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PHASMIDS

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ABSTRACT

Forty-two species and five unidentifiable nymphs were collected from various spots in the Bau Limestone Area. One new record to Borneo, *Sosibia esacus* is illustrated in this paper.

Keywords: Phasmatodea, Sarawak, Bau

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INTRODUCTION

Collection of phasmids in Sarawak had been performed between the years 1865 to 1994. About 106 species including stick and leaf-insects had been recorded (see Seow-Choen, 1998, 2000; Bragg, 2001). The location of these collections are scattered (see Bragg, 2001 for detailed location of the collections) and no complete documentation had been published previously. Less than five publications on phasmids of Sarawak were published between the years 1901 to 1995 (see Abang *et al.*, 1996). The book on Bornean Phasmids (Bragg, 2001) is a good compilation of these collections and its keys with drawings facilitate identification of many species. After Bragg's last personal collection in 1994 there were other small collections by the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Karim, *pers. comm.*) and Forest Research Centre, Sarawak (Meling, *pers. comm.*). All these collections, however, were not published and remained as project reports.

The first collection of phasmids from Bau Limestone Area was made by J.M. Bryan in 1907-1908 at Bidi area. In 1992-1994, Bragg made collections near the Wind Cave. Nine species of phasmids had been recorded from this area (see Bragg, 2001). In the 1990s, several small collections were also conducted in Bau (no detailed locality) by the Forest Research Centre,

Sarawak (Meling, *pers. comm.*) but the collections were documented as a project report.

A list of species and number of specimens collected from the Bau Limestone Area is presented in this paper, which is an attempt to document for the first time (including one new record to Borneo, *Sosibia esacus*), the phasmid biodiversity from Bau in Sarawak. The classification and terminology follow that used by Bragg (2001) and Seow-Choen (1998). One new record to Borneo is illustrated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All collections were undertaken after dark by searching vegetation with hand torches. Phasmids were captured with hand or nets if out of arm's reach.

All collection areas were located within the Bau Limestone Area. These areas are Gunung Umbut, Gunung Lanyang, Gunung Tabai, Gunung Jebong, Gunung Doya, Gunung Batu, Gunung Ropih, Gunung Tongga, Gunung Pambor, Gunung Krian, Gunung Tai Ton, Gunung Apin, Gunung Batu Payong, Gunung Stulang, Gunung Podam, Gunung Poing, Gunung Aup, Gunung Kawa and Gunung Meraja.

RESULTS

The numbers in brackets after the year indicate the number of specimens if more than one specimen were collected.

ASCHIPHASMATIDAE

Aschiphasmatinae

1. *Dajaca filiformis* Bragg, 1992
 2 specimens, Gunung Krian : 20 Nov 2001
 21 Nov 2001
2. *Dinophasma guttigerum* (Westwood, 1859)
 1 specimen, Gunung Doya : 12 Jun 2002
 1 specimen, Gunung Ropih : 28 Dec 2002