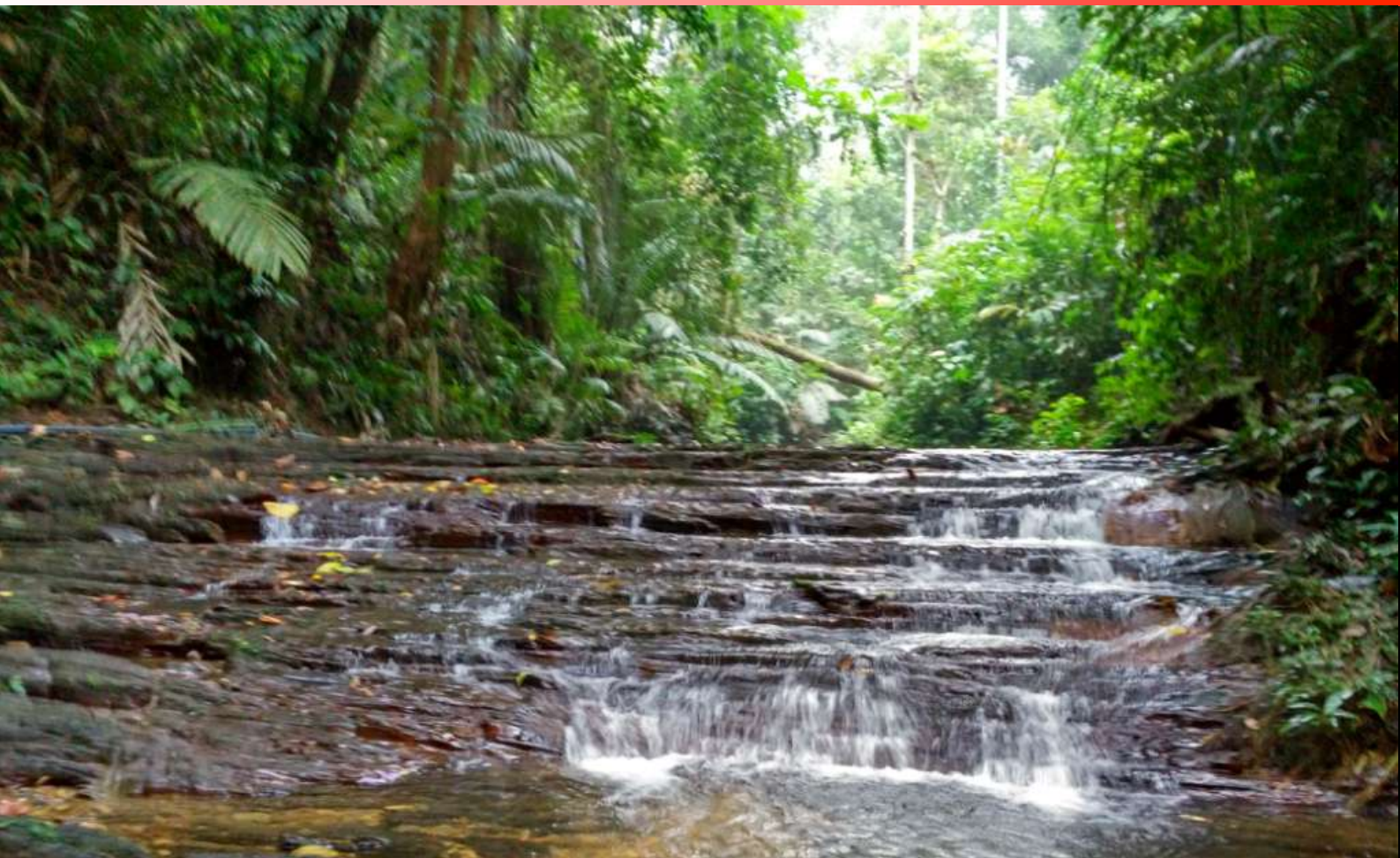




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Editorial Advisors:

Assoc. Prof. Dr Mohd. Azlan Jayasilan bin  
Abdul Gulam Azad

Prof. Dr Indraneil Das

Please submit all materials for inclusion to the  
Editor.

Enquiries:

Telephone: +6082-582932

Email: sywong@unimas.my

Website:

<http://www.ibec.unimas.my/research>

<https://ir.unimas.my/id/eprint/33328/>

**FRGS GRANTS 2020**

By  
**Mohd Azlan Jayasilan**

IBEC has recently secured three projects under Fundamental Research Grant Scheme 2020, amounting to RM387,600.00. Congratulations to all!

Project: FRGS/1/2020/WAB11/UNIMAS/02/3. Principal investigator: AP Dr Mohd Azlan Jayasilan.

Title: The role of Pteropodid bats in pollination of native durian species (*Durio* spp.) in managed orchards in Sarawak.

Approximately 79% of Bornean *Durio* spp. is found in Sarawak (15 species). However, there are very few attempts to investigate on the relationships of *Durio* with its primary pollinators, bats (Pteropodidae). This study will focus on investigating the floral biology and pollination strategy of selected native *Durio* spp. Field observations such as flowering time, period of anthesis, presence of visitors, and confirmation on the role of pollinators will be conducted. Several controlled pollination experiments (open pollination, autogamic pollination, and hand pollination) will be carried out to confirm *Durio* breeding system. Molecular phylogenetic analysis will be carried out to investigate the relatedness among *Durio* spp. and bats separately to determine if there is a correlation among the plant hosts and its pollinators. The project is expected to produce evidence of the dependency of *Durio* spp. on bats for fruit set success. Therefore understanding wildlife pollinators to an economically important plant species and critical services to the ecosystem, society livelihoods and the mutual relationship are vital for management and conservation of both the mutually dependent species.



*Durio kutejensis*



Fruit bat