ABSTRACT

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MORPHOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF Python reticulatus FROM SUMATRA, JAWA, KALIMANTAN, AND SULAWESI ISLAND

( xiv + 67 pages: 30 figures; 6 tables; 2 appendixes)

*Python reticulatus* is one of the biggest reptiles that has high economical value around the world for their skin (Groombridge and Luxmoore 1991; Jenkins and Broad 1994; Murphy et al. 1998; Walls 1998). These snakes are one of the species that spread thoroughly in the tropical country such as Africa, South East Asia (including Indonesia, Malaysia, Filipina, Burma), and Australia. Indonesia considered as one of the country that has high diversity for this species. According to Auliya et. al., 2001, *Python reticulatus* are divided into three different subspecies, which are (1) *P. reticulatus reticulatus* that inhabits *Sunda Land* (Sumatera, Java, Borneo) and Sulawesi Island, (2) *P. reticulatus saputrai* that inhabits Selayar & Bira Island, and (3) *P. reticulatus jampeanus*, that inhabits Tanahjampea Island (Auliya et. al., 2001). For this research, 19 snakes from Sumatra, Jawa, Borneo and Sulawesi are examined for their morphological feature, through the examination of the total length (TOL), Snout-vent length (SVL), tail length (TL), sex, eye color, weight, dorsal diameter, and their body stripes (head and dorsal stripes). Distinctive morphological feature can be seen from the sample from Sulawesi and Selayar Island, that can be seen through their dorsal and ventral stripe as well as their cranial pattern. *P. reticulatus* from Sulawesi Island has triangle golden brownish shape as their dorsal pattern with the greyish black and white color as their ventral scale, with golden yellow eyes. Sample from Selayar Island have similar color and motives of its dorsal and ventral scales with silver eye color, whereas *P. reticulatus* sample from Java, Sumatra, and Borneo Island have similar morphological feature of the bright yellow eye color, granular dorsal pattern with the domination of brown grey and black reticulated pattern with no stripes on their ventral scales.

References : 46 (1864 – 2014).

Keywords : *Python reticulatus*, morphology, classification, TOL, SVL