

Current State of Knowledge on the Orchids of Sarawak's Peat Swamps

Magdalena Stephen¹, Almunah Abd Mutalib¹, Meekiong Kalu¹, Farah Alia Nordin², Haniza Razali³, Haziha Musa¹ and Akmal Raffi^{1*}

¹ Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak.

² School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800, USM, Pulau Pinang.

³ Conservation Program, Research, Development and Innovation Division, Forest Department Sarawak, 93250, Kuching, Sarawak

***Corresponding author: mrmakmal@unimas.my**

ABSTRACT

Sarawak's peat swamp orchids are considered to be understudied, as most of the related research are favoured to the orchid species from mixed dipterocarp forests. Furthermore, disruptions of their natural habitat caused by various anthropogenic activities have made the orchid's assessment studies, especially on the inventory and diversity, to be difficult. Consequently, it widens the knowledge gaps of the orchids' natural history, current conservation status and their future in the peat swamp areas. Therefore, this study was conducted to compile and propose a provisional checklist of orchids distributed in the peat swamps of Sarawak. In total, 52 species from 26 genera of orchids were successfully recorded from the peat swamp areas. From the account, 10 species are endemic to Borneo. Current