

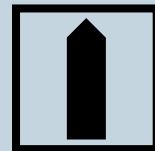
IBEC BULLETIN

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COMMUNITY-DRIVEN UNIVERSITY

Prof. Dr Wong Sin Yeng (Editor)
Prof. Dr Mohd. Azlan Jayasilan (Advisor)
Prof. Dr Indraneil Das (Advisor)

Front cover: The Sleeping Beauty of Bau, Kuching. @Wong SY

Welcoming Remarks 2024



As the Director of this esteemed institution, I am deeply honored to lead a community dedicated to the preservation and exploration of tropical biodiversity and environmental conservation. At IBEC, we recognize the urgent need for interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative solutions to safeguard the delicate balance of ecosystems within tropical regions. Through cutting-edge research, rigorous academic programs, and meaningful community engagement, we strive to foster a deeper understanding of the intricate relationships between biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and human well-being. As we embark on this collective journey, I invite each of you to join us in our pursuit of knowledge, conservation, and positive change. Whether you are a researcher pushing the boundaries of scientific inquiry, a student eager to explore the wonders of tropical ecology, or a partner committed to supporting our mission, your contributions are integral to our success.

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Program Raikan Kasih, Ikhlas Ramadan

22nd March. Students from the Animal Resource Science and Management Programme (ARSM) Unimas Zoology, FRST and IBEC jointly organised the “Bubur Lambuk” Program (Program Raikan Kasih, Ikhlas Ramadan) in anticipation of the Ramadan month of 2024. The event, held at LG, FRST for cooking and the FRST Lobby for distribution, aimed to foster stronger bonds among students post-pandemic. This initiative, a longstanding tradition of the ARSM program for over a decade, reflects the spirit of community and tradition during the holy month.



Creating a Relaxing Environment



Sumbangsaan Majlis Dekan 2024

Sumbangsaan MDekan 2024 was a triumph, held from 7th to 10th March at Mercure Hotel, Miri. Graced by the presence of the Chairperson of the University Board, University Main Management, Deans, Directors, Senior Officers, Association Representatives, Student Representatives, and Administration. All presentations were successfully delivered by our esteemed representatives.



Another milestone unlocked!



Sending a huge congratulations to Ms. Soon Vivian for earning her Master of Science confirmation awards. Your determination and commitment inspire us all. Here's to the next chapter of success!

Utsunomiya Chuo High School, Japan



8th March. IBEC had the honor of hosting a group of students from Utsunomiya Chuo High School, Japan. They were graciously welcomed by IBEC Deputy Director, Prof. Dr. Wong Sin Yeng, who delivered warm welcoming remarks along with a short introduction to IBEC and a talk on biodiversity. The Japanese students also shared their presentation on the vision of city development in Utsunomiya City. To conclude the short visit, they then proceeded to the IBEC Suite at Innotech Hub to experience the diversity of flora and fauna in Borneo.



Welcome to the wet tropics!



KUBAH NATIONAL PARK

9th march. Students from Utsunomiya Chuo High School visited Kubah National Park the next day! Prof. Neil and Prof. Wong jointly led the students to the Frog Pond. Students were thrilled by the Bornean fauna and flora!

Minister of Higher Education to Inno-Tech HUB

Lawatan YB Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir, Menteri Pendidikan Tinggi Malaysia ke InnoTech HUB sempena Program Semarak Kampus Madani Zon Sarawak pada 5 Mac 2024.



Program Semarak Kampus Madani





Inside Out : Niah Caves

With diverse flora and fauna, experts from all around work tirelessly in conducting studies on Niah's biodiversity. The experts for this episode take viewers on an adventure as we hike through the forests and caves to learn more about the

Our National Park

Inside Out: Niah Caves showcases the rich biodiversity of Niah through expert-led adventures in forests and caves. Viewers learn about unique plants and animals and the importance of preserving Niah's natural beauty.

**INSIDE OUT:
NIAH CAVES**
THE FULL CIRCLE

INSIDE OUT : NIAH CAVES | EP 4
28 February 2024, Wednesday, 10:30 PM
Channel 122 MYTV, Unifi TV & Astro

www.tvsarawak.my

Postgraduate Research Methodology

21 February. IBEC's Postgraduate Research Methodology Presentation showcased the work of 4 PhD and 5 MSc students. Each student presented their research methodologies with precision and scholarly insight, demonstrating a commitment to rigorous academic inquiry.



Welcome Ms. Sheridan



Welcome to Ms. Ciara Sheridan from Deakin University, Australia. Ciara is undertaking a student attachment at IBEC under the supervision of Prof. Dr Mohd Azlan Jayasilan.



*AUTHOR:
BASIL HAILSWARD*

Congratulations Mr. Nazaruddin Hamlet on your promotion!

European Union Ambassadors



Official Visit of European Union Ambassadors on 15 February 2024 at BEC Suite, InnoTech Hub.

MQA Accreditation: Internal Audit

05th February 2024

MQA Postgraduate Accreditation visit by Prof. Dr. Mohd bin Makmor Bakry and Assoc. Prof Dr Malina Jasamai from UKM to IBEC.



Embarrassed flowers and forest ornaments — *Aeschynanthus* and *Agalmyla* on Borneo

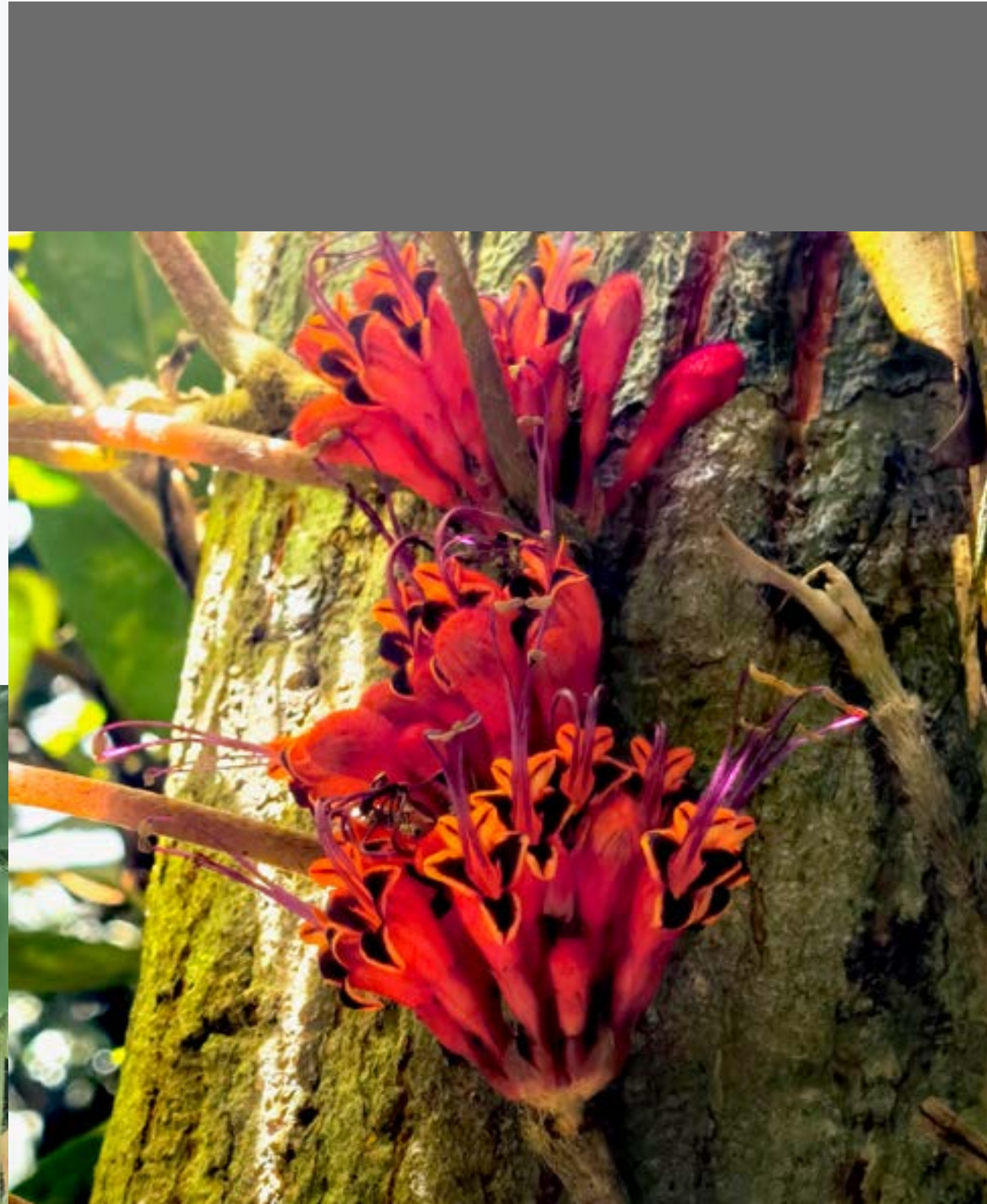
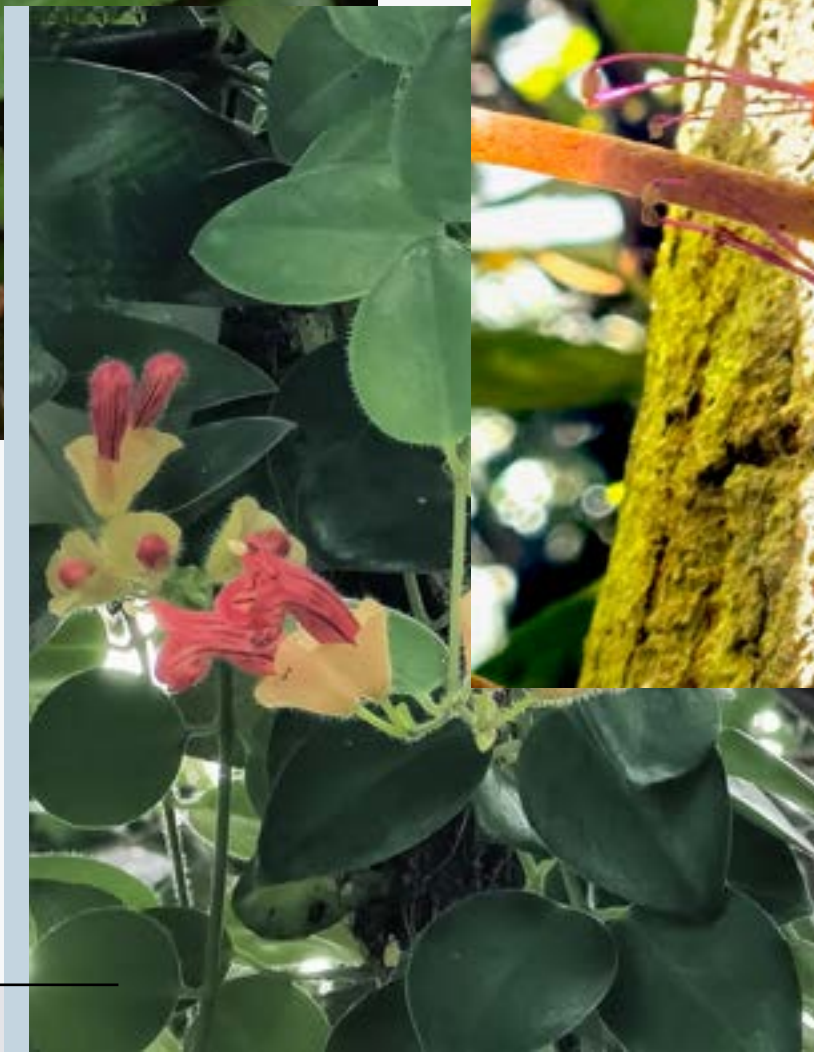
Wong Sin Yeng

Over the past couple of years, I have often been spied walking in the woods staring at tree-trunks – an somewhat unusual occupation for someone more familiarly seen inspecting the forest floor or clambering along rocky streambanks for aroids, or scanning the forest canopy for fruiting dipterocarps. The reason for this change in behaviour is a project to work on Bornean *Aeschynanthus*, a genus of the Gesneriaceae — to which family belong the florists' gloxinias (selected peloric-flowered hybrids of the genus *Sinningia*), *Streptocarpus*, and closer to home the remarkable *Monophyllaea* — and which despite highly attractive flowers has remarkably received very little attention here, although their much less-well-known sister genus, *Agalmyla*, was monographed in 2002 by the prodigiously productive husband and wife team of Olive Hilliard and Bill Burtt. Bornean *Aeschynanthus*, to date with twenty-six species recorded which, allowing for some likely over-zealous synonymizing, probably

means about thirty species with published names, were with the exception one was described in 1975, three were described in the 1990s, very largely published in the 19th Century, eight before 1850, and a further seven in 1883 by C.B. Clarke, a botanist best-known for his work on Cyperaceae and instrumental in bringing improved understanding of the Gesneriaceae, while also remembered for succumbing to “internal inflammation caused by excessive bicycling”.

By comparison, *Agalmyla*, much less commonly met with in the field, has fourteen species on Borneo, of which eight (about 57%!) were described in the 2002 monograph. On this basis it is not unreasonable to expect *Aeschynanthus* on Borneo to settle eventually somewhere around sixty species, well in line with the Philippines (thirty-seven species), New Guinea, also under-described, with forty-three species, and markedly higher, as to be expected, that Peninsular Malaysia (seventeen species), Jawa (thirteen species), and Sumatera (nineteen species).

Two years of cricked-neck stumbling have resulted in leaf samples of about 50 *Aeschynanthus* accessions, of which less than ten have been possible to identify with certainty to species, and which along with a few *Agalmyla* provide a starting point for Gina Elisa Kyntha Anak Richard's final year project, due to be converted to a Masters, to generate a framework of relatedness that it is hoped, as the name blanks begin to be filled in, will enable better understanding of which species are here, which are described, and which have yet to be given a formal name.



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Lipstick vines

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IBEC

Bulletin

Vision: To become a globally-recognized research center for biodiversity and environmental conservation.

Mission: To generate and disseminate knowledge in tropical biodiversity and environmental conservation, thereby supporting sustainable use of natural resources.

We welcome submission of articles on Bornean biodiversity. Please submit your article to Wong Sin Yeng, sywong@unimas.my



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