The Forests and Biodiversity of Selai Endau-Rompin

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TWENTY YEARS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA – JOHOR NATIONAL PARKS CORPORATION
SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION: ENDAU-ROMPIN NATIONAL PARK AT SELAI, JOHOR

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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Twenty Years on the University Of Malaya – Johor National Parks Corporation
Scientific Expedition: Endau-Rompin National Park at Selai, Johor
(2007: Kuala Lumpur Malaysia)

Published in Malaysia by:
Perbadanan Taman Negara Johor
Head Office
JKR 475, Jalan Bukit Timbalan
80000 Johor Bahru, Johor
URL: www.johorparks.com
Email: jnpc@johorparks.com

Printed in Malaysia by:
Percetakan Skyline Sdn Bhd
No 35 & 37, Jalan 12/32B
TSI Business Industrial Park
Batu 61/2 Off Jalan Kepong
52100 Kuala Lumpur
Email: pskylinekl@tm.net.my

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ABSTRACT Floristic studies conducted in the southwestern part of Endau-Rompin National Park, Johor, at the areas around Anak Air Batu Dinding, Sungai Segeri and Sungai Semempit resulted in the documentation of 50 species from various families of the Angiosperms. The areas were rich with species from the families Annonaceae, Araliaceae, Orchidaceae, Palmae, Rubiaceae and Zingiberaceae. *Trevesia burckii*, a rather rare species from the family Araliaceae, is quite common in the area studied.


(Floristics, Endau-Rompin National Park, *Trevesia burckii*)

INTRODUCTION

Being one of the world’s oldest tropical rain forests, the fauna and flora of Endau-Rompin National Park, Johor, include exotic species found nowhere else in the world. During a scientific expedition carried out in 1985 and 1986 in the northeastern region of Endau-Rompin, 25 new species of plants have been identified. Many unique and endemic varieties of plants have been discovered [1]. However, the area has not been fully explored and is scientifically little known or documented [2].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Floristic studies were conducted in the southwestern part of Endau-Rompin National Park, Johor, from 24 to 30 April 2002. Areas surveyed include Anak Air Batu Dinding, Sungai Segeri and Sungai Semempit. Specimens collected, wherever possible, were identified during the collection. Otherwise they were brought back to the laboratory for further identification. Herbarium specimens were also prepared.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The areas surveyed were rich with species from the families Annonaceae, Araliaceae, Orchidaceae, Palmae, Rubiaceae and Zingiberaceae. *Trevesia burckii*, a rather rare species from the family Araliaceae, was common in the area. The specimens identified were listed in Table 1. Of the three locations surveyed, Sg. Semempit is the richest in species diversity, some of which were from the genera *Anisophyllum*, *Baccarea*, *Barringtonia*, *Ixora*, *Polyalthea*, *Renelia* and *Schefflera*. Members of the genera are found to be quite common in this section of the Endau-Rompin National Park. *Schefflera* varies a lot in habitat, and in the size and shape of its leaflets, and the species are so closely related that it is difficult to distinguish them [1]. More studies may be required on this relative of the ginseng.

Since the Endau-Rompin National Park is one of the oldest and most richly endowed natural habitats in the world, it will contain many potentially useful species.