Mosses of Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Selangor, Peninsular Malaysia

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ABSTRACT
A total of 43 species and 1 variety of mosses in 22 genera and 9 families were observed in the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Selangor. This represents 9.1% of the 481 taxa of mosses reported for Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Seven species viz. Fissidens papillosus, Syrrhopodon fimbriatulus, Pyrrhobryum latifolium, Acroporium lamprophyllum, Papillidiopsis malayana, Radulina hamata and Trichosteleum mammosum are reported for the first time for the state of Selangor and Fissidens guangdongensis is a new record for Peninsular Malaysia. Calymperaceae is the largest family with 5 genera and 18 species, followed by Sematophyllaceae (8 genera, 10 species), Hypnaceae (3 genera, 5 species) and Fissidentaceae (1 genus, 5 species).

INTRODUCTION
The first account of mosses from the state of Selangor was that of Dixon (1926), in which he listed a total of 60 species in 37 genera and 14 families. These early collections of mosses were made mainly by H. N. Ridley and I. H. Burkill from the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The latest and most comprehensive listing of mosses of Selangor was given by Mohamed and Tan (1988) in their checklist of mosses of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. They reported the presence of 136 species of mosses in 58 genera and 22 families, an addition of 76 species over 42 years. Recently, a couple of studies on the floristic composition of mosses have been carried out in the Langat Basin in Selangor. Mohamad and Gidiman (1990) enumerated a total of 36 species and 1 variety of mosses in 18 genera and 9 families from Bangi Forest Reserve and a total of 74 species and 1 variety of mosses in 37 genera and 22 families occur in the lowland dipterocarp forests in the Langat Basin (Damanhuri and Ajamain 1999).

Bangi Forest Reserve, Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve and Bukit Tunggul Forest Reserve were once contiguous, but as new townships and highways were developed in the area, these forests became fragmented and isolated. Historically, these forests were logged several times in the last 60 years. Bangi FR and Ayer Hitam FR are twice-logged over forests. Although Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve is not situated in the Langat Basin, it is adjacent to it and situated about 25 km from Bangi Forest Reserve.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
During the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve Scientific Expedition organised by the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia from 2-5 May 2000, moss specimens were collected from various parts...
of the area. Various microhabitats of mosses such as exposed tree roots, tree-buttresses, tree trunks, rotten logs, soil, surfaces and crevices of rocks and boulders etc. were carefully surveyed in order to obtain as many specimens and species as possible. Special attention was given to areas along the main river in the area, Sungai Rasau which flows through the middle of the Forest Reserve and the smaller streams because the moist and shady environment there are very conducive for the growth of bryophytes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 138 specimens of mosses were collected and these are deposited in the Bryophyte Herbarium, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi (UKMB). The mosses enumerated in this paper were based on the above collections. The moss flora of Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve comprises 43 species and 1 variety in 22 genera and 9 families (Appendix 1). This represents 9.1% of the 481 species, 17.7% of the 124 genera and 26.5% of the 34 families of mosses reported for Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore, and about 32.4% of the 136 species, 37.9% of the 58 genera and 40.9% of the 22 families recorded for the state of Selangor (Mohamed and Tan 1988). Out of the 44 taxa of mosses recorded, 7 species in 7 genera and 3 families are reported for the first time for Selangor viz. Fissidens papillosus, Syrrhopodon fimbriatulus, Pyrrhobryum latifolium, Acroporium lamprophyllum, Papillidiopsis malayana, Radulina hamata and Trichosteleum mammosum. Another species, Fissidens guangdongensis is a new record for Peninsular Malaysia. The occurrence of F. guangdongensis in Peninsular Malaysia was pointed out to us by Prof. Benito Tan of the National University of Singapore based on a specimen collected from Gunung Kajang, Pulau Tioman (A. Damanhuri 1065, UKMB). This species which prefers to grow on termite or ant nests in shady places seem to be quite common in Peninsular Malaysia. To date, we have seen and collected specimens from Hulu Langat (Selangor), Sungkai (Perak) and Taman Negara (Pahang). Fissidens guangdongensis is known to be distributed from southern China to Japan and the Philippines.

Calympereaceae is also very well represented in other lowland rain forests in Peninsular Malaysia (Damanhuri 1999, 2000; Damanhuri and Ajamain 1999; Mohamed and Mohamad 1987).

The number of moss species found in the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve (1248 ha) is found to be higher than that reported for Bangi Forest Reserve (138 ha), a small isolated forest in the Langit Basin, Selangor (Table 1). This could be due to the larger land area of Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve and also the presence of several small rivers and streams in the area compared to Bangi Forest Reserve, which is devoid of streams. The number of mosses in Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve is about 58.7% of the 75 taxa found in the lowland rain forests (Hulu Langat Forest Reserve, Sungai Lalang Forest Reserve and Sungai Jeloh Forest Reserve) in the Langat Basin (30923 ha) (Table 1).

CONCLUSION

For a small patch of isolated lowland forest in the midst of the Klang Valley which is less than 1300 ha in size, this Forest Reserve supports quite an interesting moss flora worthy of further scientific study and conservation. The high level of species occurrence is important for the long-term monitoring study of an isolated forest such as this. Seven of the species found here are new additions to the bryoflora of the state of Selangor and the presence of Fissidens guangdongensis, a new record for Peninsular Malaysia, shows that our knowledge about these tiny plants in this pocket of logged-over lowland forest is still far from satisfactory and complete. This is more reason why we should strive to propose for the conservation of some small green lungs in the midst of bustling developing areas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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REFERENCES


DAMANHURI, A. 1999. The moss flora of Merapoh, Taman Negara, Pahang, Malaysia. In

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### TABLE 1
Summary of moss taxa and numbers reported from Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Bangi Forest Reserve (Mohamad & Gidiman 1990) and Langat Basin, Selangor (Damanhuri & Ajamain 1999).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Ayer Hitam FR</th>
<th>Bangi FR</th>
<th>Langat Basin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
<td>Genus</td>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Genus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Bartramiaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bryaceae</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Calymperaceae</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Dicranaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Diphysciaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ephemerosciaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Fissidentaceae</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4 + 1 var.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Hookeriaceae</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Hypnaceae</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Hypnodendraceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Leucobryaceae</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Meteoriaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Myuriaceae</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Neckeraeae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Octoblepharaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Orthotrichaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Phylldrepaniaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Plagiotheciaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Polytrichaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Pottiaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Pterobryaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Rhizogoniaceae</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Sematophyllaceae</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Thuidiaceae</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total No. | 22 | 43 + 1 var. | 18 | 36 + 1 var. | 37 | 74 + 1 var. |


Appendix 1
Checklist of mosses in Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Selangor.

The arrangement of families follows that of Crosby and Magill (1978) with slight modifications. The habitat and distribution within Peninsular Malaysia are given. Species reported for the first time for Selangor are marked with '*' and '**' indicates new records for Peninsular Malaysia.

1. FISSIDENTACEAE
1.1 *Fissidens ceylonensis* Dozy & Molk.

1.2 **F. crassinervis** Sande Lac. var. *crassinervis*

1.3 *F. crassinervis* var. *laxus* (Sull. & Lesq.) A. Eddy

1.4 **F. guangdongensis** Z. Iwats. & Z. H. Li

1.5 *F. papillosus* Sande Lac.

2. LEUCOBRYACEAE
2.1 *Leucobryum sanctum* (Brid.) Hampe

3. CALYMPERACEAE
3.1 *Arthrocormus schimperi* (Dozy & Molk.) Dozy & Molk.

3.2 Calymperes erosum* Müll. Hal.

3.3 C. lonchophyllum* Schwägr.

3.4 C. moluccense Schwägr.

3.5 *Leucophanes octoblepharoides* Brid.

3.6 *Mitthyridium constrictum* (Sull.) H. Rob.

3.7 *M. fasciculatum* (Hook. & Grev.) H. Rob.

3.8 *M. flavum* (Müll. Hal.) H. Rob.

3.9 *M. jungquilianum* (Mitt.) H. Rob.

3.10 *M. repens* (Harv.) H. Rob.

3.11 *M. undulatum* (Dozy & Molk.) H. Rob.

3.12 *Syrrhopodon albovaginatus* Schwägr.
3.13  *S. aristifolius* Mitt.

3.14  *S. croceus* Mitt.

3.15  *S. fimbriatulus* Müll. Hal.

3.16  *S. involutus* Schwägr.

3.17  *S. muelleri* (Dozy & Molk.) Sande Lac.

3.18  *S. spiculosa* Hook. & Grev.

4. BRYACEAE

4.1  *Orthodontium infractum* Dozy & Molk.

5. RHIZOGONIACEAE

5.1  *Pyrrhobryum latifolium* (Bosch & Sande Lac.) Mitt.

5.2  *P. spiniforme* (Hedw.) Mitt.

6. HOOKERIACEAE

6.1  *Callicostella papillata* (Mont.) Mitt.

7. MYURIACEAE

7.1  *Oedicladium pseudorufescens* (Hampe) B. C. Tan & Mohamed

8. SEMATOPHYLLACEAE

8.1  *Acanthorrhynchium papillatum* (Harv.) M. Fleisch.

8.2  *Acroporium joannis-winkleri* Broth.

8.3  *A. lamprophyllum* Mitt.

8.4  *Clastobryophilum bogoricum* (Bosch & Sande Lac.) M. Fleisch.

8.5  *Papillidiopsis malayana* (Dixon) B. C. Tan

8.6  *Radulina hamata* (Dozy & Molk.) A. Jaeger

8.7  *Taxithelium isocladum* (Bosch & Sande Lac.) Renauld & Cardot
8.8 *Trichosteleum boschii* (Dozy & Molk.) A. Jaeger

8.9 *T. mammosum* (Müll. Hal.) A. Jaeger

8.10 *Trismegistia calderensis* (Sull.) Broth.

9. HYPNACEAE

9.1 *Ectropothecium buitenzorgii* (Bél.) Mitt.

9.2 *Isopterygium albescens* (Hook. in Schwägr.) A. Jaeger

9.3 *I. minutirameum* (Müll. Hal.) A. Jaeger

9.4 *Vesicularia miquelii* (Sande Lac.) M. Fleisch.

9.5 *V. reticulata* (Dozy & Molk.) Broth.