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Morphological Variability of Ironwood (*Eusideroxylon zwageri* T.et B.) in Natural Forest

BAMBANG IRAWAN*, FRANZ GRUBER**

*Agriculture Faculty - Jambi University - Indonesia, Agronomy

**Forest Botany Institute - Goettingen University - Germany

Abstract

Ironwood (Bulian/ulin/belian/borneo ironwood) (*Eusideroxylon zwageri* T.et B.) belongs to family of Lauraceae, tribus of cryptocaryeae and subtribus of Eusideroxylineae. It is one of the most important construction wood in Indonesia because it is not vulnerable to termites and other ubiquitous tropical wood-destroying insects and fungi. Research on morphological structures of ironwood was conducted in order to obtain information on variability of ironwood, which can be used as basic information for ironwood cultivation and breeding. The variability of ironwood has been already discussed since the beginning of last century but until today there is no detail information on it. The research is one part of comprehensive research on variability of ironwood including ecology, anatomy, morphology and genetic variation point of view. The research has been carried out in Jambi province — Indonesia for three months from 10 October 2001 until 23 December 2001. It was conducted by direct observation to field using purposive random sampling. Practical experiences of local people were used to determine sample trees. The result shows that morphological structure of ironwood significantly varied on almost all of traits. Ironwood's seeds have various form and size, each variety has specific seed's characters. The leaf form of ironwood variety are also different, the forms of sirap's leaves are oblong to elliptic. Tanduk's and daging's leaves tend to obovate while kapur's leaves tend to ovate. The most different form and color of ironwood bark surface is form and color of kapur variety. It is smooth and white color that can not be found on any other varieties.

Keywords: Ironwood, morphological structure, variability