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*By Eddy Nurtjahya*

## The Ecology of padang sapu-sapu, North Bangka

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The padang sapu-sapu ecosystem, which was reported as a degraded heath forest, has specific characteristics. In Bangka and Belitung province, it is located near the beach, in the sandy and low nutrient soil. This report is a review of some studies conducted in North Bangka, which is suggested to have the largest padang sapu-sapu in the province. This ecosystem is dominated by sapu-sapu (*Baeckea frutescens* L., Myrtaceae) - a small tree of less than 6 m height -, *Melaleuca cajuputi* Roxb., and *Syzygium bankese* (Hassk.) Merr & Perry. The sapu-sapu epidermal layer was the thickest among the three dominant species. The Shannon-Wiener index of surface fauna was 2.06 – 2.34 with 40 species belonging to Entomobryidae, Sminthuridae, and Gryllidae. The surface soil was dominated by predatory insects, in contrast to decomposers which were dominant in the nearby forest. There were 38 species of 12 families of Collembola in the ecosystem with *Pararhopalites* sp.1, *Acrocyrtus* sp.3, and *Lepidosira* sp.1 as potential bioindicators. The report recorded five families of Lepidoptera, and Geometridae was found to be the dominant family. The highest average number of phosphate solubilizing bacteria colonies at 0-10 cm was  $16.8 \times 10^5$  cell  $g^{-1}$  of which *Pseudomonas* sp.1 showed the highest phosphate solubilizing index.

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