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Giant squirrel spotted in Sarawak

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It has been a while since we spotted wildlife around our premises!

On 1st October 2026, our colleagues saw what appeared to be a pair of the Giant Squirrel or *Ratufa affinis*. These magnificent specimens were captured on camera just in front of our Integrated Biodiversity Research Building (IBRB).

This is one of the largest squirrels around, with both males and females averaging a head and body length of about 34 cm and an even longer lush, heavy tail. It calls the lower dipterocarp and secondary forests home, and feeds mainly on seeds, fruits, and nuts, other than bark, insects and eggs.

What is interesting about the Giant Squirrel is that it does not sit upright with its tail arched upwards when feeding, like most squirrels. Instead, it positions itself across a branch using its hind feet to grip and its hands to hold food, while the tail hangs down to counter its body weight. Another interesting fact about this squirrel is that during breeding season, it constructs nests among tree branches, where the young are born and raised.

In Sarawak, the Giant Squirrel is known as Tupai Kerawak. It is totally protected under the Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 1998.



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