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Floristic Studies Of Pulau Jarak And Pulau Perak, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT Preliminary studies on the flora of Pulau Jarak and Pulau Perak have been carried out. Some of the common species at Pulau Jarak were Barringtonia asiatica, Dracaena maingayi, Eugenia grandis, Ficus sp. and Scaevola frutescens. Several herbs were very common such as Aglaonema schottianum, Labisia pumila and Phyllanthus frondosus. The common climbers observed were Aristolochia ungulifera, Gnetum sp., Hoya parasitica and Smilax helferi. Ferns such as Angiopteris evecta, Asplenium nidus, Dicranopteris linearis, Pyrrosia sp. and Stenochlaena palustris were also common. The common palms were Caryota mitis and Oncosperma filamentosum. Ficus sp., Lygodium sp. and Stenochlaena palustris were among the common species observed at Pulau Perak.

Barringtonia asiatica, Eugenia grandis and Scaevola frutescens were the typical species of the coastal forest vegetation while Caryota mitis, Dracaena maingayi, Ficus sp. and others formed the inland forest vegetation. In terms of floral diversity, Pulau Perak vegetation showed less diversity compared to Pulau Jarak.


Barringtonia asiatica, Eugenia grandis dan Scaevola frutescens merupakan spesies yang tipikal bagi vegetasi hutan pantai semembar Caryota mitis, Dracaena maingayi, Ficus sp. dan lain-lain spesies membentuk vegetasi hutan dalam. Dari segi kepelbagaian flora, vegetasi Pulau Perak mempunyai kepelbagaian yang lebih rendah berbanding dengan Pulau Jarak.

(flora, Pulau Jarak, Pulau Perak)

INTRODUCTION

Pulau Jarak is a small island in the middle of the Straits of Malacca (Figure 1). It is located about 40 miles from the coast of Perak and 30 miles from Pulau Sembilan [1]. About 8 hectares in size, Pulau Jarak is densely covered by trees. It has thick vegetation underlined by granite rocks, similar to those underlying the Pulau Pangkor and Sembilan groups of islands [2]. The island was believed to have been populated by airborne plants and animals stowaways on visiting prahus and pirate ships. Previous scientific expeditions in 1950 and 1953 by J.R. Audy, J.L. Harrison and J. Wyatt-Smith have given us a general picture of the island’s flora and fauna. Pulau Perak, named for the silvery sheen of its bare igneous rock, took on in the sunlight, was a known nestling ground for a number of booby bird