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Explorers and Field Scientists in South-East Asia and Australasia**

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**Historical Biogeography of Southeast Asian Hornbills (Aves: Bucerotidae)**

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Hornbills (Aves: Order Bucerotiformes) represent a charismatic group of large tropical birds from Africa and Asia, characterized by syndactyl feet, a distinctive casque on the bill and a unique trait of nest-sealing. Understanding the phylogenetic and biogeographic relationships of these tropical forest-dwelling species provides insights on how Southeast Asia was colonised. Due to the difficulty of acquiring hornbill samples in the wild, museum skins from different islands represent the major sources of genetic material used in this study including those collected by A.R. Wallace. Partial mtDNA cytochrome b (cytb) sequences were used to construct phylogenetic trees based on Likelihood and Bayesian analysis. The constructed comprehensive cytb phylogeny of hornbill geo-isolates was congruent to the more resolved species-level phylogeny (Gonzalez et al. 2013). Calibrated time-trees and ancestral area analysis using BEAST and RASP described the historical biogeography between Continental and Insular Asian hornbills. Reconstructions confirm that Indochina and Sundaland served as ancestral areas for the radiation of hornbills into Asia. Hornbills diversified during the Miocene and Pliocene coinciding with key tectonic and palaeo-ecological events. Generally, Southeast Asian hornbills were influenced by stable climate but unstable geologic conditions.