

Heart of Borneo Series **8**

Monograph of Expeditions

LONG BANGA & ADJACENT AREA



ORCHIDS OF LONG BANGA

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Abstract

*A total of 150 specimens were collected from 6 sites (3 trails and 3 non-trails) in Long Banga forests and they were identified into 118 species. Most of the species documented were epiphytes including an endemic giant orchid, *Dimorphorchis lowii* and a member of the most appreciated orchid as agricultural crop, *Vanilla cf. havilandii*. In addition, 15 terrestrials and 3 saprophytes namely *Aphyllorchis montana*, *Cystorchis stenoglossa* and *Gastrodia javanica* were also documented during the study. Seventeen species were identified as new records for Sarawak.*

Introduction

Long Banga is a remote sub-montane forest located in Ulu Baram, Sarawak. The virgin forest is characterized by similar vegetation as in Bario Highland (Beaman *et al.* 2001) and relatively low ambient temperature as been compared to other regions in the state. A small community of Saban tribe who acted as the guardian of the forest described that this ecological complex to be rich in flora and fauna and haboured many orchid species. However, illegal forest exploitation and excessive logging had caused rapid deterioration to the orchid habitat.