

POSTSCRIPT

Over the last 3 years I have experienced several exhilarating moments when fresh insights or new information seemed to take me much closer to my final goal, i.e. a complete understanding of the forces behind the biogeographical evolution of island SE Asia. It is therefore disappointing to conclude this research with the realization that all this has not added up to an all-explaining new model or theory. I have lifted a veil here and there, but the matter remains mostly obscure. What are the reasons for my dissatisfaction? Maybe the joyous moments when new aspects of my model were revealed were simply based on incorrect information, and over time, I have rejected them, either consciously or subconsciously. Or possibly, I have incorporated the new insights into my thinking and thereby pushed out the boundaries of the unknown, whilst setting my intermediate goals further ahead. A third possibility is that my goal is unattainable and an all-explaining model will never exist, simply because all the interactions between causes and effects are too complex. Still, I feel that my research does have considerable value for future work, maybe not so much the model itself, which, presumably, will be destroyed one day, but rather in the individual components from which I have built the model. I thus hope, that future research, including that by myself, will use my building blocks, move them around and turn them upside down, and create a more beautiful construction than the one presented here. Good luck to anyone in this endeavour.