

Species Diversity of Butterflies at Suaka Elang (Raptory Sanctuary) at Gunung Halimun Salak National Park in West Java

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(Accepted November 29, 2014)

ABSTRACT

Lepidoptera (butterfly) is one of the most pervasive orders of insects after Coleoptera, Diptera and Hymenoptera. It is estimated that Indonesia has more than 2,500 species of butterfly. This study aims to observe the types of butterfly at Suaka Elang conservatory that is located at Taman Nasional Gunung Halimun Salak (TNGHS) national park in West Java, on March to April 2013. The butterflies at Suaka Elang play an important role in preserving the local ecosystem in terms of food cycle and flower fertilization. A comprehensive research on the diversity of butterflies in the area is therefore needed. The observation was conducted in Cibadak waterfall (curug) and three locations of open scrubland from morning until dusk when the butterflies were doing their activities. The observation at the TNGHS national park resulted in the finding of 170 individual butterflies which consist of 40 types and four families: Nymphalidae (22 types), Pieridae (eight types), Papilionidae (eight types) and Lycaenidae (two types). The Cibadak waterfall has a medium diversity index ($H' = 2.39$), medium evenness index ($E = 0.862$), medium richness index ($R = 3.875$) and high dominance index ($C = 0.12$). Meanwhile, the open scrubland has a high diversity index ($H' = 3.05$), high evenness index ($E = 0.865$), high richness index ($R = 6.869$) and low dominance index ($C = 0.071$). The community similarity index for both locations is 36.5 percent ($CS = 0.365$).

Key words: butterfly, diversity, Suaka Elang, TNGHS