



## DIET OF *Arctictis binturong* (VIVERRIDAE, CARNIVORA) IN ABORLAN, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

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**ABSTRACT** – The diet of the binturong (*Arctictis binturong*) is known to lean towards frugivory in many parts of its Southeast Asian range, but its diet in the Philippines has never been studied. To determine their food preference and understand their feeding habits, 35 binturong scat samples were collected within the Aborlan-Guba Watershed of Aborlan, Palawan, Philippines from July 2017 to May 2018. All scats contained only the seeds of figs belonging to 3 species: *Ficus botryocarpa*, which had the highest frequency of presence and absolute frequency of occurrence, followed by *Ficus aurata* and *Ficus forstenii*. No animal matter was found other than an unidentified beetle and binturong hair, likely ingested through grooming. This possible specificity to figs suggests that their successful survival is linked to that of fig trees, and in turn, binturongs may provide a valuable ecosystem service as fig seed dispersers in the forest habitat on which they depend.

*Keywords:* Aborlan-Guba Watershed, binturong, diet, scat analysis



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