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DUNG BEETLE BEHAVIOR AND ITS ROLE IN STIMULATING TROPICAL FOREST BIODIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Dung beetles feed on the feces of animals in the forest, carrying the contents of the feces under the surface of the soil to be stored as stock of dung beetle feed as well as saving the seeds that are inside the feces of the animals. Under suitable environmental conditions, the seeds that are saved dung beetle will grow as seedling enriching the biodiversity of trees in the forest. This research needs to be done because it is still a few research on biodiversity dung beetle in Indonesia and this research is the first research in Lampung Province. The purpose of this research is to investigate biodiversity of dung beetle. The research site was conducted at the arboretum of Lampung University (2011-2018), and at Wan Abdul Rachman Forest Park, Lampung Province of Indonesia (2017-2018).

The research method using traps method at two locations namely University of Lampung arboretum and Wan Abdul Rachman Forest Park. The results of the study have been found eight species of dung beetle (identified) and two species have not been identified. Dung beetle is already having an important role as secondary seed dispersal. This role is directly related to the availability of seed banks in the forest. Further research is needed in relation to the ecology and physiology of dung beetles on different soil hardness.