Biodiversity of marine fungi from Malaysia

Siti Aisyah Alias
Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Email: saa@um.edu.my

Marine fungi play a vital role in nutrient recycling and food chains, particularly in mangrove areas. Since the first report on marine mangrove fungi, the number has increased dramatically. In total, circa 300 fungal taxa are known from various marine environments in Malaysia and the majority are marine mangrove-derived fungi. The collections are mainly from the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia, namely Port Dickson, Langkawi Island, Jarak Island, Selangor Island, Pantai Remis, Morib, Kuala Selangor and Sulu Sulawesi. Various samples were examined, which comprise decaying substrates such as prop roots, pneumatophores, subterranean roots, rhizomes, overhanging branches and twigs of mangrove trees, and driftwood. From this study, observed diversity of marine fungi could be attributed to several factors: location and diversity of mangrove trees and substrates; number of samples collected; and the incubation methods. This paper also discusses comparison of fungal diversity with other studies, status of marine mycological research in Malaysia, and a preliminary report of antimicrobial activity of Malaysian marine fungi.

SESSION 7 - GESNERIACEAE-II

Preliminary study of flower evolution in Henckelia sect. Baeopsis and Salicini (Gesneriaceae) in Peninsular Malaysia

Lim, C.L.1, 2*, Haron, N.W.1, Kiew, R.1 & Möeller, M.3
1 Botany & Herbarium Unit, Tropical Forest Biodiversity Centre, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), 52109 Kepong, Selangor, Malaysia
2 Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3 Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR, UK

Email: limchunglu@frim.gov.my

In Peninsular Malaysia, Henckelia Spreng., with about 100 species, is the largest genus in the Gesneriaceae. The diversity of flower morphology in Henckelia ranges from species with long, funnel-shaped corolla tubes to those with short, wide corolla tubes. The ca 15 Peninsular Malaysian species with short, wide corolla lobes are included in sections Baeopsis and Salicini. Within these two sections, a sub-classification of flower types is made based on qualitative and quantitative analysis of over 50 morphological characters. A strict-consensus tree of combined ITS and Trnl-F sequences including species from both flower types was also generated. Results of both studies are compared to find the trends in flower evolution.

Conservation status of Paraboea species (Gesneriaceae) in Malaysia

Forest Research Institute Malaysia, 52109 Kepong, Selangor, Malaysia

Email: ruth@frim.gov.my

The limestone flora in Malaysia is disproportionately biodiverse compared with its land area and it is a habitat that in many places is seriously threatened. The genus Paraboea Ridl. (Gesneriaceae) is a