



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**RADIATION INTERCEPTION BY  
LOWLAND TROPICAL FOREST AND  
PRODUCTIVITY OF ITS THREE TREE  
SPECIES**

**AHMAD MAKMOM BIN HJ ABDULLAH**

**FSAS 1997 21**

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**JULY 1997**



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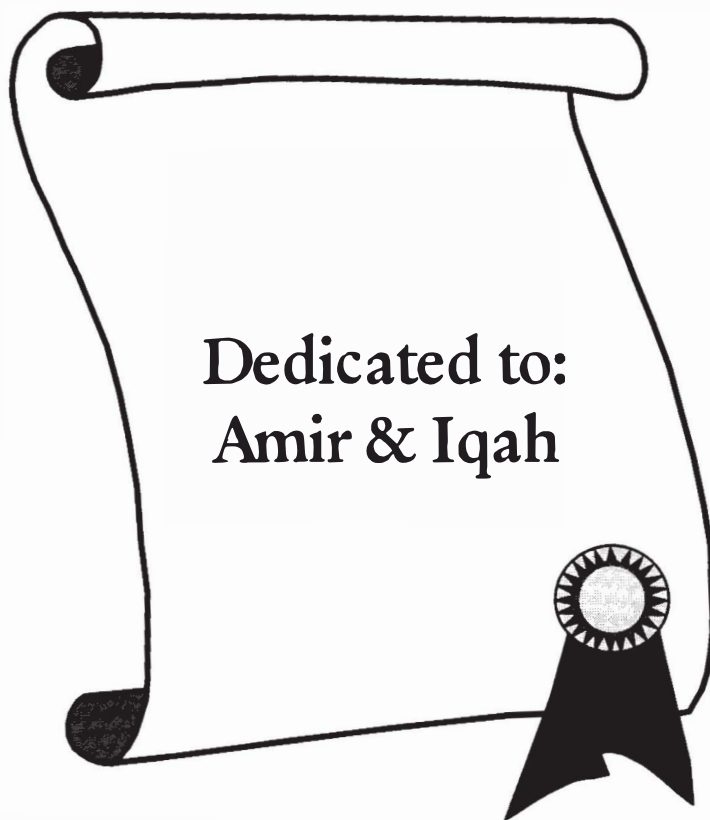
By

**AHMAD MAKMOM BIN HJ ABDULLAH**

Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of  
Science and Environmental Studies,  
Universiti Putra Malaysia.

July 1997





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

This is sheer Grace and Blessing of Allah that I am able to present a research manuscript on His creation. This is a humble attempt to describe His creation.

I wish to express my deepest sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. Muhamad Awang, for his encouragement, advice, guidance, friendship, and for providing me with all the facilities, instruments and open up the research world for me to understand. He faithfully reminded me to be sincere in carrying out my work and doing so in life. He also send me to training programs abroad to broaden my knowledge, friendship, and experiences and get the impression at the international scale of researches and education. I would also like to express my deepest thanks to Dr. Akio Furukawa from National Institute For Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan, for his guidance, friendship, advice, helpfulness, and kindly reading this manuscript and for everything he has done for me in many ways. His strict criticisms always scare me but at the same time push me to my maximum efforts to produce my best. I am indebted to the Tropical Ecophysiological Program between (NIES-UPM-FRIM). Special thanks to Dr. Ogawa, Dr. Hagihara for allowing me to work with them and taught me all the field work and measurement techniques. I also thank FRIM for allowing me to work at Pasoh Forest Reserve and use the instruments and facilities. I extend my thanks to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saberi Osman, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamis Awang and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Abdul Ghani for their valuable time reading this manuscript.



I would also like to express my gratitude to the Head of Departments of Environmental Science, UPM, for allowing me to do my studies in the Department and used all the facilities. Special thanks and to all my colleagues at the Department of Environmental Science for their cooperation and encouragement.

I wish to express many thanks to my family for their sacrifices, understanding, patience and toleration especially my wife during the preparation of the manuscript. I will never be able to carry out my work without the support of my beloved wife. Thank you for being my friend, victim of my anger, sadness and help me to complete my thesis. I would like to thank my mother for encouraging me to continue my studies, members of my family whom constantly concern with my studies.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Symbol		Unit
$A_L$	Leaf area	(cm <sup>2</sup> )
$C_i$	CO <sub>2</sub> concentration in the leaf intercellular spaces	(mol mol <sup>-1</sup> )
$d$	Day length or photoperiod	(hour)
$D_L$	Longitudinal diameter of leaf	(cm)
$D_W$	Width diameter of leaf	(cm)
$E$	Energy	(Joule mol <sup>-1</sup> )
$f$	Flow of air	(mol s <sup>-1</sup> )
$g_s$	Stomatal conductance to CO <sub>2</sub>	(mol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$h$	Planck's constant	(6.6 x10 <sup>-34</sup> J.s)
$I$	Light radiation	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$I_{comp}$	Light radiation at photosynthetic compensation point	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$I_{max}$	Maximum light radiation	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$I_l$	Mean light flux density falling on leaves	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$I_o$	Light radiation at top of the canopy	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$I_p$	Mean light flux density on the plane	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$k$	Extinction coefficient	
$LAI$	Leaf Area Index	(cm <sup>2</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> )
$P$	Photosynthesis	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$PAR$	Photosynthetic Active Radiation	(W m <sup>-2</sup> )
$P_g$	Gross photosynthesis	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$P_m$	The asymptote value of $P$ at saturating irradiance	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
PPFD	Photon Flux Density	(μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$R$	Respiration	
$RI$	Relative irradiance	(W m <sup>-2</sup> )
$RGR$	Relative Growth Rate	(kg day <sup>-1</sup> )
$s$	Leaf area inside the assimilation chamber	(cm <sup>2</sup> )
$T$	Temperature	(°C)

$t$	time	(hour)
$\nu$	Frequency of light	
$V$	Velocity of light	(m s <sup>-1</sup> )
$W_{LA}$	Dry weight of leaf	(g. dry wt.)
$\mu$	micron	
$\lambda$	Light wavelength	
$\Phi$	Total radiation emitted per unit area per unit time	
$\varepsilon$	Constant	
$\sigma$	Stefan Boltzman constant	(5.7x10 <sup>-8</sup> Wm <sup>-2</sup> K <sup>-4</sup> )
$\pi$	Phi	
$\Delta\text{CO}_2$	Differences in CO <sub>2</sub> concentration	(mol mol <sup>-1</sup> )
$\alpha$	Photosynthetic efficiency	(mol mol <sup>-1</sup> )
$\theta$	Rate of the curvature line	

Abstract of thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

**RADIATION INTERCEPTION BY TROPICAL LOWLAND  
EVERGREEN RAIN FOREST AND PRODUCTIVITY OF ITS  
THREE TREE SPECIES**

By

**AHMAD MAKMOM BIN HJ ABDULLAH**

**JULY 1997**

**Chairman : Prof. Dr. Muhamad Bin Awang**

**Faculty : Science and Environmental Studies**

The present study was conducted at Pasoh Forest Reserve, located in Negeri Sembilan Malaysia, at about 2°59'N and 102°18'E. The aims of the study were to determine the light environment in the lowland tropical forest and the light interception by the forest canopy and to understand the physiological responses of those selected species to different light in relation to their growth performances. Photon flux densities in different microsites and a clearing within a lowland evergreen tropical forest has been measured and compared between dry and rainy seasons under various of weather conditions. Measurements of PFD were monitored continuously at 5 min intervals over 14-29 day period using quantum sensors under the understorey, small gap, medium gap, big gap and open area. Vertical distribution of PFDs at different height levels of 52 m, 42 m, 33 m, 23 m, 19 m, 14 m, 7 m and on the forest floor were also measured. Daily



average PFD, total daily PFD and average daily frequency distribution were analyzed. Daily total PFD in the open area, big gap, medium gap, small gap and understorey sites during the rainy season of November to January 1992 were 51-55, 17.8, 8.1, 8 and 4.51 %, of the daily total PFD recorded in the clearing, respectively. Daily total PFD in the big gap during the dry season was on the average 2 times lower than during the rainy season. In the clearing, high proportion of 5-min average was greater than  $500 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ , while in the medium, small gaps and understorey, were between 10 and  $50 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ . On diurnal basis, there were high variations in PFD distributions at canopy height of 42 and 52 m during the midday. Mid canopy showed high variations in PFD during the study period. The highest daily total PFD recorded at 52 m was  $50 \text{ mol m}^{-2}$  and the lowest value was found to be at the forest floor. The canopy of the emergent at 33 m height intercepted more than 50% of PFD.

*In situ* growth experiments were carried out by establishing uniform sized seedlings of *Shorea leprosula* and *Neobalanocarpus heimii* in each microsite. Diurnal photosynthesis and growth performances were measured accordingly. Open area and big gap sites showed higher growth and photosynthetic rates. Photosynthetic light response curves of *S. leprosula* and *Neobalanocarpus heimii* seedlings grown inside the microsites were established. In addition, *P-I* response curves of *N. heimii* and *Dipterocarpus sublamellatus* canopy leaves were also established. The average photosynthetic light response parameters,  $\alpha$ ,  $P_{max}$ ,  $R$  and  $\theta$  which were calculated based on Thornley model. The  $\alpha$ ,  $P_{max}$ ,  $R$  and  $\theta$  in canopy leaves of *N. heimii* and *D.*



*sublamellatus* were 0.070 mol mol<sup>-1</sup>, 9 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, 0.445 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, 0.93 and 0.0312 mol mol<sup>-1</sup>, 8.875 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, 0.388 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, 0.938, respectively. While *S. leprosula* seedlings were 0.028 mol mol<sup>-1</sup>, 5.9 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, 0.375 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and 0.93, respectively. These values were then used in photosynthetic productivity simulation study by exploiting the PFD distribution records. The simulation study estimates the seasonal production of *S. leprosula* at different microsites and annual productivity of canopy leaves. The annual production of canopy leaves was estimated to be in the range of 40 and 44 ton ha yr<sup>-1</sup>.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Falsafah Kedoktoran.

**HADANGAN RADIASI OLEH HUTAN HUJAN TROPIKA MALAR HIJAU  
TANAH PAMAH DAN PRODUKTIVITI TIGA SPESIS POKOK**

Oleh

**AHMAD MAKMOM BIN HAJI ABDULLAH**

**JULY 1997**

**Pengerusi : Prof. Dr. Muhamad Awang**

**Fakulti : Sains dan Pengajian Alam Sekitar**

Kajian ini telah dijalankan di Hutan Simpanan Pasoh yang terletak di Negeri Sembilan, sekitar  $2^{\circ} 59'U$  dan  $102^{\circ}18'T$ . Matlamat kajian ini ialah untuk menentukan persekitaran cahaya di hutan tanah pamah tropika dan hadangan cahaya oleh kanopi hutan dan memahami tidakbalas fisiologi spesies-spesies yang telah terpilih terhadap cahaya yang berbeza-beza dalam hubungan pertumbuhan mereka. Densiti fluk foton di pelbagai tapak mikro dan satu kawasan terdedah di hutan hujan malar hijau tanah pamah tropika telah diukur dan dibandingkan diantara musim kering dan musim hujan di bawah pelbagai keadaan cuaca. Pengukuran DFF telah dijalankan dengan menggunakan pengukur kuantum di bawah lindungan, ruang terbuka kecil, besar dan kawasan terbuka. DFF telah diukur berterusan dengan selang masa 5 min selama tempoh di antara 14 hingga 29 hari bagi setiap lokasi. Taburan menegak DFF juga diukur pada ketinggian-ketinggian; 52 m, 42 m, 33 m, 23 m, 19 m, 14 m, 7 m, dan di lantai hutan. Purata harian DFF, jumlah harian dan taburan frekuensi purata harian telah dianalisis. Jumlah harian

DFF dikawasan terbuka besar, kecil dan dibawah lindungan ketika musim hujan dari November hingga Januari tahun 1992 adalah masing-masing diantara 51-55, 7-8, 8.1, 8 dan 4.51% berbanding dengan jumlah harian di kawasan terdedah. Jumlah harian DFF di ruang terbuka besar ketika musim kering adalah dua kali lebih rendah jika dibandingkan dengan musim hujan. Di kawsan terdedah sebahagian besar purata 5 min bacaan adalah melebihi  $500 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  di ruang kecil, sederhana dan di bawah lindungan sebahagian besar purata 5 min bacaan adalah di antara 10 hingga  $150 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ . Secara harian, terdapat perbezaan besar di waktu tengahari bagi taburan DFF di ketinggian kanopi 42 m dan 52 m. Pertengahan kanopi menunjukkan perbezaan yang tinggi dalam DFF semasa tempoh kajian. Jumlah harian DFF yang paling tinggi telah dicatitkan pada ketinggian 52 m adalah  $50 \text{ mol m}^{-2}$  dan nilai-nilai terendah telah dicatitkan di lantai hutan. Lebih daripada 50% DFF telah dihadang oleh kanopi puncak pada ketinggian 33 m.

Anak-anak pokok *S. leprosula* (Meranti Tembaga) yang bersaiz seragam di pupuk di dalam setiap tapak. Keadaan fotosintesis diurnal dan pertumbuhan telah diukur. Kawasan terbuka dan ruang terbuka besar telah menunjukkan kadar pertumbuhan dan fotosintesis yang tinggi. Garislengkung tindakbalas cahaya dan fotosintesis bagi anak-anak pokok *S. leprosula* dan *N. heimii* yang tumbuh ditapak-tapak kajian telah ditetapkan dan hubungan tindakbalas fotosintesis dan cahaya bagi daun kanopi juga telah ditetapkan. Purata paramter bagi tindakbalas fotosintesis iaitu  $\alpha$ ,  $P_{max}$ ,  $R$  dan  $\theta$  yang telah di kira berdasarkan model Thornley bagi anak-anak pokok *S.*

*leprosula* masing-masing adalah  $0.028 \text{ mol mol}^{-1}$ ,  $5.9 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $0.375 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  dan  $0.93$ . Nilai-nilai  $\alpha$ ,  $P_{max}$ ,  $R$  dan  $\theta$  bagi daun kanopi *N. heimii* dan *D. sublamellatus* adalah masing-masing  $0.0702 \text{ mol mol}^{-1}$ ,  $9 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $0.445 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $0.93$  dan  $0.0312 \text{ mol mol}^{-1}$ ,  $8.88 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $0.388 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  dan  $0.94$  juga telah dikira. Nilai-nilai ini telah digunakan dalam simulasi produktiviti fotosintesis menggunakan rekod tahunan DFF. Simulasi telah memberikan hasil musim bagi *S. leprosula* di pelbagai tapak-tapak kajian dan hasil tahunan daun kanopi. Hasil tahunan daun kanopi telah dianggarkan berada dalam julat daripada  $40$  hingga  $44 \text{ ton ha}^{-1}$  setahun.



## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### General Background

Forests have been regarded as highly valuable resources for a long period of man's history (Gareth, 1979). There were 18.88 million hectares of forest comprising 61.8% of the total land area of Malaysia in 1994 (Ismail, 1996). Out of this, 5.82 million hectares were in Peninsular Malaysia, 4.41 million hectares in Sabah and 8.65 million hectares in Sarawak. In terms of major forest types, 16.57 million hectares were classified as Dipterocarp forest, 1.72 million hectares as freshwater swamp and 0.59 million hectares as mangrove. Dipterocarp forest, which represented 87.8% of the total forested lands, consists of *Anisoptera*, *Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops*, *Hopea*, *Shorea* and *Parashorea* as dominant species. As of 1994, about 14.29 million hectares of forested land were earmarked as permanent forest estate. A total of 10.9 million hectares of the forest estate has been identified as productive and the remaining 3.39 million hectares as protective and amanate forest.

Earlier in 1993, about 19.1 m.ha (58%) of land area in Malaysia remained under forest cover, 9.0 m.ha (15%) was under other tree crops such as rubber, oil palm, cocoa and coconut plantation and 4.8 m.ha (27%) is other land uses. According to National Forest Policy, 14.01 m.ha or 73% of forested area were