

Short Notes on the Diversity of Butterflies (Order: Lepidoptera) in Sematan South-Western Sarawak

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Abstract

Diversity and abundance of butterflies in Sematan area of South-Western Sarawak are studied. The natural vegetation of the area consists of shrubs, herbs, grasses and tall trees. Aerial scoop nets were used for the collection in eight villages in Sematan. A total of 515 specimens belonging to 63 genera and six families were identified. The family Nymphalidae is the most abundant with 35 genera and 61 species. The family Nymphalidae has the highest Shannon-Wiener Index at 2.63 and the Simpson Diversity Index of 0.92. Nymphalidae are significant in abundance and is a common species widely distributed in the lower elevation of coastal areas. The occurrence of available adult plant resources and larval host plants contributed to the high diversity of Nymphalidae butterflies. The present study will provide a referencing for the future management and conservation of the large diversity of native butterflies in Sematan.

Keywords: Butterfly, Lepidoptera, diversity, Sematan, Nymphalidae

Introduction

Butterflies are very diverse and abundant insects with many different body sizes, wing patterns and colours (Ghazanfar *et al.*, 2016). Butterflies are species in the order Lepidoptera, which comprise of six families: Papilionidae, Nymphalidae, Pieridae, Hesperidae, Riodinidae and Lycaenidae (Melendez-Jaramillo *et al.*, 2019). According to Nieuwerkerken *et al.*, (2011),