Diversity of Oil Palm Insects in North Labuhanbatu

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Abstract. This study aims to determine the diversity of insects in oil palm plantations in the Marbau, North Labuhanbatu and its relative abundance. This research was conducted in 2 different lands, Immature Plantation Land (IPL) and Mature Plantation Land (MPL) with each land area of \pm 2 Ha with 3 observation stations diagonally. Sampling was carried out using the Pitfall Trap method for diurnal animals (active during the day), Light Trap (light traps) for nocturnal animals (active at night), and Sweep Net (net traps) for animals that were actively flying. The results of the research on IPL land were grouped into 8 orders, namely Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Hymenoptera, Homoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera and Isoptera. The order Hymenoptera (Formicidae) was the most common species with 393 individuals with the highest relative abundance of 76.2%. The results of research on MPL land were grouped into 6 orders, namely Coleoptera, Himeptera, Orthoptera, and Odonata. order Hymenoptera (Formicidae) also has the most species, namely 471 individuals with the highest relative abundance of 102.2%.

Keywords: insect, oil palm.

1 Introduction

Insects are part of the biodiversity that must be preserved from extinction or decline in species diversity. Insects have important values, including ecological values, endemism, conservation, education, culture, aesthetics and economics. The reason an ecosystem works well is because the relationship between the components involved in it undergoes a continuous exchange of substances and energy [1]. Insects are classified in the phylum Arthropoda [2]. Insects are one of the largest animal groups on earth. It is estimated that all insects account for three-quarters of all existing animals, and of these 750,000 species have been identified and named. This number is approximately 80% of the phylum itself.

In an ecosystem, the presence of fauna cannot be separated from the presence of flora as well, including the presence of oil palm plants which we often encounter. Oil palm comes from West Africa which is a renewable energy source and belongs to the Arecaceae family. Palm oil is the most widely produced and marketed vegetable oil-producing crop worldwide (75.70 million tons in 2019/2020 marketing). There are 3 types of oil palm, namely Dura (thick shell with thin mesocarp and high oil content), Psifera (without shell, with thick mesocarp and contains little oil), and the last is the Tenera type which is a hybrid plant of the Dura and Psifera species. (thin shell, thick mesocarp and contains a lot of oil) [3]. Until now, the Tenera type of oil palm is the oil palm that is widely cultivated by farmers because it has superior properties among others.

In addition to its function as a source of renewable energy that is produced worldwide, we know that there are other negative impacts that arise due to the vast area of oil palm now. Deforestation which is then replaced by oil palm plantations has an impact on the environment and the biodiversity within it. The conversion of forests to oil palm plantations has an expansionary impact on environmental changes, including species decline in various taxa including insects (ants, beetles, bees, butterflies, and moths) as well as the order of arthropods (wood lice) [4]. All of these taxa, with the exception of bees, exhibit species decline indicating very high levels of biodiversity loss as a result of the gradual expansion of global oil palm.

The reason for the dramatic loss of species must be due to habitat simplification that occurs when forests are converted to oil palm land [4]. Reducing the complexity of the aboveground structures, and decreasing the height of the covered land, as well as climatic conditions in the plantations with warmer average temperatures and lower humidity levels.

North Labuhanbatu Regency is one of the regencies in North Sumatra which was formed in 2008 and is geographically located at 1058'-2050' North Latitude, 99025'-100005' East Longitude with an altitude of 0-700 m above sea level. North Labuhanbatu Regency consists of 8 sub-districts and 90 villages/kelurahan with a population of 363,816 people in 2019, according to the Central Statistics Agency of North Labuhanbatu (2019), occupies an area of 354,580 Ha (3,545.80 km2) and 78,399 Ha which includes an area of area used for oil palm cultivation [5].

The results of interviews with oil palm farmers in North Labuhanbatu that insects are often found when oil palms are 0-12 months old. The abundance of insect populations is also influenced by the rainy season. The results of the interview also found that there was no research on the diversity of insects on oil palm plants in the district. Marbau, Kab. North Labuhanbatu. So based on this background, a study that aims to look at the diversity of oil palm insects and their relative abundance would like to be carried out.

2 Method

This research was conducted in March-June 2021 in individual oil palm plantations in Kec. Marbau, Kab. North Labuhanbatu, North Sumatra. Insect identification was carried out at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Medan State University.

The materials used in this study were insects caught as research objects, clean water, detergent, and 70% alcohol. The tools used in this study were jars, sample bottles, sweep nets, light traps, pitfall traps, cameras, machetes, stationery, data books, and the reference book Identification of Insect Types and Functions [6] and the book Key to Insect Determination [7].

This activity is carried out by taking and collecting insects caught at each observation station using various methods of taking insects. Sampling locations were carried out in 2 different lands, namely in Immature Plantation Land (TBM) covering an area of ± 2 Ha with a plant age of 2 years. Sampling was carried out at 3 points of observation stations diagonally, and Land for Mature Plants (TM) which has the same area as the age of 10 years of plants with sampling at 3 stations diagonally as well. Catching insects is carried out using various traps, including sweep nets used to catch insects that are actively flying, pitfall traps used to trap insects that are active during the day (diurnal insects) and live above ground level. , and light traps are used to trap insects that are active at night (nocturnal insects).

Insect samples that have been obtained from the field are brought to the laboratory which are then grouped according to the sampling location and preserved with 70% alcohol.

Furthermore, insects were identified using the reference book Identification of Insect Species and Functions [6] and the book Key to Insect Determination [7].

Relative abundance is the ratio between the number of individual species and the total number of individuals of all species [8]. Relative abundance is calculated by comparing the abundance of an insect species with the abundance of all types of insects contained in the sample unit [9]. Relative abundance can be calculated by:

$$\mathrm{Kr} = \frac{Ki}{\Sigma K} \ge 100\%$$

Information:

Kr : Relative abundance of species

Ki : Number of individuals for species i

K : Total number of individuals of all Species

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Immature Plants Land (IPL)

Pitfall Trap. Anoplolepis gracilipes from the Formicidae family had the highest number of individuals in the pitfall trap with a total of 76 individuals, and Hierodula membranacea from the Mantidae family with the least number of individuals with a total of 1 individual. The highest relative abundance of species is also in line with the absolute abundance of the species with a percentage of 16.3% belonging to the species Anoplolepis gracilipes and the lowest relative abundance belonging to the species Hierodula membranacea with a percentage of 0.2%. The overall relative abundance of insect species in the Immature Plants Land (IPL) area using a pitfall trap can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Relative abundan	nce of insect specie	es in the Immature	Plants Land (IPL) area using a pitfall trap.

No		Classification	on		Weel	K	Abun	dance
	Ordo	Famili	Species	Ī	П	Ш	Absolut	Relatif (%)
1	Coleoptera	Scarabaeidaea	Apogoniaexpeditionis	11	5	5	21	4.5
		Carabidae	Bembidiontetracolum	10	6	3	19	4
			Dicranoncusfemoralis	4	1	4	9	1.9
2	Hemiptera	Pyrrhocoridae	Dysdercuscingulatus	8	5	-	13	2.7
		Reduviidae	Cosmolestespicticeps Rhynocorisfuscipes	18 18	21 21	8 9	47 48	10.1 10.3
		Alydidae	Leptocorisaacuta	6	4	2	12	2.5
			Riptortuslinearis	5	2	2	9	1.9
		Coreidae	Homoeocerusmarginell us	4	-	4	8	1.7
3	Orthoptera	Mantidae	Hierodulamembranace a	-	-	1	1	0.2
		Tettigoniidae	Phaneroptera nana	-	-	1	1	0.2

			Epitettixpunctatus	1	2	2	5	1
			Kuzicus sp.	2	-	-	2	0.4
4	Hymenoptera	Formicidae	Diacammapallidum	23	22	10	55	11.8
			Odontoponera	24	23	22	69	14.8
			denticulate					
			Anoplolepisgracilipes	19	33	24	76	16.3
			Nylanderia sp.	3	4	1	8	1.7
			Camponotusarrogans	16	14	11	41	8.8
		Ichneumonidae	Netelia sp.	4	1	2	7	1.5
			Ichneumon sp.	4	-	3	7	1.5
5	Homoptera	Cicadellidae	Bothrogoniaaddita	4	1	2	7	1.5
		Tot	al				465	

Light Trap. *Camponotus sp.* from the Formicidae family had the highest number of individuals in the pitfall trap with a total of 115 individuals, and Xylotrupes gideon from the Scarabaeidaea family with the least number of individuals with a total of 1 individual. The highest relative abundance of species is also in line with the absolute abundance of these species with a percentage of 18.2% owned by Camponotus sp. and the lowest relative abundance was owned by Xylotrupes gideon with a percentage of 0.1%. The overall relative abundance of insect species in the Immature Plants Land (IPL) area using light traps can be seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Relative abundance of insect species in the Immature Plants Land (IPL) area using light traps.

No		Classificatio	n		Week	2	Abundance		
	Ordo	Famili	Species	-					
				Ι	II	III	Absolut	Relatif (%)	
1	Hymenoptera	Braconidae	Spinariaspinator	46	28	27	101	16	
		Formicidae	Camponotus sp.	51	37	27	115	18.2	
			Odontoponera denticulate	9	11	9	29	4.6	
		Ichneumonidae	Ichneumon sp.	18	18	19	55	8.7	
		1011100010000	Netelia sp.	18	16	18	52	8.2	
		Sphecidae	Isodontiaexonata	9	11	9	29	4.6	
2	Lepidoptera	Limacodidae	Setoranitens	18	18	17	53	8.4	
		Erebidae	Anomiserosa	12	12	7	31	4.9	
			Lyclene reticulate	9	11	9	28	4.4	
3	Orthoptera	Gryllidae	Achetadomesticus	24	25	24	73	11.6	
	-	Tettigoniidae	Conocephaluslongipe nnis	2	6	1	9	1.4	
4	Coleoptera	Scarabaeidaea	Xylotrupesgideon	-	-	1	1	0.1	
			Adoretuscompressus	5	4	3	12	1.9	
			Adoretussinicus	1	4	2	7	1.1	
			Anomalapallida	4	5	3	12	1.9	
			Dyscinetuspicipes	3	4	2	9	1.4	
		Lycidae	Calopteronterminale	7	2	4	13	2	
		Tot	-				629		

Sweep Net. Acraea terpsicore from the Nymphalidae family had the highest number of individuals in the sweep net with 182 individuals, and Xylocopa confuse from the Apidae family with the least number of individuals with a total of 3 individuals. The highest relative abundance of species is also in line with the absolute abundance of that species with a percentage of 18.2% belonging to the species Acraea terpsicore and the lowest relative abundance belonging to the species Xylocopa confuse with a percentage of 3%. The overall relative abundance of insect species in the Immature Plants area (TBM) using a sweep net can be seen in Table 3 below.

No		Classification	1		Week	2	Abu	indance
	Ordo	Famili	Species	-				
				Ι	II	III	Absolut	Relatif (%)
1	Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	Propyleadissecta	22	26	32	80	8
2	Diptera	Asilidae	Efferia sp.	5	5	3	13	1.3
		Syrphidae	Eristalinusmegac ephalus	4	6	3	13	1.3
3	Hymenoptera	Halictidae	Lasioglossumsp	7	9	6	22	2.2
			Lipotrichesflavovi ridis	8	10	-	18	1.8
			Nomiaelegans	9	9	5	23	2.3
			Nomiaincerta	6	8	6	20	2
			Nomiairidenscens	10	11	8	29	2.9
			Nomiathoracica	9	11	9	29	2.9
		Vespidae	Delta campaniforme	11	10	6	27	2.7
			Delta pyriforme	3	4	5	12	1.2
			Eustenogasterfrat erna	4	5	5	14	1.4
			Rhynchiumhaemo rrhoidale	7	8	10	25	2.5
		Apidae	Xylocopa confuse	-	-	3	3	3
		Scoliidae	Scolia sp.	2	-	2	4	4
4	Lepidoptera	Lycaenidae	Jamidesalecto	36	29	33	98	9.8
			Zizinaotis	35	32	29	96	9.6
		Nymphalidae	Acraeaterpsicore	66	54	62	182	18.2
			Ideopsis vulgaris	2	2	3	7	7
			Junoniaalmana	15	19	16	50	5
			Junoniaorithya	20	22	12	54	5.4
			Neptishylas	6	5	2	13	1.3
			Ypthimabaldus	15	7	7	29	2.9
		Pieridae	Appiaslibythea	22	19	17	58	5.8
			Euremahecabe	8	12	12	32	3.2
5	Isoptera	Tachinidae	Rutilotrixa sp.	16	18	15	49	4.9
		Tota	1				1000	

Table 3. Relative abundance of insect species in the Immature Plants Land (IPL) using a sweep net.

3.2 Mature Plants Land (MPL)

Pitfall Trap. Odontoponera denticulate from the Formicidae family had the highest number of individuals in the pitfall trap with a total of 121 individuals, and Epitettix punctatus from the Tettigoniidae family with the least number of individuals with a total of 5 individuals. The highest relative abundance of species is also in line with the absolute abundance of these species with a percentage of 27.8% belonging to the species Odontoponera denticulate and the lowest relative abundance belonging to the species Epitettix punctatus with a percentage of 1.1%. The overall relative abundance of insect species in Mature Crops (TM) areas using a pitfall trap can be seen in Table 4 below.

No		Classification	1		Week		Abundance		
	Ordo	Famili	Species	-					
				Ι	II	III	Absolut	Relatif (%)	
	Coleoptera	Scarabaeidaea	Apogoniaexpediti onis	12	5	7	24	5.5	
	Hemiptera	Alydidae	Leptocorisaacuta	9	4	10	23	5.2	
	-	-	Riptortuslinearis	5	10	12	27	6.2	
		Coreidae	Homoeocerusmar ginellus	4	-	4	8	1.8	
	Orthoptera	Tettigoniidae	Epitettixpunctatus	1	2	2	5	1.1	
	-	-	Kuzicus sp.	4	-	2	6	1.3	
	Hymenoptera	Formicidae	Diacammapallidu m	23	26	17	66	15.2	
			Odontoponera denticulate	44	40	37	121	27.8	
			Anoplolepisgracil ipes	28	33	22	83	19.1	
			Nylanderia sp.	10	4	3	17	3.9	
			Camponotusarro gans	21	18	15	54	12.4	
		Tota	l				434		

Table 4. Relative abundance of insect species in Mature Crops (TM) areas using a pitfall trap.

Light Trap. *Camponotus sp.* from the Formicidae family had the highest number of individuals in the sweep net with a total of 94 individuals, and Conocephalus longipennis from the Tettigoniidae family with the least number of individuals with a total of 7 individuals. The highest relative abundance of species is also in line with the absolute abundance of these species with a percentage of 17.2% belonging to Camponotus sp. and the lowest relative abundance was Conocephalus longipennis with a percentage of 1.2%. The overall relative abundance of insect species in the Mature Plants Land (MPL) area using a sweep net can be seen in Table 5 below.

No		Classifica	ation		Week	2	Abı	indance
	Ordo	Famili	Species	_				
				Ι	Π	III	Absolut	Relatif (%)
		Braconidae	Spinariaspinator	38	28	22	88	16.1
		Formicidae	Camponotus sp.	40	29	25	94	17.2
1	Hymenoptera		Odontoponera denticulate	9	14	13	36	6.6
		Ichneumonidae	Ichneumon sp.	9	11	9	32	5.8
			Netelia sp.	17	15	19	51	9.3
		Limacodidae	Setoranitens	21	21	21	63	11.5
2	Lepidoptera	Erebidae	Anomiserosa	13	6	7	26	4.7
			Lyclene reticulate	7	7	12	26	4.7
3	Orthoptera	Gryllidae	Achetadomesticus	25	26	29	80	14.7
3	Ormoptera	Tettigoniidae	Conocephaluslongipennis	-	6	1	7	1.2
		Scarabaeidaea	Adoretuscompressus	3	3	2	8	1.4
			Adoretussinicus	1	4	3	8	1.4
4	Coleoptera		Anomalapallida	2	3	2	7	1.2
			Dyscinetuspicipes	4	4	2	10	1.8
		Lycidae	Calopteronterminale	4	2	4	8	1.4
		- -	Fotal				544	

Table 5. Relative abundance of insect species in the Mature Plants Land (MPL) area using a sweep net.

Sweep Net. *Neurothemis fluctuans* from the Libellulidae family had the highest number of individuals in the sweep net with a total of 105 individuals, and Ideopsis vulgaris from the Nymphalidae family with the least number of individuals with a total of 1 individual. The highest relative abundance of species is also in line with the absolute abundance of these species with a percentage of 43.3% belonging to the species Neurothemis fluctuans and the lowest relative abundance belonging to the species Ideopsis vulgaris with a percentage of 0.4%. The overall relative abundance of insect species in the Mature Plants Land (MPL) area using a sweep net can be seen in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Relative abundance of insect species in the Mature Plants Land (MPL) area using a sweep net.

No		Classificat	tion	Week			Abundance		
-	Ordo	Famili	Species						
				Ι	II	III	Absolut	Relatif (%)	
1	Lepidoptera	Lycaenidae	Jamidesalecto	1	3	-	4	1.6	
			Zizinaotis	2	2	-	4	1.6	
		Nymphalidae	Ariadne ariadne	7	4	6	17	7	
			Ideopsis vulgaris	-	1	-	1	0.4	
			Junoniaalmana	4	2	3	9	3.7	
			Junoniaorithya	3	3	3	9	3.7	
			Neptishylas	6	5	2	13	5.3	
			Ypthimabaldus	4	2	3	9	3.7	
		Pieridae	Appiaslibythea	3	-	1	4	1.6	
			Euremahecabe	2	-	2	4	1.6	
2	Odonata	Libellulidae	Neurothemisfluctuans	44	32	29	105	43.3	

Aethriamantagracilis	19	15	17	51	21
Nesoxenialineata	4	4	4	12	4.9
Total				242	

The Immature Plantation Land studied by the researchers was 2.5 years old with a fairly high diversity of plants in it. There are many sugarcane, corn, papaya, and herbaceous plants. The land used by the researcher is ± 2 Ha by using 3 points of the research location diagonally. Catching insects using 3 methods, namely pitfall traps, light traps, and sweep nets while the Mature Plantation Land studied by the researcher is ± 10 years old with the same land area and method.

In immature oil palm land, there are still many types of insects because they still have many companion plants planted by the garden owner, so the presence of insects is still a lot because the food sources for these insects are sufficient. There were several types of wasps found by researchers at the second observation point. The wasps are in the shrubs around the oil palm plants. Butterflies are also like that, diverse due to the large number of plants in the oil palm area. This is in line with what Mahrub (1999) said in [10] that the diversity and abundance of insects is in line with the development of plants as their habitat. This proves that high vegetation causes a high abundance of insects as well.

The Formicidae (ants) family has a way of living in colonies and has a population of up to 70% of the soil fauna population, so they are often found in large numbers [1]. Ants have a role in the rate of decomposition because ants are soil insects that can destroy dead animals and plants. The high presence of species from the order Lepidoptera with a relative abundance of 34,6% makes garden owners need not worry. This is due to the fact that species from the order Lepidoptera are natural enemies of the caterpillar pests that usually attack oil palm leaves.

The thing that is most feared in oil palm plantations is the presence of caterpillars which become pests for oil palm plants [11]. Fire caterpillars from the order Lepidoptera (Limacodidae) are capable of producing 300-400 eggs per day. From the results of the study, it was found that the relative order of Lepidoptera (Limacodidae) was lower (2.5%) compared to the relative of the caterpillar predators themselves from the order Hemiptera (Reduviidae) (4.5%). The results also found that species that have high relatives from the order Lepidoptera are species from the Nymphalidae family.

In addition, at least species of the family Acrididae and Tettigonidae (Ordo orthoptera) are also beneficial for garden owners. According to data, ± 51 species of members of the family Acrididae were recorded as pests. The Orthoptera order has always been a problem in society because the order includes plant pests that cause harm to humans, thus disrupting economic aspects [12].

4 Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the diversity of oil palm insects in Immature Plants (IBM) is grouped into 8 orders, namely Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Hymenoptera, Homoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera and Isoptera. The order Hymenoptera (Formicidae) was the most common species with 393 individuals with the highest relative abundance of 18.7%. The results of research on TM land were grouped into 6 orders, namely Coleoptera, Himeptera, Orthoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, and Odonata. order Hymenoptera (Formicidae) also has the most species, namely 471 individuals with the highest relative abundance of 38.6%.

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