

## LOCAL NAMES OF RAIN FOREST TREES IN ULU GADUT VALLEY, WEST SUMATRA

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During the researches in permanent plots established in natural rain forests in Ulu Gadut Valley, Padang, West Sumatra, one of us, M.H., has asked local names of plot trees from our field guides, particularly the chief guide Mr. Satar. Though local plant names, or Minangkabau names (Minangkabau is the name of the traditional lace inhabiting West Sumatra), have not been standardized for botanical usage (cf. Bagian Botani Hutan, 1974), our collection of local names in Ulu Gadut will present a useful information for tree identification. Development of local names of plants is of course deeply related to the human usage of plants, and recording local plant names is interesting from the viewpoint of ethnobotany. Furthermore, results of such collection offer the basic data for standardizing botanical local names in West Sumatra.

Here we report on the local name of trees appearing in permanent plots in Ulu Gadut Valley. Local names in Airsirah Plot and G. Gadut Plot are excluded from the lists, because our field guides were not familiar to trees in these montane forests at higher elevations. We must confess that our knowledge on taxonomy of each tree is not yet complete and collected local name is sometimes misspelled. We hope further collection will be carried out by our colleagues in West Sumatra.

The local name of each plot tree can be seen in Appendix I. Appendix IV gives the species name-local name cross reference lists. In Minangkabau, a given tree of the same taxonomic category (in sense not of botany but of ethnology) is called by either one word or a few words. In the latter case, a general word meaning a higher category of ethnologic taxonomy often appears as the first word of the local name. Such general words (some are abbreviated in Appendices I and IV) are listed in Table 1.

Bagian Botani Hutan (1974) reported the reference list of local names of tree species in West Sumatra. It shows that various local names are used in different regions within West Sumatra. When we started the research in Ulu Gadut area near Padang, local names were confused among the villagers. Mr. Kaidir and Mr. Satar, who were most familiar with local

names among our field guides living in Kotabaru village of Ulu Gadut, often called the same tree by different local names. For example, Mr. Kaidir recognized all trees with white latex as relatives of "Rangeh", whereas Mr. Satar often distinguished "Balam" (trees of Sapotaceae) from "Rangeh". Such disagreement between them was thought to result from that (1) two of them were living in different geographic and cultural ranges, and that (2) their identification of trees was based on simple characters such as the existence of latex and wood features.

However, there existed several taxonomic groups for which two of them used the same local names. Trees of *Quercus* and *Lithocarpus* (Fagaceae) were constantly called "Paniang paniang", while those of *Castanopsis* of the same family were rarely called "Paniang paniang". Subdivisions within "Paniang paniang" seemed to depend on colors of wood, and we could not find a clear relationship between botanical taxa and these subdivisions within it. An exception was "Paniang paniang gajah" which corresponded to a species with large leaves of *Lithocarpus* sp. (new species belonging to *L. elegans* group) distributing around the summit of Gunung Gadut. This local name was newly created one during our scientific research around this area. Trees of *Macaranga* (Euphorbiaceae) were called "Sapek", and this name was never used for trees of other genera. Subdivisions within "Sapek" did not necessarily correspond to species, as in "Paniang paniang".

We found that several species corresponded to definite local names, which are shown in Table 2. All of these species have distinctive key characters such as wood feature, latex, resin, and edible fruits. It is interesting that *Swintonia schwenckii*, a leading emergent species in Ulu Gadut region, changes its local names from "Rangeh" in sapling stage to "Kalek abu" in emergent tree stage. The reason why local people cannot identify them to be the same species is presumably that this species exists as two discontinuous subpopulations of saplings and emergents, in Ulu Gadut.

In Ulu Gadut area, the local names based on Indonesian words and those based on Minangkabau words are used together. It is often the case that people in Ulu Gadut do not distinguish difference between Indonesian and Minangkabau when they are used for tree names: for example, both "Madang telor" and "Madang talua" indicate the same tree, often *Litsea* spp., where both "telor" (Indonesian) and "talua" (Minangkabau) mean egg.

## Reference

- Bagian Botani Hutan. 1974. *Daftar Nama Pohon-Pohonan Sumatra Barat* (List of tree species of Westcoast of Sumatera). Laporan No. 187. Lembaga Penelitian Hutan, Bogor.

Table 1. General word for tree names in Ulu Gadut Valley

General word (Abbreviation in Append. I & IV)	Note
Akar	General word meaning lianas
Balam	Often trees of Sapotaceae with white latex
Kalek (Klk)	General word meaning trees with hard and fine wood
Kayu	Generally means trees, in particular, having useful and not so hard wood
Madang (Mdg)	Trees with a smell of essential oil, generally trees of Lauraceae
Paniang paniang (Png <sup>2</sup> )	Fagaceae trees with heavy wood excl. <i>Castanopsis</i> spp.
Rasak	Generally trees of <i>Shorea</i> spp.
Sapek	Trees of <i>Macaranga</i> spp.
Bangsa (Bgs)	Meaning "a relative of"; this usage is not native, but introduced by the present research group for the convenience of plot study

Table 2. Selected list of local names in Ulu Gadut, of which botanical reference is generally clear

Local name	Species name	Family
Balam mansarai	<i>Mastixia trichotoma</i>	Corn
Baliak <sup>2</sup> angin	<i>Mallotus paniculatus</i>	Euph
Bangka	<i>Anthocephallus indicus</i>	Rubi
Bintanak	<i>Canarium</i> sp.	Brus
Bintangua	<i>Calophyllum</i> sp.	Gutt
Damar mansarai	<i>Mastixia trichotoma</i>	Conn
Duku anggang	<i>Dysoxylum</i> spp.	Meli
Durian suliang	<i>Durio griffithii</i>	Bomb
Jilabuak	<i>Ficus</i> spp.	Mora
Jilatang	<i>Laporea</i> spp.	Urti
Katuko andilau	<i>Gonystylus forbesii</i>	Thym
Katuko asam	<i>Garcinia dioica</i>	Gutt

Table 2, continued

Local name	Species name	Family
Kayu asam	<i>Syzygium</i> sp.	Myrt
Kayu hitam	<i>Diospyros</i> spp.	Eben
Kayu klk banyak anak	<i>Pternandra caerulescens</i>	Mela
Kayu malam	<i>Diospyros</i> sp.	Eben
Kayu manis	<i>Claoxylon longifolium</i>	Euph
Kayu mati rantiang	<i>Ellipanthus tomentosus</i>	Conn
Kayu pasak	<i>Memecylon laurinum</i>	Mela
Kayu sakam	<i>Anisophyllea</i> sp.	Rhiz
Kalek abu	<i>Swintonia schwenckii</i> (adult)	Anac
Kalek asam	<i>Syzygium</i> sp.	Myrt
Kalek banyak anak	<i>Pternandra caerulescens</i>	Mela
Kalek bunga tanjuong	<i>Syzygium</i> sp.	Myrt
Kalek hitam	<i>Diospyros</i> sp.	Eben
Kalek inai	<i>Syzygium</i> sp.	Myrt
Kalek jambu	<i>Memecylon</i> sp.	Mela
Kalek jambu	<i>Syzygium</i> spp.	Myrt
Kalek jambu kaliang	<i>Syzygium</i> sp.	Myrt
Kalek kacang	<i>Nyssa javanica</i>	Nyss
Kalek karamuntiang	<i>Xanthophyllum</i> spp.	Poly
Kalek marapuyan	<i>Ellipanthus tomentosa</i>	Conn
Kalek mati rantiang	<i>Memecylon laurinum</i>	Mela
Kalek minyak	<i>Phyllanthus</i> cf. <i>indicus</i>	Euph
Kalek sakam	<i>Cinnamomum javanicum</i>	Laur
Lasi	<i>Villeburnea rubescens</i>	Urti
Mandarahan	<i>Knema</i> spp.	Myri
Mandirawan	<i>Hopea mengarawan</i>	Dipt
Marapuyan	<i>Rhodomnia sinerea</i>	Myrt
Madang kumayan	<i>Styrax paralleloneurum</i>	Styr
Madang poai	<i>Phoebe</i> spp. (often)	Laur
Madang talua	<i>Litsea</i> spp. (often)	Laur
Rambutan rimbo	<i>Nephelium juglandifolium</i>	Sapi
Rangeh	<i>Swintonia schwenckii</i> (sapling)	Anac
Rasak minyak	<i>Shorea sumatrana</i>	Dipt
Ribu <sup>2</sup>	<i>Diospyros buxifolia</i>	Eben
Sikili batang	<i>Grewia florida</i>	Tili
Tabau	<i>Pithecollobium microcarpum</i>	Legu