

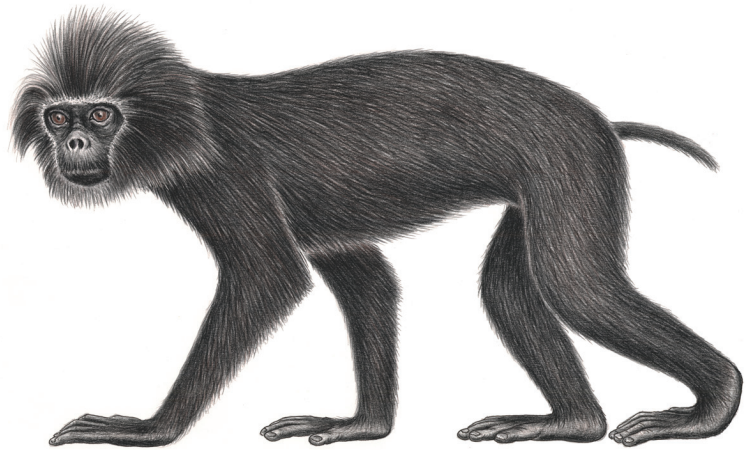
Simakobu or Pig-Tailed Snub-Nose Langur

Simias concolor Miller, 1903

Indonesia

(2002, 2004, 2006, 2008)

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The simakobu monkey (*Simias concolor*) again is serving as the flagship species for the four Mentawai Island primates. The other three species inhabiting the 7,000 km² archipelago located west of Sumatra are Kloss's gibbon (*Hylobates klossii*), the Mentawai Island leaf monkey (*Presbytis potenziani*), and the Mentawai macaque (*Macaca pagensis*). *Simias* is a monotypic genus with two subspecies. *Simias concolor concolor* Miller, 1903 inhabits Sipora, North Pagai, and South Pagai Islands and several small islets off of South Pagai. *Simias c. siberu* Chasen and Kloss, 1927 occurs only on Siberut Island.

Very little has been published on simakobu behavior and ecology. The first activity budget of habituated simakobus described the activities of two groups living in the Betumonga region of southwestern North Pagai. The data show that simakobus spend almost equal amounts of time resting (46%) and feeding (44%), and less time moving (7%) (Paciulli and Holmes 2008). Wendy Erb is in the middle of a year-long study of male simakobu behavior, which should yield more complete data on basic activity patterns (pers. comm.).

New estimates of the amount of forest cover remaining on the Pagai Islands (about 826 km²) have been calculated using Google Earth Pro composite satellite imagery (Paciulli and Viola 2009). The forest cover coupled with primate density data (Paciulli 2004) indicate that there are approximately 3,347 simakobus, 1,049 Kloss's gibbons, 1,545 leaf monkeys, and 7,984 pig-tailed macaques on the Pagai Islands. All of the primate species seem to reach their highest known densities in the Peleonan Forest, site of the Siberut Conservation Project in northern Siberut (Waltert *et al.* 2008).

The 190,500-ha Siberut National Park, a UNESCO

Biosphere Reserve, covers 47% of Siberut Island and serves as the main reserve for the Mentawai primates. The large majority of the other remaining natural habitat lies outside officially protected areas. Most of these areas are subjected to human encroachment, product extraction, commercial logging, and conversion to cash crops and oil palm plantations (Whittaker 2006). Although hunting appears to be declining and opportunistic in many areas of the Pagais, where it still occurs it has devastating effects on *S. concolor*, the preferred game species (Mitchell and Tilson 1986; Fuentes 2002; Paciulli 2004). In addition, *S. concolor* seems to be particularly sensitive to logging, having 5 individuals/km² in unlogged Pagai forests to half that amount (2.5 individuals/km²) in Pagai forest patches logged 20 years earlier (Paciulli 2004). Drastic measures need to be taken to ensure that the Peleonan Forest on Siberut and areas on the Pagais are truly protected.

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