Rare discovery of Rafflesia keithii in Sabah

POSTED ON JULY 14, 2022, THURSDAY AT 11:15 AM — SABAH

Research assistant Jeisin Jumian poses next to the rare Rafflesia keithii in the Silabukan Forest Reserve.

KOTA KINABALU (July 14): A Sabah Forestry Department stumbled upon a Rafflesia keithii in full bloom while conducting a forest inventory in the Silabukan Forest Reserve, some 50 km east of Lahad Datu.

ADVERTISEMENT

Endemic to Borneo, R. keithii is the largest of three species of Rafflesias found in Sabah.

This new discovery is considered rare and exciting because the species has never been recorded this far east of Sabah, according to Dr Joan Pereira, a senior botanist at the Forest Research Centre in Sandakan.

The easternmost record of Rafflesia in Sabah is a lone record from the Danum Valley Conservation Area.

Botanical records show R. keithii occurring primarily on the west coast of Sabah (i.e. along the Crocker Range, Tambunan, Kota Marudu, and the Ranau area, including the Kinabalu Park) at altitudes ranging from 250-940 m.

The spectacular bloom in Silabukan measured 47 cm in diameter and was growing on volcanic soil at an altitude of 630 m.

An unopened Rafflesia bud was also observed next to the open flower, whilst another bud was found some 20 m away. The host plant of this parasitic species was identified as Tetrastigma diepenhorstii. All Rafflesias depend on host plants from the genus Tetrastigma.

ADVERTISEMENT

The jubilant field team from the Forestry Department was carrying out a forest inventory in the Silabukan Forest Reserve as part of a collaboration with WWF Malaysia to establish a landcover monitoring system for the larger Tabin landscape, covering about 450,000 ha. Apart from providing information on floristic composition and soils, Datuk Frederick Kugan, the Chief Conservator of Forests said the Forestry Department expects to produce a high resolution carbon stock map for the Tabin landscape as an output of the inventory.

Kugan congratulated the field team for the interesting find, saying that it highlights the importance of the Silabukan FR as a Class I Protection Forest.

PREVIOUS ARTICLE
ShopeeFood now delivering in Kota Kinabalu!

NEXT ARTICLE
Borneo Cultural Festival food stalls to begin operating tomorrow

RECOMMENDED POSTS

Malai Thai
Ad Malai Thai Cuisine

Moving to, from or within Asia
Ad Asian Tigers Group

Freshen up your Rolex
Ad STRAP by STYX

A Gated & Guarded Enclave
Ad Sime Darby Property

21 Naughtiest Wedding Pictures
Ad Tips and Tricks

Simply Hamper Online - Free Delivery Within Singapore
Ad simply-hamper.com

Garden Sunflower Seeds - Purchase Now
Ad sunflowerselections.com

Purchase Yeelight with Atome
Ad Yeelight Malaysia

TRENDING

Business - July 13, 2022
China's Trina wins tender for Sarawak's first floating solar photovoltaic project

Crime, Sarawak - July 13, 2022
Jobless Dalat druggie nabbed at Mukah car park

Sarawak - July 13, 2022
Premier: Sarawak to commission Singaporean firm to plan Greater Kuching's urban regeneration

Health & Environment - July 13, 2022
'Bak kut teh' can potentially cause liver damage when mixed with medication, finds Australian study

Business - July 13, 2022
Samsung Engineering wins US$680 mln EPCC contract from Sarawak Shell

Sarawak - July 13, 2022
Come to Bidayuh Mystique Festival to savour Bidayuh culture, arts and cuisine

Sarawak - July 13, 2022
Miri man shocked to find rat snake in house living room

Sarawak - July 13, 2022
Businessman donates cattle for 'korban' to Telaga Air folks

Brunei/Kalimantan, Sarawak - July 13, 2022
Premier: Sarawak to help Indonesia build new capital Nusantara

Sarawak - July 13, 2022
S'wak Energy: Strong winds, heavy rain behind Miri's prolonged electricity supply interruption

Copyright © 2010-2022 The Borneo Post Sdn Bhd. All Rights Reserved.

Privacy - Terms