

## Inventory of woody plants in the forest area of mount Mutis Nature Preserve in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

The Mount Mutis is a nature preserve in the East Nusa Tenggara which has determined as a conservation forest. The vegetation is unique with dominated by forest homogeneous ampupu (*Eucalyptus urophylla* S.T.Blake). This uniqueness makes the Mount Mutis an essential water resource for the society around that area and thus, the preserve area needs to have to be kept under the ecosystem conservation of the Mount Mutis. However, some human-induced activities such as grazing, land clearing, and conflagration can destroy all the existence of the ecosystem and cause disappear the present and not yet identified species. Therefore, it is required to make an inventory study in order to have knowledge of the woody plant species in the forest area of Mount Mutis. In the study, 56 species from 32 families were identified and the Myrtaceae and Rutaceae have the highest number of species among these families. These species are consist of 89% tree habitus, shrub 9%, and underscrub 2%. *E. urophylla* S.T. Blake and *Pittosporum timorense* Bl. are native species of Timor and both are the dominant species. *E. urophylla* is known for its very high timber production, nesting sites for honeybees and cuscus, and a host of fungi. *P. timorense* Bl. is used as firewood and its leaves are eaten by livestock. The other species as used the colour of *tenun ikat*, as a medical plant, and food ingredients. Sandalwood (*Santalum album* L.) as an endemic species rarely found.

**Key words:** Ampupu (*Eucalyptus urophylla* S.T.Blake), Inventory, Mount Mutis, Nature Preserve, Woody Plants

