

Photo-Shorts

Bamboo Seeds – A New Food Item for the Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot

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Introduction

The Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus galgulus* (Serindit Melayu in Bahasa Malaysia) is a small green parrot (12-13 cm) found in forested lowlands in southern Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra, Java and the Borneo region of Indonesia (Collar & Boesman 2020). The parrot inhabits forests, forest edges, swamps, riverine forest, bamboo patches, mangrove, wooded gardens, coconut groves and plantations.

The diet and foraging behaviour of the Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot in the region have recently been reviewed (Amar-Singh HSS 2024). The review highlighted the wide diet range of the Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot, which includes fruit, nectar, seeds, flowers and pollen with limited data on animal food sources.

In this report, I share my observations of the different food items of this species I have seen over time. Most are recognised food items, but one is a new, previously undocumented source.

Observations

Bamboo Seeds

At the Gap, Fraser's Hill, Pahang, Malaysia, I observed the Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot, on two occasions, feeding on the seeds of the bamboo flower (*Bambusa sp.*) (Plate 1). Once the seeds were fed to a fledged juvenile. Bamboo seeds are not recognised in the diet of the parrot, and this is a new food item identified.



Plate 1: Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot feeding on seeds of the bamboo flower. Left: Juvenile male, Aug 2025. Right: Adult male feeding juvenile, Jun 2026. Fraser's Hill, Pahang, Malaysia.

Water Jambu Fruit

At Taman Botani Negara, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia, in February 2023, I saw Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrots feeding on the fruit of *Syzygium samarangense* (Java Apple or Water Jambu). This is a known food item.



Plate 2: Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot feeding on *Syzygium samarangense* fruit. Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia, Feb 2023.

Common Mahang Fruit

In July 2019, at the Semangkuk Waterfall area, on the road from Kuala Kubu Baru to the Gap, Fraser's Hill, Pahang, Malaysia, I observed parrots feeding on fruit of the *Macaranga bancana* (Common Mahang) (Plate 3), a known food item.



Plate 3: Feeding on *Macaranga bancana* fruit, Pahang, Malaysia, Jul 2019.



Poikilospermum sp. Nectar

At the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in January 2017, I saw hanging parrots feeding on *Poikilospermum sp.* (Plate 4), possibly *Poikilospermum suaveolens*. This is a woody, climbing plant, which is known locally as Akar Kayas or Akar Jangkang. Many bird species eat the flowers for the nectar they contain. At the same site and date, the birds were also seen feeding on the seeds of an unknown plant.



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Plate 4: Left: Eating *Poikilospermum sp.* flowers, Right: Eating seeds of an unknown plant. FRIM Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Jan 2017.

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References

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