

## **Breeding performance of Indian giant flying squirrel, *Petaurista philippensis grandis*, in central Taiwan**

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The Indian giant flying squirrel *Petaurista philippensis grandis* is common, and closer to human environments in Taiwan. However, the species is very difficult to study because of nocturnal and arboreal habits, hence, basic ecology of this species is still unclear. We used nest boxes and radio tracking to collect information such as activity, home range, nest site and habitat selection and the most important, the reproduction of Indian giant flying squirrels.

We set up 45 nest boxes in our low elevation study site in Taichung beginning in 2003, and visited once per month to check the breeding status of flying squirrels. According to monitoring data from 2003 to 2009, the adult flying squirrel has two breeding phases in a year (n=16). The first and the second breeding started at February to March and July to August, respectively. All observed individuals produced one young in each breeding phase, and 2 young for a female annually.

We used radio tracking to understand the breeding performance in detail during 2010 to 2011. Two adult females, 13 adult males, and 4 young individuals were tracked once per week. Males moved to nest boxes from

surrounding areas when females were ready to breed. Breeding extends for two weeks and a female usually mates with several males (ranged 3-5) in a season. Young flying squirrels were raised by the female only, and stay with female until next breeding season arrives. Period of staying with the female was different in length between young male and young female, young males departure earlier in age (95 days old) then females (185 days old).