1110          1120
ACTATGCCGA CTAAG-TGTT GGATGAAAAT -TTATAAATA AAACATATCTT CTTT----- AAAGGAGTAG TTTTTTAGAT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-CTTT GGATGAAAAG TTTTAAAATA AGAGATTTT- CTCTTCG--G AGT---TAAT CTCTTAGATT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-TGTT GGATGAAAAGT GTTAAAATA AAAGTCATCT T----- -TCGAGGTGA CTTTTAGATT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-CTTT GGATGAAAAG TTTTAAAATA AGAGCTTTT CTCTTCG--G AGA---AGAA GTCTTAGATT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-TGTT GGATGAAAAGT GTTAAAATA AAAGACGATC TGATGTAACA ATCGGATTGT CTTTTAGCTT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-CTTT GGATGAAAAG TTTTAAAATA AGAGTTTTT- CTCTGAA--G AGAGTTAAA CTCTTAGATT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGGCTTTT GGATGAAAAGT AAAACAAATG AGGATAGTCT CTT----- -CGGGGATAG TTCTTAGATT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-TGTT GGATGATAGA GTAAAATA AAAGACACAT TCATATA--T ATGAGTGTCT CTTTAGATA
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-TTTT GGATGAAAAG TTTTAAAATA AGAAAATTC T----- -TTTGGAAAT TTCTTAGATT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-TGTT GGATGAAAAGT GTTAAAATA AAAGTCATCT T----- -TCGAGGTGA CTTTTAGATT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-TTTT GGATGAAAAGT AAAACAAATA AGGATAGTCT CTT----- -CGGGGATAG TCCTTAGATT
ACTATGCCGA CTAGG-TTTT GGATGAAAAGT TAAAACAAATA AGGATAGTCT CTT----- -CGGGGATAG TCCTTAGATT
* * * * *

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**P. berghei** 1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200  
 GCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. cynomolg** GCTTCCCTTCA GTGCCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. falcipar** GCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. fragile** GCTTCCCTTCA GTGCCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. gallinac** GCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG ATAGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. inui** GCTTCCCTTCA GTGCCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AG-GAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. knowlesi** TCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. malariae** GCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. ovale** GCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. reicheno** GCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. simium** TCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
**P. vivax** TCTTCCCTTCA GTACCTTTATG AGAAATCAAA GTCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGCG A-AGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA  
 \*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \*

**Clustal Co**

**P. berghei** 1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280  
 ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. cynomolg** ATTGA-GGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. falcipar** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. fragile** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. gallinac** ATT-ACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. inui** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. knowlesi** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. malariae** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. ovale** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. reicheno** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. simium** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
**P. vivax** ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGGCGTGGAG CTTGCGGCTT AATTTGACTC AACACGGGGA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA  
 \*\*\* \* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*



	1450	1460	1470	1480	1490	1500	1510	1520
<i>P. berghei</i>	GACTAACTAT	AGCGTT---T	TCGAAGGTAT	GTTGCATAAT	CA-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. cynomolg</i>	GAATACGGTT	GA--TT---T	GCTTATTTTG	AAGAAAATAT	TG-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. falcipar</i>	GAACATAGGT	AACATAT---A	CATTTATTCA	GTAATCAAAT	TA-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. fragile</i>	GAATATGGTT	GA--TT---T	GCTTATTTTG	CAGAAAATAT	TG-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. gallinac</i>	GAATATAGAT	AA--AA---A	TTACAATAA	GAGAAAATAT	TA-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. inui</i>	GAATATAGTT	GA--TT---T	GCTTATTTTG	AAGAAAATAT	TG-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. knowlesi</i>	GTATTTGGAT	AATTTAAAAG	GTTTTTTTTC	CGTGCA-TAT	AATGAGTACG	GAAAAAATGC	ATTTTGCTAC	CTTTGTACCT-
<i>P. malariae</i>	GAATATAGAT	AAATTTG---T	GCTAATTTTG	ATTAAAATAT	TA-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. ovale</i>	GAATATAGCT	GA-AAT---T	GCTTATTTTG	AAGAATATAT	TA-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. reicheno</i>	GAATATAGGT	AATTAT---A	CATTTATTCA	GTGATCAAAT	TA-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>P. simium</i>	GCATACCTTAT	GGTTT---G	TCTCTATTGA	GCTGCATAAT	AA-TGAAGGA	TCGTGATTGC	TTTTCGTGTG	AAATCTTTCTTT
<i>P. vivax</i>	GGATCTGGAT	GATTT---G	CTTATATTGA	GGTGCAATCT	AAATAGGGGA	TTGCAATTAT	ACTTTCGTGTG	GGTGTTCCTT
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580	1590	1600
<i>P. berghei</i>	---AATTGG	TTT-----	---ACC	CITTTGTT-TT	TTTGTAGC--	-----A	TATTTCTTTTA	TTT-CGTTGG
<i>P. cynomolg</i>	---GGATGC	GTA-----	---AGTGTG	CCTTTCC-CT	TTTCTACT--	-----	TAATTTTGCTT	ATCATACTGT
<i>P. falcipar</i>	---GGATAT	TTTTATTA--	---AAATATC	CCTTTCC-CT	GTTCTACTA-	-----A	TAATTTTGTTT	TTTACTCTAT
<i>P. fragile</i>	---GAATGC	GTAAC-----	---AAGTGT	CCTTTCC-CT	TTTCTACT--	-----	AAATTTTGCTT	ATCATACTAT
<i>P. gallinac</i>	---GGATAT	TTT-----	---TAATATC	CCTTTCC-CT	TTTCAACTT-	-----A	TTTTTGTCTTT	TTTACTCTAT
<i>P. inui</i>	---GGATAC	GTA-----	---ATGTATC	CCTTTCC-CT	TTTCTACT--	-----	TAATTTTGCTT	ATCATACTAT
<i>P. knowlesi</i>	AAT--AATAC	TTG-TGCGCC	TATGCATATT	TCCAACC-CT	CTATTCCCCTG	TAC-CGCATA	AAACTGGATT	ATGATGCCAT
<i>P. malariae</i>	---GAATGT	TTTTTTTAAAT	A-AAAACGTT	CCTTTCC-CT	TTTTTTCTT-	-----A	ATTATGCATA	TTTTATTCTTT
<i>P. ovale</i>	---GGATAC	ATTA-----	---TAGTGTG	CCTTTCC-CT	TTTCTACT--	-----	TAATTTGCCTA	TTCAITGCTGT
<i>P. reicheno</i>	---GGATAT	TTTTATTA--	---AAATATC	CCTTTCC-CT	GTTCTACTA-	-----A	TAATTTTGTTT	TTTACTCTAT
<i>P. simium</i>	AATCGAATCG	TTGATGTGTT	T-TGTATATC	TCGTTTCC-CT	TCATTTACCT-	TGCAATCACT	CATTTGCCTT	ATCATACTGT
<i>P. vivax</i>	AATCGAATAG	CTGATGCGTT	T-GGTATATT	GCTTTTCCCTTT	TTTTTATTTT	TGCGCTTCTT	TACTTTGGCTT	ATCGTACCCGT
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

	1610	1620	1630	1640	1650	1660
<b><i>P. berghei</i></b>	GTTTTTTCCC	TAGTAAGGAT	GTATCTGCTT	TATT-TAATG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG T
<b><i>P. cynomolg</i></b>	TTCTTTTTC-	GCGTAAGAAT	GTATTTGCTT	GATTGTAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG T
<b><i>P. falcipar</i></b>	TTCTCTCTTC	TTTTAAGAAT	GTACTTGCTT	GATTGAAAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACATTGTG T
<b><i>P. fragile</i></b>	TTCTTTTCT-	GCGTATGAAT	GTATTTGCTT	GATTGTAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG T
<b><i>P. gallinac</i></b>	TTCTTTTTC-	GTATAAGAAT	GTATTTACTT	GATTGTAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GGACATTGTG T
<b><i>P. inui</i></b>	TTCTTTTTC-	GGGTAAGAAT	GTATTTGCTT	GATTGTAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG T
<b><i>P. knowlesi</i></b>	TTCTTTTTC-	ATGTAGAAAT	GTATTTGCTT	TTACATAAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG T
<b><i>P. malariae</i></b>	TTCTTTTTC-	GCATAAGAAT	GTATTTGCTT	AATTGTAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG T
<b><i>P. ovale</i></b>	TTCTTTTTC-	GTGTAGGAAT	GTATTCGTTT	GATTGTAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG T
<b><i>P. reicheno</i></b>	TTCTCTCTTC	TTTTAAGAAT	GTACTTGCTT	GATTGTAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACATTGTG T
<b><i>P. simium</i></b>	TTCTCTTTT-	GCGTAAGAAT	GTATTTGCTT	GATTGTAACG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG -
<b><i>P. vivax</i></b>	TTCCTTTTT-	GTGTAGAAAT	GTATTTGCAT	TATATTAAG	CTTCTTAGAG	GAACGATGTG T
<b>Clustal Co</b>	* * *	** ** *	** ** *	** * *	*****	* ** *****

### Appendix 3: Alignment of Representative Sequences with *P. inui*, *P. cynomolgi* and *P. vivax*

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
<i>P. inui</i>	-----G	GATAA--CTA	CGGAAAAGCT	GTAGCTAATA	CTTGCTTTCA	GCACTCTTGA	TTAAGT---T	CTTG--AGTG
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	TTCTTATAAG	GATAA--CTA	CGGAAAAGCT	GTAGCTAATA	CTTGCTTT-A	GCACTCTTGA	TTAAGT---T	CTTG--AGTG
<i>P. vivax</i>	TTTCTATAAG	GATAA--CTA	CGGAAAAGCT	GTAGCTAATA	CTTGCTTT-A	ATGCTCTCGA	CGAAT---GT	CTTG--GGCA
<i>VM40</i>	TTTTTATAAG	GATAA--CTA	CGGAAAAGCT	GTAGCTAATA	CTTGCTTT-A	GCACTCTTGA	TTAAGT---T	CTTT--NNTG
<i>VS63</i>	TTTTTATAAG	GATAA--CTA	CGGAAAAGCT	GTAGCTAATA	CTTGCTTT-A	ATGCTCCAGA	CGTGTACGT	CTTGTGAGCA
<i>VM82</i>	TTTTTATAAG	GATAA--CTA	CGGAAAAGCT	GTAGCTAATA	TTTGCTAT-A	GTACTCTTGA	TTAACT---T	CTTG--GGTG
<i>VM88</i>	-TTCAC TAGT	GATTATACTA	CGGAAAAGCT	GTAGCTAATA	CTTGCTTT-A	GCACTCTTGA	TTAAGT---T	CTTG--AGTG
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*** *	***	*****	*****	***** *	*** **	*** *	***
	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160
<i>P. inui</i>	TGTACTTGTT	AAGCCTTT-T	AAGAAAAAAG	TTAT--TAAC	TTAAGA-AGT	TATAACAAG	AAGCA--ACA	CGTAATAGGT
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	TGTACTTGTT	AAGCCTTT-T	AAGAAAAAAG	TTAT--TAAC	TTAAGG-AAT	TATAACAAG	AAGTA--ACA	CGTAA-TGGA
<i>P. vivax</i>	TGTACTTGTT	AAGCCTTTAT	AAGAAAAAAG	TTAA--TAAC	TTAAGG-AAT	GATAACAAG	AAGTGACACA	TAGAA-GGAC
<i>VM40</i>	TGTACTTGTT	AAGCCTTT-T	AAGAAAAANAG	TNAT--TAAC	TTAAGG-AAT	TATAACAAG	AAGTA--ACA	CGTAAATGGA
<i>VS63</i>	TGTACTTGTT	AAGCCTTTAT	AAGAAAAAAG	TTAA--TAAC	TTAAGG-AAT	GATAACAAG	AAGTGACACA	TAAAAAGGAC
<i>VM82</i>	CGTATTGTG	AAGTCTTT-T	AAGAAGAAAG	TTTTAATAGC	TTTATG-AAT	AATAACAACG	AAGTGTGAGA	CATAAACGAA
<i>VM88</i>	TGTNCTTGTT	AAGCCTTT-T	AAGAAAAAAN	TTAT--TANC	TGGGGGGAAT	TATAACAAG	AAGTA--ACA	CGTAAATGGA
<i>Clustal Co</i>	** *****	*** ***** *	***** * *	** * *	* * *	***** * *	*** * *	** *
	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240
<i>P. inui</i>	ATTTTCCATT	TTT-AGTGTG	TTACTAACGA	GTTTCTGACC	TATCAGCTTT	TGATGT-AGG	GTATTGGCCT	AACATGGCTA
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	TCCGTCCATT	TTT-AGTGTG	TATCAATCGA	GTTTCTGACC	TATCAGCTTT	TGATGTAGG	GTATTGGCCT	AACATGGCTA
<i>P. vivax</i>	CTGGTCCAT	TTATAGTGTG	TATCAATCGA	GTTTCTGACC	TATCAGCTTT	TGATGTAGG	GTATTGGCCT	AACATGGCTA
<i>VM40</i>	TTT-TCCATT	TTTTAGTGTG	TATCAATCGA	GTTTCTGACC	TATCAGCTTT	TGATGTAGG	GTATTGGCCT	AACATGGCTA
<i>VS63</i>	TCGTCCCAT	TTCTAGTGTG	TATCAATCGA	GTTTCTGACC	TATCAGCTTT	TGATGTAGG	GTATTGGCCT	AACATGGCTA
<i>VM82</i>	TTTCGTCCATT	TTTTAGTGTG	TATCAATCGA	GTTTCTGACC	TATCAGCTTT	TGATGTAGG	GTATTGGCCT	AACATGGCTA
<i>VM88</i>	TTT-TCCATT	TTTTAGTGTG	TATCAATCGA	GTTTCTGACC	TATCAGCTTT	TGATGTAGG	GTATTGGCCT	AACATGGCTA
<i>Clustal Co</i>	* * *	***** * *	* * *	*****	*****	***	*****	*****









**P. inui** 1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500 1510 1520  
 AA-----GAAAATA T-----T -----GGGAT ACGTAAA-----TGTAT  
**P. cynomolg** AA-----GAAAATA T-----T -----GGGAT ACGTAAA-----GTGT  
**P. vivax** AGGTGCAATC TAAATAGGGG ATTGCAATTA TACTTCGTGT CCGTGTIT-C TTAATCGAAT AGCTGATGCG TTTGGTATAT  
**VM40** AA-----GAAAATA T-----T -----GGGAT ACGTAAA-----TGTAT  
**VS63** AGCTGCA-TG ATAGTGAAGG GTCGTGATIG CTTCTCTTGT CAATCTTTTC TTAATCGAAT CGTTGATGCG TTTTGTATAT  
**VM82** AA-----GAAAATA T-----T -----GGGAT ACGTAAA-----TGTAT  
**VM88** ANT-----GAAAACN CCC-----N -----NGGAT AAANTAAAC-----TGTAT  
**Clustal Co** \* \* \* \* \*

**P. inui** 1530 1540 1550 1560 1570 1580 1590 1600  
 CCTTTCC-C TTTTCTACT- ----- -TAATTTGCT TATCATACTA TTTCTTTTTT --GGGTAA-G AATGTATTG  
**P. cynomolg** CCTTTCC-C TTTTCTACT- ----- -TAATTTGCT TATCATACTG TTTCTTTTTT --CCGTAA-G AATGTATTG  
**P. vivax** TGCCTTCCCT TTTTCTACT- CTGCGCTTCT TTAATTTGCT TATCGTACCG TTTCCTTTTT --GTGTAG-A AATGTATTG  
**VM40** CCTTTCC-C NAATCTACT- ----- -TAATTTGCT TATCATACTA TTTCTTTTTT --CCGTAA-G AATGTATTG  
**VS63** CTCGTTTCC--T TTCATTACCT -TGCAATCAC TCATTTGCTT TATCATACTG TTTCTCTTTT --CCGTAA-G AATGTATTG  
**VM82** CCTTTTCC-C TTTTCTACT- ----- -TAATTTGCT TATCATACTA TTTCTTTTTT --CCGTAA-G AATGTATTG  
**VM88** CCTTTTCC-C TTTTCNANAA ----- -TAATTTGCT TATCATACTA TTTCTTTTTT CGNTGTAACG AATGTATTG  
**Clustal Co** \* \* \* \* \*

**P. inui** 1610 1620 1630  
 CTTGATT-GT AAAGCTT-CT TAGAGGAACG ATGTGT  
**P. cynomolg** CTTGATT-GT AAAGCTT-CT TAGAGGAACG ATGTGT  
**P. vivax** CATTATA-TT AAAGCTT-CT TAGAGGAACG ATGTGT  
**VM40** CTTGATT-GT AAAGCTT-CT TAGAGNCANG -----  
**VS63** CTTGATT-GT AAAGCTT-CT TAGAGGCACC ATGTG-  
**VM82** CTTGATT-GT AAAGCTT-CT TAGAGGCACC TTGTGT  
**VM88** CNCCCCCGN AAANNITACN TAGAGGCNCC TGGAAAT  
**Clustal Co** \* \* \* \* \*

### Appendix 4: Alignment of VM82 with *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi*

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	TTCTTATAAG	GATAACTACG	GAAAAGCTGT	AGCTAATACT	TGCTTT-AGC	ACTCTTGATT	AAGTTCTTGA	GTGTGFACTT
<i>P. inui</i>	-----G	GATAACTACG	GAAAAGCTGT	AGCTAATACT	TGCTTTTCAGC	ACTCTTGATT	AAGTTCTTGA	GTGTGFACTT
VM82	TTTTTATAAG	GATAACTACG	GAAAAGCTGT	AGCTAATAAT	TGCTAT-AGT	ACTCTTGATT	AAC TTCTTGG	GTGCGTATTT
Clustal Co	* ****	*****	*****	*****	**** *	*****	*****	*** ** *
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160
<i>P. inui</i>	GTTAAGCCTT	TTAAGAAAA	AGTTAT--TA	ACTTAAGGAA	TTATAACAAA	GAAGTA--AC	ACGTAATGGA	T-CCGTCCAT
VM82	GTTAAGCCTT	TTAAGAAAA	AGTTAT--TA	ACTTAAGGAA	TTATAACAAA	GAAGCA--AC	ACGTAATAGG	TATTTCCAT
Clustal Co	** ***	****	**	**** *	* ****	*	** *** *	*****
	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	TTTT-AGTGT	GTATCAATCG	AGTTTCTGAC	CTATCAGCTT	TTGATGTTAG	GGTATTGGCC	TAACATGGCT	ATGACGGGTA
<i>P. inui</i>	TTTT-AGTGT	GTTACTAACG	AGTTTCTGAC	CTATCAGCTT	TTGATGT-AG	GGTATTGGCC	TAACATGGCT	ATGACGGGTA
VM82	TTTTTAGTGT	GTATCAATCG	AGTTTCTGAC	CTATCAGCTT	TTGATGTTAG	GGTATTGGCT	TAACATGGCT	ATAACGGGTA
Clustal Co	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	ACGGGGAATT	AGAGTTCGAT	TCCGGAGAGG	GAGCCTGAGA	AATAGCTACC	ACATCTAAGG	AAGGCAGCAG	GCGCCTAAAT
<i>P. inui</i>	ACGGGGAATT	AGAGTTCGAT	CCGGAGAGGG	GAGCCTGAGA	AATAGCTACC	ACATCTAAGG	AAGGCAGCAG	GCGCCTAAAT
VM82	ACCTGGAATT	AGAGTTCGAA	ACGGGAGAGG	GAGCCTGATA	AATAGTTATC	ACATCTAAGG	AAGGCAGCAG	ACGCGTAAAT
Clustal Co	** *****	*****	* *	*****	** *	*****	*****	*****
	330	340	350	360	370	380	390	400
<i>P. cynomolgi</i>	TACCCAAATC	TAAA-GAAGA	GAGGTAGTGA	CAAGAAATAA	CAATACAAGG	CCAATCTGGC	TTTGTAAATTG	GAATGATGGG
<i>P. inui</i>	TACCCAAATC	TAAATGAAGA	GAGGTAGTGA	CAAGAAATAA	CAATACAAGG	CCAATCTGGC	TTTGTAAATTG	GAATGATGGG
VM82	TACCCAAATG	TAAA-CAAGA	GAGCTAGTGA	CAAGAAATAA	CAATACTAGG	CCAATCTG-C	TTTGTAAATTA	GAATGCTGGG
Clustal Co	*****	****	****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****



**P. cynomolg** 890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960  
**P. inui** CAAACAACGTG CGAAAGCATT TGCCTAAAAT ACTTCCATTA ATCAAGAACG AAAGTTAAGG GAGTGAAGAC GATCA-GATA  
**VM82** CAAACAACGTG CGAAAGCATT TGCCTAAAAT ACTTCCATTA ATCAAGAACG AAAGTTAAGG GAGTGAAGAC GATCAAGATA  
**Clustal Co** CAAACAGCTG CGAAAGCATT TGCCTAAAAT ACTTCCATTA ATCAAGAACG AAAGTTAAGG GAGTGAAGAC GATCG-GATA  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
  
**P. cynomolg** 970 980 990 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040  
**P. inui** CCGTCGTAAT CTTAACCATA AACTATGCCG ACTAGGCTTT GGATGAAAGA TTTTAAAATA AGAG-ATTTT CTCTTCGGAG  
**VM82** CCGTCGTAAT CTTAACCATA AACTATGCCG ACTAGGCTTT GGATGAAAGA TTTTAAAATA AGAG-TTTTT CTCTGAAGAG  
**Clustal Co** CCGTCGTAAT CTTAACCATA AACTATGCCG ACTAGGCTTT GGATGAAAGA TTTTAAAAGTA AGAGCTTTTT CTCTGAGGAG  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
  
**P. cynomolg** 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 1110 1120  
**P. inui** ---TTAATCT CTTAGATTGC TTCCTTCAGT GCCTTATGAG AAATCAAAGT CTTTGGGTTT TGGGGCGAGT ATTTCGGCAA  
**VM82** AGTTAAAACCT CTTAGATTGC TTCCTTCAGT GCCTTATGAG AAATCAAAGT CTTTGGGTTT TGGGGCGAGT ATTTCGGCAA  
**Clustal Co** --TTAAAAT CTTAGATTGC TTCCTTCAGT GCCTTATGAG AAATCAAAGT CTTTGGGTTT TGGGGCGAGT ATTTCGGCAA  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
  
**P. cynomolg** 1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200  
**P. inui** GCGAGAAAGT TAAAAGAATT GA-GGAAGG CACCACCAGG CGTGGAGCTT GCGGCTTAAT TTGACTCAAC ACGGGAAAAC  
**VM82** G-GAGAAAGT TAAAAGAATT GACGGAAGG CACCACCAGG CGTGGAGCTT GCGGCTTAAT TTGACTCAAC ACGGGAAAAC  
**Clustal Co** GCGAGAAAGT TAAAAGAATT GACGGAAGG CACCACCAGG CGTGGAGCTT GCGGCTTAAT TTGACTCAAC ACGGGAAAAC  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
  
**P. cynomolg** 1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280  
**P. inui** TCACTAGTTT AAGACAAGAG TAGGATTGAC AGATTAATAG CTCTTTCTTG ATTTCTTGGG TGGTGATGCA TGGCCCGTTTT  
**VM82** TCACTAGTTT AAGACAAGAG TAGGATTGAC AGATTAATAG CTCTTTCTTG ATTTCTTGGG TGGTGATGCA TGGCCCGTTTT  
**Clustal Co** TCACTAGTTT AAGACAAGAG TAGGATTGAC AGATTAATAG CTCTTTCTTG ATTTCTTGGG TGGTGATGCA TGGCCCGTTTT  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
  
**P. cynomolg** 1290 1300 1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1360  
**P. inui** TAGTTCGTGA ATATGATTG TCTGGTTAAT TCCGATAACG AACGAGATCT TAACCTGCTA ATTAGCGGCA AATACGATAT  
**VM82** TAGTTCGTGA ATATGATTG TCTGGTTAAT TCCGATAACG AACGAGATCT TAACCTGCTA ATTAGCGGCA AATACGATAT  
**Clustal Co** TAGTTCGTGA ATATGATTG TCTGGTTAAT TCCGATAACG AACGAGATCT TAACCTGCTA ATTAGCGGCA AATACGATAT  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM82**  
**Clustal Co**

```

1370      1380      1390      1400      1410      1420      1430      1440
ATTCTTATGT GGGATTGAAT ACGGTTGATT TGCCTTATTTT GAAGAAAATA TTGGGATGCG TAAA-GTGT CTTTCCCTT
ATTCTTATGT GGAATTGAAT ATAGTTGATT TGCCTTATTTT GAAGAAAATA TTGGGATACG TAAATGTATC CTTTCCCTT
ATTCTTATGT GGAATTGAAT ATAGTTGATT TGCCTCATTTT GAAGAAAATA TTGGGATACG TAAATGTATC CTTTCCCTT
***** *

```

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM82**  
**Clustal Co**

```

1450      1460      1470      1480      1490      1500      1510      1520
TTCTACTTAA TTTGCTTATC ATACTGTTTC TTTTTCGCGT AAGAATGTAT TTGCTTGATT GTAAAGCTTC TTAGAGGAAC
TTCTACTTAA TTTGCTTATC ATACTATTTT TTTTTCGCGT AAGAATGTAT TTGCTTGATT GTAAAGCTTC TTAGAGGAAC
TTCTACTTAA TTTGCTTATC ATACTATTTT TTTTTCGCGT AAGAATGTAT TTGCTTGATT GTAAAGCTTC TTAGAGGCAC
***** *

```

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM82**  
**Clustal Co**

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GATGTGT
GATGTGT
CTTGTGT
*****

```

## Appendix 5: Alignment of VM88 with *P. inui* and *P. cynomolgi*

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
<i>P. cynomolg</i>	TTCTTATAAG	GATA-ACTAC	GGAAAAGCTG	TAGCTAATAC	TTGCTTT-AG	CACICTTTGAT	TAAGTTCTTG	AGTGTGTACT
<i>P. inui</i>	-----G	GATA-ACTAC	GGAAAAGCTG	TAGCTAATAC	TTGCTTT-CAG	CACICTTTGAT	TAAGTTCTTG	AGTGTGTACT
<b>VM88</b>	TTCACTAGTG	ATTATACTAC	GGAAAAGCTG	TAGCTAATAC	TTGCTTT-AG	CACICTTTGAT	TAAGTTCTTG	AGTGTGTACT
<b>Clustal Co</b>	* ** *****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
<i>P. cynomolg</i>	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160
<i>P. inui</i>	TGTTAAGCCT	TTTAAGAAAA	AAGTTATTAA	CTTAAGG-AA	TTATAACAAA	GAAGTAACAC	GTAATGGAT-	CCGTCCATTT
<b>VM88</b>	TGTTAAGCCT	TTTAAGAAAA	AAGTTATTAA	CTTAAGA-AG	TTATAACAAA	GAAGCAACAC	GTAATAGGTA	TTTTCCATTT
<b>Clustal Co</b>	*****	*****	** *****	* * *****	*****	*****	*****	* ** *
<i>P. cynomolg</i>	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240
<i>P. inui</i>	TTAGTGTGTA	TCAATCGAGT	TTCTGACCTA	TCAGCTTTTG	ATGTTAGGGT	ATTGGCCTAA	CATGGCTATG	ACGGGTAACG
<b>VM88</b>	TTAGTGTGTT	ACTAACGAGT	TTCTGACCTA	TCAGCTTTTG	ATGT-AGGT	ATTGGCCTAA	CATGGCTATG	ACGGGTAACG
<b>Clustal Co</b>	*****	* * *****	*****	*****	**** *****	*****	*****	*****
<i>P. cynomolg</i>	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320
<i>P. inui</i>	GGGAATTAGA	GTTTCGATTCC	GGAGAGGGAG	CCTGAGAAAT	AGCTACCACA	TCTAAGGAAG	GCAGCAGGCG	CGTAAATTAC
<b>VM88</b>	GGGAATTAGA	GTTTCGATCC	GGAGAGGGAG	CCTGAGAAAT	AGCTACCACA	TCTAAGGAAG	GCAGCAGGCG	CGTAAATTAC
<b>Clustal Co</b>	*****	*****	*****	*****	** ** *****	*****	*****	*****
<i>P. cynomolg</i>	330	340	350	360	370	380	390	400
<i>P. inui</i>	CCAATTTCTAA	A-GAAGAGAG	GTAGTGACAA	GAAATAACAA	TACAAGGCCA	ATCTGGCTTT	GTAATTTGAA	TGATGGGAAT
<b>VM88</b>	CCAATTTCTAA	ATGAAGAGAG	GTAGTGACAA	GAAATAACAA	TACAAGGCCA	ATCTGGCTTT	GTAATTTGAA	TGATGGGAAT
<b>Clustal Co</b>	*****	* *****	*****	*****	*** *****	*****	*****	*****
<i>P. cynomolg</i>	410	420	430	440	450	460	470	480
<i>P. inui</i>	TTAAAACCTT	CCCAAAACTC	AATTGGAGGG	CAAGTCTGGT	GCCAGCAGCC	CGGGTAATTC	CAGCTCCAAT	ACCGTATATT
<b>VM88</b>	TTAAAACCTT	CCCAAAACTC	AATTGGAGGG	CAAGTCTGGT	GCCAGCAGCC	CGGGTAATTC	CAGCTCCAAT	ACCGTATATT
<b>Clustal Co</b>	*****	*****	** *****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560  
 AAAAATTGTTG CAGTTAAAAC GCTCGTAGTT GAATTTCAA GAATCGATAT TTTAAGCAAC GCTT-GTAGC TTAATCCACA  
 AAAAATTGTTG CAGTTAAAAC GCTCGTAGTT GAATTTCAA GAATCGATAT TTTAAGTAGC ACITTTGTAGA TTAATCCACA  
 AAAAATTGTTG CAGNTAAAAC GCTCGTANTT GAATTTCAA GAATCGATAT TTTAAGTAAC TCITTTGTAGC TTAATCCACA  
 \*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

570 580 590 600 610 620 630 640  
 TAACTGATAC TACGTATCGA CTTTGTGCGC ATTTTGCTA- TTAATGTTTC TTTTAATTA AATGATTC TC TTTAAG-GT  
 TAACTGATAC TACGTATCGA CTTTGTG-GC ATTTTCTAC TTAATGTTTC TTTTAATTA AATGATTC TTTAAGA-CT  
 NAACTGATAC TACGTATCGA ATTTGTGCGC ATTTTGCTAC TTAATGTTTC TTTTAATTA AATGATTC TTTAAGAATCT  
 \*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

650 660 670 680 690 700 710 720  
 CTTTCTTTTG CTTCCGGCATT TGAAGAT--- CTTGTTACTT TG-AGTAAAT TAGAGTGTTC AAA-GCAAAC AGAT-ATAGC  
 TTTCTTTTTG CTTCCGGCATT TTAGGAGA-- CTTGTTACTT TG-AGTAAAT TAGAGTGTTC AAA-GCAAAC AGAT-ATAGC  
 TTCTGTTTGG TTNCGGCATC TTAAGGAGAT CTTGTTACTT TGGAGTAAAT TAGAGTGTTC AAAAGCAAAC AAATTATGGC  
 \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

730 740 750 760 770 780 790 800  
 AT---TGCGC GTTT-GAATA CTAC-AGCAT GGAATAACGA AATTG-AACA AGTCAGAATT TTGTTCTTTT TT--CTTATT  
 AT---TATGC GTTT-GAATA CTAC-AGCAT GGAATAACGA AATTG-AACA AGT-AGAATT TTGTTCTTAT TTTACTTATT  
 ATCTTTATGT GTTTTGAATA CTACCAGCAT GGAATAACGA ANTTGGAACA NGTCAGAATT TTGTTCTTTT TT--CTWWT  
 \*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880  
 TTGGCTTAG- TTACGATTAA TA-GGAGTAG CTT---GGGG GCGTTTGTAT TCAGATGCA GA--GGTGAA ATT-CTTAGA  
 TTGGCTTAG- TTACGATTAA TA-GGAGTAG CTT---GGGG GCGTTTGTAT TCAGATGCA GA--GGTGAA ATT-CTTAGA  
 TTGGCTTAGG TTNCGATTAA TNAGGAGTAG GCTTGGGGGG GCGTTTGTAT TCAGATGCA NGTCAGAATT TTGTTCTTTT  
 \*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960  
 TTTTC-TGGA GACAAACAAC TCGAAAGCA TTTGCCTAAA A-TACTTCCA TTAATCAAGA ACGAAAGTTA AGGGAGTGAA  
 TTTTC-TGGA GACAAACAAC TCGAAAGCA TTTGCCTAAA A-TACTTCCA TTAATCAAGA ACGAAAGTTA AGGGAGTGAA  
 TTTTNCITGGA GACAAACAAC TGNAAAGCN TTTGCCTAAA AATACTTCCA TTAATCAAGA NCGAAAGTTA AGGGAGTGAA  
 \*\*\*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

970 980 990 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040  
 GACGATCA-G ATACCGTCGT AATCTTAACC ATAAACTATG CCGACTAGGC TTTGGATGAA AGATTTTAAA ATAAGAGATT  
 GACGATCAAG ATACCGTCGT AATCTTAACC ATAAACTATG CCGACTAGGC TTTGGATGAA AGATTTTAAA ATAAGAGATT  
 GACGATCA-G ATACCGTCGT AATCTTAACC ATAAACTATG CCGACTAGGC TTTGGATGAA AGATTTTAAA ATAAGAGATT  
 \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 1110 1120  
 TT-CTCTTCG GAG--TTAA TCTCTTAGAT TGCTTCCTTC AGTGCCTTAT GAGAAATCAA AGTCTTTGGG TTCTGGGGCG  
 TT-CTCTGAA GAGAGTTAAA ACTCTTAGAT TGCTTCCTTC AGTGCCTTAT GAGAAATCAA AGTCTTTGGG TTCTGGGGCG  
 TTCTCTGAG GAG--TTAAA ACTCTTAGAT TGCTTCCTTC AGTGCCTTAT GAGAAATCAA AGTCTTTGGG TTCTGGGGCG  
 \*\* \*\*\*\* \* \*\* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200  
 AGTATTCCGG CAAGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA ATTGA-GGAA GGGCACCACC AGCGGTGGAG CTGCGGCTT AATTGACTC  
 AGTATTCCGG CAAG-GAGAA AGTTAAAAGA ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGCGGTGGAG CTGCGGCTT AATTGACTC  
 AGTATTCCGG CAAGCGAGAA AGTTAAAAGA ATTGACGGAA GGGCACCACC AGCGGTGGAG CNTGCGGCTT AATTGACTC  
 \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280  
 AACACGGGAA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA GAGTAGGATT GACAGATTA TAGCTCTTTC TTGATTTCTT GGATGGTGAT  
 AACACGGGAA AACTCACTAG TTTAAGACAA GAGTAGGATT GACAGATTA TAGCTCTTTC TTGATTTCTT GGATGGTGAT  
 AACACGGGAA AACTCNCCTAG TTTAAGACAA GAGTAGGATT GACAGATTA TAGCTCTTTC TTGATTTCTT GGATGGTGAT  
 \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

1290 1300 1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1360  
 GCATGCCCGT TTTTAGTTCG TGAATATGAT TTGTCTGGTT AATTCCGATA ACGAACGAGA TCTTAACCTG CTAATTAGCG  
 GCATGCCCGT TTTTAGTTCG TGAATATGAT TTGTCTGGTT AATTCCGATA ACGAACGAGA TCTTAACCTG CTAATTAGCG  
 GCATGNCCGT TTTTAGTTCG NGAATATGAT TTGTNIGGTT AATTCCGATA ACGAACGAGA TCTTAACCTG CTAATTAGCG  
 \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

1370 1380 1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440  
 GCAAAATACGA TATATTCCTTA TGTGGGA-TT GAATACGGTT GATTTGCTTA TTTTGAA-GA AAATAT--TG GGATGC-GTA  
 GCAAAATACGA TATATTCCTTA TGTGGGA-TT GAATACGGTT GATTTGCTTA TTTTGAA-GA AAATAT--TG GGATGC-GTA  
 GCAAAATACGA TATATTCCTTA TGTGGGA-TT GAATACGGTT GATTTGCTTA TTTTGANIGA AAACNCCNN GGATAAANTA  
 \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

1450	1460	1470	1480	1490	1500	1510	1520
AA--GTGTCC	CCTTCCCTTT	TCTACT-TAA	TTTGCTTATC	ATACTGTTTC	TTTTTC--GC	GTAA-GAATG	TATTTGCTTG
AAT-GTATCC	CCTTCCCTTT	TCTACT-TAA	TTTGCTTATC	ATACTATTTT	TTTTTT--GG	GTAA-GAATG	TATTTGCTTG
AACTGTATCC	CCTTCCCTTT	TCNANAATAA	TTTGCTTATC	ATACTATTTT	TTTTTACGNT	GTAAACGAATG	TATTTNCNNC
** ** *	*****	** *	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM88**  
**Clustal Co**

1530	1540	1550	
ATT-GTAAAG	CTT-CTTAGA	GGAACGATGT	GT
ATT-GTAAAG	CTT-CTTAGA	GGAACGATGT	GT
CCCCGNAAN	NTTACNTAGA	GGCNCCTGGA	AT
* ** *	** * *****	** * *	*



**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

```

490      500      510      520      530      540      550      560
AATTGTTGCA GTTAAAACGC TCGTAGTTGA ATTTCAAAGA ATCGATATTT TAAGCAACGC TT-GTAGCTT AATCCAC-AT
AATTGTTGCA GTTAAAACGC TCGTAGTTGA ATTTCAAAGA ATCGATATTT TAAGTAGCAC TTTGTAGATT AATCCAC-AT
AATTGTTGCA GTTAAAACGC TCGTANTTGA ATTTCAAAGA ATCGATATTT TAAGTAACGC TTTGTAGCTT AATCCACCAT
*****

```

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

```

570      580      590      600      610      620      630      640
AACTGATACT ACGTATCGAC TTT-GTGGC ATTTTGCTA- TTATGTGTTT TTTTAATTAA AATGATTCTC TTTTAAGGTC
AACTGATACT ACGTATCGAC TTT-GTG-GC ATTTTCTAC TTATGTGTTT TTTTAATTAA AATGATTCT- TTTTAAGACT
AACTGATACT ACGTATCGAC TTTTGTGGC ATTTTGCTAC TTATGTGTTT TTTTAATTAA AATGATTCT- TTTTAAGACT
*****

```

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

```

650      660      670      680      690      700      710      720
TTTCTTTT-- -GCTTCGGC- ATTT-GAAGA TCTT-GTTAC TTTGAGTAAA TTAGAGTGTT CAAAGCAAAC AGAT-ATAGC
TTCTTTT- -GCTTCGGC TTTTAGGAGA CTT--GTTAC TTTGAGTAAA TTAGAGTGTT CAAAGCAAAC AGAT-ATAGC
TTTCTTTT TTGCTTCNGC ATTTAGGAGA TCTTTGTTAC TTTGAGTAAA TTAGAGTGTT CAAAGCAAAC AGATTATAGC
** **** *

```

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

```

730      740      750      760      770      780      790      800
AT---TGCG CGTTTGAATA CTACAGCATG GAATAACGAA A-TTGAACAA GTCAGAAATTT TGTTCITTTT T--CTTATTT
AT---TATG CGTTTGAATA CTACAGCATG GAATAACAAA A-TTGAACAA GT-AGAAATTT TGTTCITTTT TTACTTTATTT
ATCTTTTATG CGTTTGAATA CTACAGCATG GAATAACAAA AATTGAACAA GTCAGAAATTT TGTTCITTTT T--CNFATTT
** * *

```

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

```

810      820      830      840      850      860      870      880
TGGCTTAGTT ACGATTAATA GGAGTAGCTT GGGGGCGTTT GTATTCAGAT GTCAGAGGTG AAATTCCTTAG ATTTTCTGGA
TGGCTTAGTT ACGATTAATA GGAGTAGCTT GGGGGCATTT GTATTCAGAT GTCAGAGGTG AAATTCCTTAG ATTTTCTGGA
TGGCTTAGTT ACGATTAATA GGAGTAGCTT GGGGGCATTT GTATTCAGAT GTCAGAGGTG AAATTCCTTAG ATTTTCTGGA
*****

```

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

```

890      900      910      920      930      940      950      960
GACAAACAAC TCGGAAAGCA TTTGCCTAAA ATACTTCCAT TAATCAAGAA CGAAAAGTTAA GGGAGTGAAG ACGATCA-GA
GACAAACAAC TCGGAAAGCA TTTGCCTAAA ATACTTCCAT TAATCAAGAA CGAAAAGTTAA GGGAGTGAAG ACGATCAAGA
GACAAACAAC TCGGAAAGCA TTTGCCTAAA ATACTTCCAT TAATCAAGAA CGAAAAGTTAA GGGAGTGAAG ACGATCA-GA
*****

```

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

970 980 990 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040  
 TACCGTCGTA ATCTTAACCA TAAACTATGC CGACTAGGCT TTGGATGAAA GATTTTAAAA TAAGAGATTT T-CTCTTCGG  
 TACCGTCGTA ATCTTAACCA TAAACTATGC CGACTAGGCT TTGGATGAAA GATTTTAAAA TAAGAGATTT T-CTCTGAAG  
 TACCGTCGTA ATCTTAACCA TAAACTATGC CGACTAGGCT TTGGATGAAA GATTTTAAAA TAAGAGATTT TTCTCTGAGG  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 1110 1120  
 AG--TTAAT- CTCCTTAGATT GCCTCCCTTCA GTGCCCTTAG AGAAATCAAA GTCCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGC  
 AGAGTTAAAA CTCCTTAGATT GCCTCCCTTCA GTGCCCTTAG AGAAATCAAA GTCCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGC  
 AG--TTAAAA CTCCTTAGATT GCCTCCCTTCA GTGCCCTTAG AGAAATCAAA GTCCTTTGGGT TCTGGGGCGA GTATTCGGC  
 \*\* \*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200  
 AAGCGAGAAA GTTAAAAGAA TTGA-GGAAG GGCACCACCA GCGGTGGAGC TTGGGGCTTA ATTTGACTCA ACACGGGAAA  
 AAG-GAGAAA GTTAAAAGAA TTGACGGAAG GGCACCACCA GCGGTGGAGC TTGGGGCTTA ATTTGACTCA ACACGGGAAA  
 AAGCGAGAAA GTTAAAAGAA TTGACGGAAG GGCACCACCA GCGGTGGAGC TTGGGGCTTA ATTTGACTCA ACACGGGAAA  
 \*\*\* \*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280  
 ACTCACTAGT TTAAGACAAG AGTAGGATTG ACAGATTAAT AGCTCTTTCT TGATTTCTTG GATGGTGATG CATGGCCGTT  
 ACTCACTAGT TTAAGACAAG AGTAGGATTG ACAGATTAAT AGCTCTTTCT TGATTTCTTG GATGGTGATG CATGGCCGTT  
 ACTCACTAGT TTAAGACAAG AGTAGGATTG ACAGATTAAT AGCTCTTTCT TGATTTCTTG GATGGTGATG CATGGCCGTT  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

1290 1300 1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1360  
 TTTAGTTCGT GAATATGATT TGTCTGGTTA ATTCCGATAA CGAACGAGAT CTTAACCTGC TAAATAGCGG CAAATACGAT  
 TTTAGTTCGT GAATATGATT TGTCTGGTTA ATTCCGATAA CGAACGAGAT CTTAACCTGC TAAATAGCGG CAAATACGAT  
 TTTAGTTCGT GAATATGATT TGTCTGGTTA ATTCCGATAA CGAACGAGAT CTTAACCTGC TAAATAGCGG CAAATACGAT  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

1370 1380 1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440  
 ATATTCCTAT GTGGGATTGA ATACGGTTGA TTTGCTTATT TTGAAGAAAA TATTGGGATG CGTAAA-GTG TCCCTTTCCC  
 ATATTCCTAT GTGGGATTGA ATATAGTTGA TTTGCTTATT TTGAAGAAAA TATTGGGATA CGTAAATGTA TCCCTTTCCC  
 ATATTCCTAT GTGGGATTGA ATATAGTTGA TTTGCTTATT TTGAAGAAAA TATTGGGATA TGTAATGTA TCCCTTTCCC  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

1450	1460	1470	1480	1490	1500	1510	1520
TTTTCTACTT	AATTGCTTA	TCATACTGT	TCTTTTTCGC	GTAAGAATG	ATTTGCTTGA	TTGTAAAGCT	TCTTAGAGGA
TTTTCTACTT	AATTGCTTA	TCATACTATT	TCTTTTTCGG	GTAAGAATG	ATTTGCTTGA	TTGTAAAGCT	TCTTAGAGGA
NAATCTACTT	AATTGCTTA	TCATACTATT	TCTTTTTCGC	GTAAGAATG	ATTTGCTTGA	TTGTAAAGCT	TCTTAGAGNC
*****	*****	**	*****	*	*****	*****	*****

**P. cynomolg**  
**P. inui**  
**VM40**  
**Clustal Co**

ACGATGTGT
ACGATGTGT
ANG-----
* *

## Appendix 7: Alignment of VS63 with *P. simium* and *P. vivax*

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
<i>P. simium</i>	-----G	GATAACTACG	GAAGAAGCTGT	AGCTAATACT	TGCTTTAATG	CTCCCGACGT	GTTACGTCCT	GTGAGCATGT
<i>VS63</i>	TTTTTATAAG	GATAACTACG	GAAGAAGCTGT	AGCTAATACT	TGCTTTAATG	CTCCAGACGT	GTTACGTCCT	GTGAGCATGT
<i>P. vivax</i>	TTTCTATAAG	GATAACTACG	GAAGAAGCTGT	AGCTAATACT	TGCTTTAATG	CTCTCGACGA	AT---GTCCT	--GGGCATGT
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*	*****	*****	*****	*****	***	****	* *****
<i>P. simium</i>	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160
<i>VS63</i>	ACTTGTTAAG	CCTTTATAAG	AAAAAAGTTA	ATAACTTAAG	GAATGATAAC	AAAGAAGTGA	CACATAAAA	GGACTCGTCC
<i>P. vivax</i>	ACTTGTTAAG	CCTTTATAAG	AAAAAAGTTA	ATAACTTAAG	GAATGATAAC	AAAGAAGTGA	CACATAAAA	GGACTCGTCC
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**** *
<i>P. simium</i>	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240
<i>VS63</i>	CATTTCTAG	TGTGTATCAA	TCGAGTTTCT	GACCTATCAG	CTTTTGAATG	TTAGGGTAT-	GGCCTAACAT	GGCTATGACC
<i>P. vivax</i>	CATTTCTAG	TGTGTATCAA	TCGAGTTTCT	GACCTATCAG	CTTTTGA-TG	TTAGGGTATT	GGCCTAACAT	GGCTATGACC
<i>Clustal Co</i>	* ***	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
<i>P. simium</i>	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320
<i>VS63</i>	GGTAACGGGG	AATTAGAGTT	CGATTCTCCG	GAGAGGGAGC	CTGAGAAATA	GCTACCACAT	CTAAGGAAGG	CAGCAGGCGC
<i>P. vivax</i>	GGTAACGGGG	AATTAGAGTT	CGATT--CCG	GAGAGGGAGC	CTGAGAAATA	GCTACCACAT	CTAAGGAAGG	CAGCAGGCGC
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*****	*****	***	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
<i>P. simium</i>	330	340	350	360	370	380	390	400
<i>VS63</i>	GTAAATTACC	CAATTCTAAA	GAAGAGAGGT	AGTGACAAGA	AATAACGATA	CAAGACCRAA	ACTGGTTTTG	TAATTGGAAT
<i>P. vivax</i>	GTAAATTACC	CAATTCTAAA	GAAGAGAGGT	AGTGACAAGA	AATAACAATA	CAAGACCRAA	ACTGGTTTTG	TAATTGGAAT
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
<i>P. simium</i>	410	420	430	440	450	460	470	480
<i>VS63</i>	GATGGGAATT	TAAATCCTTC	CCATAATACA	ATTGGAGGGC	AAGTCTGGTG	CCAGCAGCCG	CG-TAATTCC	AGCTCCAATA
<i>P. vivax</i>	GATGGGAATT	TAAATCCTTC	CCATAATACA	ATTGGAGGGC	AAGTCTGGTG	CCAGCAGCCG	CGGTAATTCC	AGCTCCAATA
<i>Clustal Co</i>	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560  
 GCGTATATTA AATTTGTTGC AGTTAAAACG CTCGTAGTTG AATTTCAAAG AACCGATATT TTAATAAATGC TGTTAGCTAG  
 GCGTATATTA AATTTGTTGC AGTTAAAACG CTCGTAGTTG AATTTCAAAG AACCGATATT TTAATAAATGC TGTTAGCTAG  
 GCGTATATTA AATTTGTTGC AGTTAAAACG CTCGTAGTTG AATTTCAAAG AACCGATATT TTAATAAATGC CGTTAGCTAG  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
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**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

570 580 590 600 610 620 630 640  
 AGCCACAAAA AGTCAAGCCA CT-ATGGTTT CGGTTTTATG TGCGCATCTC TACCTATCAA GTTGTTTTTT TAATTAAGA  
 AGCCACAAAA AGTCMAGCCA CT-ATGGTTT CGGTTTTATG TGCGCATCTC TACCTATCAA GC-GTTTTT TAAWTAAAGT  
 ATCCACAAGG GGTGAGCCA ATCACGGTTT CCGCTTC-TG TGCGCATC-C TACCTATCAA GC-GTTTTT TAATTAAGA  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\* \*\*\*\*\*  
 \* \* \*\*\*\*\*  
 \* \* \*\*\*\*\*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

650 660 670 680 690 700 710 720  
 GTTCTTTTT AAAATCTTCT TTAGCTTAAA ACATATGGAA GGTTTTGITA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAGAGTGT TCAAAGCAAA  
 GTTCTTTTT AAAATCTTCT TTAGCTTAAA ACATATGGAA GATTTTGKTA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAAAGTGT TCAAAGCAAA  
 GTTCTTTTT AAAATCTTCT TTAGCTTAAA -CATATGGA GATTTTGITA CTTTGAGTAA ATTAAAGTGT TCATAGCAAA  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

730 740 750 760 770 780 790 800  
 CAGATATAGC ATAATGCGTT T-GAATACTA CAGCATGGAA TAACAAAAAT GAACAAGTCA AAACATATGTT TCTTTTTTTT  
 CAGATATAGC ATAATGCGTT T-GAATACTA CAGCATGGAA TAACAAAAAT GAACAAGTCA AAACATATGTT TCTTTTTTTT  
 CAGATACAGC ATTGCGCGTT TTGAATACTA CAGCATGGAA TAACAAAAAT GAACAAGTCA AAACATATGTT TCTTTTTTTT  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880  
 TATTTTGGC TTAGTTACGA TTAATAGGAG TAGTTTGGG ACATTTGTAT TCAGATGTCA GAGGTGAAAT TCTTAGATTT  
 TATTTTGGC TTAGTTACGA TTAATAGGAG TAGTTTGGG ACATTTGTAT TCAGATGTCA GARGTGAAT TCTTAGATTT  
 -ATTTTGGC TTAGTTACGA TTAATAGGAG TAGTTTGGG ACATTTGTAT TCAGATGTCA GAGGTGAAAT TCTTAGATTT  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960  
 TCTGGAGACA AACAACTGCG AAAG-ATTTG CCTAAAATAC TTCCATTAAAT CAAGAACGAA AGTTAAGGGA GTGAAGACGA  
 TCTGGAGACA AACAACTGCG AAGGCATTTG TCTAAAATAC TTCCATTAAAT CAAGAACGAA AGTTAAGGGA GTGAAGACGA  
 TCTGGAGACA AACAACTGCG AAGGCATTTG TCTAAAATAC TTCCATTAAAT CAAGAACGAA AGTTAAGGGA GTGAAGACGA  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

970 980 990 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040  
 TCAGATACCG TCGTAATCTT AACCATAAAC TATACCGACT AGGTTTTGGA TGAAGTAAA ACAATAAGG ATAGTCTCTT  
 TCAGATACCG TCGTAATCTT AACCATAAAC TATACCGACT AGGTTTTGGA TGAAGTAAA ACAATAAGG ATAGTCTCTT  
 TCAGATACCG TCGTAATCTT AACCATAAAC TATACCGACT AGGTTTTGGA TGAAGTAAA ACAATAAGG ATAGTCTCTT  
 \* \* \* \* \*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 1110 1120  
 CGGGGATAGT CCTTAGAATT CTTCCCTTCAG TACCCTATGA GAAATCAAAG TCTTTGGGT CTGGGGCGAG TATTGCGGCA  
 CGGGGATAGT CCTTAGAATT CTTCCCTTCAG TACCCTATGA GAAATCAAAG TCTTTGGGT CTGGGGCGAG TATTGCGGCA  
 CGGGGATAGT CCTTAGAATT CTTCCCTTCAG TACCCTATGA GAAATCAAAG TCTTTGGGT CTGGGGCGAG TATTGCGGCA  
 \* \* \* \* \*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200  
 AGCGAGAAAG TTAAAAGAAT TGACGGGAAG GCACCACCAG GCGTGGAGCT TCGGGCTTAA TTTGACTCAA CACGGGAAAA  
 AGCGAGAAAG TTAAAAGAAT TGACGGGAAG GCACCACCAG GCGTGGAGCT TCGGGCTTAA TTTGACTCAA CACGGGAAAA  
 AGCGAGAAAG TTAAAAGAAT TGACGGGAAG GCACCACCAG GCGTGGAGCT TCGGGCTTAA TTTGACTCAA CACGGGAAAA  
 \* \* \* \* \*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280  
 CTCACTAGTT TAAGACAAGA GTAGGATTGA CAGATTAATA GCTCTTCTT GATTTCTTGG ATGGTGATGC ATGGCCCGTTT  
 CTCACTAGTT TAAGACAAGA GTAGGATTGA CAGATTAATA GCTCTTCTT GATTTCTTGG ATGGTGATGC ATGGCCCGTTT  
 CTCACTAGTT TAAGACAAGA GTAGGATTGA CAGATTAATA GCTCTTCTT GATTTCTTGG ATGGTGATGC ATGGCCCGTTT  
 \* \* \* \* \*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

1290 1300 1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1360  
 TTAGTTCGTG AATATGATTT GTCTGGTTAA TTCCGATAAC GAACGAGATC TTAACCTGCT AATTAGCGGC AAATACGATA  
 TTAGTTCGTG AATATGATTT GTCTGGTTAA TTCCGATAAC GAACGAGATC TTAACCTGCT AATTAGCGGC AAATACGATA  
 TTAGTTCGTG AATATGATTT GTCTGGTTAA TTCCGATAAC GAACGAGATC TTAACCTGCT AATTAGCGGT AAGTACGACA  
 \* \* \* \* \*

**P. simium**  
**VS63**  
**P. vivax**  
**Clustal Co**

1370 1380 1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440  
 TATTCTTACG TGGAAATTGCA TACTTATGGT TTGTCTCTAT TGAGCTGCAT AATAA-TGAA GGATCGTGAT TGCTTTTCGT  
 TATTCTTACG TGGAAATTGCA TACTTATGGT TTGTCTCTAT TGAGCTGCAT AATAA-TGAA GGGTCGTGAT TGCTTTCTCT  
 TATTTTATG TCGGATTGGA TCTGGATGAT TTGCTTATAT TGAGGTTGAA TCTAAATAGG GGATTCGAAT TATACTTCGT  
 \* \* \* \* \*



# Appendix 8: Copy of CITES Permit



**CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA**



DEPARTEMEN KEHUTANAN REPUBLIK INDONESIA  
DIREKTORAT JENDERAL PERLINDUNGAN HUTAN DAN KONSERVASI ALAM  
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
DIREKTORATE GENERAL OF FOREST PROTECTION AND NATURE CONSERVATION

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No. **08692/IV/SATS-LN/2004**  Ekspor  Import  Re-eksportasi  Other

**A. Pihak asal (nama, alamat, negara) / Origin (name, address, country):** Prof. Dr. R. R. M. P. Galibin, Departemen Biologi, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung, Indonesia

**B. Pihak tujuan (nama, alamat, negara) / Destination (name, address, country):** Department of Zoology, James Shaver Sycamore University, Canada

**III. Tanggal surat dengan / Valid until:** 26 December 2004 **V. Pelabuhan Tujuan / Place/Port of destination:** Vancouver, Canada

**VI. Pelabuhan Perantara / Port of exportation:** JIA Soekarno Hatta **VI. Maksud transaksi / Purpose of transaction:** [Blank]

**VII. Peringatan tertulis di bawah ini untuk mengantisipasi pemenuhan ketentuan yang tertera di bawah ini.**  
The above mentioned permit is authorized to export/import the said fauna and flora specified here under:

No	Nama Jenis / Name of species (Scientific Name, Authority, Common)	Jumlah / Quantity	Kategori dan Keterangan lain tentang spesimen / Category and other description of specimens	Peraturan / Peraturan / Appendix / Chapter	Jumlah yang telah diekspor / Jumlah yang akan diekspor / Total exported / Quantity / Year
1	[Faint text]	100	[Faint text]	[Faint text]	[Faint text]
2	[Faint text]	100	[Faint text]	[Faint text]	[Faint text]

**IX. Syarat Khusus / Special Remarks:** This can enable the animal/plant, which is being kept, have healthy, suitable purpose/purpose must dengan peraturan IATA untuk cara pengalangan. Not valid for any condition. For live animals this permit is only valid if the transport conditions conform to the guidelines for transport of live animals, or IATA regulations, and valid for one shipment only.

**X. Surat ini diterbitkan oleh / This permit is issued by:** [Signature and Stamp of Director General]

**XI. Data yang harus dilengkapi / To be completed by official who inspect the shipment:**

No.	Jumlah/Quantity	No. Bill pengiriman / Bill of Lading / Airway bill number	Tanggal / Date	Pelabuhan perantara / Port of exportation
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
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11				

**XII. Pembaharuan / Renewal:**

**1. Pelabuhan asal / Port of origin:** [Blank]

**2. Pelabuhan tujuan / Port of destination:** [Blank]

**3. Pelabuhan perantara / Port of exportation:** [Blank]

## Appendix 9: SFU Ethics Approval for Research Involving Animals

**TO:** Dr C. Lowenberger  
Biology

**FROM:** M. Weeks  
Chair, UACC

**SUBJECT:** Project # 675B-03  
**DATE:** June 9, 2003

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Your Project # 675B-03 "Identification of malaria parasites in Orang Utans" is approved.

Grant Title: N/A

Grant No.: NA

Funding Source: private funding- (student fellowship +/- or supervisor is funding)

Account number: N/A

*Michael Weeks*

cc. Madeleine Stephens (Animal Care Facility)  
Chris Kennedy (Department Representative)  
Nancy McNeil (ORS)

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