

Foreword

Welcome to the fifth issue of 2025 for the Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (PJTAS)!

PJTAS is an open-access journal for studies in Tropical Agricultural Science published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 17 articles: two review articles; one short communication; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Philippines.

A selected article entitled “Assessing Reproductive Ecology and Oviposition Habitat Selection Among Anurans in Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Puchong, Selangor” investigated the relationship between habitat characteristics and breeding site preferences of frogs and toads (anurans) in Compartment 15 of the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve (AHFR). The study was conducted in both natural and artificial ponds. A total of 67 individuals from 18 species and six families were recorded. *Hylarana labialis* was the most abundant species near natural ponds, while *Kalophrynus palmatissimus*, an endangered and endemic species, was equally represented in both natural and artificial ponds. The findings emphasize how microclimate and habitat variables influence breeding success, and suggest that while certain species show resilience to disturbance, the long-term effects of habitat loss require further evaluation. The detailed information of this article is available on page 1497.

A study by Rina Ekawati and team entitled “Organic Fertilizer Formulation To Improve The Quality and Yield of *Eleutherine palmifolia* L. (Merr) As An Alley Cropping In Coffee Plantation” examined how different combinations of organic fertilizers affect the growth performance and medicinal quality of *E. palmifolia* cultivated under coffee tree shade. Results showed that the complete fertilization treatment (cow manure + guano + rice husk ash) led to significant improvements in growth parameters such as leaf production, shoot and root biomass, tuber yield per plant and per plot, as well as higher flavonoid content in bulbs compared to unfertilized controls. The study provides new evidence supporting the feasibility of intercropping *E. palmifolia* with coffee trees while enhancing both yield and phytochemical properties. Full information on this study is presented on page 1529.

A regular article entitled “Foliar Sprays of Biostimulants and PGRs Improve the Reproductive Parameters of Cacao Under Water Stress” explored the effectiveness of biostimulants (oligocarrageenan and oligochitosan) and plant growth regulators

(cytokinin and paclobutrazol) as foliar sprays to enhance pod retention, bean quality, and overall yield of a six-year-old grafted cacao cultivar ‘UF 18’. Treatments were applied under irrigated and rainfed conditions during the dry season. The results showed that oligochitosan increased flowering intensity, paclobutrazol reduced cherelle wilt incidence, and cytokinin enhanced pod retention. These treatments also improved physiological and yield traits such as leaf chlorophyll content, seed fresh weight, percentage of full beans, and bean count per tree. This study underscores the potential of biostimulant and PGR foliar sprays as practical interventions for sustaining cacao yield under water stress conditions. Further details of this study are found on page 1653.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika’s stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers, Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board Members of PJTAS, who have made this issue possible.

PJTAS is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

Editor-in-Chief

Mohamed Thariq Hameed Sultan