

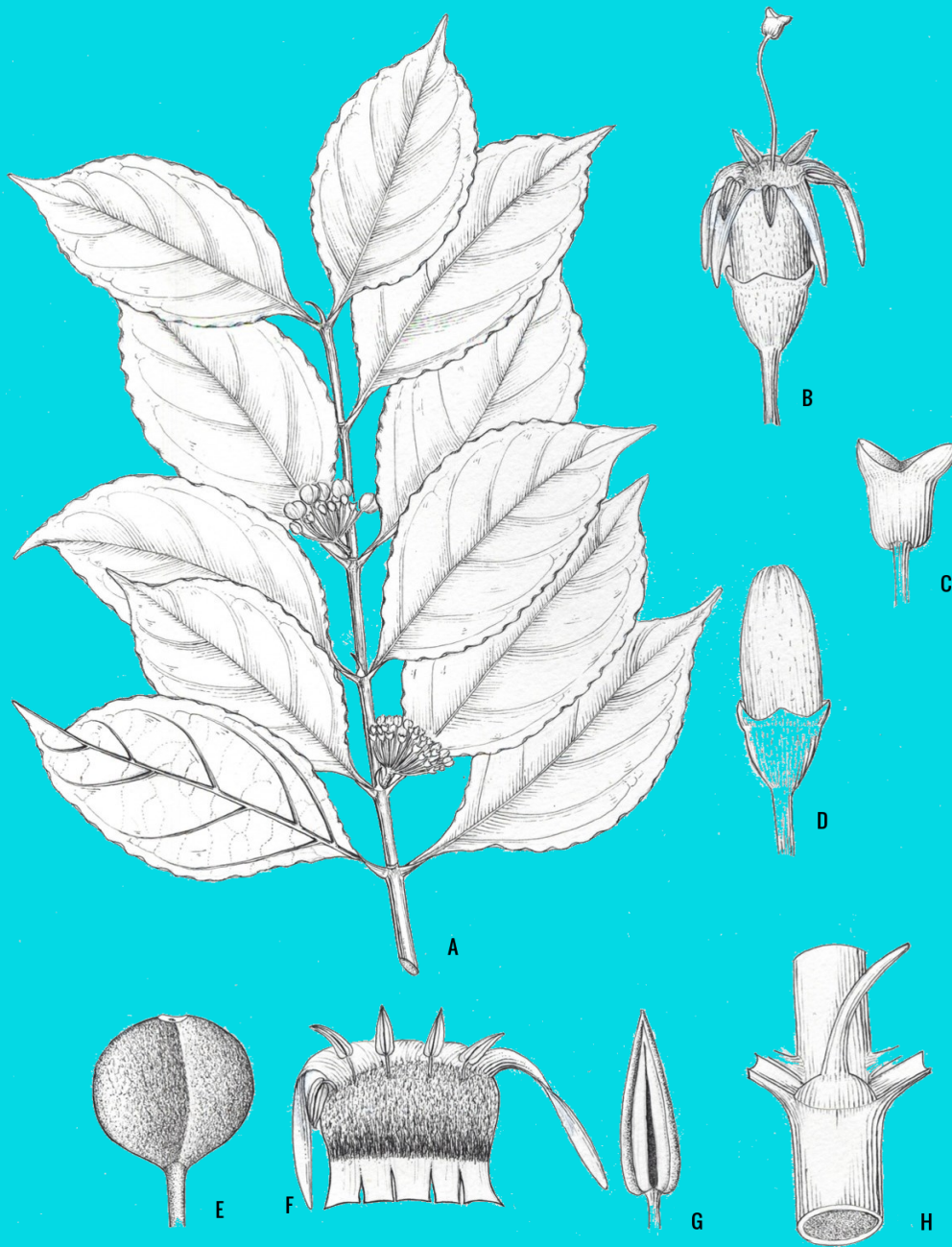


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## VEGETATION ANALYSIS AND POPULATION STRUCTURE OF PLANTS AT MOUNT ENDUT FORESTED AREA, GUNUNG HALIMUN SALAK NATIONAL PARK, BANTEN, JAVA, INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

SAMBAS, E. N., KUSMANA, C., PRASETYO, L. B. & PARTOMIHARDJO, T. 2018. Vegetation analysis and population structure of plants at Mount Endut forested area, Gunung Halimun Salak National Park, Banten, Java, Indonesia. *Reinwardtia* 17 (1): 39–53. — Study of vegetation structure and species composition at Mount Endut was carried out by using transect and plot methods. Data of trees, saplings and seedlings were enumerated from four transects measuring 10 m × 2,000 m in four directions of slopes *i.e.* North, South, East and West. In total there were 180 species of trees and saplings belonging to 105 genera and 51 families. Tree density and basal area indicate the variation and the differences in each of the sampling locations. Density of saplings and abundance of seedlings tend to be low in locations with high density and basal areas at tree level. Tree species having higher Importance Value were *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Schima wallichii*, *C. argentea*, *Quercus gemelliflora*, and *Altingia excelsa*. *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Garcinia rostrata*, *S. wallichii*, *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, and *Prunus arborea* were saplings which had highest density, while *Ophiorrhiza marginata*, *Cyathea contaminans*, *Pinanga coronata*, *C. acuminatissima*, and *G. rostrata* were the most abundant listed seedlings at the study site. At least 27 tree species (21.91%) were recorded as relatively rare (presence represented by only 1–2 individuals), thus requiring special attention in the management of the area.

**Key words:** Mount Endut, population structure, species composition, vegetation analysis.

### ABSTRAK

SAMBAS, E. N., KUSMANA, C., PRASETYO, L. B. & PARTOMIHARDJO, T. 2018. Analisis vegetasi dan struktur populasi tumbuhan pada hutan Gunung Endut, Taman Nasional Gunung Halimun Salak, Banten, Jawa, Indonesia. *Reinwardtia* 17 (1): 39–53. — Penelitian mengenai komposisi, diversitas dan struktur populasi jenis tumbuhan penyusun vegetasi Gunung Endut telah dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode transek dan petak. Data pohon, belta dan semai dicacah dari empat transek berukuran 10 m × 2.000 m pada empat arah lereng yakni Utara, Selatan, Timur dan Barat. Secara keseluruhan tercatat 180 jenis pohon dan belta yang tergolong dalam 105 marga dan 51 suku. Kerapatan pohon dan luas bidang dasar tingkat pohon menunjukkan variasi perbedaan pada masing-masing lokasi cuplikan. Kerapatan belta dan kelimpahan semai cenderung rendah pada lokasi dengan kerapatan dan luas bidang dasar pohon yang tinggi. Jenis-jenis pohon yang memiliki Nilai Penting tertinggi adalah *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Schima wallichii*, *C. argentea*, *Quercus gemelliflora*, dan *Altingia excelsa*. *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Garcinia rostrata*, *S. wallichii*, *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, dan *Prunus arborea* adalah tingkat belta dengan kerapatan paling tinggi, sedangkan *Ophiorrhiza marginata*, *Cyathea contaminans*, *Pinanga coronata*, *C. acuminatissima*, dan *G. rostrata* adalah tingkat semai yang tercatat paling melimpah di lokasi penelitian. Tercatat sedikitnya 27 jenis pohon (21,91%) yang relatif langka (kehadirannya hanya diwakili 1–2 individu), sehingga membutuhkan perhatian khusus dalam pengelolaan kawasan.

**Kata kunci:** Analisis vegetasi, Gunung Endut, komposisi jenis, struktur populasi.

## INTRODUCTION

According to Decree of Minister of Forestry No. 175/Kpts-II/2003, Mount Endut protection forest is included in Gunung Halimun Salak National Park (GHSNP). Although the area of Mount Endut was separated from the center of the ecosystem of Mount Halimun by a public transportation road from Gajrug to Citorek, Lebak Gedong District, Lebak Regency, Banten Province, however it has been connected by a corridor of vegetated area. Mount Endut harbors rich vegetation, both in number as well as species density and diversity (TNGHS, 2007; Sambas, 2012). This area is also known as habitat and home range of several protected endangered species such as Javan panther (*Panthera pardus*) (Harahap *et al.*, 2005), Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*) (Rinaldi, *pers.com.*), and Javan hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus bartelsi*) (Prawiradilaga, *pers.com.*). The study area is close to human settlement and subject to illegal logging both when its status was a protection forest and presently as a part of National Park.

As the part of a National Park, the Mount Endut area is to be managed with appropriate and sound planning. In managing the area, a deep knowledge on the condition of vegetation ecology of the area is needed. So far, the diversity of flora and fauna especially the flora has not been explored thoroughly; the floristic data of Mount Endut is very limited. Several floristic studies within GHSNP were carried out by Rinaldi *et al.* (2008) on ecology of the Halimun Salak corridor and Wiharto (2009) on vegetation classification at submontane areas of Mount Salak. Studies on diversity and composition of tree species by Polosakan and Alhamd (2012) and natural regeneration by Mirmanto (2014) were long term replace with: researches to uncover pattern and process of forest ecology and succession within GHSNP. At Mount Endut, Sambas *et al.* studied vegetation classification (2011) and ecological preferences of dominant species of the area (2013).

The objectives of the present research was to assess composition, structure, abundance and diversity of the species comprising the vegetation of Mount Endut. In addition, soil samples were taken to investigate correlations between plant species and soil nutrients.

## STUDY AREA

The research was carried out at Cisoka and Gunung Bongkok Resorts, Lebak Section, Gunung Halimun Salak National Park. Administratively, the survey area was located at Lebak Gedong District (Lebaksangka and Lebakgedong villages), Sajira District (Pasirhaur and Girilaya villages), Sobang District (Sindanglaya and Citujuh

villages), and Muncang District (Cikarang village), Lebak Regency, Banten Province. Geographically, this area is located at 06°36'–06°39' South Latitude, and 106°20'–106°23' East Longitude. Fig. 1 shows the Mount Endut area in the GHSNP.

Mount Endut area is about 2,020 hectares. Before, this area was a protection forest managed by the Perhutani Unit III, West Java and Banten. The land covers in this area include primary, secondary, and plantation forests, mixed garden, bushes, dry cultivation, and ricefields.

Yearly rainfall at Cipanas which has boundary with Lebak Gedong District, Lebak Regency, Banten was measured as 4,242 mm (Berlage, 1941). Data from Nirmala Agung Tea Plantation, about 15 km from the Mount Endut area, during 10 years of measurement (1991–2000), show the average yearly rainfall was 4,181 mm with the range of 2,873–6,526 mm. Average monthly rainfall ranged from 239 mm (year 1997) to 544 mm (year 1999). The monthly rainfall is usually high, and has a minimum during June–September.

The geology of Mount Endut area is volcanic. The soil in the Mount Endut area is an association of Brown Latosol and Yellowish Latosol. The topography is hilly from the elevation of about 800 m to 1,300 m asl.

Based on the Map of Lebak Regional Development Planning Agency in 2014, the whole area of Gunung Halimun Salak National Park including Mount Endut is an area prone to landslides. Many disaster-prone locations in Lebak District need a disaster mitigation program (Hakim, 2016).

## METHOD

We conducted a comprehensive survey on the vegetation of Mount Endut, exploring the four slopes/directions *i.e.* North, South, East, and West, including the abiotic/environmental components of this area. This produced quantitative data on the flora and ecology of Mount Endut. The area covered was 8 hectares, two hectares on each slope/direction (North, South, East, and West).

Four transects of 10×2,000 m each from an elevation of 700 m asl to the peak at 1,297 m asl, were established on the North, South, West, and East slopes respectively to represent the whole area of Mount Endut. The data measurement was done systematically within the 10×10 m plot for trees (diameter at breast height of ≥ 10 cm), within the 5×5 m sub-plots for saplings (diameter 2.0–9.9 cm, measured at 0.5 m above the ground), and within the 2×2 m sub-plots for herbs and seedlings. So there were 200 plots of 10×10 m in each 10×2,000 m transect. The sub-plots were arranged from the peak (1,297 m asl) down to about 700 m asl. Trees with large buttresses were measured at a height of 10 to 20 cm above the



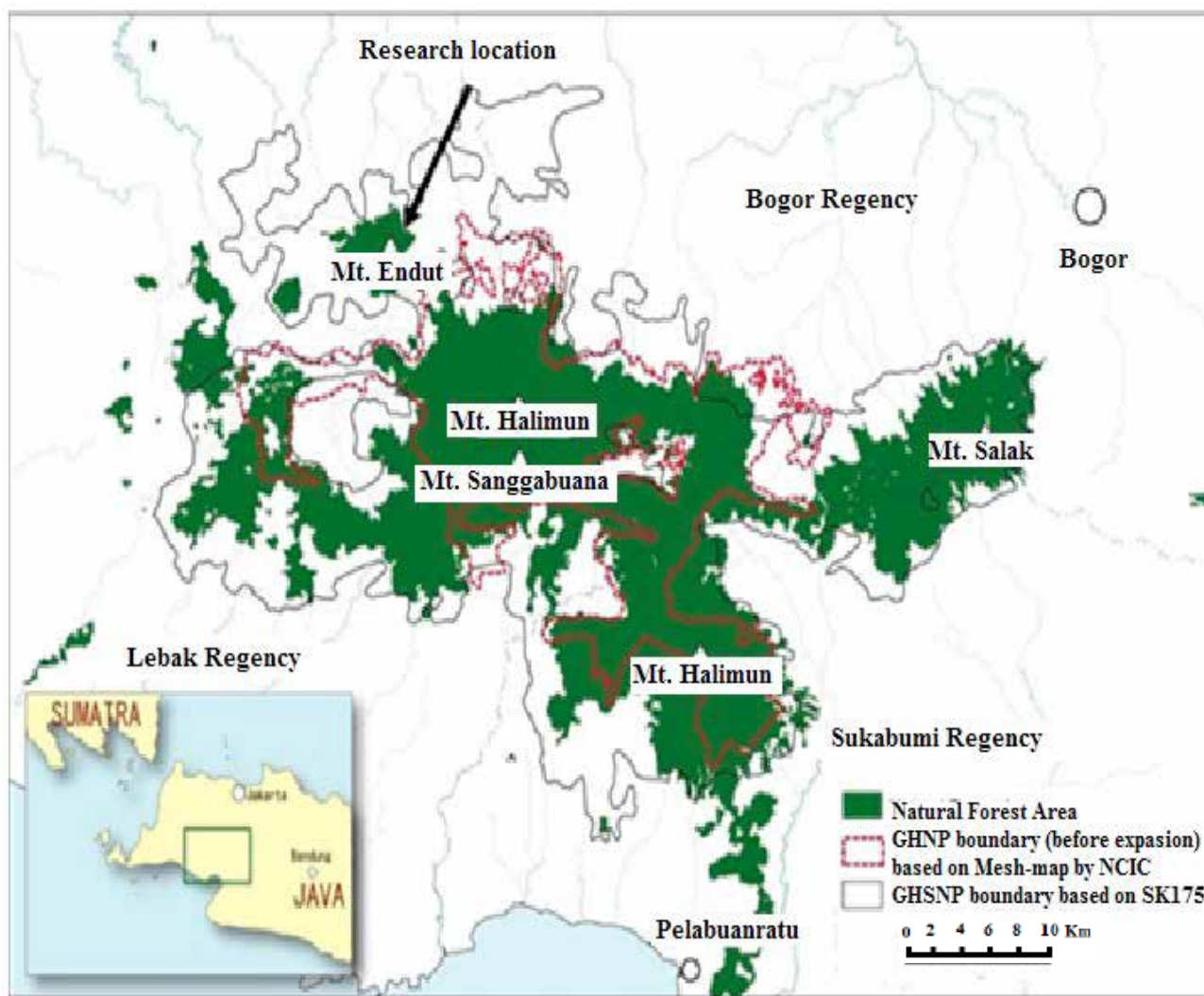


Fig. 1. Map of research location, Gunung Halimun Salak National Park (TNGHS, 2007).

buttresses. Basal diameter of saplings and shrubs were measured with vernier-callipers. All trees were grouped into 5 girth classes *viz.* 10–19.9, 20–29.9, 30–39.9, 40–50 and > 50 cm.

Vegetation analysis was carried out to calculate Importance Value Indices according to the method described by Kusmana (2017) and Cox (2002). Species diversity of trees was measured by

$$\text{Shannon Index (H)} = -\sum_{i=1}^s p_i \ln p_i,$$

Where **p** is the proportion ( $n/N$ ) of individuals of one particular species found ( $n$ ) divided by the total number of individuals found ( $N$ ), **ln** is the natural log, **Σ** is the sum of the calculations, and **s** is the number of species; and species richness was measured by Menhinick's richness index – the ratio of the number of taxa to the square root of sample size.

Soil samples were taken from a block of 10×400 m (40 sub-plots of 10×10 m). Soil texture, total organic C, N, P, K and Al contents were

analyzed at the Laboratory of Soil Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB). Identification of herbarium collections was done at Herbarium Bogoriense LIPI Cibinong, Bogor.

## RESULTS

### A. Trees

In total within four transects (8 hectares) there were 180 tree and sapling species, belonging to 105 genera and 51 families. The species richness of trees was various within each transect. Table 1. shows ten principal tree species on the four slopes of Mount Endut based on their Importance Values.

Based on the Importance Value Index (IVI), the community types in the study area were *Castanopsis acuminatissima*–*C. argentea* (North slope), *Castanopsis acuminatissima*–*Schima wallichii* (South slope), *Castanopsis acuminatissima*–*Schima wallichii* (East slope), and *Altingia excelsa*–*Castanopsis acuminatissima*

Table 1. Principal tree species based on Important Value Index (IVI) on the four slopes of Mount Endut.

No	Species	Family	Important Value Index (IVI)			
			North	South	East	West
1	<i>Calophyllum</i> sp.	Clusiaceae	-	-	-	10.91
2	<i>Garcinia rostrata</i> (Hassk.) Miq.	Clusiaceae	11.06	-	7.07	-
3	<i>Elaeocarpus pierrei</i> Koord. & Valetton	Elaeocarpaceae	13.85	-	-	-
4	<i>Aporosa frutescens</i> Blume	Euphorbiaceae	-	3.86	-	-
5	<i>Castanopsis acuminatissima</i> (Blume) A.DC.	Fagaceae	76.32	139.36	86.24	27.84
6	<i>Castanopsis argentea</i> (Blume) A.DC.	Fagaceae	37.86	-	14.88	15.65
7	<i>Castanopsis javanica</i> (Blume) A.DC.	Fagaceae	-	-	22.65	-
8	<i>Quercus gemelliflora</i> Blume	Fagaceae	21.70	14.40	5.59	-
9	<i>Quercus lineata</i> Blume	Fagaceae	6.85	5.28	8.34	-
10	<i>Altingia excelsa</i> Noronha	Hammamelidaceae	-	-	-	30.44
11	<i>Platea excelsa</i> Blume	Icacynaceae	4.53	14.91	-	-
12	<i>Pternandra azurea</i> (DC.) Burkill	Melastomataceae	-	-	8.23	-
13	<i>Sandoricum koetjape</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.	Meliaceae	-	-	-	12.87
14	<i>Knema cinerea</i> Warb.	Myristicaceae	-	-	-	12.40
15	<i>Syzygium rostratum</i> (Blume) DC.	Myrtaceae	-	5	-	-
16	<i>Syzygium</i> sp.	Myrtaceae	34.40	10.09	-	-
17	<i>Lepisanthes tetraphylla</i> Radlk.	Sapindaceae	-	3.85	-	15.24
18	<i>Allophylus cobbe</i> (L.) Raeusch.	Sapindaceae	-	-	-	12.99
19	<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) S.Moore	Symplocaceae	8.13	-	9.49	-
20	<i>Eurya acuminata</i> DC.	Theaceae	-	7.23	12.71	-
21	<i>Schima wallichii</i> Choisy	Theaceae	27.04	27.40	25.27	12.32
22	<i>Dendrocnide stimulans</i> (L.f.) Chew	Urticaceae	-	-	-	9.52

community (West slope), respectively. Species richness and heterogeneity of tree species on the North, South, East, and West slopes are reflected by their frequency class and total of species as presented in Fig. 2.

At North slope, the species richness and heterogeneity of tree species were high, as showed by the frequency class distribution, *i.e.*, as many as 80.35 % of the species have frequency  $\leq 10$  %. It indicated that although *Castanopsis acuminatissima* was very dominant, other species still can grow with relatively small values of frequency, density, and basal area. This means that *C. acuminatissima* tends not to halt the growth of other tree species. Species richness and heterogeneity of the tree species on the South slope were classified as high, as shown by the frequency class distribution, *i.e.*, 95.34 % of the species have frequency  $\leq 10$  %. Similarly, those of the East slope and West slope were classified as high, as indicated by the distribution of the frequency class, *i.e.* 86.44 % species and 81.34 % species, respectively had frequency  $\leq 10$  %.

Diameter class distribution of trees on the North, South, East, and West slopes of Mount Endut is presented in Fig. 3. The majority of the trees (84.55 %) on the North slope of Mount Endut had diameter relatively small (dbh < 30 cm), only about 1.93 % of them had diameter > 50 cm (Fig. 3). In general, the number of tree individuals showed a decrease with increasing tree diameter class. Species diversity of trees on the North slope of Mount Endut was moderate *i.e.*  $H' = 2.77$ . The same result was seen from the Menhinick richness index of 2.0 (*i.e.* smaller than 3).

The majority of the trees (77.33 %) on the South slope of Mount Endut had relatively small diameter (dbh < 30 cm), only about 1.21 % of them had diameter > 50 cm. Species diversity of trees on the South slope of Mount Endut was moderate *i.e.*  $H' = 2.44$ . The same case was for the Menhinick richness value *i.e.* 2.74 (smaller than 3). The majority of the trees (82.04 %) on the East slope had relatively small diameter (dbh < 30 cm), only about 2.30 % of them had diameter > 50 cm. Species diversity of the trees on the East slope of Mount Endut was categorized as high *i.e.*  $H' = 3.1$  (Shannon diversity index > 3), but the species richness was low as indicated by Menhinick richness value *i.e.* 2.85 (smaller than 3).

The majority of the trees (59.42 %) on the West slope of Mount Endut had relatively small diameters (dbh < 30 cm), but about 16.04 % had diameter > 50 cm. The species 'rasamala' (*Altingia excelsa*) had tree individuals with large diameters. Species diversity of trees on the West slope of Mount Endut was categorized as high *i.e.*  $H' = 3.72$  (Shannon diversity index > 3) and rich in species as showed by Menhinick richness value *i.e.* 3.45 (higher than 3).

Fagaceae was the plant family which had highest Importance Values on all four slopes of Mount Endut, far above those of other families. Table 2. shows ten plant families having highest Importance Values at Mount Endut.

## B. Saplings

In total within four transects (2 hectares), there were 155 sapling species, belonging to 99 genera



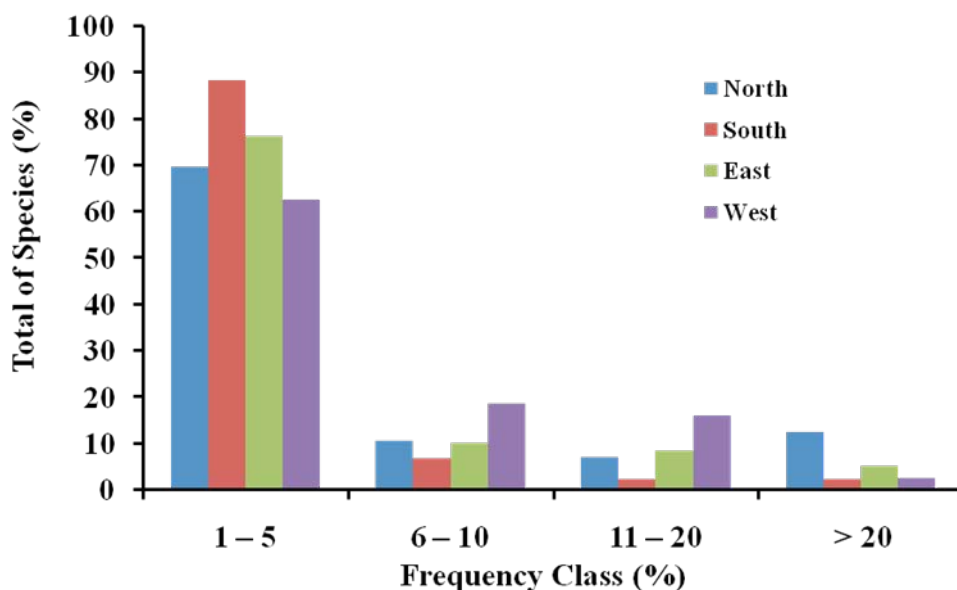


Fig. 2. Tree species distribution based upon the frequency class on the transects of four different slopes of Mount Endut.

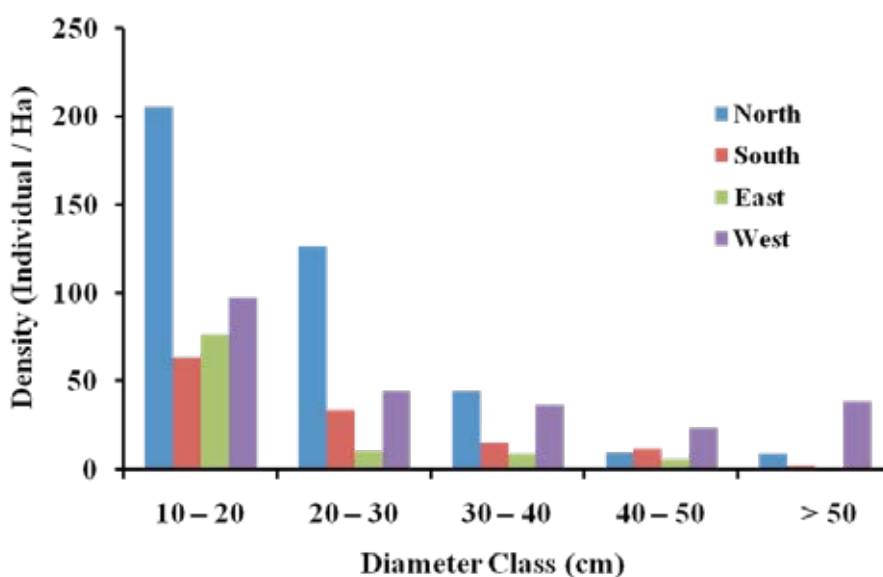


Fig. 3. Diameter class distribution of trees on the four slopes of Mount Endut.

and 50 families. Table 3. shows ten principal sapling species based on their Importance Values.

Based on the Importance Value, the dominant sapling species on North slope were *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Garcinia rostrata*, *Aphananthe cuspidata*, *C. argentea*, and *Ilex odorata*. From 61 sapling species recorded, *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Garcinia rostrata*, *C. argentea* and *Schima wallichii* were important species at tree stage. This means that these four species will become important species in the future. The dominant sapling species based on the Importance Values on the South slope were *Castanopsis*

*acuminatissima*, *Garcinia rostrata*, *Syzygium zeylanicum*, *Schima wallichii*, and *Syzygium* sp. From 64 sapling species recorded, *Castanopsis acuminatissima* and *Schima wallichii* were important species at tree stage. This indicates that those two species will become important species in the future. The dominant sapling species based on the Importance Value on East slope were *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Garcinia rostrata*, *Maesopsis eminii*, *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, and *Schima wallichii*. From 86 sapling species recorded, *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, *Schima wallichii* and *Eurya*

Table 2. Family Importance Values (FIV) of ten principal families at tree stage for each of the research transects at Mount Endut.

No	Family	North			South			East			West						
		No. Spec	Ind./ha	BA (cm <sup>2</sup> /ha)	FIV	No. Spec	Ind./ha	BA (cm <sup>2</sup> /ha)	FIV	No. Spec	Ind./ha	BA (cm <sup>2</sup> /ha)	FIV				
1	Clusiaceae	4	18	3.02	12.18	1	1	95.5	1.25	1	6	1.05	7.07	4	13	12.37	15.55
2	Elaeocarpaceae	1	22	4.84	13.85	1	1	245	2.59	1	2	387	2.02	1	3	1.6	3.53
3	Euphorbiaceae	6	10	1.36	6.96	4	4	1.01	9.29	5	5	1.45	6.9	8	24	16.81	26.02
4	Fagaceae	8	177	118.4	147.91	4	71	43.78	161.55	7	97	66.33	142.21	9	63	67.31	74.07
5	Hammamelidaceae	1	2	1.03	1.71	1	1	640	3.21	1	1	530	1.61	1	15	48.04	30.44
6	Icacynaceae	2	7	1.19	4.89	1	5	2.48	14.91	2	3	750	3.47	1	5	1.37	4.90
7	Lauraceae	7	16	3.19	11.66	4	3	1.28	6.83	10	16	5.02	20.93	4	12	7.66	13.52
8	Melastomataceae	2	5	730	3.52	3	2	670	5.45	3	7	2.66	9.7	1	3	273	1.98
9	Meliaceae	2	3	900	1.96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.63	12.87
10	Myristicaceae	2	6	1.42	4.77	1	1	138.5	1.32	2	4	1.94	5.94	3	13	10.79	15.97
11	Myrsinaceae	0	0	0	0	1	2	560	4.58	1	2	197.5	1.84	1	1	247	1.07
12	Myrtaceae	3	54	17.11	36.61	2	6	1.64	15.09	3	5	3.16	7.65	4	10	15.53	15.16
13	Rosaceae	0	0	0	0	2	1	540	3.06	1	5	940	5.55	1	2	279	1.56
14	Rubiaceae	4	6	1.38	5.01	2	1	165	2.46	2	6	980	5.41	1	3	1.55	3.03
15	Sapindaceae	2	2	3.98	3.27	1	2	348	3.85	1	1	121	0.67	3	18	33.46	29.38
16	Symplocaceae	1	12	3.42	8.13	2	3	1.22	6.72	1	7	3.37	9.49	1	2	940	2.31
17	Theaceae	3	42	9.42	28.12	3	15	5.4	35.96	3	30	12.41	40.78	3	15	1267	17.82

Notes : No. Spec = Species number; Ind./ha = Individual number per hectare; BA =Basal Area

Table 3. Ten principal sapling species based on Importance Value of each research transect at four different slopes at Mount Endut.

No	Species	Family	North	South	East	West
1	<i>Ilex odorata</i> Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don	Aquifoliaceae	14.17	-	-	-
2	<i>Garcinia rostrata</i> (Hassk.) ex Hook.f.	Clusiaceae	30.67	20.91	29.06	11.71
3	<i>Antidesma montanum</i> Blume	Euphorbiaceae	-	-	-	10.85
4	<i>Antidesma tetrandrum</i> Blume	Euphorbiaceae	-	-	-	13.34
5	<i>Glochidion lutescens</i> Blume	Euphorbiaceae	9.57	-	-	-
6	<i>Castanopsis acuminatissima</i> (Blume) A.DC.	Fagaceae	48.04	84.69	34.14	13.94
7	<i>Castanopsis argentea</i> (Blume) A.DC.	Fagaceae	16.27	-	-	-
8	<i>Quercus gemelliflora</i> Blume	Fagaceae	-	10.57	-	-
9	<i>Platea excelsa</i> Blume	Icacinaceae	-	-	5.83	-
10	<i>Cryptocarya densiflora</i> Blume	Lauraceae	-	8.04	-	-
11	<i>Lindera lucida</i> Boerl.	Lauraceae	13.65	-	-	-
12	<i>Syzygium zeylanicum</i> (L.) DC.	Myrtaceae	-	17.31	-	-
13	<i>Syzygium</i> sp.	Myrtaceae	-	16.8	-	-
14	<i>Syzygium</i> sp.1	Myrtaceae	12.90	-	-	-
15	<i>Linociera</i> sp.	Oleaceae	12.58	-	-	-
16	<i>Maesopsis eminii</i> Engl.	Rhamnaceae	-	-	20.73	-
17	<i>Prunus arborea</i> (Blume) Kalkman	Rosaceae	-	-	6.17	7.69
18	<i>Aidia racemosa</i> (Cav.) Tirveng.	Rubiaceae	-	9.58	-	-
19	<i>Coffea canephora</i> Pierre ex A.Froehner	Rubiaceae	-	-	10.99	-
20	<i>Lasianthus laevigatus</i> Blume	Rubiaceae	-	-	-	12.63
21	<i>Lasianthus rhinocerotis</i> Blume	Rubiaceae	-	-	20.73	-
22	<i>Melicope latifolia</i> (DC.) T.G.Hartley	Rutaceae	-	-	9.76	-
23	<i>Lepisanthes tetraphylla</i> Radlk.	Sapindaceae	-	-	-	11.42
24	<i>Allophylus cobbe</i> (L.) Raeusch.	Sapindaceae	-	-	-	10.37
25	<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) S.Moore	Symplocaceae	-	24.87	16.44	-
26	<i>Eurya acuminata</i> DC.	Theaceae	-	-	8.22	-
27	<i>Schima wallichii</i> Choisy	Theaceae	12.45	17.31	12.83	-
28	<i>Aphananthe cuspidata</i> (Blume) Planch.	Ulmaceae	17.73	-	-	-
29	<i>Dendrocnide stimulans</i> (L.f.) Chew	Urticaceae	-	-	-	43.60

*acuminata* were important at tree stage. This shows those four species will be important species in the future. The exotic species, *Maesopsis eminii*, was planted for greening before this area was included in the National Park. This species was distributed by wildlife (birds and primates), therefore its distribution must be prevented. Based on the important value, the dominant sapling species on West slope were *Dendrocnide*

*stimulans*, *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Antidesma tetrandrum*, *Lasianthus laevigatus*, and *Garcinia rostrata*. From 75 sapling species recorded, *Castanopsis acuminatissima* and *Lepisanthes tetraphylla* were important species at tree stage. This indicates that those two will become as important species in the future. *Dendrocnide stimulans* which was abundant is predicted to decrease in number at tree stage.

### C. Seedlings

In two hundred sub-plots of 2 m×2 m (total area of 800 m<sup>2</sup> or 0.08 ha) located on the four slopes (North, South, East, and West), we recorded 90 seedling species belonging to 71 genera and 37 families; 88 seedling species belonged to 71 genera and 40 families; 86 seedling species from 65 genera and 35 families; and 76 seedling species of 61 genera and 37 families. Table 4. presents ten principal seedling species in the four slopes of Mount Endut based on their Importance Values.

Based on Important Values, main seedling species on North slope were *Cyathea contaminans*, *Ophiorrhiza marginata*, and *Castanopsis*

*acuminatissima*. Those on the South slope were *Pinanga coronata*, *Ophiorrhiza marginata*, and *Cyathea contaminans*. The main seedling species on East slope were *Cyathea contaminans*, *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, and *Garcinia rostrata*. Those of the West slope were *Ophiorrhiza marginata*, *Dendrocnide stimulans*, and *Pinanga coronata*. In addition, from the four transects established in Mount Endut, 58 herb species have been identified belonging to 48 genera and 35 families. Dominant species of the herbs were *Calamus* sp., *Clidemia hirta*, *Dicranopteris linearis*, *Freycinetia angustifolia*, *Etlingeria coccinea*, and *Musa acuminata*.

Table 4. Ten principal seedling species based on Importance Value of each research transect at Mount Endut.

No	Species	Family	North	South	East	West
1	<i>Goniothalamus macrophyllus</i> (Blume) Hook.f. & Thomson	Annonaceae	-	-	-	4.28
2	<i>Polyscias nodosa</i> (Blume) Seem.	Araliaceae	-	-	-	12.49
3	<i>Caryota mitis</i> Lour.	Arecaceae	-	-	-	5.24
4	<i>Pinanga coronata</i> (Blume ex Mart.) Blume	Arecaceae	6.72	12.68	-	14.93
5	<i>Radermachera gigantea</i> (Blume) Miq.	Bignoniaceae	-	6.54	-	-
6	<i>Garcinia rostrata</i> (Hassk.) Miq.	Clusiaceae	5.36	6.64	8.36	-
7	<i>Cyathea contaminans</i> (Wall. ex Hook.) Copel.	Cyatheaceae	33.10	10.04	49.96	-
8	<i>Glochidion rubrum</i> Blume	Euphorbiaceae	-	-	3.57	-
9	<i>Castanopsis acuminatissima</i> (Blume) A.DC.	Fagaceae	7.58	6.29	9.48	-
10	<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> L.	Melastomataceae	7.22	-	8.29	-
11	<i>Ficus glandulifera</i> (Wall. ex Miq.) King	Moraceae	-	-	-	6.21
12	<i>Ardisia</i> sp.	Myrsinaceae	4.67	-	3.51	-
13	<i>Rapanea hasseltii</i> (Blume ex Scheff.) Mez	Myrsinaceae	-	4.79	5.14	-
14	<i>Chassalia blumeana</i> Govaerts	Rubiaceae	-	4.88	-	-
15	<i>Lasianthus rhinocerotis</i> Blume	Rubiaceae	-	-	5.76	-
16	<i>Ophiorrhiza marginata</i> Blume	Rubiaceae	11.90	11.76	7.56	20.77
17	<i>Psychotria viridiflora</i> Reinw. ex Blume	Rubiaceae	4.51	-	6.55	-
18	<i>Urophyllum strigosum</i> (Blume) Korth.	Rubiaceae	-	5.17	-	-
19	<i>Melicope latifolia</i> (DC.) T.G.Hartley	Rutaceae	4.14	-	-	-
20	<i>Lepisanthes tetraphylla</i> Radlk.	Sapindaceae	-	-	-	6.12
21	<i>Sterculia coccinea</i> Roxb.	Sterculiaceae	-	-	-	4.53
22	<i>Schima wallichii</i> Choisy	Theaceae	-	6.15	-	-
23	<i>Girronniera subaequalis</i> Planch.	Ulmaceae	4.63	-	-	-
24	<i>Dendrocnide stimulans</i> (L.f.) Chew	Urticaceae	-	-	-	17.60
25	<i>Oreocnide rubescens</i> (Blume) Miq.	Urticaceae	-	-	-	5.83

#### D. Soil

Soil properties on the North, South, East, and West slopes of Mount Endut is presented in Table 5.

Soil on the transect established on the North, South, East, and West slopes of Mount Endut was acid. The C organic and N total contents on all four slopes of Mount Endut tend to get lower towards lower elevation, while that of East slope tends to get higher towards lower elevation. The Al and H contents on the North, East, and West slopes tend to get higher towards lower elevation, while that of South slope tends to vary towards lower elevation. The C/N ratios on the North, South, East, and West slopes were low to moderate.

The P, Ca, Mg, K, and Na contents on the North, South, East, and West slopes of Mount Endut all varied with elevation. The cation exchange capacity (CEC) on the North and West was moderate to high. While those of South and East were low to moderate and moderate, respectively. Correlation prevalence between tree species and soil nutrients on each transect using Spearman rank correlation test is shown in Table 6.

At North slope, 8 species had correlation with N-tot, 5 species with CEC, 3 species each with Ca, Na, Al, and H; and, 2 species each with pH, C-org, P, Mg, K, and BS. While at South slope, 5 species each had correlation with N-tot, Ca, and K, 3 species each with pH, P, Mg, and Al; 2 species with Na, and 1 species each with CEC and BS. At East slope, 8 species had correlation with Mg, 6 species with CEC, and 5 species each with pH, N-tot, Ca, K, Al, and H; 4 species with C-org, 3 species with P and BS, and 2 species with Na.

Then at West slope, 10 species had correlation with N-tot and Na, 9 species with Ca, 8 species with Mg and BS; 7 species with Al, 5 species with H, 4 species with K and CEC, and 1 species with P.

Tree densities in two hectares on North, South, East, and West slopes were 783, 247, 428 and 474, or ranging of 124 – 392 trees/ha. In general, those tree densities were relatively low. The transect located on South slope at a distance about 1,300–2,000 m from the peak of Mount Endut was the water stream, so that the trees were not dense.

Sapling densities in 0.5 ha on North, South, East, and West slopes were 592, 790, 523 and 692 or at range of 1,046–1,580 saplings/ha. The transect located on East slope about 1,000–2,000 m from the peak of Mount Endut passed a shifting cultivation area and bamboo garden, resulting in decreased sapling number.

Basal area of trees in two hectares on North, South, East, and West slopes were 34.88 m<sup>2</sup>, 12.68 m<sup>2</sup>, 21.04 m<sup>2</sup> and 51.78 m<sup>2</sup> ranging from 6.34–25.89 m<sup>2</sup> per hectare. On West slope, although having less trees than North slope, they have a bigger basal area. This was due to higher diameter trees growing on West slope, such as *Altingia excelsa*. Basal area of saplings in 0.5 ha on North, South, East, and West slopes were 1.27 m<sup>2</sup>, 1.63 m<sup>2</sup>, 0.68 m<sup>2</sup> and 1.49 m<sup>2</sup> ranging from 1.36–3.26 m<sup>2</sup> per ha. South slope had highest basal area due to having more individual trees compared to the other slopes.

Crown cover areas of seedlings in 800 m<sup>2</sup> on North, South, East, and West slopes were 220.48 m<sup>2</sup>; 269.96 m<sup>2</sup>; 290.64 m<sup>2</sup> and 252.36 m<sup>2</sup>. East slope of Mount Endut had the highest seedling

Table 5. Soil properties of Mount Endut.

Components	North	South	East	West
pH	4.4 – 4.7	4.5 – 5.8	4.5 – 4.8	4.4 – 5.4
C organic (%)	3.68 – 7.27	2.48 – 7.83	3.92 – 5.67	2.85 – 5.43
Al (me/100 gr)	2.94 – 7.8	0.82 – 4.92	2.72 – 5.23	1.96 – 8.24
H (me/100 gr)	0.28 – 0.56	0.12 – 0.56	0.30 – 0.40	0.26 – 0.49
N	0.33 – 0.58	0.23 – 0.62	0.32 – 0.52	0.30 – 0.42
C/N	11.84	11.59	11.18	11.08
P Bray-1 (g/m <sup>3</sup> )	10.2 – 20.1	2.2 – 22.9	11.4 – 18.8	3.2 – 23.6
Ca(me/100 gr)	1.13 – 1.75	1.5 – 13.66	1.26 – 2.47	1.37 – 3.45
Mg (me/100 gr)	0.36 – 0.51	0.48 – 2.72	0.39 – 0.91	0.38 – 0.87
K (me/100 gr)	0.02 – 0.09	0.02 – 0.14	0.02 – 0.03	0.02 – 0.04
Na (me/100 gr)	0.07 – 0.18	0.07 – 0.18	0.09 – 0.10	0.07 – 0.08
CEC	20.32 – 40.60	15.78 – 30.51	19.05 – 22.78	18.08 – 35.21

Notes : me = milliequivalent is weight equals 1 mg of H<sup>+</sup>.

Table 6. Significance values of the Spearman Test Statistic between Tree Species and Soil Nutrients

No	Species	pH & Soil Nutrients	Spearman	Slope
1	<i>Altingia excelsa</i>	Ntot	0.549*	S
			0.682**	W
		Ca	0.709**	W
		Mg	0.712**	W
		Na	-0.565*	W
		CEC	-0.665**	W
		BS	0.584*	W
		Al	0.854**	W
2	<i>Antidesma tetandrum</i>	H	-0.764**	W
		Ntot	0.527*	S
3	<i>Ardisia zollingeriana</i>	P	-0.675**	W
		Ntot	-0.543*	S
4	<i>Arenga pinnata</i>		-0.714**	E
		Ca	-0.678**	S
			-0.607*	E
		Mg	-0.671**	S
			-0.524*	E
		Corg	-0.653**	E
		pH	0.547*	E
		K	0.587*	E
		Na	0.587*	E
		Al	0.586*	E
5	<i>Blumeodendron tokbrai</i>	H	0.586*	E
		pH	-0.518*	N
		Corg	-0.685**	N
			-0.527*	E
6	<i>Castanopsis acuminatissima</i>	Ca	-0.754**	E
			0.540*	W
		N tot	-0.633*	N
			-0.818**	S
			-0.739**	E
			-0.883**	W
		P	0.545*	N
			0.573*	E
		Ca	-0.868**	N
			-0.810**	W
		Mg	-0.817**	N
			-0.554*	S
			-0.831**	E
			-0.757**	W
		K	-0.571*	N
			-0.644**	S
			-0.576*	E
			0.553*	W
	0.671*	N		
	0.541*	S		
	0.532*	E		
	0.814**	W		
	-0.638*	W		
	-0.586*	S		
	-0.528*	E		
	-0.534*	W		
	-0.533*	E		
7	<i>Castanopsis argentea</i>	Ntot	0.543*	N
		Na	-0.549*	N
		Na	-0.614*	W
		BS	0.600*	S
		K	-0.788**	W
8	<i>Castanopsis tungurut</i>		-0.788**	W
		Ntot	0.721**	W
		Ca	0.692**	W
		Mg	0.610*	W
		Na	-0.739**	W
		BS	0.637*	W
	-0.580*	W		
		H	-0.580*	W



Table 6. Significance values of the Spearman Test Statistic between Tree Species and Soil Nutrients (continued)

No	Species	pH & Soil Nutrients	Spearman	Slope
9	<i>Coffea robusta</i>	BS	0.567*	E
		Ntot	- 0.570*	N
10	<i>Elaeocarpus pierrei</i>	Corg	0.745**	N
			- 0.724**	S
		Al	- 0.649**	W
			0.425*	W
		pH	0.635*	E
11	<i>Ficus grossulariodes</i>		0.557*	E
		K	0.519*	E
		Na	0.519*	E
		BS	- 0.665**	E
		Al	0.655**	E
12	<i>Garcinia parvifolia</i>	pH	0.663**	E
		Ntot	- 0.587*	N
		Ca	- 0.580*	N
		pH	- 0.539*	S
			- 0.626*	S
13	<i>Garcinia rostrata</i>	Corg	- 0.570*	E
			- 0.636*	E
		Mg	- 0.526*	E
			0.584*	N
			- 0.514*	S
			- 0.593*	S
		Al	- 0.662*	S
			- 0.598*	W
		BS	0.532*	E
			- 0.521*	E
		H	- 0.544*	E
			0.693**	W
			0.645**	W
			- 0.577*	W
		pH	- 0.646**	N
	0.675**	W		
	0.555*	W		
	- 0.682**	W		
14	<i>Lepisanthes tetraphylla</i>	Na	- 0.601*	W
			- 0.518*	W
			0.559*	W
		Al	0.655**	W
		CEC	0.321*	N
15	<i>Lithocarpus kunstleri</i>	Al	- 0.572*	N
			0.565*	W
			- 0.593*	N
		H	- 0.663**	W
		Ntot	0.717**	W
16	<i>Lithocarpus pseudomoluccanus</i>	Ca	0.719**	W
		Mg	0.714**	W
		Na	- 0.706**	W
		BS	0.651**	W
		pH	- 0.548*	S
17	<i>Litsea cubeba</i>	Ca	- 0.661**	S
		Mg	- 0.621*	S
		BS	0.561*	N
18	<i>Mallotus paniculatus</i>	pH	- 0.710**	S
		Ca	- 0.644**	S
19	<i>Neesia altissima</i>	pH	- 0.526*	E
		Ntot	0.543*	N
		P	- 0.656**	N
		Mg	0.525*	N
		K	0.521*	N
19	<i>Neesia altissima</i>	CEC	- 0.568*	N
		Al	0.541*	N
		H	0.656**	N
		Ca	0.537*	N
		BS	0.525*	N

Table 6. Significance values of the Spearman Test Statistic between Tree Species and Soil Nutrients (continued)

No	Species	pH & Soil Nutrients	Spearman	Slope
20	<i>Paraserianthes falcataria</i>	Ca	0.538*	S
		Ca	0.628*	E
		Mg	0.718**	E
		Na	0.594*	S
		Ntot	0.674**	E
			- 0.520*	E
		P	0.587*	S
			- 0.682**	E
		Mg	- 0.549*	E
			0.710**	W
21	<i>Pometia pinnata</i>	Ca	0.516*	W
		Mg	0.579*	W
		BS	0.624*	W
		Al	0.520*	W
		Al	- 0.516*	N
22	<i>Prunus arborea</i>	H	- 0.601*	N
		H	0.525*	W
		Mg	- 0.715**	W
			- 0.793**	W
		CEC	- 0.591*	N
23	<i>Pternandra azurea</i>	Na	0.628*	E
			0.541*	S
			0.640*	E
			- 0.565*	W
			0.567*	N
		Ca	- 0.610*	E
			0.690**	W
		Ntot	- 0.586*	N
			0.515*	W
		P	0.555*	S
			0.541*	W
			0.557*	W
			- 0.585*	W
		CEC	0.700 **	N
			0.688**	E
			0.670**	S
			0.616*	E
K	- 0.748**	S		
	- 0.546*	E		
	- 0.722**	E		
	- 0.652**	W		
	- 0.606*	E		
	- 0.543*	W		
	- 0.566*	E		
	- 0.596*	W		
24	<i>Schima wallichii</i>	Na	0.565*	W
		Al	- 0.593*	W
		Ntot	0.573*	N
		Na	- 0.622*	N
		Corg	0.631*	E
25	<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i>	P	0.680**	E
		K	- 0.670**	E
		CEC	0.534*	E
26	<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i>	Al	- 0.725**	E
		H	- 0.621*	E
		BS	0.518*	E
27	<i>Syzygium laxiflorum</i>	Ca	- 0.564*	S
		Ca	- 0.564*	S
		Mg	- 0.560*	E
		CEC	0.560*	E
28	<i>Syzygium rostratum</i>	H	0.579*	W
		K	- 0.744**	S
29	<i>Syzygium subglauca</i>	K	- 0.584*	W

Notes : \*\* significant at  $P < 0.01$  (very significant); \* significant at  $P < 0.05$  ; ns = non significant

Transect : N=North; S=South; E=East; and W=West; CEC=Cation Exchange Capacity ; BS=Base Saturation

crown cover area. This is assumed to be due to having morning sunlight energy which plays an important role in photosynthesis.

## DISCUSSION

Generally speaking the largest number of individual trees were in the small diameter class and decreased with the increase of the diameter class size. According to Ogawa *et al.* (1965) and Proctor *et al.* (1983) this is a common phenomenon that is also frequently found in tropical forests that experience dynamic change. *Castanopsis acuminatissima* was the most dominant species because it had the highest frequency, density and basal area values compared to other species. *Castanopsis acuminatissima* is the most prevalent tree species in the Citorek forest area, formerly Gunung Halimun National Park, having highest absolute numbers in density, frequency, and basal area (Mirmanto & Simbolon, 1998). *Castanopsis acuminatissima* was the most important tree species on most transects and showed many significant correlations with soil nutrient variables; positively correlations with P and CEC in North, East, South (CEC only) slopes, and with K and Na in West slope (Table 6.). Table 6. also shows that *Arenga pinnata* and *Pometia pinnata* had positive correlations with all soil nutrients they interacted.

*Schima wallichii* was another dominant species in the research area. From several studies conducted in the forests of West Java, *S. wallichii* is the most common tree found in mountain areas (Yamada, 1975; Siregar *et al.*, 1997). *Schima wallichii* was found in some mountain wet tropical rainforests in sub mountain zones such as Mount Kerinci, Sumatera (Ohsawa *et al.*, 1985) and in Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia (Kitayama, 1992) as an important component. At tree stage, *S. wallichii* had positive correlations with CEC, P, CEC and P, and Na in North, South, East, and West slopes respectively.

According to Miyamoto *et al.* (2003), plant communities exhibited through their structure and composition a very close interconnection with their habitat, where ecological habitat terms refers to all the physical and chemical factors that influence the plant community. Discovery of associations between species distribution with various variations of soil (edaphics) and topography is one of the most important keys in understanding the characteristics of tropical rainforests.

The dominant sapling species were a mixture of native species such as *C. acuminatissima* and cultivated plants such as *Coffea canephora* var. *robusta*. This is due to the availability of native species from mature trees and community interest in coffee crops. The existence of *Maesopsis eminii* which is an exotic and invasive species especially on the East slope needs to be controlled, although it does not seem to interfere with the regeneration

of native plants. This is a pioneer species, quick to germinate (orthodox seeds) and the seedling is shade tolerant.

The dominant seedling species were more diverse than saplings. This is allegedly due to the competition of space and light between the secondary and primary species which were occurring naturally, along with the planting of coffee seeds. The dominant herbs were represented by herb pandans, taro, ginger and grass. The ginger species of *Etingera coccinea* was mostly found on steep cliffs, while the grass species *Oplismenus compositus* mainly occupied open land and occurred near community gardens.

One of the characteristics of soil in sub mountains and mountains is the acid soil properties (Kappelle, 2004). The acidity of the soil will increase with increasing elevation. This is consistent with the conditions in the study area, where the pH was relatively low with variations between 5.4–5.8 (in low areas) and 4.4–4.8 (at mountain tops). Compared to wet tropical lowlands, this area is covered by clouds and the air humidity is much higher. Evapotranspiration reduces very sharply and so does the temperature. This condition causes the process of decomposition of organic material to be slow so that organic materials build up in the soil and cause acidic conditions (Veneklaas, 1991).

The amount of element phosphorus in the research area was very low *i.e.*  $< 15 \text{ g/m}^3$ . The low amount of P in the study area is considered to be an obstacle in the development and growth of forests in the future. The very low availability of P is an obstacle to most tropical rain forest ecosystems (Jordan, 1985). However, in an ecosystem highly deficient in soil P, the soil P will play a significant role in determining net primary productivity and weathering of organic matter either directly or through interaction with N elements (Kitayama *et al.*, 2000).

Management of landslide disasters in the Mount Endut Area is related to social and cultural problems and destruction of natural forests which is very alarming (TNGHS, 2007) especially encroachment of cultivated land into forests. The peak area of Mount Endut is core zone because some areas are still primary forest and must be protected from illegal logging and encroachment by cultivation to enable restoration of local flora and fauna habitats. There was not yet buffer zone established between Mount Endut and human settlement. The density of trees in Mount Endut was relatively low, with the number of trees  $\leq 20$  cm in diameter not reaching 150 individuals per hectare. Hence the planting of empty land especially on steep areas with native plant species having firm roots such as *Altingia excelsa*, *Schima wallichii*, and members of the Fagaceae family should be done by involving conservation

cadres and communities around the area of Mount Endut.

## CONCLUSIONS

North, South, East and West slopes of Mount Endut, Gunung Halimun Salak National Park were occupied by *Castanopsis acuminatissima* – *C. argentea*, *C. acuminatissima* – *Schima wallichii*, and *Altingia excelsa* – *C. acuminatissima* communities, respectively. *C. acuminatissima* and *S. wallichii* were two most important tree species on most transects and showed many positive correlations with soil nutrients.

Principal sapling species on the four slopes of Mount Endut were *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Garcinia rostrata*, *Schima wallichii*, *Symplocos cochinchinensis* and *Prunus arborea*. With regard to seedlings, the dominant species were *Cyathea contaminans*, *Pinanga coronata*, *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, *Garcinia rostrata*, and *Ophiorrhiza marginata*.

Plant species diversity at the Mount Endut region was relatively low especially on the North slope. Tree density in the whole of this region was also relatively low. This might be caused by illegal logging and encroachment by cultivation.

The soil of Mount Endut was generally acid. The C/N ratio was low to moderate. The cation exchange capacity ranged from low to moderate and moderate to high. The C organic and N total contents (the case of East slope) tended to get higher towards lower elevation. The P, Ca, Mg, K, and Na contents, all varied within elevation gradients.

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J. F. VELDKAMP. A revision of <i>Isachne</i> in Malesia 2: Sect. Albentes (Gramineae, Isachneae) .....	1
I PUTU GEDE P. DAMAYANTO. <i>Dinochloa malayana</i> S. Dransf. (Poaceae: Bambusoideae), a new record for Indonesia .....	35
EDY NASRIADI SAMBAS, CECEP KUSMANA, LILIK BUDI PRASETYO & TUKIRIN PARTOMIHARDJO. Vegetation analysis and population structure of plants at Mount Endut forested area, Gunung Halimun Salak National Park, Banten, Java, Indonesia .....	39
IAN M. TURNER. A new combination in <i>Pseuderanthemum</i> (Acanthaceae) .....	55
YENI RAHAYU, TATIK CHIKMAWATI & ELIZABETH A. WIDJAJA. Nomenclatural study of <i>Tetrastigma leucostaphylum</i> and <i>Tetrastigma rafflesiae</i> (Vitaceae): two common hosts of <i>Rafflesia</i> in Sumatra .....	59
WAWAN SUJARWO. Bamboo resources, cultural values, and <i>ex-situ</i> conservation in Bali, Indonesia .....	67
KHOON MENG WONG & RIDHA MAHYUNI. Flora of Singapore Precursors, 2. A new species and two new combinations in <i>Psydrax</i> (Rubiaceae: Vanguerieae) for West Malesia .....	77
ERRATUM REINWARDTIA Vol. 16(2), 2017 .....	85

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