

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJRAF_122327
Title of the Manuscript:	Diversity of seedlings in the Kerangas Forest Kersik Luway Nature Reserve
Type of the Article	

General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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Important Policies Regarding Peer Review

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[Review Form 3](#)

PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This paper describes in detail the investigation of seedling variety in the extreme Kerangas Forest of the Kersik Luway Nature Reserve. The study focuses on understanding the species composition and structure of the forest's vegetation, particularly at the seedling level. A tropical rainforest with podzolized, nutrient-poor, sandy soils, commonly found in Borneo. The forest is distinguished by short, unbuttressed trees bearing small, dense leaves. Kerangas forests differ from lowland mixed dipterocarp rain forests in that their vegetation is different due to poor soil conditions. The investigation was done in a 1-hectare tract and found 38,225 unique saplings representing 16 species from 13 groups. The most common species were <i>Tristania obovata</i>, <i>Ilex hypoglauca</i>, <i>Podocarpus neriifolius</i>, <i>Ficus</i> sp., and <i>Calophyllum glaucum</i>. These species thrive in the Kerangas forest's nutrient-poor, acidic soils. According to the report, conservation efforts should prioritize the preservation of these unique ecosystems as well as the rehabilitation of barren areas containing rare species. The severe Kerangas forest in the Nature Reserve is home to a broad assortment of species that have evolved to thrive in harsh environments.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The title "Diversity of Seedlings in the Kerangas Forest, Kersik Luway Nature Reserve" is clear and informative</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>This abstract summarizes the studies undertaken in the Extreme Kerangas Forest in Kersik Luway Nature Reserve. The research focuses on sapling vegetation in a 1-hectare area of this unique forest type, which is distinguished by high quartz sand content in the soil. The study methodologies are thoroughly described, including the application of the census method and the examination of the Important Value Index (IVI) and Shannon-Wiener Variety Index (H'). Key findings include the discovery of 16 species from 13 different groups, four of which are categorized as shrubs. Notably, the study identifies 5 prominent seedling species, demonstrating the diversity and adaptation of vegetation in this harsh environment.</p> <p>To increase clarity and readability, the abstract should be slightly restructured:</p> <p>Opening statement: Consider making the first statement more concise and direct.</p> <p>Research Focus: The abstract might use a clearer statement regarding the importance of studying sapling vegetation in this particular setting.</p> <p>Species List: Consider listing the species in a more systematic manner, possibly separating shrubs from dominating seedling species for clarity.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>Abstract: The abstract summarizes the study's aims, methodologies, results, and major findings. It effectively communicates the study's primary findings and relevance.</p> <p>The introduction establishes the context adequately by outlining the distinctive features of Kerangas woods and their significance. It provides a clear reason for the study, but a more extensive explanation of the specific research gaps would increase its usefulness.</p> <p>Research Methods: The techniques are extensive, including how data was gathered and processed. It would be useful to provide more information regarding the statistical approaches used to examine the data.</p> <p>Results and Discussion: The statistics on species diversity and dominance are clearly presented. The discussion skilfully applies the findings to larger ecological ideas and environmental situations. However, it could use a more systematic approach to explaining various elements of the findings (for example, species diversity, adaptations, and ecological consequences).</p> <p>Conclusions: The conclusions are straightforward and simple, summarizing the main findings and their conservation implications.</p>	

Review Form 3

<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript is scientifically sound, with a well-defined research issue, proper technique, and a clear presentation of findings (Kindly include 16 species in the table). The Important Value Index (IVI) and Shannon- Wiener Index (H') are acceptable tools for assessing species diversity in this type of inquiry, but they are missing in the result part. The discussion links the findings to the biological characteristics of Kerangas woods, increasing the scientific validity of the conclusions. The manuscript strikes a satisfactory balance between descriptive and quantitative analysis. Including statistical tests and more thorough information on the analytical procedures could help improve the technical resilience.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. =</p>	<p>The references are relevant and provide a good foundation for the study. However, some of the references are older. More recent studies may be useful for reflecting current study trends and conclusions. Consider including recent studies on the ecology of Kerangas woods or other relevant topics to provide a more current context for your findings.</p>	
<p><u>Minor</u> REVISION comments Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language is generally suitable for scholarly communication, though there are some areas where clarity and conciseness could be improved. Proofreading for grammatical errors and sentence structure is recommended.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>The discussion skillfully connects the findings to the biological characteristics of Kerangas woods and contrasts them with previous research. However, there are several repetitive and maybe mistaken allusions. The findings are presented simply using tables and numerical data. However, some of the debate is redundant, and the conclusion could be more succinct. Kindly include map of the area and GPS tagged photo, it will prove the authenticity.</p>	

PART 2:

	<p>Reviewer's comment</p>	<p>Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</p>
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

Reviewer Details:

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