

Unique pits on the erythrocytes of the lesser mouse-deer, *Tragulus javanicus*

ABSTRACT

The lesser mouse-deer, *Tragulus javanicus*, is the smallest living ungulate and it possesses the smallest erythrocytes amongst mammalian species. We observed pits on its erythrocytes by scanning electron microscopy. They were 68-390 nm in diameter (135 ± 65 nm) and appeared in 12.8% of erythrocytes examined. They represent unique structures that have not previously been reported physiologically or pathologically.

Keyword: Lesser mouse-deer; Erythrocytes