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## TREES OF THE CAMPUS - UNIVERSITI PERTANIAN MALAYSIA SARAWAK BRANCH

K.G. Pearce

### INTRODUCTION

Planted trees are a familiar feature of Malaysian landscape, and Kuching is certainly no exception. A wide range of ornamental and other trees is to be found — by roadsides, in parks and in public places. Some of these, like the kapok tree and the rain trees of the Central Padang, or the angasana and bungor trees in the grounds of the Court House, are old and familiar 'friends' to many Kuching residents. Others — being planted now — will become the living landmarks of the future.

The Sarawak Branch Campus of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, at Semonggok, 12 1/2 miles South of Kuching, is one of the many sites in the Kuching area which is planted with various tree species. This tranquil 30 ha area was originally the site of the Department of Agriculture National Resources Training School, and has served as a temporary Sarawak Campus for UPM since 1974. In terms of species present the site is, for the most part, not particularly noteworthy. Nearly all of the trees represented on the campus can easily be found elsewhere in and around Kuching. It is remarkable, however, for the number of different species present. On this relatively small site, seventy different woody tree species and several palm species are to be found (Appendix 1). Many of the ornamental trees were planted in 1969 (John Ho. pers. comm.) All of the trees are well established and many of them are already mature.

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The campus trees include both exotic and indigenous species. They fall into six fairly distinct groupings, as follows:—

### A. ornamental flowering trees

Members of this group are extremely common and planted everywhere in Malaysia. The group is dominated by members of the caesalpinioidae sub-family of the leguminosae which characteristically have showy flowers. All the members in this group flower frequently throughout the year.

### B. ornamental ‘form’ trees

Trees of this group are planted for their habit, or for their attractive foliage. Among this group are the indigenous casuarinas, and the exotic araucarias and travellers’ palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*). Of particular note is a row of fine, mature brazil nut trees (*Bertholletia excelsa*) on the road