

Project Update: November 2010

We followed a group of gibbon (named Bintang and Dewi) in Sokokembang forest, and tried to habituate them. However, due to geographical condition (steep slope) this group was not easy to observe completely. We only able to follow for 510 minutes during the dry season. Feeding activities is most often observed in both male and female gibbon however is not significantly different between male and female (Wilcoxon test, $W = 139$, $p\text{-value} = 0.863$).

Food resources of these gibbon are predominantly fruits (97%), with small amounts of flowers (2%), and leaves (1%) based on 477 times observation. We recorded 25 species (locally identified or vernacular name) of forest plants being consumed by the gibbons in Sokokembang (see Table). These trees were recorded during July 2009 to January 2010, or during end of dry season to beginning of wet season in Java. From dung collection we only found *Ficus* species inside the dung. We have germinated these seeds and the result are seeds sprouting faster than the seed which are collected from under the trees. The trees which are spat out by the gibbons do not successfully germinate. The larger seeds (medium to big size) are usually not ingested but spat out by the gibbon. However, collecting dung is most difficult due to the geographical condition; usually gibbon dung is dropped on leaves above high trees. Gibbon sleeping sites are usually in the high trees on steep slopes.

We observed seed dispersal during the dry season; at that time *Ficus* fruits are found dominantly in the forest, which is why we only found *Ficus* seed in the dung of the gibbons. We need more time and more gibbons to be followed in the next research to gain information on seed dispersal by gibbon, and seasonal fruit availability also maybe influence the gibbon distribution in the area.

Table. List of Javan gibbon fruits

No	vernacular name	Family	fruits diameter	seed size/length
1	mbulu spre/ringin	Moraceae	1.8	small
2	mbulu soh	Moraceae	2.5	small
2	Sarangan	Fagaceae	3.2	Medium
3	Bendo	Moraceae	6.4	Big
4	Sentul		3.15	Medium
5	Antap	Sterculiaceae	5.1	Medium
6	Kayu Cangkok		3.89	Medium
7	Menteng	Euphorbiaceae	2.1	Medium
8	Kemaduh		0.5	Small
9	Rau	Sapotaceae	1.5	Medium
10	Bawangan		3.8	Big
11	Kayu x		1.7	
12	Kayu jubug			Big
13	Tanglar		3.19	Medium
14	Klalar besar		3.06	Medium
15	Mlelo		1.67	Medium
16	Manggis hutan		5	Medium
17	Kayu Jambon			
18	Jirek koji		1.7	Medium
19	Kayu dlimas			
20	Klengsar		1.4	Medium
21	Pasang	Fagaceae	2.67	Medium
22	Kayu Sapi			Medium
23	Mbulu krandan	Moraceae		Small
24	Gondang abang	Moraceae		Small
25	Gondang ijo	Moraceae		Small

small :0.1 - 0.3 cm

medium: 0.4 - 1.5 cm

big: > 1.6 cm