

Biodiversity Mapping: A study case of *Dendrobium Sw.* section *Spathulata Lindl.* in Wasur National

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**Biodiversity Mapping:
A study case of *Dendrobium* Sw. section *Spathulata* Lindl. in Wasur National
Park of Papua**

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Abstract

Wasur National Park is a vast area of tropical lowland forest, swamp forest, savannah and wetland in the far south-east corner of Papua. It is bordered by the sea to the south and PNG to the east. It lies within the Trans-Fly region of New Guinea and both the habitat and birds have much in common with northern Australia only 200 km to the south. The site is very seasonal, with both a pronounced wet and dry season. This park displays a tremendous biodiversity of flora and fauna. One prime example of flowering plants is Orchids species that resembles to the Australian plants. Knowledge of orchid diversity from this park is limited. This preliminary study aims to map diversity and distribution of orchid species of *Dendrobium* Sw. section *Spathulata* Lindl. in the national parks. The study is conducted in five sites i.e. Bokem, Sota, Rawa Dongami, Wasur village, and Yanggandur. The plants were collected and recorded whenever encounter on the host trees. In total 40 orchid plants are collected and identified using biomolekuler techniques combined with morphological characters. 11 species recorded from *Dendrobium* section *Spathulata* i.e. *Dendrobium canaliculatum*, *Dendrobium carronii*, *Dendrobium d'albertisii*, *Dendrobium devosianum*, *Dendrobium discolor*, *Dendrobium ionoglossum*, *Dendrobium johannis*, *Dendrobium nindii*, *Dendrobium semifuscum*, *Dendrobium sylvanum* and *Dendrobium trilamellatum*. Selebihnya teridentifikasi dari jenis *Dendrobium* section *Phalaenanthe* seperti *Dendrobium bigibum*, *Dendrobium* section i.e. *Dendrobium smilliae* dan *Dendrobium capituliferum*, *Dendrobium* section *Dendrocorynae*, satu jenis marga *Pomatocalpa* marsupial.

Keywords: *Dendrobium*, *Spathulata*, diversity, orchids, Wasur, Papua

Introduction

A Wasur National Park is geographically located at 140°27' to 141°2' E and 8°5' to 9°7' S. The Park is border to Sungai Maro in the the North and Arafura Sea in the South, Merauke City in the West and Tonda Negara Wildlife reserve of Papua New Guinea. The Park was established by the Ministry of Forestry in 1997 as National Park with 413,810 hektar. Wasur National Park is a vast

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