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Ants of Borneo: current status

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Abstract

BORNEENSIS was set up as the biological collection of the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). Since its establishment in 1996, BORNEENSIS has established the collection started with donation from the former Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia)'s collection. The collection grew bigger as scientific expeditions and collections by local and foreign researchers and students take place annually. The collection now houses approximately not less than 135,596 specimens of which 8528 are plants, 117499 are dry mounted insects, 6450 are dried vertebrates and 1664 are wet preserved in ehanol. Due to the shortage of staff, many groups of collection have been poorly documented. This leads to difficulty in tracking the specimens when needed. Specimens in the collection are not listed and very little is known about the collection. Existing collection is used to further facilitate listing and mapping of the ants of Borneo that have been initiated by several myrmecologists such as Pfeiffer et al. (2011) and Fisher et al. (2015). Dry mounted ant specimens in the collection have been cross examined with existing records. The significance of the specimens in the collection to the ants of Borneo list is discussed. The research work will be expanded to other collection centres in Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Kalimantan in the future to better understand the distribution of ants in Borneo.