

Preface

メタデータ	言語: eng 出版者: 公開日: 2013-04-08 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: HOTTA, Mitsuru メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10232/16584

PREFACE

In Malesian tropics, where the highest number of species live together forming a complex web of the tropical rain forest system, the speciation mechanisms of plants, as well as the interactions between pollinator animals and plants, have been scarcely studied (cf. van Steenis, 1969; Ashton, 1969; both in *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* 1).

Our research in 1987-1988 intended to contribute to the knowledge on the speciation in Malesian tropics. We paid our particular attention to (1) the flower-visiting insects and their behaviour in *Impatiens* spp., (2) fauna trapped in pitchers of various shapes of *Nepenthes* spp. and (3) biological difference between two native *Musa* species. This report contains a brief outline of our outstanding results of these research.

We carried out dbh censuses of about 3,000 trees in six permanent forest plots in Ulu Gadut area near Padang, which had been established in our earlier researches. We are intending to add further data in the next research in 1989, and to analyze 10-year dynamics of tropical rain forests based on these data from permanent plots.

Before this report, Japanese members of us offered two progress reports to LIPI and Andalas University: "The first progress report of a research on speciation mechanisms and coevolution at Malesian wet tropics (West Sumatra)" by Hotta and Kohyama (January 1988; 125 pp.), and "The final progress report of a research on speciation mechanisms and coevolution at Malesian wet tropics (West Sumatra)" by Okada, Kato and Ichino (February 1988; 151 pp.).

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all people who helped our present research, particularly to Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Jurnal Kamil, Rector of Andalas University, who invited us, to Mr. T. Hainald, Head of the Division of Inter-Institutional Cooperation, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), who kindly supported our project, and to Dr. Amsir Bakar, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science (FMIPA), Andalas University, who arranged our stay in West Sumatra. We also acknowledge that Dr. Siti Sarma, Mr. Rustam Usman and Mr. Anas Salsabila, Department of Biology, FMIPA, Andalas University, helped our laboratory works, and that Dr. S. Nakano, visiting research fellow in Andalas University from Japan, and Dr. F. Koike, post-doctoral fellow of Kyoto University (now in Faculty of Science, Shimane University), gave us kind assistance. We also thank to Mr. T. Igarashi of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies of Kyoto University, for supporting our research in Indonesia.

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