

III. EXPEDITIONS AND OTHER FIELDWORK

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Borneo — Sabah — WWF Malaysia has obtained funding from the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC) to conduct botanical studies at Ulu Padas, in the extreme southwest of Sabah.

A first expedition was carried out in April 2002 to the Maligan Virgin Jungle Reserve with a total area of 9240 ha, located 300 km S of Kota Kinabalu at 1220–1940 m altitude. It is subject to seasonal flooding as it is within a shallow sandstone basin. The Reserve is mainly made up of montane forest and still undisturbed. The montane marsh peat swamp forest/community there is very special and does not occur anywhere else in Sabah or Borneo.

Members were WWF Malaysia staff together with botanists from the Forest Research Centre, Sepilok, students from the Universiti Malaysia Sabah, and Dr. A. Lamb. About 300 numbers of higher plants were collected during this first trip, while the university students concentrated on soil micro-organisms associated with identified plants. Many new plant records were discovered here, of note are *Alpinia tamacuensis* (Zingiberaceae), *Dendrobium spectatissimum* (Orchidaceae), and *Photinia prunifolia* (Rosaceae).

Other collecting trips to the many forest types (11 have been recognised) will proceed until early 2004. — G. Davison & J. Sugau.

A scientific expedition to **Malawali Island** (7–12 August 2002) was organised by and for the Sabah Forestry Department. Malawali is an ultramafic island with an area of 3400 ha, located 115 km E from Kudat. The island is mainly covered by *Gymnostoma sumatrana* (Casuarinaceae). Pole-like casuarina forest develops right behind the mangrove up to the hill top (c. 90 m alt.), which had been burnt. Plant identification is in progress.

Dr. A.D. Poulsen (AAU) has been to **Sabah** and **Sarawak** early 2002 collecting material for his monographic work on *Etilingera* (Zingiberaceae).

Sulawesi — Ms. G. Brown and Mr. L. Craven (both CANB) together with Ms. L. Juswara (BO) made a small collection of vascular plants from Sulawesi in July 2002. Emphasis was on *Rhododendron* for Ms. Brown's PhD research. Visits were made to Gn. Rantemario, Gn. Sesean, Gn. Sojol, and the Lore Lindu National Park. The field party was joined by Mr. Ramadhanil (CEB) for the last two locations.