



***THE INFLUENCE OF URBAN PARK TYPES ON VEGETATION
CHARACTERISTICS AND MICROCLIMATE CONDITION***

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**THE INFLUENCE OF URBAN PARK TYPES ON VEGETATION
CHARACTERISTICS AND MICROCLIMATE CONDITION**

By

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**A Project Report is Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
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DEDICATION

For my beloved mother Linda Anak Sanik,

Also my siblings Julia Yoummaccys, Diana and Francesca

Thank you for always being there with me and support me in financial during my studies. I love all of you.

To my fellow friends Syaza Syahirah Nordin, Nor Afifah Yahya, Nur' Izzah Hanani, Tan Xiu Han Intan Farha Shamim, Sathiya Rubini Satimurty, Rasyiffa' Hayati and Mohamad Mizan Mat Nawi

Thank you for your encouragement, support, times and sacrifices that you have given.

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Thank you and God bless all of you.

ABSTRACT

Global warming introduces meteorological hazards where it has caused the rising of air temperature, storm, flash flood and heat wave which were caused by greenhouse effects and forest loss due to the increasing population of humans. In order to satisfy human needs, more forest area needs to be cleared off where rapid urbanization has caused more vegetation replaced with sealed surfaces and built area. Thus, from this issue we can see how green spaces such as urban park play an important role in maintaining vegetation characteristics and modifying microclimate condition at urban areas. However, different types of urban parks have different influencing on the vegetation characteristics and microclimate condition because each type of urban park has its own landscape design and tree species selection. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the vegetation characteristics of different types of urban park; and to investigate the influence of different type of urban park on microclimate condition. This study was conducted at three different types of urban parks in Putrajaya which were forest based park, recreation based park and agriculture based park. The finding from this study has shown that the type of urban park did significantly influenced the vegetation characteristics and microclimate condition where each urban park had different air temperature, wind speed, relative humidity and solar radiation reduction. This study has shown that Taman Rimba Alam was significantly different in vegetation characteristics and microclimate condition compared to Taman Saujana Hijau and Taman Warisan Pertanian. For example, Taman Rimba Alam are able to reduce up to 2°C air temperature, 6% relative humidity, 0.1 m/s wind speed and 717 W/m² solar radiation. Moreover, the findings from this study will be beneficial to urban park planner to have a proper planning in the future in deciding the type of urban park and how it can help in overcoming global warming. In addition, this study also shows that it is important to include shading factors in designing urban park for a cooler and comfortable condition.

ABSTRAK

Pemanasan global telah menyebabkan perubahan cuaca yang drastik sehingga menyebabkan berlakunya peningkatan suhu, ribut, banjir kilat dan gelombang yang disebabkan oleh kesan rumah hijau dan kehilangan kawasan hutan; akibat daripada peningkatan populasi manusia. Bagi memenuhi keperluan manusia, banyak kawasan hutan perlu dibuka sehingga menyebabkan banyak kawasan hijau diganti dengan permukaan yang ditutup dan kawasan pembangunan. Oleh yang demikian, melalui isu ini kita boleh melihat bagaimana kawasan – kawasan hijau seperti taman boleh memainkan peranan yang penting dalam mengekalkan keadaan vegetasi dan mengubah keadaan mikroiklim di kawasan bandar. Namun, jenis – jenis taman bandar mempunyai kesan yang berbeza terhadap struktur vegetasi dan keadaan mikroiklim kerana setiap taman mempunyai reka bentuk, pemilihan spesies dan tujuannya yang tersendiri. Oleh yang sedemikian, tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menentukan kriteria vegetasi pada taman – taman bandar yang berbeza dan untuk mengetahui kesan jenis taman pada keadaan mikroiklim taman – taman bandar. Kajian ini telah dijalankan di tiga kawasan taman bandar yang berlainan di Putrajaya iaitu taman berasaskan hutan, taman berasaskan rekreasi dan taman berasaskan agrikultur. Hasil daripada kajian ini telah menunjukkan bahawa jenis taman – taman bandar mempengaruhi ciri -ciri vegetasi dan keadaan mikroiklim dimana setiap taman – taman bandar mempunyai pengurangan suhu, kelajuan angin, kelembapan relatif dan radiasi matahari yang berbeza. Melalui kajian ini Taman Rimba Alam lebih signifikan dalam ciri – ciri vegetasi dan keadaan mikroiklim berbanding Taman Saujana Hijau dan Taman Warisan Pertanian. Sebagai contoh, Taman Rimba Alam mampu mengurangkan lebih dari 2°C suhu, 6% kelembapan relatif, 0.1 m/s kelajuan angin and 717 W/m² radiasi matahari. Tambahan pula, hasil daripada kajian ini dilihat dapat membantu perancang taman – taman bandar dalam melakukan perancangan dengan lebih terperinci dan teratur dalam menentukan jenis taman – taman bandar yang ingin ditubuhkan serta bagaimana taman – taman tersebut mampu menangani isu pemanasan global. Tambahan pula, kajian ini juga menunjukkan bahawa faktor teduhan perlu di pertimbangkan dalam mereka bentuk taman – taman bandar bagi memperoleh keadaan yang sejuk dan selesa.

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APPROVAL SHEETS

I certify that this research project report entitled “The Influence of Urban Park Types on Vegetation Characteristics and Microclimate Condition” by Felixita Anak Junis has been examined and approved as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Forestry Science in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

UHI	Urban Heat Island
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GLAMA	Gap Light Analysis Mobile Apps
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
LSD	Least Significant Difference
PCI	Park Cool Island



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Since mid-20 century, climate scientist observed the changes of Earth's climate. The observations are involving various weather phenomenon such as high temperature, precipitation and storm. The changes in Earth's climate are known as global warming, which is the increasing of the air temperature near the surface of earth (Selin & Mann, 2018). The changes of climate are seen to be changing from time to time and one of the main factors that caused the climate change is human activities (Selin & Mann, 2018). Global warming happened due to increased number of humans that has caused greenhouse effects, forest loss, infertile land and biodiversity loss (Grimmond, 2007). The increased number of humans in urban area means that the number of their activities also increased in order to satisfy everyone needs in the cities.

The changes of climate has caused global warming to happened (Ahmad & Hossain, 2015) and it also will affecting food security (Dyer, 2011) because global warming will give a great impact to environment (UNEP and UNFCCC, 2002). In addition, due to this, unfavourable weather events such as storms, floods (Bebbington & Larrinaga-Gonzalez, 2008) and heat wave (Othman *et al.*, 2016) happened. Global warming phenomenon happened due to urbanization in urban area (Grimmond, 2007) since the industrial revolution (Selin & Mann, 2018). In addition, Grimmond (2007) explained that the urban areas are the biggest contributor to global warming because these areas are the major sources of anthropogenic carbon dioxide

emissions. The emissions of carbon dioxide are from the fuels that are burned for air conditioning, transport and industrial processes. 90% of anthropogenic carbon emissions are found out to be generated from urban areas (Svirejeva-Hopkins et al., 2004). Moreover, the magnitude of global carbon sinks has been reduced due to the land clearing such as deforestation and demands of goods and resources (Grimmond, 2007).

Malaysia is not exempted in experiencing the global warming phenomenon, where the country has been facing devastating consequence due to the rising of temperature such as flash floods (Akash & Doraisamy, 2015), torrential rain (Gasim, et al., 2014), heat wave (Othman et al., 2016) and hail storms (The Star, 2016). In 2016, United Nation has reported that on the first half of 2016 in Malaysia, the mean global temperature was 1.3°C more warm compared to the late 19th century and it has set to be the hottest year in Malaysia record. Ramakreshnan et al. (2018) explained that the urban heating phenomenon happened in Malaysia is due to the rapid urban development.

In addition, the changing of natural land cover like vegetation into the urban cover has modified the urban climate (Brian & Berry, 2008; Bonan, 2002). The rapid urbanization has reduced the vegetated area and increase the number of built-up surfaces (Buyadi et al., 2013). Decrease of vegetation in urban areas has causes urban areas becomes more warmer compared to rural areas and hence, leads to the occurrence of urban heat island effects (Akbari et al., 2001). Moreover, the causes

that leads to urban heat islands phenomenon is due to the condition of the urban area where it is mostly dry, less windy and has a rougher surface compared to rural areas because most of the vegetation surfaces are replaced with the less permeable surface such as paved streets (Robitu et al., 2006). The built-up surfaces in urban areas trapped the solar radiation during a day and re-radiate during night time that will eventually causes global changing the climate condition (Solecki et al., 2004 and Schimidt, 2010).

Vegetation can influence urban climate condition by influencing the environmental variables such as solar radiation, air temperature, relative humidity and wind speed (Wilmers, 1991 and Akbari et al., 2001). Apart from that, the ability of vegetation in influencing urban climate condition is not only through shading and absorbing solar radiation but also through the evapotranspiration (McPherson et al., 1994; Wong et al., 2003; Shashua-Bar et al., 2009). Lu et al. (2012) stated that evapotranspiration from urban green spaces went beyond 14 ha and seen to be able to shows an obvious cooling effect by vegetation.

1.2 Problem Statement

Rapid urban development in cities has caused a problem to urban microclimate because it changes the microclimate condition in urban area, where air temperature in urban area is higher compared to rural area (Ramakreshnan et al., 2018). Akbari et al., (2001), describes this as “Urban Heat Islands” (UHI) effects. In addition, due to the rapid urban development the natural landscape of the area is declining and it automatically becomes the major factor to the changes of urban microclimate.

In addition, vegetation loss at urban area has caused the increasing of heat storage at ground layer and buildings which contributes to the high level of air and surface temperature at urban area compared to rural area (Oke, 1982). The changes of land cover in urban area will lead to the change of surface properties such as heat capacity and conductivity; radiation; roughness length; evaporative conductivity; heterogeneity; Leaf Area Index (LAI) and water characteristics (Molders, 2011). Furthermore, the changes of land cover will automatically be affecting the weather and it will give impact to urban microclimate (Salleh et al., 2013).

The obvious scenario of changes in urban climate in Malaysia can be seen in Kuala Lumpur. Kuala Lumpur is a city that undergoes a rapid urbanization due to its important role to Malaysia economy. Thus, due to rapid urbanization, the city facing a hotter condition where during the past decade, the temperature increased 0.6°C per decade and has been set to be the highest UHI value until year 2005 (Davis et al., 2005).

Moreover, another example in Shah Alam, the surface temperature between year 1991 and 2001 increased 0.42°C (Buyadi et al., 2013a) due to vegetation loss and man-made material; and between year 1991 and 2009, surface temperature increased 7.2°C because of 17.48% vegetation loss (Buyadi et al., 2013b). While in Putrajaya, the surface temperature between year 1999 and 2006 increased 4.85°C (Salleh et al., 2013) and Putrajaya also has set a highest temperature record which was 39°C in the area with an impermeable surface compared to the forested area which was 32.5°C (Thani et al., 2013).

From the urban heat islands and urban warming phenomenon, tree plays important role in modifying urban microclimate. According to Federer (1976), either it is a hardwood species or conifer species, trees are capable to evaporate water as much as 250,000 kcal a day. Moreover, there are five major effects of vegetation on urban microclimate which are shading effect, ground temperature effect, surface temperature effect, short-wave reflection effect and wind effect (Scudo, 2002). The capability of vegetation to control air movement is based on the geometry, tree height, permeability, and crown (Scudo, 2002). Generally, trees in urban area help in modifying environmental variables by providing shade to building and surfaces by blocking heat from solar radiation; cooling the air by evapotranspiration process and reduce wind speed (Akbari et al., 2001). Specifically, Scudo (2002) explained that an individual leaf is able to transmit 20% of radiation, absorb 55% radiation and reflect 25% of radiation. In addition, Rowntree (1986) also stated that tree act as natural “air conditioner” because it has a cooling effect.

Keresztesova and Rozova (2013) also claim that the temperature of surfaces that covered by vegetation compared to paved surface can differ up to 12°C. Moreover, vegetation is an important element in urban environment because it can improve thermal comfort at urban area through its cooling effects (Klein & Rozova, 2014). However, each tree has different morphology and the cooling effects provided by each tree are also different. Armson et al. (2012) stated that tree with elliptical canopy provide more shading because of the inclination of the sun. Table 1.1 shows how vegetation structure can influence the urban microclimate.

Table 1.1: Microclimate mitigation strategies by structural vegetal characteristics

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Structural	Geometry	Columnar	/	/		/		/		/	/	/	/
		Pyramidal	/		/		/		/	/	/	/	/
		Horizontal	/	/		/							/
		branching											
	Deposition	Roundhead	/		/		/		/	/	/	/	/
		Continuous	/		/		/		/	/	/	/	/
		Irregular		/		/		/			/	/	
	Height	Group	/		/		/		/	/	/	/	/
		High	/	/		/		/		/	/	/	/
		Medium	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
		Low			/		/		/	/	/	/	/
	Transmission	Very low			/		/		/	/		/	
		High		/		/	/						
		Middle	/	/		/		/					
	Permeability	Low	/		/		/		/				
High												/	
Middle										/	/	/	
Crown	Low							/	/	/		/	
	Deciduous	/		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	Evergreen	/	/	/		/		/	/	/	/	/	

Source: Scudo (2002)

Notes:

1. Shading
2. Surface temperature control (increasing)
3. Surface temperature control (decreasing)
4. Ground temperature control (increasing)
5. Ground temperature control (decreasing)
6. Reflection control – short wave (increasing)
7. Reflection control – short wave (decreasing)
8. Wind obstruction
9. Wind deviation
10. Wind filtration
11. Wind channelling

From the explanation above, we can see how the presence trees at urban areas can influence urban climate and urban heat islands effects through its cooling effects characteristics. Therefore, the presence of green spaces such as urban parks contributes in reducing the temperature at urban area due to the cooling effects (Wang et al., 2015, Moufida & Djamel, 2012), mitigates UHI (Akbari et al., 2001) and reduces surface runoff (Yang et al., 2016). Moufida and Djamel (2012) also stating that the coolest area during daytime at urban area is urban parks because the presence of trees helps to cool the area. However, regardless of the cooling benefits of urban park, each park has different landscape design with a different vegetation structure and this can affect the cooling benefits at each park (Fung & Jim, 2017). Ren et al. (2013) explained that the cooling effects of each park are depending on the characteristics of urban parks.

1.3 Objectives

Therefore, it is important to find out how different urban park types can influence the vegetation characteristics and microclimate condition at urban area. The questions that needed to be answered were (a) How types of park influence vegetation characteristics; and (b) Is the changes of microclimate clearly differ at each urban park due to its types? Thus, the objectives of this project were:

1. To determine the vegetation characteristics of different types of urban park;
2. To investigate the influence of different type of urban park on microclimate condition.

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