

The BIODIVERSITY
of a
PEAT SWAMP
Forest in Sarawak

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Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
Kota Samarahan
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THE AMPHIBIAN FAUNA

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ABSTRACT.— Observations on amphibians were made at the peat swamp forests backing the temporary campus of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, over a period of three years (1998, 1999 and 2002), with five days of collection made in each year. Transect lines were used to sample the frogs which were captured by hand. A total of 12 species and 256 individuals were captured. The family Ranidae (66% of individuals) dominated, followed by Rhacophoridae (6%) and Bufonidae (28%). *Rana erythraea* (102 individuals) and *Bufo melanostictus* (69 individuals) dominated the lakes while *R. baramica* (20 individuals) dominated the forest. There was a significant difference in the number of individuals captured among sampling periods (Kruskal Wallis test, $H = 5.089$, $P = 0.079$, $df = 2$) indicating that the number of individuals caught was significantly higher prior to the development of a new hostel complex and sport centre. However, diversity of frog species was low ($H = 2.68$), compared to other forest types, and comparable to other peat swamp forests. Species found were nearly identical to those of other peat swamp forests and no new species or endemism was noted.

KEYWORDS.— Frog diversity, Ranidae, Rhacophoridae, Bufonidae, UNIMAS.

INTRODUCTION

Little is known of amphibians inhabiting peat swamp forests, probably due to the fact that swamps are neither easy nor comfortable places to work in. The high acidity of