

ABSTRACT

Orchid is a flowering plant that is interesting because of the beauty of its flowers. Natural orchid species have decreased in population due to the damage of forest ecosystems. The Bantarbolang Nature Reserve has specific plants including orchids that need to be protected and their development occur naturally. This research focuses on epiphytic orchids found on other plants. The objectives of this research are to find out the diversity of epiphytic orchids and their host tree characteristics in the Bantarbolang Nature Reserve. The research method was surveyed with an explorative sampling technique. The variables observed were the diversity of epiphytic orchids, and the parameters used were the morphological characters of orchids such as roots, stems, leaves and flowers, ecological data such as number of species and number of individual, host trees species, and environmental data. The data were analyzed descriptively. The results of this study showed that there were 5 epiphytic orchid species, i.e. *Rhynchostylis retusa*, *Aerides odorata*, *Cymbidium bicolor*, *Dendrobium crumenatum* and *Ascocentrum miniatum*. The number of orchids found was 148 individuals, the most common species was *Rhynchostylis retusa*. The host trees are teak (*Tectona grandis*), putat (*Barringtonia acutangula*), bulu (*Ficus annulata*) and bungur (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) with characteristics of hard stems, cracked surface texture, rough, mossy and not easy to peel. The air temperature in each orchid in the morning to afternoon ranges from 28 – 31°C, the relative humidity between 76 – 87%, and the light intensity between 400 – 10,000 lux.

Keywords: *Bantarbolang nature reserve, diversity, epiphytic orchid.*