





Bukit Durang HIDDEN JEWEL OF ULU SUAI, SARAWAK



BIODIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

EDITED BY: Jayasilan Mohd-Azlan and Aida Shafreena Ahmad Puad



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2023

Bukit Durang Hidden Jewel of Ulu Suai, Sarawak Biodiversity at a Glance

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Bukit Durang High Conservation Value Forest

This book aims to enlighten and educate stakeholders and to present some information on species distribution to the nature enthusiast. This volume draws its material from various scientists' research and experience in this area. The images illustrated on colour plates reveal the potential of this area as an interesting site for naturalists as well as for researchers.

The introductory chapter gave insight into the importance of the High Conservation Value forest and set the scene for this book. The plant component chapters showcased the complex and unique structure of the flora diversity in the Bukit Durang area. The wildlife aspects of this book covered species from an array of taxa that includes both invertebrates and vertebrates (amphibians, fish, birds & mammals). The High Conservation Value forest is also home to several endemic species, as well as species of conservation importance. The social element chapter contributes to the history of Bukit Durang while the final chapter wraps the way forward for biodiversity conservation.

The research in Bukit Durang was made possible by the generosity of Wilmar Plantations Sdn Bhd (formerly known as PPB Oil Palm Sdn Bhd), who provided funding to Universiti Malaysia Sarawak for said research. This project is aimed to assess the selected biotic diversity i.e plant, invertebrate and vertebrate groups.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker (Dicaeum trigonostigma).

This common species having a wide distribution have been reported up to Kelabit highlands. In Bukit Durang area, they have been mist-netted and spotted foraging in the understory. This omnivorous species has been reported to feed on seeds of 'Senduduk' Melastoma malabathricum, small insects as well as pollen and nectar. © Photo: Badiozaman Sulaiman

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Foreword

Sarawak retains some of the richest biodiversity in the world. It is home to many endemic species of conservation importance. Some of these examples can be found in Sarawak's High Conservation Value forest. From its inception, UNIMAS has put biodiversity and environmental conservation at the forefront of its research niche and agenda by setting up the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (FRST) and the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (IBEC). With the establishment of these two hubs of knowledge, UNIMAS' commitment increased twofold: firstly, it mapped out the necessary measures to enhance the sustainable management of Sarawak's natural resources and secondly, being in Sarawak, with its vast biodiversity and multi-ethnic population, UNIMAS academics are also continuously collaborating with the local communities, government and non-government agencies as well as national and international researchers to study the conservation of tropical biodiversity and the global environment.

In the pursuit of research excellence, we are challenged by the need to identify

strategic partners. We continuously encourage our academics to explore external sources, especially in engaging private agencies to contribute to the various researches conducted at the University. One such effort has resulted in the signing of an MoA with WILMAR in 2014 with a project titled "Identification and monitoring of Endangered, Rare and **Threatened Species and their habitats** in Wilmar's plantations in Sarawak". The synergy between WILMAR and UNIMAS is significant; not only that both agencies benefit through the conservation of biodiversity and environment, but it also highlights our rich expertise and skills in research, and at the same time motivates our young research minds who come to UNIMAS to learn about Biodiversity, in order to enhance their experience through industrial training at relevant agencies.

In line with the rapid developments in the oil palm industry and the increasing awareness in the need to conserve resources especially in Sarawak, this work is indeed substantial and considerably impactful in the current context of Malaysia's rich biodiversity and natural resources. The scope of work in this collaboration is an important milestone not



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UNIMAS studies shows that many species of conservation importance are thriving in Bukit Durang Conservation Area. © Photo: Wilmar

only for UNIMAS-industry linkage but also significant for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Sarawak.

Given that this book represents but a small sample of the amount of work done by our academics in the realm of biodiversity. I would like to commend the efforts of Wilmar Plantations Sdn Bhd (formerly known as PPB Oil Palms Sdn Bhd) who supported us in collecting information on the biodiversity in some of these areas including Bukit Durang, which forms the material for the book. The work is also expected to be important for stakeholders, for better understanding and appreciation of local biodiversity. It is my hope that this book will contribute and encourage more people to work in this area, publish more journal articles of this kind and more funders to support in this field. I anticipate that this volume will be useful to stakeholders and for the advancement of the best management practices in general.



Prof. Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi Vice Chancellor Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Message from Wilmar



Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar) was amongst the early adopters of the High Conservation Value (HCV) approach in the oil palm sector, and we carried out HCV assessments of our own operations from as early as 2007. Since then, our approach to conservation has expanded to include High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas, as enshrined in our No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) Policy. Our conservation areas are sanctuaries for many threatened and endangered species, which we strive to protect.

The Bukit Durang Conservation Area (BDCA) which is located in our Saremas Group of estates, adjacent to Niah, is an important conservation site in our Sarawak operation. Since 2014, our research collaboration with the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) has provided us the necessary insights into the biodiversity of the area. The findings from the systemic monitoring done by the UNIMAS researchers alongside our team on the ground are discussed in this book. The findings from this book provide some scientific evidence that the BDCA, although fragmented and surrounded by palm oil plantations, is a hidden biodiversity jewel.

While we remain guided by our biodiversity commitments, we are cognizant that we are limited by our knowledge and expertise in conservation efforts. Through collaborations with various strategic partners such as research institutes and universities like UNIMAS, we have been able to leverage scientific knowledge, and build capacity to help us strengthen the management of our conservation areas. Further cooperation with the local communities also helps us to ensure the survival of our conservation areas. For example, our partnership with the local longhouse communities in Saremas has enhanced the management of our conservation area. We recognize that local communities play an important role in the protection of our conservation areas and supporting conservation efforts on the ground.

Insectivore bird species plays an important role in regulating pest insects in oil palm plantations. © Photo: Wilmar

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to UNIMAS for collaborating with us to gather the findings on the BDCA and making this book the first publication by a Malaysian university to document the biodiversity in a Wilmar conservation area. We believe that real and lasting change on the ground can only be achieved through a multi-stakeholder effort, and we look forward to continued collaboration and partnership in the years ahead.

Jeremy Goon Chief Sustainability Officer Wilmar International Limited

Preface

JAYASILAN MOHD-AZLAN & AIDA SHAFREENA AHMAD PUAD

Sarawak is located in one of the world's unique biodiversity regions, it boasts a variety of habitat types, including a mix of dipterocarp forests with distinctive inhabitants. These habitats are often transformed into agriculture including oil palm plantations. However, the expansion of plantations to meet the global demand for vegetable oils should not be at the expense of our biodiversity and rural communities. It is important that oil palm growers play a significant role in sustainable development by being environmentally responsible and promote the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. Therefore, biodiversity is one of the top agenda for Sarawak, whereby the state is determined to conserve and protect its biodiversity. This project sits in line with the University's niche area of biodiversity and environmental conservation and Sustainable Community Transformation.

As more global companies are being committed to 100% RSPO-certified palm oil, growers in Malaysia particularly in Sarawak need to be proactive to

produce sustainable oil palm which in turn can result in significant returns and be economically transformative for this industry. As such, High Conservation Value (HCV) areas within oil palm plantation concessions should not be regarded as low value. In line with the rapid developments in the oil palm industry and the increasing awareness of the need to conserve resources, especially in Sarawak, biodiversity in remnant forests such as Bukit Durang should not be ignored and is indeed substantial and considerably impactful in the current context of Malaysia's rich biodiversity and natural resources.

We are especially thankful to the Wilmar team comprising Mr Jeremy Goon, Mr Simon Siburat, Mr Gurcharan Singh, Mr Kiaw Che Weng, Mr Asrif bin Mahmud, Mr Chang Sip Woon, Mdm Perpetua George, Ms Chin Sing Yun and Ms Ginny Ng for their support in the project. We also extend our gratitude to the staff of Wilmar Plantations Sdn. Bhd, namely, Mr James Wong, Mr Edward Enggu Anak Setu, Mr Joanes Anak John, the late Mr Golan Anak



Crested Fireback. © Photo: Jayasilan Mohd-Azlan

Mat, Ms Marcie Elene Marcus Jopony and Mr John Alit. The following colleagues helped with the reviews of manuscripts: Professor Cheksum Supiah Tawan, Professor Indraneil Das, Associate Professor Dr Ruhana binti Hassan, Associate Professor Dr Wong Sin Yeng, Associate Professor Dr Wong Swee Kiong, Dr Badrul Azhar Md. Sharif, Dr Jayaraj Vijaya Kumaran, Dr Mohamad Fizl Sidg bin Ramji, Mr Muhamad Ikhwan bin Idris and Ms Lisa Lok Choy Hong. We would also like to thank Research, Innovation and Enterprise Centre, Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation and the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS, for logistical and administrative support. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Mr Badiozaman Sulaiman for providing images of species (Birds & Insects) that we have used in this work. Finally, we thank Wilmar for

the page layout and UNIMAS Publisher for arranging its publication. We would also like to thank Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Forestry Corporation for their research permits.

This book provides pictorial information on the selected species' distribution and richness in the Bukit Durang HCV area. The faunal studies include insects, fishes, amphibians, birds, bats, rodents and some larger mammals. This book intends to share the output of the research with local stakeholders, management authorities and the general public. It is hoped that nature enthusiasts and those who are interested in tropical biodiversity near this region will find this book beneficial. Finally, we hope that this book will contribute to increasing knowledge and awareness of our national pride and heritage. Bukit Durang forest fragment (994.6 Ha) is the largest forest patch near Saremas. It is a narrow forest (700 m wide) strip (14 km long) of steep forest (slope = 35°) with difficult access.

© Photo: Wilmar

BUKIT DURANG CONSERVATION AREA 994.59 Ha

The I want to

Introduction

JAYASILAN MOHD-AZLAN, CHIN SING YUN, JAMES WONG, LISA LOK CHOY HONG

The escalation of land use conversion to agriculture is one of the key drivers of the decline in critical ecosystem function and biodiversity. Vast areas of forest in the tropics have been cleared and planted for various agricultural crops including oil palm, which is one of the most important crops in many tropical countries especially Indonesia and Malaysia. The establishment of oil palm plantations is an incredibly intensive process, involving converting native vegetation, usually degraded land or logged over forest to a plantation, often leaving behind fragmented and isolated rainforest in an oil palm matrix.

Sarawak is the last frontier in oil palm expansion in Malaysia, as Sabah and Peninsula Malaysia have been saturated with oil palm plantations. Sarawak currently (year 2021) has 1.58 million hectares of oil palm, representing 26.9% of the total oil palm plantation area in Malaysia (5.9 Million ha). In northern Sarawak, the region of Miri has extensive oil palm plantations representing ~25% of the total area under oil palm in Sarawak. The palm oil industry is the state's third-largest foreign exchange earner after petroleum and liquified natural gas, hence land is under tremendous pressure for palm development, especially on the NCR land. A substantial proportion of Sarawak's biodiversity is endemic to Borneo. However, how the expansion of oil palm estates across the landscape has affected these taxa is unknown. In recent years, best management practices for oil palm plantations on conservation emerged through certification standards such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) Certification Scheme to ensure sustainable oil palm and biodiversityfriendly plantations.

Many large oil palm estates preserve and protect forest fragments and define them as high conservation



Bukit Durang provides important ecosystem function in an oil palm dominated landscape.

value (HCV) areas through the HCV assessment. Despite their small size and random distributions, these HCV habitat fragments may secure sufficient biodiversity to maintain essential ecosystem functions and services within the agricultural landscape.

The residual HCV habitat fragments in maintaining remnant biodiversity in an intensive agricultural area are essential for improving conservation outcomes in oil palm plantations. In view of this, a series of scientific studies have been carried out in the HCV area of Wilmar Plantations Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Wilmar International Limited, to understand the richness of Sarawak's flora and fauna that lies within. These HCV areas are collectively called Bukit Durang Conservation Area (BDCA). There are limited long-term studies carried out in the HCVs within the oil palm landscape and the result of the studies in Bukit Durang were gathered from 2016 - 2019 which provided details on the biodiversity of conservation areas in Wilmar's estates.



Bukit Durang provides critical habitat and resources for many bird species including forest dependent species.

Bukit Durang is located within the estates of Saremas 2 and Segarmas, also commonly known as Saremas, of Wilmar Plantations. This area is in Ulu Suai which is within the administrative boundary of Sawai Land District, Miri Division, Sarawak. The This secondary forest is dominated by concessions are bordered by various types of land use including oil palm plantations, smallholder oil palm blocks, secondary forests, orchards and teak plantations. This area lies approximately 149 km from Miri

town. BDCA is a fragmented forest with an area of 994.60 ha. It was developed in the 1980s and HCV are mainly the remnant of the logged-over forest.

species from the Family Euphorbiaceae, Leguminosae, Dipterocarpaceae and Moraceae. This includes some essential economic trees such as Eusideroxylon zwageri., Dipterocarpus spp., Shorea spp.,



Wilmar Plantations complex is located approximately 149 km from Miri, the largest city in the northern region of Sarawak.



Bukit Durang Conservation Area.

Dryobalanops spp., Artocarpus spp., and Anisoptera spp. This thin strip of forest patch also provides crucial habitats to various species of conservation importance. Samplings for mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, insects and plants were carried out from 2014 to 2015.

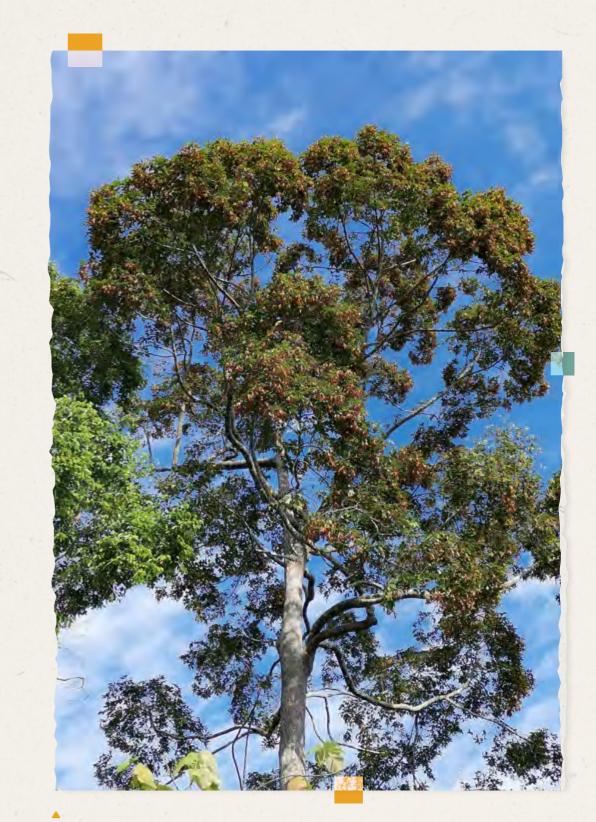
The studies recorded 39 species of small mammals, 58 species of birds, 24 species of amphibians, 41 species of fish, crayfish and prawns. The presence of various species of conservation importance in the area shows that Bukit Durang is a critical biodiversity refuge that may improve species diversity in an oil palm dominated landscape for conservation and maintenance of ecosystem function.

Bukit Durang is the only remaining forest landscape within the Ulu Suai district surrounded by oil palm plantations. Therefore, the synergy between empirical research and plantation management should be regarded as a cornerstone for biodiversity conservation in the Wilmar Plantations area in Sarawak. This modest compilation provides information on the flora and fauna in the Bukit Durang area. This book consists of the findings from eight projects in order to shed some light on the relevant details for biodiversity management in the HCV area of Bukit Durang and provide a biodiversity snapshot of Bukit Durang Conservation Area.

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This secondary forest of Bukit Durang is dominated by species from the Family Euphorbiaceae, Leguminosae, Dipterocarpaceae and Moraceae. This thin strip of forest patch provides crucial habitats to various species of conservation importance.

The studies recorded **39 species of small mammals**, **58 species of birds**, **24 species of amphibians**, **41 species of fish**, **crayfish** and **prawns**. The presence of various species of conservation importance in the area shows that Bukit Durang is a critical biodiversity refuge that may improve species diversity in an oil palm dominated landscape for conservation and maintenance of ecosystem function.



Bukit Durang harbours many ecological and economically important flora and fauna. © Photo: Wilmar

Insects

RATNAWATI HAZALI, SITI NURLYDIA SAZALI, WAN NURAINIE WAN ISMAIL, ISAAC STIA MARCELLINUS, ANIS NORSYAHIRA MOHD RAFFI, FADZRAHNI TARSHA MOHD USTAR, MOHD ASHRAF ABDUL MUTALIB, NUR SITI AISYAH ZARIMIN, QUMIDDIN AB RAZAK, SITI HANISAH ZAHURI, WAHAP MARNI AND MOHAMAD JALANI MORTADA

Cosmodela aurulenta (Coleoptera: Carabidae), or commonly known as the golden-spotted tiger beetle, is a species commonly found in open areas or in lowlands near riverbanks. The species is 14 to 16 mm in length, the body is dark greenish with three distinctive spots on each sides of the elytra. There is also the presence of pale coloured hairs on the abdomen and legs. The species are known to be opportunistic predators of smaller invertebrates, with characteristic large mandibles and enlarged compound eyes. The species is also observed to show brief flights.

©Photo: Isaac Stia Marcellinus

Introduction

Insects are important components of global biodiversity and play a significant role in ecosystem functioning. The presence or absence of insects is important to the distribution, abundance and diversity of plants and vertebrates, which typically are the premier species in conservation efforts (Miller, 1993). Insects are often used in environmental studies as bioindicators due to their diversity and abundance (Chung, 2013). This study aimed to document the species composition of three main insect groups: butterflies (Lepidoptera), beetles (Coleoptera) and true bugs (Hemiptera) in Bukit Durang High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF). Samplings of insect fauna of Bukit Durang HCVF were conducted from 22-27 January 2014, 24-30 August 2014 and from 4-11 February 2015. Four methods of collection were carried out in this study: (i) modified Pennsylvanian light trap, (ii) aerial-netting, (iii) baited-trap, and (iv) hand-picking.

Insects are often used in environmental studies as bioindicators due to their diversity and abundance.

Species Composition of Butterflies

A total of 65 species of butterflies from 42 genera, representing four families including Papilionidae, Pieridae, Nymphalidae and Lycaenidae, were documented (Table 1). This represents about 7% of the total number of 939 butterfly species recorded from Malaysian Borneo (Abang, 2006). The family Nymphalidae with 47 species (72.3%) represented the most speciose family recorded. The Rajah Brooke's Birdwing (*Trogonoptera brookiana brookiana*) is the only protected insect species in Sarawak under the Sarawak Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1998. The Rajah Brooke's Birdwing and Golden Birdwing (*Troides amphrysus flavicollis*) are also listed in Appendix II under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Table 1

LIST OF BUTTERFLY SPECIES RECORDED IN BUKIT DURANG HCVF.

▼

Family/Subfamily	Scienfic Name	Common Name
Papilionidae		
	Trogonoptera brookiana brookiana	Rajah Brooke's Birdwing
	Papilio demoleus	Lime Butterfly
	Arisbe sarpedon sarpedon	Common Bluebottle
	Arisbe doson evemonides	Common Jay
	Balignina neptunus doris	Common Neptune
	Troides amphrysus flavicollis	Golden Birdwing
Pieridae		
Pierinae	Leptosia nina malayana	Psyche Butterfly
	Appias paulina athena	White Albatross
	Saletara panda distanti	Triangle White
	Catopsilia scylla cornelia	Yellow Imigrant
	Eurema hecabe hecabe	Common Grass Yellow
	Eurema blanda blanda	Three Spot Grass Yellow
	Eurema simulatrix tecmesa	Hill Grass Yellow
	Eurema nicevillei nicevillei	Banded Grass Yellow
	Gandaca harina elis	Tree Yellow
	Pareronia valeria lutescens	Wanderer

Family/Subfamily	Scienfic Name	Common Name
Nymphalidae		
Danainae	Euploea diocletianus lowii	Magpie Crow
	Euploea mulciber portia	Striped Blue Crow
	Ideopsis vulgaris interposita	Blue Glassy Tiger
	Parantica agleoides borneensis	Black Tiger
	Parantica aspasia aspasia	Yellow Glassy Tiger
Satyrinae	Elymnias hypermnestra nigrescens	Common Palmfly
	Amathusia phidippus phidippus	Palm King
	Discophora necho cheops	Great Duffer
	Coelites euptychioides euptychioides	
	Faunis canens borneensis	Common Faun
	Faunis stomphax stomphax	Banded Faun
	Mycalesis anapita fucentia	Common Bush Orange
	Mycalesis fuscum adustata	Malayan Bush Brown
	Mycalesis horsfieldi hermana	Horsfield's Bush Brown
	Mycalesis mineus macromalayana	Dark Brand Bush Brown
	Mycalesis orseis borneensis	Purple Bush Brown
	Orsotriaena medus medus	Dark Grass Brown
	Thaumanthis odona panwila	Blue-banded Jungle Glory
	Ypthima baldus selinuntius	Common Five-Ring
	Ypthima fasciata fasciata	Malayan Six-Ring
	Ypthima pandocus sertorius	Common Three-Ring
	Zeuxidia amethystus wallacei	Common Saturn
Nymphalinae	Vindula erota montana	Common Cruiser
	Vindula dejone dejone	Malay Cruiser
	Cirrochroa satellita satellita	
	Cethosia hypsea hypsea	Malayan Lacewing
	Junonia atlites atlites	Grey Pansy
	Junonia orithya metion	Blue Pansy
	Hypolimnas anomala anomala	Malayan Egg-fly
	Hypolimnas bolina philippensis	Great Egg-fly
	Neptis hylas sopatra	Common Sailor
	Neptis duryodana duryodana	Malayan Sailer
	Pandita sinope sinope	Colonel

Family/Subfamily	Scienfic Name	Common Name
Nymphalidae		
Nymphalinae	Athyma kanwa kanwa	Dot-dash Sergeant
	Athyma nefte subrata	Colour Sergeant
	Athyma pravara pravara	Lance Sergeant
	Athyma reta reta	Malay Staff Sergeant
	Moduza procris agnata	The Commander
	Tanaecia clathrata coerulescens	Violet-bordered Viscount
	Tanaecia pelea djataca	Malay Viscount
	Euthalia godarti vacillaria	
	Euthalia iapis ambalika	Horsfield's Baron
	Bassarona dunya monara	Great Marquis
	Lexias dirtea chalcenoides	Black Tipped Archduke
	Lexias pardalis dirteana	Archduke
	Charaxes bernardus repititus	Tawny Rajah
	Cupha erymanthis erymanthis	Rustic
Lycaenidae		
Lycaeninae	Arhopala epimuta	Common Disc Oakblue
	Jamides lugine	

Species Composition of Beetles

A total of 62 species of beetles from 53 genera and representing 22 families, were documented (Table 2). The family Scarabaeidae with 14 species (22.6%) represented the most speciose family recorded. Out of these, the largest Three-horned beetle in Borneo, with 50-115 mm in length, *Chalcosoma moellenkampi* is a Bornean endemic. This commonly encountered species occurs in lowland to montane forests.

Figure 1

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Velinus nigrigenu (Hemiptera: Harpactorinae) is an assassin bug from the family Reduviidae, which is considered the main predaceous family of the Hemiptera. This species is widely distributed in Sarawak and is almost similar to *Cosmolestes picticeps* in colouration. © Photo: Ratnawati Hazali

Table 2

LIST OF BEETLE SPECIES RECORDED IN BUKIT DURANG HCVF.

▼

Family	Scientific Name	Family	Scientific Name
Attelabidae	Apoderus sp.	Endomychidae	Parindalmus quadrilunatus
Bostrichidae	Rhizopertha dominica	Erotylidae	Encaustes sp.
Carabidae	Cicindela sumatrensis	Languriidae	Pachylanguria sp.
	Cicindela sp.	Lampyridae	Pteroptyx sp.
	Cosmodela aurulenta	Lucanidae	Aegus chelifer
	Cosmodela versicolor		<i>Aegus</i> sp.
	Pheropsophus occipitalis		Ceruchus sp.
Cerambycidae	Olenecamptus bilobus		Prosopocoilus occipitalis
	Pterolophia melanura	Nitidulidae	Carpophilus sp.
	<i>Ropica</i> sp.	Passalidae	Aceraius sp.
	Trirachys orientalis	Rutelidae	Mimela maculicollis
Cetoniidae	Glycyphana	Scarabaeidae	Adoretus compressus
Cetomade	quadricolor sinuata		Anomala concha
	Euselates cineracea		Anomala matricula
	Euselates sp.		Anomala viridis
Chrysomelidae	Aulacophora flavomarginata		Apogonia expeditionis
	Chrysolina sp.		Apogonia destructor
	Dicladispa armigera		Apogonia minor
	Lema pectoralis		Chalcosoma caucasus
	<i>Lilioceris</i> sp.		Chalcosoma moellenkampi
	<i>Monolepta</i> sp.		Dipelicus borneensis
	Promecotheca nuciferae		Exopholis hypoleuca
Cleridae	Necrobia rufipes		Oryctes rhinoceros
Coccinellidae	Coccinella arcuate		Rhomborrhina splendida
	Henosepilachna		Serica sp.
Curculionidae	vigintioctopunctata	Staphylinidae	Paederus sp.
Curculionidae	Sitophilus granaries		<i>Scopaeus</i> sp.
Duringina	Hypomeces squamosus	Tenebrionidae	Tenebroides mauritanicus
Dytiscidae	Copelatus tenebrosus		Tribolium castaneum
Elateridae	Anchastus sp.		Uloma orientalis
	Agrypnus sp.		
	Melanotus sp.		
	Melanoxanthus sp.		

Species Composition of True Bugs

A total of four families, four subfamilies, nine genera and 10 species of true bugs were sampled during this study (Table 3). The family Reduviidae with seven species represented the most diverse family recorded.

Table 3

LIST OF TRUE BUG SPECIES RECORDED IN BUKIT DURANG HCVF.

Family/Subfamilly	Scienfic Name
Alydidae	
Micrelytrinae	Leptocorisa acuta
Reduviidae	
Harpactorinae	Astinus nebulo
	Cosmolestes picticeps
	Coranus fuscipennis
	Velinus nigrigenu
	Sycanus macracanthus
	<i>Sycanus</i> sp.
	Polididus armatissimus
Pentatomidae	
Pentatominae	Tolumnia maxima
Pyrrhochoridae	
Pyrrhochorinae	Dysdercus sp.

Figure 2

The Apogonia expeditionis (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) is a common polyphagous beetle with a length between 9 to 10 mm. This beetle is a pest in oil palm plantations where the adults are known to show irregular chewing on some portions on the edges of the leaves. The species is also known to eat other plant material other than oil palm trees. This species is exclusively nocturnal, feeding all through the night and burying themselves at sunrise. © Photo: Isaac Stia Marcellinus



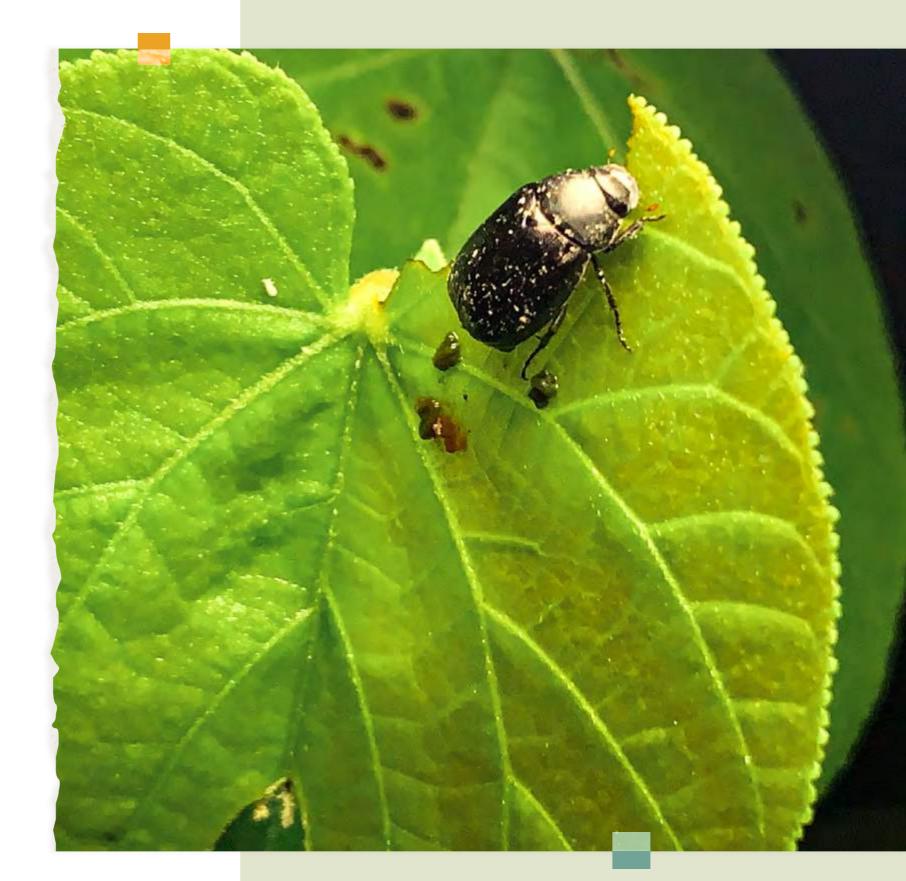


Figure 3

Apogonia expeditionis (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) © Photo: Siti Nurlydia Sazali

Conclusion

Overall, the documentation of three insect groups, namely, butterflies (Lepidoptera), beetles (Coleoptera) and true bugs (Hemiptera) in Bukit Durang High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) during multiple sampling occasions has been successfully achieved. It is recommended that further studies should consider other trapping methods such as the Malaise trap, pitfall trap, intercept panel trap and sticky trap which could potentially increase the capture rates of other insect species. Hopefully, the species accounts presented in this pilot project could be useful as a preliminary checklist which could be a kick-start to initiate more comprehensive studies in discovering other insects within Bornean forests.

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Bukit Durang Conservation Area provides opportunities for research and education for better understanding the ecology and to create awareness among stakeholders in Sarawak.

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