

Headline **New species found in Borneo**  
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### New species in Borneo

123 new species discovered on the island of Borneo, according to conservation group WWF

**Long-tailed slug**  
(*Ibycus rachelae*)

- ▶ Length: 4cm
- ▶ Wraps long tail around body when resting

**Other new finds**

**Flat-headed frog**  
(*Barbourula kalimantanensis*)

- ▶ Breathes through skin

**Stick insect**  
(*Phobaeticus chani*)

- ▶ World's longest at 36 cm

**"Heart of Borneo"**

220,000 sq km forest linking several protected areas and reserves

- ▶ Three species discovered every month on average
- ▶ Home to 10 primate species, some 350 birds, 150 reptiles and amphibians, 10,000 plants

Source: WWF AFP

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** WILDLIFE researchers said on Thursday they have discovered around 120 new species on Borneo island, including a lungless frog, the world's longest insect and a slug that fires 'love darts' at its mate.

Conservation group WWF listed the new finds in a report on a remote area of dense, tropical rainforest that borders Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei on Borneo.

The three governments in 2007 designated the 220,000-square-kilometre area as the 'Heart of Borneo' in a bid to conserve the rainforest. 'We have been finding on average three new species a month and about 123 over the last three years, with at least 600 new species found in the last 15 years,' Adam Tomasek, head of WWF's Heart of Borneo initiative told AFP from Brunei.

'The new discoveries just show the wealth of biodiversity on Borneo island and the promise of many more future discoveries that could eventually help cure illnesses like cancer and AIDS and contribute to our daily lives,' he said. The 'Heart of Borneo' region is home to 10 species of primate, more than 350 birds, 150 reptiles and amphibians and about 10,000 plants that are not found anywhere else in the world, the report said.

Among the finds are a seven-centimetre flat-headed frog, known as '*Barbourula kalimantanensis*', discovered in 2008, which breathes entirely through its skin instead of lungs. Researchers in the same year also discovered '*Phobaeticus chani*', the world's longest stick insect, with a body 36 centimetres long. Only three specimens of the creature have ever been found.

Another interesting find was a long-tailed slug that uses 'love darts' made of calcium carbonate to pierce and inject a hormone into a mate to increase the chances of reproduction. The WWF urged governments to act sensitively when developing the area's economic potential.—  
AFP