

Ant diversity in a Peninsular Malaysian mangrove forest and oil palm plantation.

ABSTRACT

In Malaysia, it is a common practice to convert mangrove forests into agricultural plantations, especially oil palm. The study was carried out in Rembau, Peninsular Malaysia. A total of 9 species were found in the oil palm plantations & mangrove forests. The number of species found in each sampling plot was low: 3-4 for oil palm plots & 2-4 for mangrove forest plots. Four species (*Paratrechina* sp., *Cardiocondyla* sp., *Monomorium* sp. 2, & *Odontomachus simillimus*) found in the plantation plots were absent in the mangrove plots, while 2 (*Anoplolepis* sp. & *Pheidole* sp.) found in the mangrove plots were not detected in oil palm. The 2 species most frequent in mangroves (*Pseudolasius* sp. & *Euprenolepis* sp.) were rarer in the plantations.

Keyword: Ants; Oil palm; Mangrove forests; Peninsular Malaysia.