

A phytosociological study on the community of *Palaquium gutta* (Hook.f.) Baill. (Sapotaceae) at Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Selangor, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

A phytosociological study on the flora and vegetation community of *Palaquium gutta* (Hook.f.) Baill. was carried out in Compartment 13 of Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Selangor. The main objectives of this study were to identify, characterize and classify the *P. gutta* community which is naturally distributed in Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve. A total of 10 plots (30×30 m in size) were constructed according to the line transect method. The vegetation sampling and data analysis were done according to the Braun-Blanquet approach. The results showed that there were 59 species belonging to 54 genera and 34 families in the form of herbs, shrubs, understorey trees and also canopy tree layers. The most common species in the study area were *P. gutta* and *Endospermum diadenum* (Miq.) Airy Shaw. The phytosociological study identified a community of *Palaquium gutta*-*Endospermum diadenum* along with two sub-communities known as *Dracaena* sp. sub-community and *Streblus elongatus* sub-community. The results also showed that most of the species belong to the Euphorbiaceae. This indicates that the forest is a secondary forest.

Keyword: Braun-Blanquet; *Endospermum diadenum*; *Palaquium gutta*; Phytosociology; Vegetation community