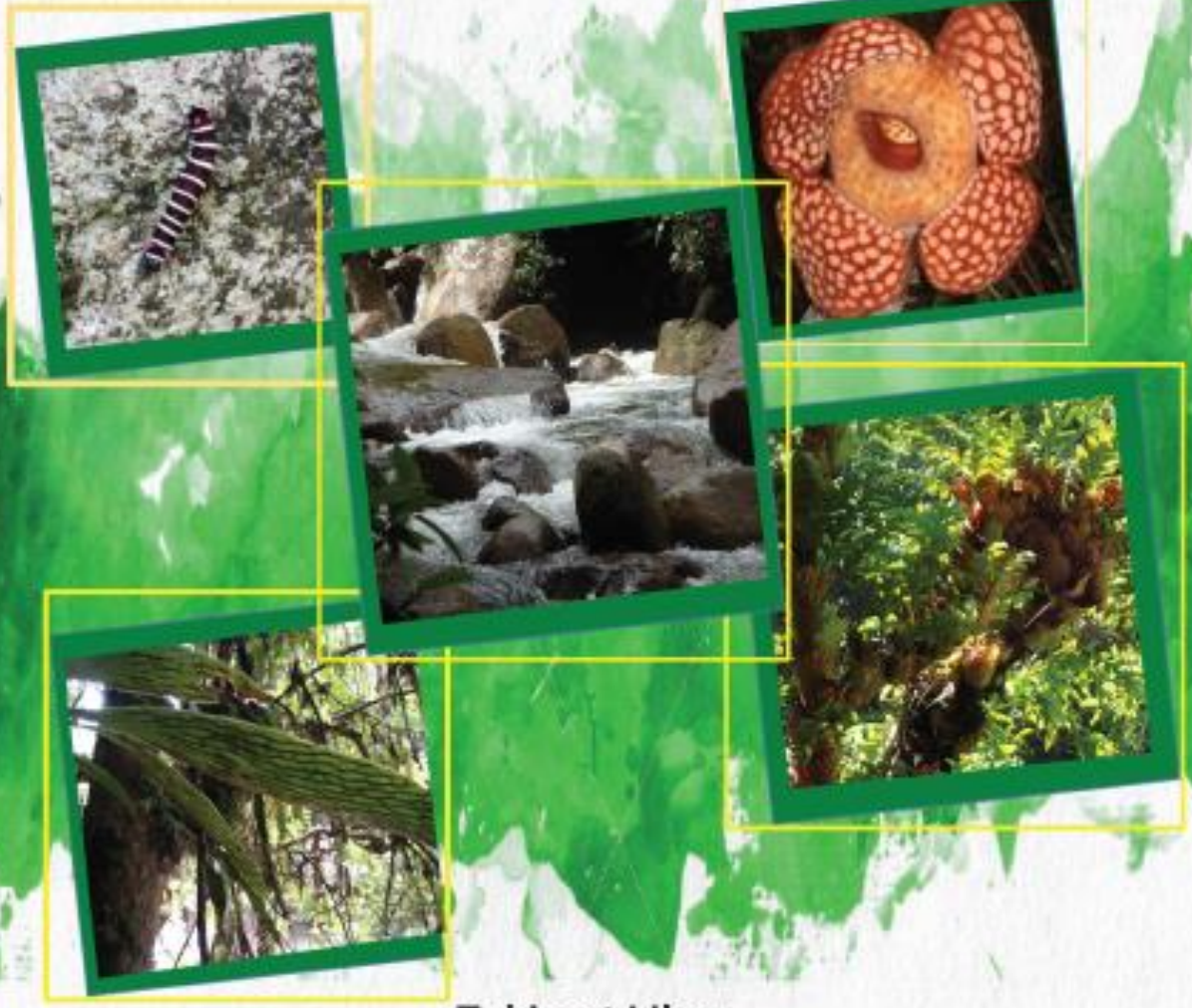
LATA JARUM

BIODIVERSITY RICHNESS & INCONCEIVABLE ENVIRONMENTS



Tukimat Lihan
Haja Maideen Kader Maideen
Siti Norhafizah Ahmad Tarmidzi

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PENERBIT UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
BANGI I 2020
http://ukmpress.ukm.my

Cetakan Pertama / *First Printing*, 2020

Diterbitkan di Malaysia oleh / *Published in Malaysia by*
PENERBIT UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
43600 UKM Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan, MALAYSIA
http://ukmpress.ukm.my
e-mel: penerbit@ukm.edu.my

Penerbit UKM adalah anggota / *is a member of the*
MAJLIS PENERBITAN ILMIAH MALAYSIA /
MALAYSIAN SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING COUNCIL
PERSATUAN PENERBIT BUKU MALAYSIA /
MALAYSIAN BOOK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
No. Ahli / *Membership No.* 198302

Diatur huruf di Malaysia oleh / *Typeset in Malaysia by*
PANTAS SET SDN. BHD. (118872-P)
C-20-11, Zetapark, Kompleks Danau Kota
Jalan Taman Ibu Kota, Taman Ibu Kota
53300 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Data Pengkatalogan-dalam-Penerbitan /
Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

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Preface

This book explores the physical environment and biological diversity at the Lata Jarum Recreational Forest, Ulu Dong, Raub, Pahang. The 16 chapters presented are based on an expedition to the area from 16 to 21 November 2009. This book is a pioneering research project on the physical environment and biodiversity of this unique lowland forest which is home to the largest flower in the world, the *Rafflesia*. The results cover three major disciplines which include the physical environment, the floras, and the fauna. The physical environment section covers biomimetics, nutrients in the soil, water quality and the hydrology of the forest while the biodiversity section explores the flora and fauna in the area. A checklist of the lower plants comprising mosses and ferns is presented. For the higher plants, notable gingers and their antibacterial activities were noted together with the species composition, diversity and above-ground biomass. The section on the faunae covered only the diversity of insects found.

Contributors of this book comprise researchers from the Fraser's Hill Research Centre, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Institute of Microengineering and Nanoelectronics UKM, Department of Landscape Architecture, Kuliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Department of Plant Science and Environmental Ecology, Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UniMAS), and Pusat Asasi, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). The involvement of the Environmental Health Research Group UKM, School of Environmental and Natural Resources Sciences FST UKM, Forestry Department of Pahang and Raub District and Land Office, Pahang are gratefully acknowledged. Our appreciation also goes to the National University of Malaysia for the research grants provided. The publication of this book is made possible by financial support from the Malaysian government as channelled and administered by CRIM, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The financial support included several research grants namely FRGS/1/2014/ST03/UKM/01/1,

DPP-2014-084, PIP-2013-004, LIV-2014-004, LAUREATE-2013-001, DPB2020-044 and GUP-2018-106. We are also indebted to the Faculty of Science and Technology, UKM and the Fraser's Hill Research Centre, UKM for the logistics provided during this research project.

The following federal and state agencies contributed in one way or another to the success of this research: Fraser's Hill Research Centre UKM, Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM), Forestry Department Pahang, Forestry Department Perak, Forestry Department Kelantan, Pahang State Government, Fraser's Hill Development Corporation, Raub District and Land Office, Majlis Daerah Raub, Polis Di-Raja Malaysia Raub, Jabatan Kerja Raya Raub, RELA Raub, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Perbadanan Air Pahang (Raub), community leaders, and the local community of Raub. We are grateful to the following for their invaluable contributions, assistance and hospitality to the research project team: Dato' Haji Shafik Fauzan Sharif (Former Chairman of Pahang State Tourism, Culture & Heritage (2009-13)), Tuan Haji Zulfakar Ali, Dato' Seri Ng Yen Yen (former Federal Minister of Tourism Malaysia), former UKM Vice Chancellor Professor Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin, Dato' Ishak Mokhtar (General Manager, Fraser's Hill Development Corporation), Raub District and Land Office, Raub Police Dept, Raub District Council, the local community of Ulu Dong, Prof. Dr. Raihan Taha (Head of Environmental Health Research Group UKM), Jamal Tah (Tok Batin Kg. Sg Yol), Dr. Zahidah Mohd Kasim, Rahim Abd. Othman, Mohd Shokori Zainal Abidin, Basri Ramli, Aris Amar, Ali Imran Ali Amran, Ismail Mohamad, Md. Salim Adam, Omar Mat, Khairul Muna Mahmud, Farida Hanim Badron, Mohd Hairimi Mohd Ali, Ahmad Adnan Mohamed, David Allan Aitman and those who are involved directly and indirectly towards the successful programmes and publication of this book..

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Lata Jarum: Biodiversity Richness and Inconceivable Environments is a collection of scientific papers written by experts who took part in the Scientific Expedition at Lata Jarum Recreational Forest, Ulu Dong, Raub from 16th to 21st November 2009. It is a preliminary scientific research on the physical and biodiversity of Lata Jarum and involved collaboration from different fields of expertise in Malaysia. This book emphasis on quantifying the variety, abundance and occurrence of taxa, antimicrobial activities in plants and biomimetics. There are also new records and new species of plants, *Rafflesia* spp. and *Scaphochlamys jarumensis*, which is unique to the area. The content provides knowledge and guidance for students especially in biology programmes, researchers, local community and stakeholders. The important scientific observation and discoveries in this area is virtually a treasure trove of biodiversity.

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eISBN 978-967-251-166-3
9 789672 511663