

FLORAL DIVERSITY AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE MANGROVES AT MATANG, WEST PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, AFTER A CENTURY OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

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Mangroves are important in protecting shorelines against tidal waves and erosion, and also support a range of wildlife species. In Malaysia, the mangroves occupy 564,606ha, with a nearly 16% (91,779ha) distributed along the west coast of peninsular Malaysia. Mangroves are more prevalent here due to the sheltered environment, in comparison to the east coast (mangrove extent = 5,738ha), which is entirely exposed to the South China Sea. Although Malaysia possesses the second largest mangrove cover (about 11.7%) in Southeast Asia (FAO, 2007), the scientific literature on these mangrove forests remain scanty. While Matang mangrove forest on the west coast has been under a concerted scientific management since the beginning of 20th century (Shamsudin and Nasir, 2005), the efforts to evaluate its floral diversity and distribution through the ground inventory techniques like PCQM (cf. Cintron and Schaeffer Novelli, 1984; Dahdouh-Guebas and Koedam, 2006) are almost nil. This present investigation brings out valuable information on this aspect in a well-managed and ecologically important location on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The aim of this poster is to report the ongoing research, which is expected to lead to conclusions on the state of mangrove forest evolution.

References

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