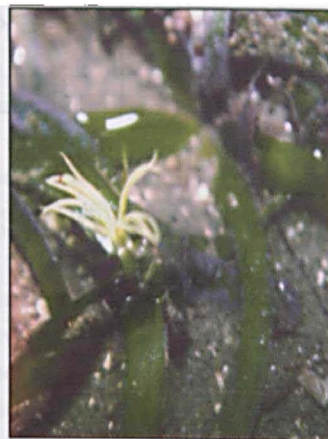


The Habit of Malaysian Seagrasses, their Flowers and Fruits



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Seagrasses are aquatic plants. Botanically they are classed within a family of monocotyledonous plants, the large sub-division of Angiosperms or flowering plants. They are grouped into 6 families; Hydrocharitaceae, Cymodoceaceae, Posidoniaceae, Ruppiaceae, Zannichelliaceae and Zosteraceae. Worldwide, there are 16 genera of seagrasses with 67 species. In the monograph, *Seagrasses of the World* by den Hartog (1970), records of Malaysian seagrasses were limited to seven species occurring in restricted places, e.g. Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan, Pulau Tinggi, Johore in Peninsular Malaysia; Bintulu river estuary in Sarawak and Pulau Sibuan in Sabah. "One wonders whether seagrasses in Malaysia are extremely rare or absent or have been overlooked by botanists".



Flowers are rarely encountered in some seagrass species such as Halophila decipiens and Thalassia hemprichii

Our group involvement in Seagrass Research started in 1996. Since then, we have discovered a large number of new localities for seagrasses occurring along the Malaysian coast. To date there are 14 known species of seagrasses in Malaysia. In addition to some primary information about their habits, we are presenting component of the plants i.e. flowers and fruits that are rarely encountered in some of the seagrass species.

Reader Enquiry

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