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MOSESSES

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ABSTRACT

The Bau Limestone Area supports a total of 98 species and one variety of mosses in 51 genera and 19 families. This represents 86.4% of the 22 families, 67.1% of the 76 genera and 45% of 220 species and varieties of mosses reported for Sarawak (Touw, 1978). The largest family found in this study is Calymperaceae, represented by 24 species in six genera. The second largest family is Sematophyllaceae, represented by 14 species and one variety in nine genera, and followed by Family Hypnaceae with 11 species in six genera. Of the 99 taxa in this report, 25 species and one variety are reported for the first time for Sarawak. Within these 26 taxa, *Fissidens hyalims* Hook & Wilson, *F. oblongifolius* J.D. Hooker & Wilson, *Racopilum schmidii* (Mull. Hal.) Mitt., *Meteorium subpolytrichum* (Besch.) Broth, and *Rhaphidostichum piliferum* (Broth.) Broth., are new to Borneo.

Keywords: Sarawak, limestone, mosses, Bau

MOSSES

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Abstract. The Bau Limestone Area supports a total of 98 species and one variety of mosses in 51 genera and 19 families. This represents 86.4% of the 22 families, 67.1% of the 76 genera and 45% of 220 species and varieties of mosses reported for Sarawak (Touw, 1978). The largest family found in this study is Calymperaceae, represented by 24 species in six genera. The second largest family is Sematophyllaceae, represented by 14 species and one variety in nine genera, and followed by Family Hypnaceae with 11 species in six genera. Of the 99 taxa in this report, 25 species and one variety are reported for the first time for Sarawak. Within these 26 taxa, *Fissidens hyalinus* Hook & Wilson, *F. oblongifolius* J.D. Hooker & Wilson, *Racomitrium schmidii* (Müll. Hal.) Mitt., *Meteorium subpolytrichum* (Besch.) Broth. and *Rhaphidostichum piliferum* (Broth.) Broth., are new to Borneo.

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INTRODUCTION

The Bau Limestone Area has been visited by a succession of naturalists since the 19th Century, but the earlier visitors concentrated on the angiosperms and ferns. The present report is the first comprehensive study on the diversity of the moss flora of Bau Limestone Area.

This study is mainly based on the collections done by the senior author with the staff of the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC) in May 2002. Smaller collections done by the SBC staff and another collection done by the senior author and Baki Bakar in July 1991 are also included. The specimens collected in 2002 are deposited in the SBC while the specimens collected in 1991 are deposited in the herbarium of University of Malaya