

FLORA OF MERAPOH LIMESTONE

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Merapoh in north Pahang is famous as the second gateway to Gunung Tahan in Taman Negara. However, Merapoh also has a majestic landscape of limestone hills dotted around Merapoh from the main road near Chegar Perah through Merapoh and on into Gua Musang, Kelantan. Until now, limestone hills in Merapoh have not been botanically explored. During 2013 to 2014 FRIM botany group made many interesting discoveries and new species records of flora. Some species are confined to specific microhabitats, for instance, the base of limestone, rock crevices or the summit of limestone hill. No species on limestone hills in Merapoh area is protected. The FRIM survey collected about 516 specimens in total covering about 80 families and 194 species. Preliminary results showed high diversity of flora in Merapoh limestone. Merapoh hills recorded several interesting plant species that only grow on limestone for example *Pandanus irregularis* (Pandaceae), *Begonia nurii* (Begoniaceae), *Zippelia begoniifolia* (Piperaceae), *Monophyllaea musangensis* (Gesneriaceae), *Microchirita involucrata* (Gesneriaceae), *Orophea hirsuta* (Annonaceae), *Milium intermedia* (Annonaceae), and *Calciphlopteris alleniae* (Pteridaceae).

Keywords: Merapoh, limestone hill, diversity



Paraboea nervosissima



Monophyllaea hirticalyx



Impatiens opinata



Monophyllaea musangensis



Sphaeranthus africanus



Miliusa intermedia



Miliusa longipes



Calciphlopteris alleniae



Pandanus irregularis



Orophea hirsuta



Begonia nurii



Zippelia begoniifolia



Peperomia kotana



Microchirita involucrata



Pyrrosia penangiana



Burmanna championii



Goniothalamus ridleyi