

Rapid assessment of myco-heterotrophic plants diversity at Sungai Rawog conservation area

ABSTRACT

Myco-heterotrophic species are plants that lack photosynthetic pigments and relies on symbiotic relationship with fungi to survive. However, little attention has been given to the diversity of myco-heterotrophic species from Sabah, especially at Sungai Rawog Conservation Area. Thus, this study is a preliminary effort to accumulate the undiscovered myco-heterotrophic species diversity in Sabah. A total of seven trails namely Trail 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and Nepenthes trail were explored in four days. Findings were also compared to previous sampling that were done in Borneo. A total of three myco-heterotrophic species confined to three genera were collected from only Trail 3, 4 and 7. The myco-heterotrophic orchid *Lecanorchis multiflora* were found in Trail 3 and 4. Meanwhile, *Gymnosiphon aphyllus* was abundant only in trail 4. On the other hand, *Epirixanthes confusa* was only restricted to trail 7. The preliminary finding obtained from this study suggested that an extensive study is required to inventory the myco-heterotrophic species in the diverse forest types available in Sabah.