

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.).

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