

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ANT DISTRIBUTION CHECKLIST

<http://www.frim.gov.my/CHM/Member.html>

INTRODUCTION

Classified under family Formicidae in the order Hymenoptera, the family comprises of more than 9000 described species and 296 genera under 22 subfamilies worldwide (Bolton 1994). Ants are an interesting arthropod and an ideal species for biodiversity studies (Andersen & Clay 1996). Living in colony and having unique social hierarchial system, they plays a huge role in the forest ecosystem such as predator, turnover of soil, nutrient carrier and as environment manipulator (Gunadi & Verhoef 1993). Studies show that the ant community is very sensitive to environmental changes whereas minor environmental changes may cause major alteration in ant community ecology (Majer 1983; Andersen 1997). Their dominancy and high diversity throughout the world makes it as an interesting species to study.

In Malaysia, there are still scant researches conducted in this area especially in Peninsular Malaysia (Bruhl 2001; Bruhl et al. 2003; Widodo et al. 2004). Being among 12th mega-biodiversity countries, it is very crucial to unmask the mystery of this invertebrate. Species checklist is currently available online for Borneo region and this project will try to compile distribution checklist of ants in Peninsular Malaysia. The current ant database is based on surveys that have been conducted in several selected virgin forests in Peninsular Malaysia. However identification process is still on-going and the result will be uploaded into the database from time to time. Ants collected were identified to species and morphospecies level.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This biodiversity assessment was conducted under the Conservation of Biological Diversity through Improved Forest Planning Tools Project (FRIM-UNDP-GEF-ITTO) that will address the issue of better forest management in production forests through the creation of decision making tools. This project was carried out to develop tools that will allow policy makers to incorporate ecological and economic aspects into forest production systems. These tools will then help policy makers in arriving at an optimized solution to managing forests in the most sustainable way. Most importantly decision making tools created here can be applied in other tropical countries. For more information, please visit CBioD Project website: <http://www.cbiod.org/home/>.

ABBREVIATION AND KEYS

FR : Forest Reserve

Symbol	Abundance
+	1 to 1
++	2 to 5
+++	6 to 10
++++	11 to 20
+++++	21 to 50
++++++	>50

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