

Diversity, structure and composition of pteridophyte in varying habitats in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province, Indonesia

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Abstract. Sofiyanti N, Iriani D, Taufik I, Sari M, Irawan A, Syaqui FM. 2021. Diversity, structure and composition of pteridophyte in varying habitats in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province, Indonesia. *Biodiversitas* 22: 4847-4856. Biodiversity of small islands, particularly in tropical region, always encourages scientific curiosity. Such curiosity is much greater when the small island of interest has been through various land use changes, such as in Karimun Besar Island. This island is one of thousand islands in Riau Islands Province, Indonesia and poses different land uses. However, studies on the biodiversity of flora in this island have not been recorded, including for pteridophyte or fern members. This study aimed to examine the diversity, floristic structure and composition of pteridophyte at six different study sites in Karimun Besar Island representing varying habitat conditions (i.e., primary forest, secondary forest, rubber plantation, road side, coastal area and mined land). The sampling was collected by using transect method to measure density, dominance and frequency. A total of 32 species of pteridophytes were recorded from the six study sites that belong to two divisions, Polypodiophyta (31 species) and Lycophyta (1 species). The number of species of pteridophyte varied across the six habitats. The highest number of species (21) was found in primary forest, while the lowest (9 species) was found in rubber plantation. The dominant species for each study site were *Taenitis blechnoides* (Pteridaceae) (rubber plantation), *Dicranopteris linearis* (Gleicheniaceae) (secondary forest), *Sticherus truncates* (Gleicheniaceae) (primary forest), *Pteridium caudatum* (Dennstaedtiaceae) (road side), *Achrosticum aureum* (Pteridaceae) (coastal area) and *Nephrolepis hirsutula* (Nephrolepidaceae) (mined land). The result of this study provides the first data of fern in Karimun Besar Island that support pivotal information on the biodiversity of small islands in tropical region.

Keywords: Fern, Karimun, pteridophyte

Abbreviations: Cov: coverage, NP: Number of plot, NI: Number of individuals, RP: Rubber plantation, SF: Secondary forest, PF: Primary forest, RS: Road side, CA: Coastal area, ML: Mined land

INTRODUCTION

Riau Islands Province is an archipelagic province in Indonesia comprising of thousand islands located in coastal area eastern of Sumatra. It borders with the Riau Province to the west, Singapore to the north, and South China Sea to the south. According to Guo et al. (2015), oceanic islands have specific environmental and bio-geographical characteristics because of isolation, resulting in unique biological diversity (both plants and animals) which is usually different with mainland (Hortal et al. 2009).

Floristic inventory is an effort to investigate and compile data and information of flora in a specific area (Badshah et al. 2013). It is fundamental for understanding the status of species diversity either in the past, current and future (Jayakumar et al. 2011). Floristic inventory is baseline information for assessing the state and dynamic of biodiversity to inform policies and management, for example conservation area establishment, threat assessment, species conservation, and so on (Amber et al. 2019). Nonetheless, such effort is lacking in the tropics more over in archipelagic region, so that the pattern of floristic richness of small tropical islands is poorly known and documented (Kreft et al. 2008).

Up to the present, there is no report on the floristic study in the islands of Riau Island Province including from Karimun Besar Island, one of the major islands in Riau Islands Province. This island has several types of ecosystems, ranging from coastal to hilly mountains that are inhabited by various flora including those from pteridophyte members or ferns and its allies. However, study on plant diversity, as well as pteridophyte, from Karimun Besar Island has never been recorded, nor from the other island at Riau Islands Province. Only limited studies on pteridophyte had been reported from coastal areas from nearby province (Riau Province) (Sofiyanti et al. 2019a; 2019b).

Pteridophyte is a plant group of seedless (Mir et al. 2015) and spore producing plant (Lashin 2012; Barrington et al. 2015; Gómez-Noguez et al. 2016; Sofiyanti et al. 2019b). According to Konrat et al. (2011), pteridophytes refer to vascular cryptogamic plants due to the presence of vascular bundle and spore. This group consists of Lycophytes and Monilophytes (Schneider and Eric 2016). The stem stele of Lycophytes have no leaf gap, while Monilophytes are characterized by the presence of leaf gap (Mir et al. 2015). Pteridophytes share the same characteristic with seed plant by having vascular bundle

(Pigg and Rothwell 2001; Bondada et al. 2006; Kato and Ryoko 2011). Generally, the type of stele in pteridophyte member is protosteles, in which the xylem is located in the center and surrounded by phloem (Sofiyanti et al. 2019). So far, about 12.000 species of pteridophyte have been identified (Della and Falkenberg 2019) and spread across many different habitats, from coastal regions (Medina et al. 1990) to mountains (Nettesheim et al. 2014).

Our preliminary study on Karimun Besar Island showed that this major island is occupied by various coastal flora, including pteridophyte members. We observed that pteridophytes members were distributed on six different habitats in this island, i.e., rubber plantation, secondary forest, primary forest, road side, coastal area and mined land. However, there is no flora checklist, as well as pteridophytes, had been recorded from such varying habitats. Therefore, this study aimed to study the diversity, floristic structure and composition of pteridophyte at Karimun Besar Island across six different habitat types. The results of this study can enrich the existing floristic data at global and national levels, particularly regarding pteridophytes or ferns. The variation of habitat would provide insights of what habitat types are more preferred and less preferred by pteridophytes in the context of small island.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area and sampled sites

Plant specimens were collected from six different study sites representing habitat types in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province (Figure 1). Six different habitat types were examined in this study, i.e., rubber forest, secondary forest, primary forest, road side, coastal area and mined land (Figure 2).

The first habitat type was rubber plantation (Figure 2.A). Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis* Muel. Urg.; Euphorbiaceae), well-known as Brazilian rubber tree (Venkatachalam et al. 2013), is tree species that produce natural rubber (Pia and Konrad 2016). This rubber is obtained from tree latex (sap) and become one of important commodity crops in Indonesia. The rubber plantation in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province was initiated at 2007-2009 by the government. One of rubber plantation in Karimun District is located in Pongkar Village, Tebing Sub-district (8 m asl, coordinate 1°07'01.0"N 103°22'24.9"E). This area is located on the side of main road from Pamak to Pongkar Village. In this study site, the average stem diameter of rubber trees on this area is ca. 47-52 cm.

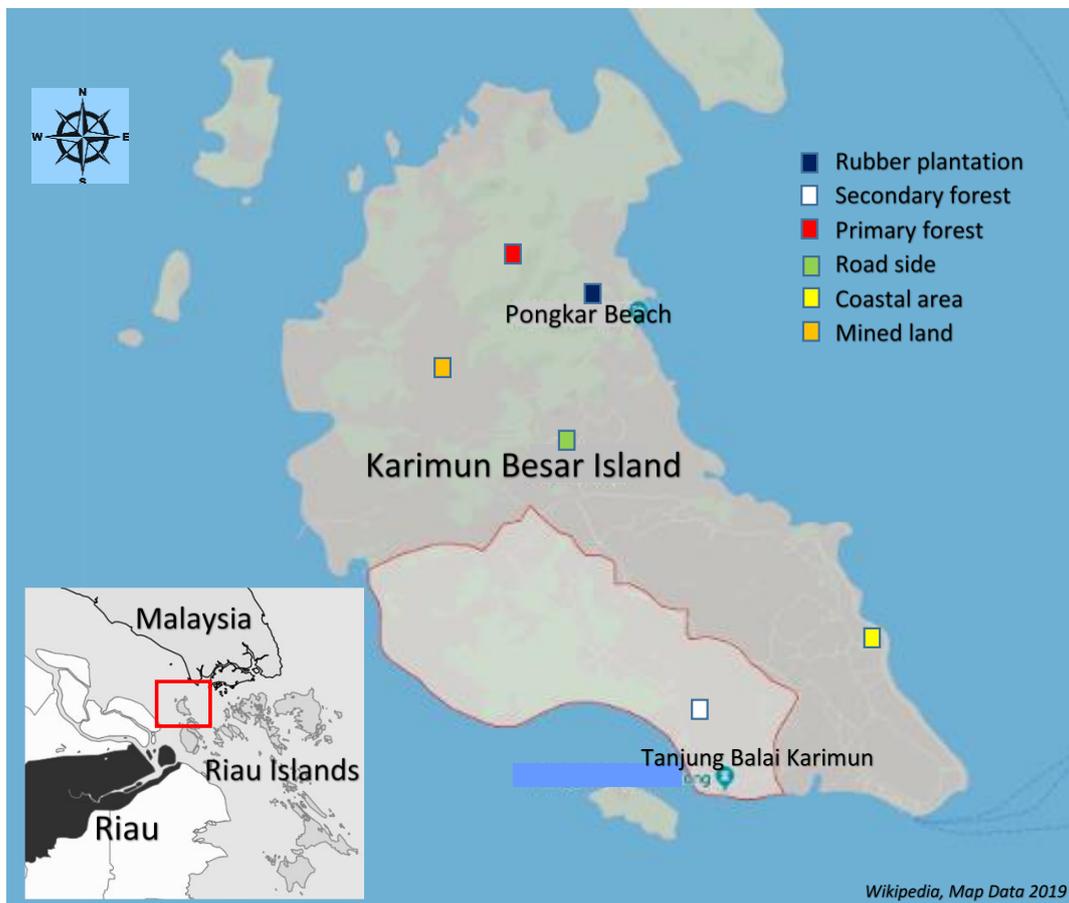


Figure 1. Map of study location in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province, Indonesia. (Map source Wikipedia and Map Data 2019)

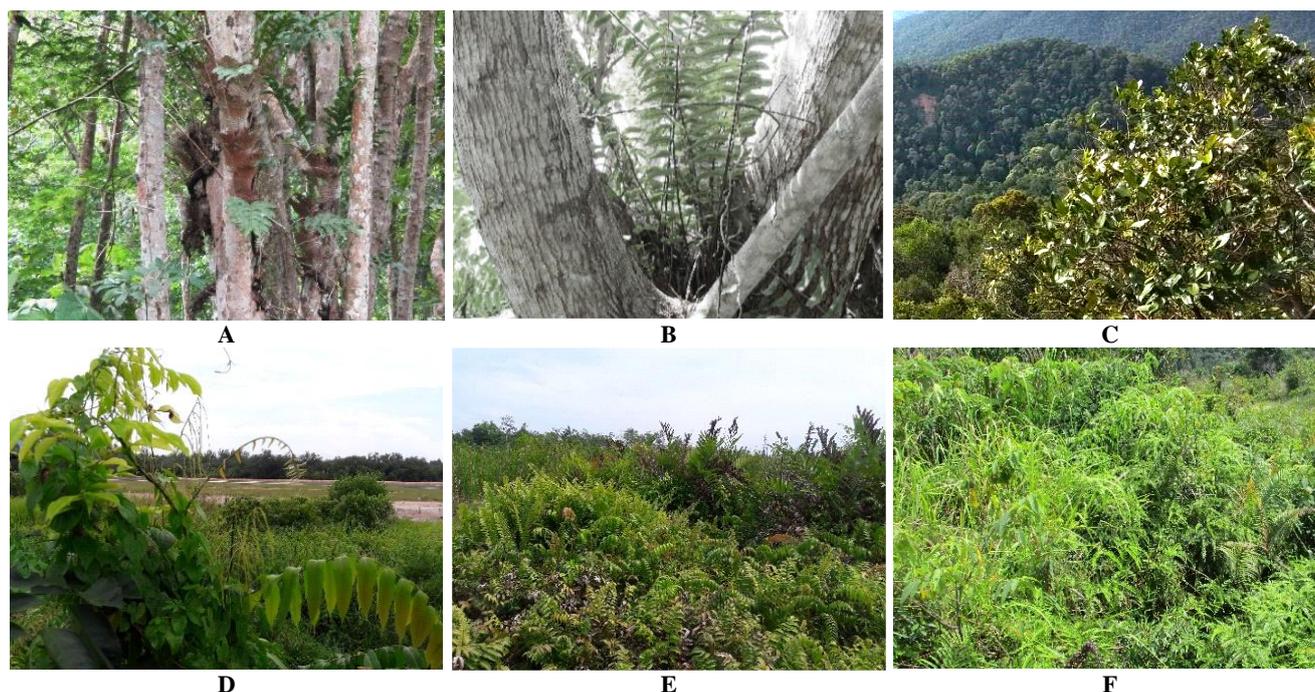


Figure 2. Six habitat types examined in this study. A. Rubber forest, B. Secondary forest, C. Primary forest, D. Road side, E. Coastal area and F. Mined land

Secondary forest in Karimun Besar Island was located in Tanjung Balai Karimun (13 m asl, coordinate 1°00'01"N 103°24'17"E) (2B). This forest is located on the side of main road, and occupied by upper plant species from Spermatophyte such as Mango (*Mangifera indica*), rambutan (*Nephelium* sp.), Beringin (*Ficus benjamina*) and palm tree (*Pinanga* sp.). These species were cultivated by the district government as ornamental plants. The lower vegetation at secondary forest habitat consisted of grasses, liana and pteridophytes.

The primary forest in Karimun Besar Island is concentrated at Mt. Jantan, Pongkar (370 m, 1°05'41"N 103°21'21"E) (Figure 2C). Primary forest shared the largest area in Karimun Besar Island compared to other habitat types that stretch up to 370 m asl. This forest still poses high plant diversity due to less anthropogenic activities. The common upper species in this primary forest belong to Dipterocarpaceae family. The jungle track in this forest was used for transect line. Pteridophytes in this forest share the same habitat with other lower spermatophytes.

Karimun Besar Island has many open-spaced areas at road ride (Figure 2D). Most of the sampled quadrats had no upper vegetation and were exposed to sun lights. In general, this habitat was occupied by many herbs and shrub species, including pteridophytes. In this site, the transects were placed at road side at Pamak street (13 m asl, coordinate 1°02'52.3"N 103°22'14.7"E).

The transition area between land and sea is called coastal area. The structure and composition of vegetation at coastal area have important ecological function. As an island region, Karimun Besar Island is surrounded by coastal area (Figure 2E), and this area occupied by many species of mangrove, palm and other lower flora including

pteridophyte. At some areas, the coastal area was dominated by giant fern species known as “Paku Laut Raksasa” or “Giant Sea Fern” (*Acrostichum aureum*). In this site, the transect was placed at Coastal Area of Teluk Uma (3 m asl 1°02'59"N 103°24'27"E).

The mined land (Figure 2F) in Karimun Besar Island is area that had been used for tin mining by PT. Timah Tbk, a state-owned corporation in Indonesia. Some of the areas were abandoned for many years and occupied by grasses, herbs and shrubs and only few species from tree plants. The transects were place at Darusalam (17 m asl, 1°04'04.9"N 103°20'58.9"E).

Data collection procedure

Sampling method used quadrat technique based on Schultz et al. (2009). A total of three transects were placed at each study site with five quadrats (10 x 10 m) for each transect, resulted in total number of quadrat of 15 for each study site (1500 m²) (Table 1). All of the transects were established at each study site using purposive sampling method (Palys 2008). The number of individuals and number of quadrats that occupied by a species and coverage percentage were measured for each species.

Sample collection and identification

For each study site, all species found at every quadrat were collected and photographed. The samples were then put inside the plastic bag soaked with 70% alcohol and stored for herbarium specimens. The herbarium preparation was carried based on Kottapalli et al. (2016) and the specimens were then stored in Herbarium Riauensis. The fern identifications were mainly based on Piggot (1998) and Sofiyanti et al. (2015). We also use online identification

guide using these following websites: <https://rbgweb2.rbge.org.uk/thaiferns/Pages/ferns-of-thailand.htm>, <http://phytoimages.siu.edu>. The accepted names and synonyms were checked at <http://www.worldfloraonline.org/>, <https://www.gbif.org/species/3070795>.

Floristic structure and composition

For each study site, the structure and composition of pteridophyte were described based on density, frequency and dominancy of each identified species. The number of total quadrats used in each study site was 15, while total area studied was 1500m². The structural parameters were calculated based on Sharma (2006) and Khurma and Sibru (2015) as follow:

Density (DE) = Number of individuals of species *i* / total studied area

Dominance (DO) = Coverage of species *i* / total studied area

Frequency (FR) = Number of quadrat in which species *i* occur / Number of total quadrat

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Species diversity of pteridophytes

A total of 32 pteridophyte species were recorded from six different habitat types in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province. They belong to two divisions, Polypodiophyta and Lycophyta. The Polypodiophyta division was dominant in this study with 3 orders, 12 families and 31 species. In contrast, only one Lycophyta species was recorded, i.e., *Lycopodiella cernua*. This species is the most common lycophyte group reported from Riau and Riau Islands Province (Sofiyanti et al. 2015; Sofiyanti 2019). Table 2 shows that a total of 9 species were only found in a habitat type, 7 species in two habitat types, 10 species in 3 habitat types, 1 species in 5 habitat types and 5 species in 5 habitat types. There was no species that distributed in all of six habitat types.

The number of species varied among the six habitat types. The highest number of species was found in primary forest (21 species) followed by road side (19 species). However, the species composition between these sites was different. Rubber plantation had the lowest number of species with a total of 9 pteridophyte species. Among 13 families in pteridophyte, Blechnaceae has the highest number of species (7 species, with two genera), followed

by Pteridaceae family (6 species, 3 genera). This result is different with our previous study at Bengkalis Island, one of main island in coastal area of Riau Province (Sofiyanti et al. 2019).

The total number of species identified in all of study sites (32 species) is higher than in the nearby islands of Riau Province as reported from Bengkalis Island (Sofiyanti et al. 2019) and Rangsang Island (Sofiyanti et al. 2020), with a total of 22 and 23 species, respectively. Both islands have flatter topography than Karimun Besar Island. Otherwise, Karimun Besar Island poses various topography, from sea level to almost 400 m asl, with hilly topography in some locations. According to Hortal et al. (2009), the diversity of habitat will affect the species richness, the more habitat in a territory the more species are found. Furthermore, the effects of topography on structuring plant species had also been previously reported by Qi and Yang (1999), Punchi-Manage et al. (2013) and Wang et al. (2017).

Among 13 families recorded in this study, Blechnaceae had the highest number of species (7 species, with two genera), followed by Pteridaceae family (6 species, 3 genera). Blechnaceae members are characterized by having brownish red to dark red young fronds, with linear sori that parallel and adjacent to mid veins (Rolleri et al. 2010). This family comprises ca. 250 species (de Gasper et al. 2016) from ca. 29 genera. *Blechnum* is currently the rich-species genus in Blechnaceae with about 200 species (Rothfels et al. 2012; Perrie et al. 2014). The members of this genus are commonly found from sea level (Dittrich et al. 2015) to higher elevation. In this study, six out of seven Blechnaceae species belong to *Blechnum*, that distributed in four study sites, i.e., primary forest, road side, coastal area and mined-land. *Stenochlaena palustris* was only one species belong to *Stenochlaena* (Blechnaceae) found in this study. This species is the most common *Stenochlaena* species in Riau Islands and other Sumatera regions.

Pteridaceae is one of the largest pteridophyte family with up to 950 species worldwide, mostly terrestrial or epilithic, some epiphytic and rarely aquatic (Zhang et al. 2013). The members of this family have linear sori and lack of true indusium (replaced by the presence of pseudindusium) (Kessler et al. 2017). A total of 4 genera were recorded in this study (*Acrostichum*, *Adiantum*, *Pteris* and *Taenitis*). *Acrostichum* and *Pteris* were only recorded in one study site (coastal area and road site, respectively), while *Adiantum* and *Taenitis* showed wider distribution in three study sites.

Table 1. List of study sites being sampled in this study

Study sites	Number of quadrat (10 x 10 m ²)	Note
Rubber plantation	15	Code of transects RPPO1, RPPO2, RPPO3, Pongkar
Secondary forest	15	Code of transect SFTBK1, SFTBK3, SFTBK3 Tanjung Balai Karimun
Primary forest	15	Code of transects: PFMJA1, PFMJA2, PFMJA3 Mount Jantan
Road side	15	Code of transects RSPA1, RSPA2, RSPA3, Pamak
Coastal area	15	Code of transects: CATU1, CATU2, CATU3, Teluk Uma
Mined land	15	Code of transects: MLDA1, MLDA2, MLDA3, Darusalam
Total	90	

Table 2. List of identified species of pteridophytes in six habitat types in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province, Indonesia

Divisi, Family	Species	ABR	RP	SF	PF	RS	CA	ML
Lycophyta								
Lycopodiales								
Lycopodiaceae	<i>Lycopodiella cernua</i> (L.) Pic. Serm	LCE	-	-	-	+	-	+
Polypodiophyta								
Gleicheniales								
Gleicheniaceae	<i>Dicranopteris linearis</i> (Burm. f.) Underw.	DLI	-	+	+	+	+	+
	<i>Sticherus truncatus</i> (Willd.) Nakai	STR	-	-	+	-	-	-
Matoniaceae	<i>Matonia pectinata</i> R.Br.	MAP	-	-	+	-	-	-
Polypodiales								
Aspleniaceae	<i>Asplenium nidus</i> L.	ANI	-	+	+	+	+	+
Blechnaceae	<i>Blechnum finlaysonianum</i> Wall.	BFI	-	-	+	+	-	+
	<i>Blechnum occidentale</i> L.	BOC	-	-	+	+	-	-
	<i>Blechnum orientale</i> L.	BOR	-	-	-	+	+	+
	<i>Blechnum serrulatum</i> Rich.	BSE	-	-	-	+	+	-
	<i>Blechnum</i> sp1.	BL1	-	-	-	+	-	+
	<i>Blechnum</i> sp2	BL2	-	-	-	+	-	-
	<i>Stenochlaena palustris</i> (Burm. f.) Bedd.*	SPA	-	-	-	+	+	-
Davalliaceae	<i>Davallia denticulata</i> (Burm. f.) Mett. ex Kuhn	DDE	+	+	+	-	-	-
Dennstaedtiaceae	<i>Pteridium caudatum</i> (L.) Maxon.*	PCA	-	+	+	+	+	+
Lindsaeaceae	<i>Lindsaea ensifolia</i> Sw.	LEN	+	+	+	-	-	-
	<i>Schizoloma divergens</i> (Hook. & Grev.) Kuhn	SDI	+	-	-	-	-	-
Nephrolepidaceae	<i>Nephrolepis hirsutula</i> (G. Forst) C. Presl	NHI	-	-	-	+	+	+
Polypodiaceae	<i>Drynaria quercyfolia</i> (L.) J. Sm.	DQU	+	+	+	-	-	-
	<i>Microsorium punctatum</i> (L.) Copel.	MPU	-	+	+	+	-	-
	<i>Pyrrosia piloselloides</i> (L.) M.G. Price	PPI	+	+	+	+	-	-
Pteridaceae	<i>Acrostichum aureum</i> L.	AAU	-	-	-	-	+	-
	<i>Acrostichum speciosum</i> Willd.	ASP	-	-	-	-	+	-
	<i>Adiantum latifolium</i> Lamm.	ALA	+	-	+	+	-	-
	<i>Adiantum raddianum</i> C. Presl.	ARA	-	-	+	+	-	-
	<i>Pteris vitata</i> L.	PVI	-	-	-	+	-	-
	<i>Taenitis blechnoides</i> (Willd.) Sw.	TBL	+	+	+	-	-	-
Thelypteridaceae	<i>Cyclosorus opulentus</i> (Kaulf.) Nakaïke	COP	-	+	+	-	-	-
	<i>Cyclosorus</i> sp.	CYC	-	-	+	-	-	-
Schizaeales								
Lygodiaceae								
	<i>Lygodium circinatum</i> (Burm. f.) Sw.	LYC	+	+	+	-	-	-
	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i> (Thumb.) SW.*	LYJ	-	+	+	+	+	+
	<i>Lygodium longifolium</i> (Willd.) Sw.	LYL	-	+	+	-	-	-
	<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i> (Cav.) R. Br.	LYM	+	+	+	+	-	+
	Number of species	32	9	14	21	19	12	10

Note: ABR: Abbreviation of species name, RP: Rubber plantation, SF: Secondary forest, PF: Primary forest, RS: Road side, CA: Coastal area, ML: Mined land

Structure and composition

The structure and composition of pteridophyte from six different habitat types in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province is presented in Figure 3. The number of individuals, number of plot in which species occur, percentage of coverage, density, dominance and frequency were calculated from each habitat type. The coverage was measured to know the canopy characterization (Ramirez-Gracia et al. 2012). Density is total number of individuals of a species at studied area. The measurement of density is necessary to examine plant production (Liu et al. 2017). Dominance is indicated by the coverage of species, that estimated by the foliage that projected vertically down to the ground. According to Mullan and Reynolds (2010), plant dominance plays an important role in soil protection and evapotranspiration estimations of an area. While frequency indicates the number of quadrat in which a

species occurs. Therefore, frequency reflects the distribution or spread of a species, whether it is distributed uniformly at examined area or clustered at part of certain quadrant (Liu et al. 2017).

Rubber plantation

Figure 3.A shows the floristic structure and composition of pteridophytes at rubber plantation. A total of nine species was recorded at this habitat type that belong to five families, i.e., Davalliaceae (1 species), Lindsaeaceae (2 species), Polypodiaceae (2 species), Pteridaceae (2 species) and Lygodiaceae (1 species). The number of species identified at rubber plantation was the lowest among the six habitat types examined. The study of Hidayat et al. (2008) and Singh et al. (2019) showed that the alteration of aboveground vegetation into rubber plantation gave significant impacts on belowground

biodiversity. The lower diversity due to forest replacement by rubber plantation was also reported by Lan et al. (2017). According to Aratrakorn et al. (2006) and Singh et al.

(2019), forest alteration into plantation can cause an overall loss and extensive replacement of soil micro-and mesofaunal diversity.

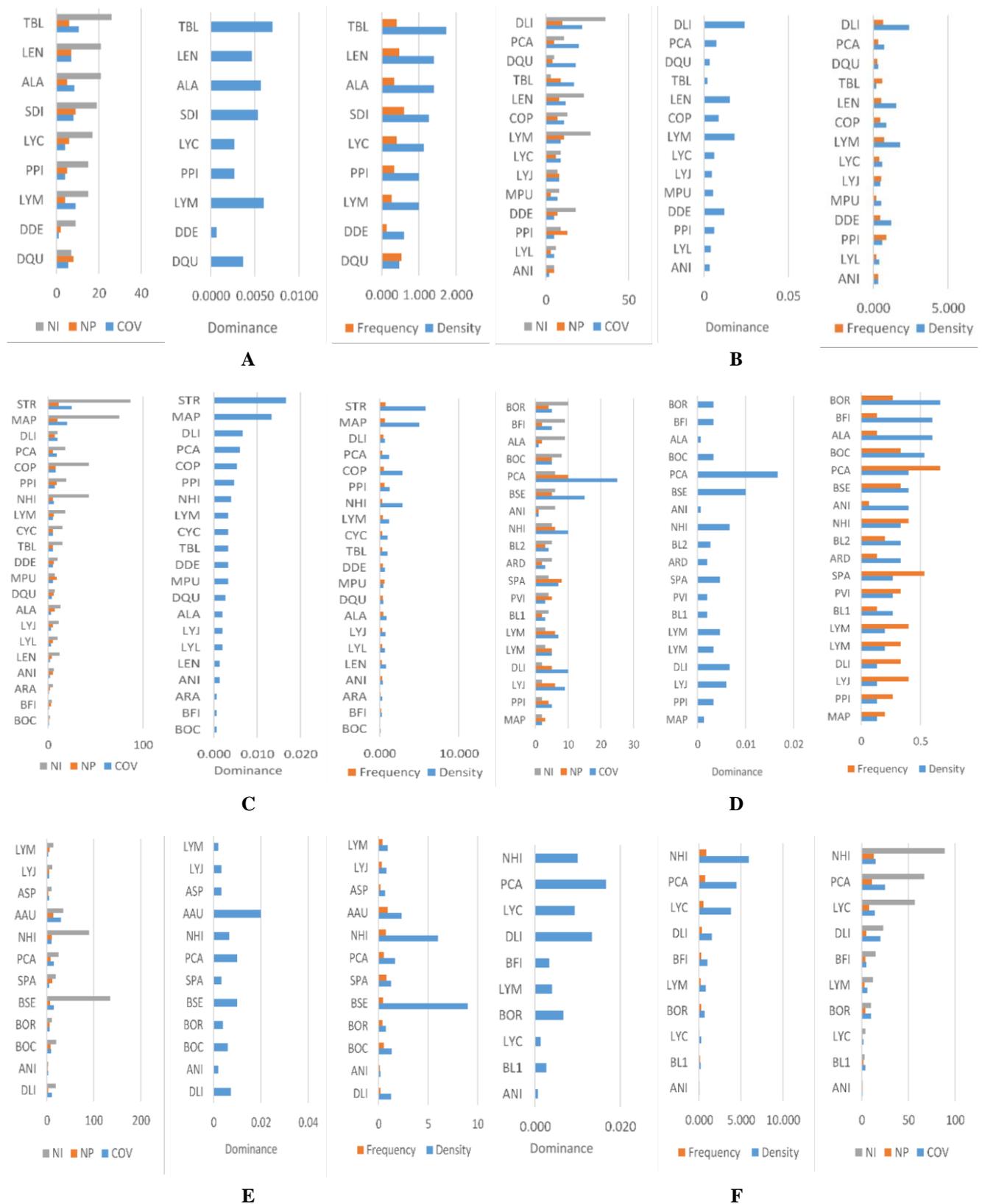


Figure 3. Histogram of structure and composition of pteridophyte at six habitat types. A. rubber plantation, B. Secondary forest, C. Primary forest, D. Road side, E. coastal area, F. Mined land. (Cov: coverage, NP: Number of plot. NI: Number of individuals)

In this site, *Taenitis blechnoides* (Pteridaceae) (Figure 4.A) had the highest number of individuals, coverage, density and dominance (Figure 3.A), while the highest number of plot in which species occur and frequency was *Schizoloma divergen* (Lindsaeaceae). This result indicated that this species is distributed more uniformly than *Taenitis blechnoides* because it was found in higher number of plot. *Taenitis blechnoides* is commonly found in forest floor or slightly shaded area, as reported by Saputra and Qotrunnada (2011) and forms a cluster on forest floor.

Secondary forest

Secondary forests in Karimun Besar Island were located at Pamak and Tanjung Balai Karimun. Most of the parts of this sites were occupied by agricultural crops that were sparsely planted. Therefore, this area was slightly shaded. A total of 14 fern species were identified in this habitat type, belonging to 8 families, i.e., Gleicheniaceae (1 species), Aspleniaceae (1 species), Davalliaceae (1 species), Denstaediaceae (1 species), Lindsaeaceae (1 species), Polypodiaceae (3 species), Pteridaceae (1 species) and Lygodiaceae (4 species). Figure 3.B shows the pteridophyte structure and composition in secondary forest.

In this study site, *Dicranopteris linearis* (locally known as Paku Resam) (Figure 4.B) shows the highest value of number of individuals, coverage percentage and density. This species is commonly found in open space area (Sofiyanti et al. 2019) or open canopy forest (Russell et al. 1998) with full sun or lightly shaded area (Perrie 2015). *Dicranopteris linearis* has creeping rhizome that continuously branched up to 10 m long and usually forms dense thicket. Therefore, the coverage of this species in this area was higher than other pteridophyte species. In this study, *Dicranopteris linearis* was mainly found at the margin of secondary forest with less coverage of upper vegetation.

However, the highest frequency in secondary forest was *Pyrrosia piloselloides*, occurred in 13 out of 15 studied quadrats. The various tree species occur in secondary forest provide a suitable habitat for this epiphytic species. This species was found at Mango (*Mangifera indica*), rambutan (*Nephelium* sp.), Beringin (*Ficus benjamina*) and Pinang (*Pinanga* sp.) tree. However, the coverage of *Pyrrosia piloselloides* is low due to its upward climbing habit and small leaves (ca. 1.5 x 1.3 cm in sterile fronds, and 7-12 cm x 1 cm in fertile fronds). Therefore, this condition impacted to the low estimation of foliage that projected vertically down to the ground.

Primary forest

A total of 21 fern species were identified at this habitat type. These species belong to Lycopodiaceae (1 species), Gleicheniaceae (2 species), Matoniaceae (1 species), Blechnaceae (2 species), Aspleniaceae (1 species), Davalliaceae (1 species), Lindsaeaceae (1 species), Polypodiaceae (3 species), Pteridaceae (3 species), Thelypteridaceae (2 species) and Lygodiaceae (4 species). The number of species identified in primary forest was the

highest among the other habitat types. Primary forest in Karimun Besar Island is located at hilly slope at Gunung Jantan, Pongkar. This topography impacts the environmental factor that suitable for many pteridophyte species. Besides that, primary forest in Karimun Besar Island had less anthropogenic pressure and make better environmental condition than other habitat types. The study by Fahreza and Qotrunnada (2011) showed that primary forest had higher diversity of pteridophyte than other disturbed areas.

Species with the highest value of all of parameter observed was *Sticherus truncatus* (Gleicheniaceae) (Figure 4.C) and followed by *Matonia pectinata* (Matoniaceae) (Figure 4.D). Both species belong to Glecheniales order. *Sticherus truncatus* is commonly distributed at hill dipterocarp forest or montane forest with up to 1500 m asl (Go et al. 2012). This species was not found in the other habitat types that have lower altitude (0-50 m asl). However, most of Glecheniales members will form the wide coverage at suitable habitat, because of the long creeping rhizome, with pseudo-or dichotomous rachis growth, as found in *Sticherus truncatus* and *Matonia pectinata*. The record of these species in Karimun Besar Island is the first record from Riau Islands Province as well as Riau Province.

Road side

The roadsides in Karimun Besar Island were mainly occupied by lower vegetation with few tree plants. In this habitat type, a total of 19 species of pteridophyte were recorded. These species belong to the families of Lycopodiaceae (1 species), Gleicheniaceae (1 species), Aspleniaceae (1 species), Blechnaceae (7 species), Denstaediaceae (1 species), Nephrolepidaceae (1 species) Polypodiaceae (2 species), Pteridaceae (3 species) and Lygodiaceae (2 species). The open area at road side is suitable habitat for many fern species with full sun tolerant.

In this site, *Pteridium caudatum* (Dennstaediaceae) (Figure 4.E) had the highest value of coverage, number of plot in which the species occur, dominance and frequency (presented in Figure 3.E). According to Marrs and Watt (2006), *Pteridium caudatum* prefers sunny condition for its growth. The high coverage of this species is due to its large habit. This species has long stipe (up to 100 cm or more) with broadly triangular laminae (ca. 160 x 110 cm). In each individual, the mature stem bears up to 10 laminae, that will form large coverage at maturity. In most of the examined quadrats, *Pteridium caudatum* grew and formed a dense ticket.

For number of plot in which species occur, the highest value was *Blechnum orientale* (Blechnaceae). Therefore, the frequency value of *Blechnum orientale* was the highest in road site. In this study, it was found solitary under the coverage of other pteridophyte. The study of Kumar et al. (2015) also showed that *Blechnum orientale* was commonly found at road side, or other exposed and drier area.



Figure 4. Morphology of some pteridophyte species in Karimun Besar Island. A. *Taenitis blechnoides*, B. *Dicranopteris linearis*, C. *Sticherus truncatus*, D. *Matonia pectinate*, E. *Pteridium caudatum*, F. *Achrosticum aureum*, G. *Blechnum serrulatum*, H. *Nephrolepis hirsutula*

Coastal area

A total of 12 pteridophyte species were recorded at coastal habitat type. These species belong to seven families, i.e., Gleicheniaceae (1 species), Aspleniaceae (1 species), Blechnaceae (3 species), Dentaediaceae (1 species), Nephrolepidaceae (1 species), Pteridaceae (3 species) and Lygodiaceae (2 species). Figure 3E shows the structure and composition of pteridophytes in this habitat type. It shows that *Achrosticum aureum* (Peridaceae) (Figure 4F) had the highest number of plot, coverage, dominance and frequency. At this study site, *Achrosticum aureum* grew up to 3 m or more in height, the sprout can be easily grow from rhizome and form dense thicket at maturity (Baba et al., 2013; Ragavan et al. 2014; Kimura et

al. 2017). The habit of mature individual of *Achrosticum aureum* has ca. 2.5-3 m in diameter or more, and will form a large coverage of an area and give a high dominance value in this study site. This species usually makes a dense colony along the coastal area, and only few solitary individuals were observed. This species is locally known as Paku Laut (Sea Fern) because it is very common fern species at coastal area (Sofiyanti et al. 2019). The study of Medina et al. (1990) showed that *Achrosticum aureum* is salt tolerant fern species. Therefore, it is common fern at salt marsh (Khan et al. 2013). The occurrence of this species was also recorded at swamp area and mangrove forest (Medina et al. 1990; Khan et al. 2013; Kimura et al. 2017).

Eventhough *Acrostichum aureum* had the highest coverage, however the number of individual was lower than *Blechnum serrulatum* (Blechnaceae) (Figure 4G) with up to 135 individuals were recorded in the studied quadrats. This species is solitary with small habit (ca 30-45 cm in height). *Blechnum serrulatum* usually occupied landward at drier area. Both *Acrostichum aureum* and *Blechnum serrulatum* are commonly found as coastal ferns in Riau Islands Province as reported by Sofiyanti et al. (2019; 2020) in Bengkalis Island and Rangsang Island.

Mined land

Some areas in Karimun Besar Island were previously used for tin mining and abandoned for many years. The tin-mining activities cause environmental change due to the reduction of natural water (Zhang et al. 2018), altering microbial activities (Sheoran et al. 2010) and reduction of soil fertility (Yu et al. 2020). Therefore, ex-mining soil can become plain and barren area if the mining activities are not properly organized (Unanaonwi and Amonum 2017). According to Eddy et al. (2017), the mined land will loss of soil fertility and cause decrease of biodiversity. Most of the ex-tin mining areas in Karimun Besar Island were occupied by lower vegetation such as grasses, herbs and shrubs with few tree plants.

A total of 10 pteridophytes species were recorded in this study site. *Nephrolepis hirsutula* (Nephrolepidaceae) (Figure 4H) showed the highest number of plot, number of individual, density and frequency. Most of *Nephrolepis* species adapt well to many soil types, full-sun and drought tolerant (Reifner jr and Smith 2015). However, the highest coverage and dominance in this site was *Pteridium caudatum* (Figure 3F). These species have different habit. *Nephrolepis hirsutula* shows lower leaf coverage than *Pteridium caudatum*, due to linear laminae, smaller pinna with mostly erect growth (Sofiyanti et al. 2015). On the other hand, *Pteridium caudatum* has larger habit, with triangular lamina (up to 1.5 m in length). Therefore, it will form large coverage, and in some places this bracken fern become weed fern due to its dominant coverage (Olivares et al. 2009).

In conclusion, the primary forest is the habitat type that poses the highest number of species in this study. The forest environment supports the growth of various flora, including fern. The discovery of two fern species from Gleicheniales Order. i.e. *Sticherus truncatus* (Gleicheniaceae) and *Matonia pectinata* (Matoniaceae) is the important finding of this study. These two species have not been recorded in the previous study of pteridophyte in Riau Islands Province (Sofiyanti et al. 2019). The smallest number of pteridophyte species is found in rubber plantation, due to the impact of alteration of aboveground vegetation. The result of this study showed that the structure and composition of pteridophyte in Karimun Besar Island, Riau Islands Province varied across six habitat types due to the different environmental. The anthropogenic activities decrease the number of species as found in secondary forest and mined land. While the study site with less anthropogenic activities showed higher diversity of pteridophyte.

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