

ECOLOGY

Acoustic niche segregation: Does it happen at Danum Valley?**Abstract**

Acoustic signals play an integral role in many animals' communication. Acoustic environments can be very complex. Competition for limited acoustic channels and space could drive the partitioning of the acoustic environment resulting in niche segregation. However, few studies have examined the distribution of calls from individuals across different taxonomic groups. This study examines time as a factor by which species across different taxonomic groups segregate into acoustic niches. Birds and cicadas dominated the day while frogs and crickets dominated the night. Within the cicada and cricket group, some species were more specialised in the calling times than others. Acoustic niche segregation by time was found to occur in the primary dipterocarp forests of Danum Valley to a certain degree. However, there was not a clear cut pattern of acoustic niche segregation, suggesting that factors other than time of day might be important.

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