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Vertebrate fossils from Badak Cave C, Lenggong, Perak in Peninsular Malaysia

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Badak Cave C (N 05° 08' 984" and E 100° 59 101") is one of several caves in a small limestone hill given the same name (Gua Badak), in the Lenggong Valley, Perak. The cave is located in an elongated limestone mogote hill about 5km north of Lenggong town in an area of above-ground limestone caves where rich archaeological material has been found including the famous Perak Man skeleton (10,000 y.b.p). The cave is elongated north-south and extends about 50m with two distinct narrow northeast-southwest branches. Its entrance is locatedat 12 m above ground level.

Abundant vertebrate fossils are found in remnants of alluvial sediments attached to the walls and floo of the cave that has been excavated by guano diggers. Most of the materials are disarticulated teeth and bone fragments found embedded in isolated clusters in several parts of the cave within the sediments. No complete skeletons have been found. Seven clusters of fossil were found in three different levels of chambers (lower, intermediate, and upper level chambers). Most of the fossils were recovered from the intermediate level chamber except for one cluster from the upper level chamber and another from the lower level chamber.

The fossils contain a highly diversifie fauna ranging from large carnivores and herbivores to small fossils like bats. The material found includes: common wild pig (*Sus scrofa),* bear (Ursidae- gen.et sp. indet.), macaque (*Macaca* sp. indet.*),* primates (non-human hominoid)*,* ?domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*), Southern serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*), red muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*), sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*), Asian tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), rhinocerotidae (gen. et sp. indet.), bovidae (gen. et sp. indet.), Asiatic brush-tailed porcupine (*Atherurus macrourus*), Malayan porcupine (*Hystrix brachyura*), and unidentifiabl fragmented bones.

The fossils appeared to have been washed in by a prehistoric floo or brought in by other animals with gnaw marks by porcupine animals found on the roots of one pig tooth collected from this cave.

The fossil assemblage is suggestive of a Middle Pleistocene age that is supported by preliminary uranium-series dating done on the flowstone encasing the fossils. This date would be confirme by red thermoluminescene dating of the sediments currently being attempted at Macquarie University, Australia by Dr. Kira Westaway.

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