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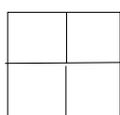
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Cover images: *Canthiumera robusta* K.M.Wong & X.Y.Ng, *spec. nov.* Top left: leafy branch with inflorescences; note also keeled stipules. Top right: flower with tufts of pale moniliform hairs visible opposite corolla lobes. Below left: fruits. Below right: pyrenes. Photos: Ang Wee Foong (top left) and X.Y. Ng (remaining images).

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ECOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE ARROWROOT (*Tacca leontopetaloides* (L.) Kuntze) AT KARIMUNJAWA NATIONAL PARK, CENTRAL JAVA

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ABSTRACT

ALHAMD, L. 2018. Ecological study of the arrowroot (*Tacca leontopetaloides* (L.) Kuntze) at Karimunjawa National Park, Central Java. *Reinwardtia* 17(2): 87–96. — An ecological study of arrowroot (*Tacca leontopetaloides* (L.) Kuntze) at Karimunjawa National Park (Karimunjawa NP), Central Java, was conducted at six islands, namely Kumbang, Nyamuk, Katang, Seruni, Cendikia and Sintok islands. A sampling plot of $10 \times 50 \text{ m}^2$ was established on each island. The results showed that the arrowroot population in Katang island was greater than those of other islands, with a density of 0.74 m^{-2} , a frequency of 0.8 and an abundance of 23.1. The arrowroot density of all samplings ranged from 137 to 370 per 0.05 ha. The occurrence of 30 species surrounding arrowroot was observed and only five species, *Sida acuta* (Chi-square count (cs) > Chi-square table $cs=5.71$, $P<0.05$) and *Scaevola taccada* ($cs=7.94$, $P<0.01$) in Kumbang island, *Imperata cylindrica* ($cs=18.81$, $P<0.01$) in Nyamuk island, *Morinda citrifolia* ($cs=9.47$, $P<0.01$) in Sintok island, and *Carica papaya* ($cs=3.95$, $P<0.05$) in Cendikia island, had significant associations with arrowroot. For habitat characteristics, soil textures were dominated by sandy types ranging from 90 to 95%, whilst other soil properties such as pH, N, P, K, Mg and CEC did not significantly affect the presence of arrowroot.

Key words: Cendikia, Katang, Kumbang, Nyamuk, Seruni and Sintok islands, soil, species association.

ABSTRAK

ALHAMD, L. 2018. Studi ekologi taka (*Tacca leontopetaloides* (L.) Kuntze) di Taman Nasional Karimunjawa, Jawa Tengah. *Reinwardtia* 17(2): 87–96. — Kajian ekologi taka (*Tacca leontopetaloides* (L.) Kuntze) di Taman Nasional Karimunjawa (TN Karimunjawa), Jawa Tengah, dilakukan di enam pulau, yaitu pulau Kumbang, Nyamuk, Katang, Seruni, Cendikia dan Sintok. Sebuah petak contoh seluas $10 \times 50 \text{ m}^2$ dibuat di masing-masing pulau. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa populasi taka di pulau Katang lebih besar daripada populasi pulau lainnya, dengan kepadatan $0,74 \text{ m}^{-2}$, frekuensi 0,8 dan kelimpahan 23,1. Kepadatan taka di seluruh petak contoh berkisar antara 137 hingga 370 per 0,05 ha. Terdapat 30 jenis tumbuhan di sekitar taka yang teramati dan hanya lima jenis, *Sida acuta* (Chi-square count (cs) > tabel Chi-square $cs = 5.71$, $P<0.05$) dan *Scaevola taccada* ($cs = 7,94$, $P<0,01$) di pulau Kumbang, *Imperata cylindrica* ($cs = 18,81$, $P<0,01$) di pulau Nyamuk, *Morinda citrifolia* ($cs = 9,47$, $P<0,01$) di pulau Sintok, dan *Carica papaya* ($cs = 3,95$, $P<0,05$) di pulau Cendikia, yang memiliki asosiasi signifikan pada taka. Pada karakteristik habitat, tekstur tanah didominasi oleh tipe berpasir dengan kisaran antara 90 hingga 95%, sementara sifat-sifat tanah lainnya seperti pH, N, P, K, Mg dan KTK (Kapasitas Tukar Kation) tidak berpengaruh secara signifikan terhadap keberadaan taka.

Kata kunci: Asosiasi jenis, Pulau Cendikia, Katang, Kumbang, Nyamuk, Seruni dan Sintok, tanah.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change will probably have a negative impact on the production and quality of food plants in Indonesia (Chozin, 2012). Rice is a main source of food stuffs in Indonesia and its role is the most crucial in food provision and national food security.

In several locations, such as cultivated paddy, recent production is decreasing due to decreasing area, the impact of diseases and pests, and catastrophe in the case of flash floods that sometimes cause damage to rice fields. Effects of climate change, land use and decreasing productivity of the land are also factors that limit potential food production, for instance in coastal areas. Food self-sufficiency can be pursued by utilizing the local biological food resources that have a nutrient content similar to other main crops.

The arrowroot (*Tacca leontopetaloides* (L.) Kuntze) usually grows in coastal areas, including on small islands such as those around Karimunjawa National Park (KNP), Central Java. Tubers of the plant can be used as a carbohydrate source, when high tides prevent access to get commercial food sources in the mainland of Java. Although arrowroot is a bulbous plant with high carbohydrate content, it has not been much exploited and potentially can be used as a food resource in Indonesia. As a perennial plant and belong to the family Taccaceae, the arrowroot usually grows in understory of humid and seasonal tropical and subtropical rain forest. Arrowroot is perennial with erect plant. Rhizomes cylindrical to subcylindrical or tubers globose to broadly obovate. Leaves 1–3, broadly obovate, ovate or oblong-ovate. Flowers pedicelled and arranged in an umbel, naked, greenish to yellow

(Meena & Yadav, 2010).

A study has been made on arrowroot biomass correlated to plant diameter on some islands around Karimunjawa NP (Alhamd, 2012). However, ecological studies investigating arrowroot growth in Karimunjawa NP are still limited, in particular there is a lack of information concerning distribution, soil nutrients and species association that might play a role in the life of this plant. Thus, ecological studies of arrowroot on several islands around Karimunjawa NP are needed. This present study concerns the development and ecology of arrowroot that could be used to support species role in national food security.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Site

Karimunjawa NP administratively belongs to Jepara district, Central Java. The islands have native ecosystems with high biodiversity ranging from coastal areas to lowland. The local community deeply depends on natural resources on the island.

Karimunjawa NP is coastal lowland covered by mangrove forests. Beach areas mostly consist of white sand. Fringing reefs protect the shoreline from waves. Thus, the shoreline of Karimunjawa NP differs from steep coast. The forest area covers approximately 2,888 ha. The NP is located 45 miles northeast of the city of Jepara, or 60 miles northeast of Semarang City.

In terms of rainfall, according to Schmidt and Ferguson (1951), the Karimunjawa NP is in E type, indicating a slightly dry climate. The climate diagram for Karimunjawa NP, based on Walter

(1973), shows a decrease of rainfall from July up to the drought period from August (42 mm) to October (55 mm), and a wet period between November (147 mm) and March (297 mm) with the highest rainfall in January (524 mm). During August to September, the evapotranspiration is assumed to exceed the rainfall (Fig. 1).

The ecological study of arrowroot plants was conducted on six islands located around the Karimunjawa NP, namely Kumbang island (5° 45' 23.9" S and 110° 14' 35.6" E), Nyamuk island (5° 47' 54.9" S and 110° 8' 38.3" E), Katang island (5° 48' 55.1" S and 110° 11' 3.96" E), Seruni island (5° 51' 28.0" S and 110° 36' 9.38" E), Cendikia island (5° 47' 52.2" S and 110° 33' 33.1" E) and Sintok island (5° 46' 45.1" S and 110° 30' 52.4" E), as shown in Fig. 2. The focus on these islands as the study site was based on information from previous studies (Setyowati *et al.*, 2012; Wawo *et al.*, 2015), and also because the people of the islands use the plant as an alternative food.

Methods

In this study, observations were carried out in sampling plots. A sampling plot of 10 m × 50 m was established on each island perpendicular to the shoreline. Each plot was divided into ten sub-plots of 5 m × 5 m. The number of individuals/clumps, height, stem diameter, coordinate of the plant within each sub-plot (x and y coordinates), crown coverage and number of flowers and fruit were measured and recorded. Other plants found within the plot were also recorded. Soil samples of approximately one kg at five points inside and two points outside each sampling point were collected in polybags. The soil properties such as pH, textures and soil nutrients N, P, K, Ca, Mg and

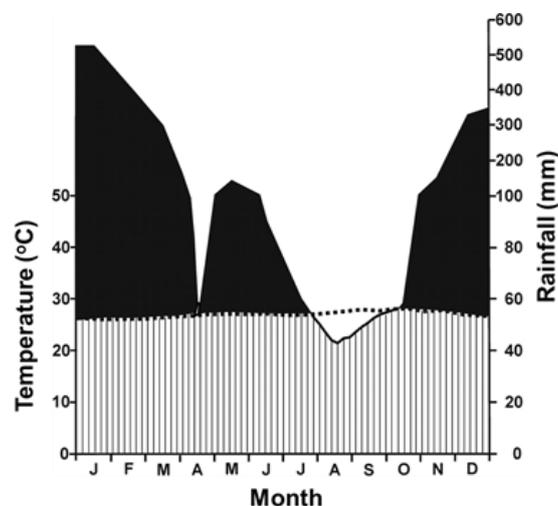


Fig. 1. Climate diagram for Karimunjawa weather station (Walter, 1973). The data for rainfall and temperature in 2015 were accessed on climate-data.org (September 6th 2016).

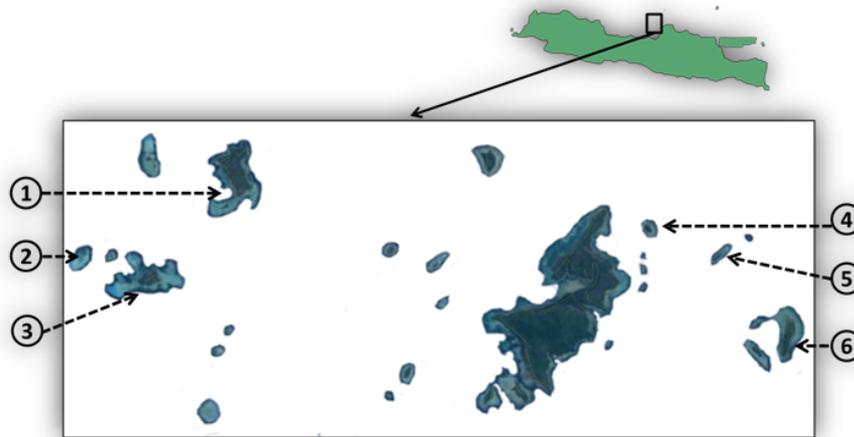


Fig. 2. The location of sampling plots in Karimunjawa National Park (NP), Central Java. Kumbang island (1) Nyamuk island (2); Katang island (3); Sintok island (4); Cendikia island (5) and Seruni island (6).

CEC (Cation Change Capacity) were analyzed in Soil Laboratory of Agricultural Research Center, Minister of Agriculture, Bogor. Also, Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCA) of PAST 3.18 Programme was used to observe the correlation between soil nutrient and arrowroot population. T-test analysis in Excel was utilized to compared diameter and height of arrowroot plants with one-tail distribution and two-sample unequal variance.

Data analysis

The density (individuals m⁻²), the frequency and the abundance/dominance of arrowroot, were calculated by the following formulas:

Density (D)

$$D = \frac{\text{Number of individual arrowroot plants}}{\text{Area size of collected sample}}$$

Frequency (F)

$$F = \frac{\text{Number of sub - plots with arrowroot}}{\text{Total number of sub - plots}}$$

Abundance (A)

$$A = \frac{\text{Number of individual arrowroot in all sampling sub - plots}}{\text{Total number of sub - plots}}$$

Association analysis was performed on the arrowroot and other species, using 2 × 2 contingency tables (Mueller-Dombois & Ellenberg, 1974). The form of contingency table for the two species was as follows:

		B Species		Total
		Presence	Absence	
A Species	Presence	a	B	(a + b)
	Absence	c	D	(c + d)
Total		(a + c)	(b + d)	N = a + b + c + d

Note: a = Number of measurement points containing both A and B species, b = Number of measurement points containing only A species, c = Number of measurement points containing only B species, d = measurement points in which both A and B species were not found, N = total number of measurements.

To determine the significance of the trend of association (or not), a Chi-square value was calculated with the following formula:

$$\text{Chi - square calculation} = \frac{N(ad - bc)^2}{a + b \quad a + c \quad c + d \quad (b + d)}$$

The Chi-square value was then compared with the value of Chi-square in a table of significance values at the 1% and 5% levels with degrees of freedom (df) = 1. If the value of Chi-square Calculated > Chi-square table value, then the association is significant. If the value of Chi-square calculated < Chi-square table value, then the association is not significant (Ludwig & Reynold, 1988). Furthermore, to determine the level of association the following formula is used:

$$E(a) = \frac{(a + b)(a + c)}{N}$$

Where the notation has the same meanings as the contingency tables.

RESULTS

Arrowroot is a wild tuber-producing plant but few people utilize the tuber. The results showed that arrowroot occurs naturally on the six islands in Karimunjawa NP and grows in coastal areas close to the shoreline.

Ecological Study

Overall, the density, frequency and abundance of arrowroot differed between the islands. The highest density as well as abundance were recorded on Katang island (Table 1).

Kumbang Island

The density of arrowroot on Kumbang island was higher than on Nyamuk and Sintok islands but lower than Katang, as shown in Table 1. The presence of distribution/frequency of arrowroot on this island was lower than in the other five sampling plots on Nyamuk, Katang, Seruni, Cendikia and Sintok islands. Plant heights lower than 20 cm reached 34.2%, and diameters less than 1 cm reached 73.1% of the total arrowroot in the sampling plot. This location has a rather flat topography, with sandy soils (> 90%). Arrowroot was found approximately 20 m from the shoreline. Besides arrowroot, sixteen other species were found in the sampling plot, including *Premna corymbosa*, *Guettarda speciosa* and *Litsea accedentoides*.

Nyamuk Island

The density and the abundance were slightly higher than on Sintok island, as shown in Table 1. Height lower than 20 cm made up 11.8% and diameters lower than 1 cm reached 68.0% of the total individual arrowroots in the plot. The island has a rather flat topography, with sandy soils greater than 90%. Arrowroot was found far from residential areas, because the plant was not the main source for the community. The arrowroot naturally grows in former fields. The other two dominating species in the sampling plot were *Imperata cylindrica* and *Scaevola taccada*, while *I. cylindrica* was found with arrowroot in a previous farming area.

Katang Island

The density and abundance of arrowroot were somewhat higher than in other sampling plots, as shown in Table 1. Plant heights were commonly greater than 20 cm and diameters of more than 1 cm reaching 99% of the total arrowroot in the plot. As with the two previous islands, this area has a flat topography and the soils are dominated by sandy content (> 90%). Arrowroot was found up to approximately 20–30 m from the shoreline. Of the eight other species in the sampling plot, *Cocos nucifera* and *Premna corymbosa* were common.

Seruni Island

The frequency and abundance of arrowroot in this area were highest, although the plant grew in the farmed and burned areas. Also, the plant was uniformly distributed in the sampling plot with a high frequency value (Table 1). Topography is similar to the other islands, with sandy content reaching > 90%. There were no plants having a height lower than 20 cm and those with diameters less than 1 cm reached 24.7% of the total individual arrowroots. Of the other nine plants that grew in the sampling plot, *Glochidion littorale*, *Sida acuta* and *Amorphophallus muelleri* were prominent.

Cendikia Island

The density and the abundance of arrowroot in this area were slightly higher than those of Nyamuk and Sintok islands. The arrowroot on this island was more dispersed than Kumbang, Nyamuk and Katang Islands, as shown in Table 1. The island has a relatively flat topography and soil properties were sandy (sandy content > 90%). Arrowroot is also found up to 19 m of the shoreline. Plants lower than 20 cm in height reached 0.5% and those with a diameter less than 1 cm amounted to 9.2% of the total arrowroot in the plot. Other prominent plants in the sampling plot, out of 14 species, were *Cocos nucifera*, *Glochidion littorale* and *Guettarda speciosa*.

Sintok Island

The density and the abundance of arrowroot were the lowest compared to the other sampling plots, shown in Table 1, which could be caused by the open area with no shading trees. Topography is similar to the other five islands and soils have high sandy contents. Arrowroot was found close to the shoreline, to approximately 10 m. Arrowroot plants lower than 20 cm amounted to 1.5%, those with the diameter less than 1 cm were 55 individuals or 40.7% of the total arrowroot in the plot. The species *Glochidion littorale* and *Premna corymbosa*, out of eleven species, dominated in the sampling plot.

Arrowroot structure vertically and horizontally, in several sampling plots, showed different patterns for both height and diameter (Figs. 3 and 4). The vertical structure was dominated by arrowroot height greater than 50 cm in Nyamuk, Katang, Seruni and Cendikia islands, with a tendency for the density on Seruni and Cendikia Islands to increase with increasing plant height. The arrowroot population on Sintok island was common by 30–40 cm height class, while in Kumbang island, small arrowroot was more abundant than on other islands, with a range of heights from 5 to 20 cm. The different structures of the plant, based on all sampling plots, were highly significant, with the exceptions of Katang

Table 1. The density (D), frequency (F) and abundance (A) of arrowroot, in several sampling areas surrounding Karimunjawa NP, Central Java.

No.	Location (Island)	D (individuals m ⁻²)	F	A
1	Kumbang	0.47	0.7	16.7
2	Nyamuk	0.29	0.8	8.47
3	Katang	0.74	0.8	23.1
4	Seruni	0.47	1.0	11.6
5	Cendikia	0.35	0.9	9.72
6	Sintok	0.27	0.9	7.61

and Seruni islands (T-test = 0.227, $P > 0.01$). The horizontal structure, based on the diameters, showed a tendency for the diameter class $1 \leq 2.5$ cm to increase and then decrease on Katang, Cendikia and Sintok islands, while decreasing patterns occurred in Kumbang, Nyamuk and Seruni islands. A high number of individuals within the diameter interval of 2 to ≥ 2.5 cm was found in Katang and Cendikia islands. Different patterns were shown on the Kumbang and Nyamuk islands which were dominated by arrowroot with diameters from 0 to less than 0.5 cm. The differences in the diameters of arrowroot between sampling sites were highly significant, with the exception of the Kumbang and Nyamuk islands (T-test = 0.48, $P > 0.05$) and between Sintok and Seruni Islands (T-test = 0.049, $P > 0.01$).

DISCUSSION

Arrowroot is distributed in Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia and Pacific islands. Arrowroot thrives well in areas protected from salt that are only slightly shaded and well drained (Meena & Yadav, 2010; Spennemann, 1994), although a small population of the plant in montane forest was recently recorded on Bawean island (Trimanto & Hapsari, 2016). In the study plots, the arrowroot was widely distributed near the shoreline, but the plant was not exposed to salt from the sea.

An important note, the number of seedlings of arrowroot on Katang island might have resulted from spreading of the plants naturally. Generally, this begins with an arrowroot that has a height of more than 65 cm (field observation) that falls down after flowering and fruiting, so its stalk will fall close to the plant, thus the spreading process of arrowroot starts in groups of seedlings which were lower than 20 cm in height. Then the seedlings will compete and are naturally selected to grow into larger plants. The life cycle of arrowroot from seedling up to the production of tubers takes 3–6 months, according to the local community (pers. comm.), while 24 weeks after

planting the arrowroot will produce both peripheral and parent tubers (Wawo *et al.*, 2015).

Katang island showed the highest density and abundance, with 15 sampling sub-plots having arrowroot ranging from 30 to 90 individuals, most of the plants being in the seedling stage. Lower frequencies indicate that several sub-plots were without arrowroot. Contrary to three other sampling plots, Seruni, Cendikia and Sintok islands, the arrowroot plants were almost distributed uniformly with low individual numbers. The difference between Katang and the other three islands could be attributed to the continuing vegetative to generative phases with some seedlings and some arrowroot producing flowers and fruits in Katang. While generative phase plants were only found on Seruni and Cendikia islands that indicated that no/few seedlings found and most of arrowroot produced flowers and fruits. In contrast to Sintok island, the arrowroot was continuing the last of vegetative phase. The different stages of their life cycle among islands could not be explained because of the uncultivated/wild plant.

Arrowroot stems and leaves normally have green colour during the vegetative phase. The yellowish leaves of young arrowroot were mostly found in open areas such as on Katang and Seruni islands, because the plants received direct sunlight, even though the arrowroot, as a shade tolerant plant, needs limited sunlight during the vegetative phase. Alternatively, yellowish leaves could also be attributed to human factors, in which the areas with burning system were previously used by people as agricultural land. The system indirectly contribute to the low nutrients in the soil with releasing organic materials. Then, the opening areas surrounding arrowroot could influence the longevity period of existing flowers, few small flowers and dried fruits produce, as recorded in Katang island.

The relationships between arrowroot height and number of flowers/ fruits were assessed using flower and fruit data, as shown in Fig. 5. More

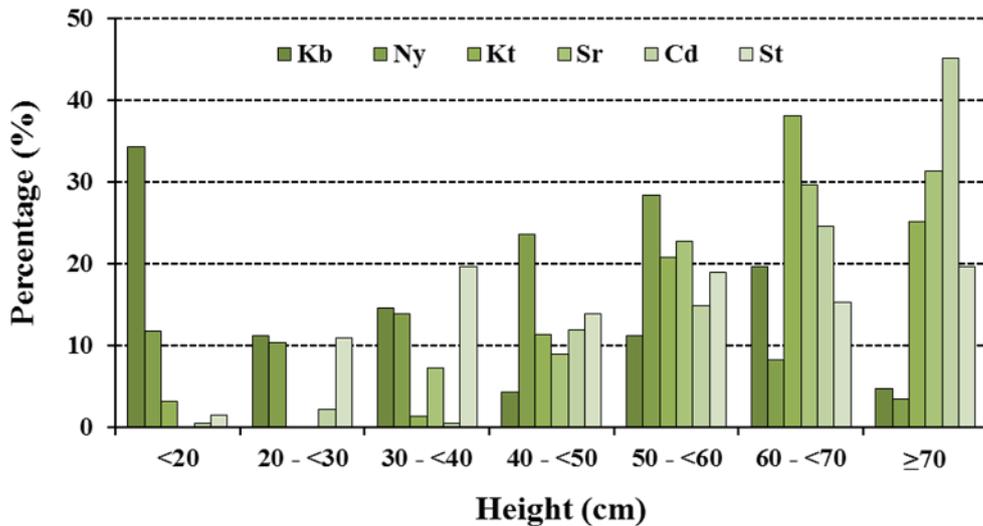


Fig. 3. Percentages of arrowroot heights (cm), on six islands, Karimunjawa National Park, Central Java. Kumbang island (Kb); Nyamuk island (Ny); Katang island (Kt); Seruni island (Sr); Cendikia island (Cd) and Sintok island (St).

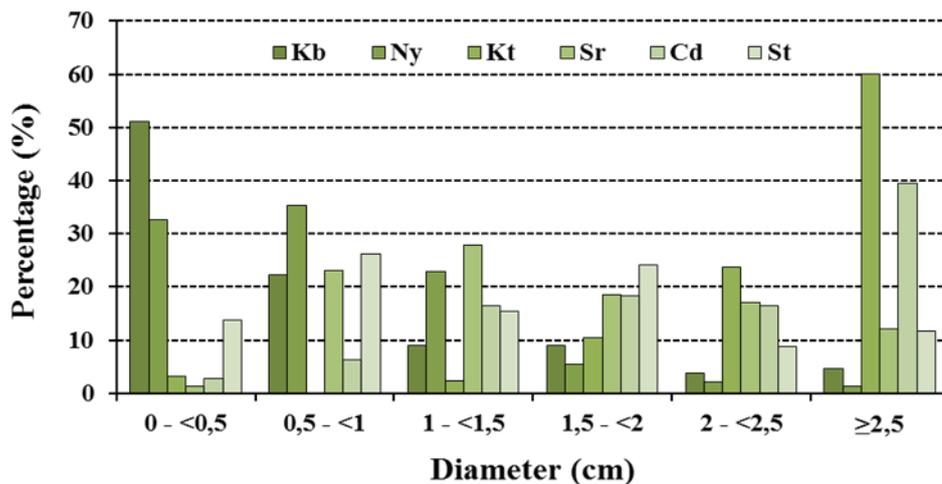


Fig. 4. Percentages of arrowroot diameters (cm), on six islands, Karimunjawa National Park, Central Java. Kumbang island (Kb); Nyamuk island (Ny); Katang island (Kt); Seruni island (Sr); Cendikia island (Cd); and Sintok island (St).

than 50% of the arrowroot had flowers and/ or fruits in each sampling area, except on Seruni where 70% of the arrowroot produced only fruits without flowers being found. The results showed that the height interval necessary for arrowroot to produce flowers/ fruits ranged from 40 to 120 cm. Flower stems form together with the appearance of arrowroot leaves, and flowers will appear when the arrowroot leaves begin to fall. No flowers or fruits were recorded on Sintok island. Flowering arrowroot appeared on Kumbang, Katang and Cendikia islands, while on the other two islands, Nyamuk and Seruni, no flowers were

found. As a perennial plant, it could be attributed that the previous three islands occurred a continuously generative phase and in the others were being in the last phase with producing only some fruits. Then, no flower/fruit was recorded in Sintok island due to the continuing vegetative phase of arrowroot.

Individual number of arrowroot, frequency and abundance in all sampling plots was much higher than those on other islands, such as in Madura and Kangean areas as investigated by Susiarti *et al.* (2011) and Susiarti *et al.* (2012), and on Krakatau island reported by Royyani *et al.* (2011). Those

differences could be due to the presence of other shading plant species that grow surrounding arrowroot, also soil type and nutrient content of soil as well. In Madura, arrowroot was growing together with shading plants, such as *Guettarda speciosa* and *Acacia maingayi*, while on Kangean island the shading plants *Schleichera oleosa* and *Guettarda speciosa* were found by Susiarti *et al.* (2011). Royyani *et al.* (2011) stated that growing arrowroot was observed with *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Terminalia catappa* and *Hibiscus tiliaceus* in Krakatau island. There were 30 species found in all sampling plots of the current study (Appendix 1). Among those species, using E(a) values, there are several species having a negative association with arrowroot, such as *Sida acuta* Chi-square count (cs)>Chi-square table; $cs=5.71$, $P<0.05$) and *Scaevola taccada* ($cs=7.94$, $P<0.01$) on Kumbang island, *Imperata cylindrical* ($cs=18.81$, $P<0.01$) in the Nyamuk island, and *Morinda citrifolia* ($cs=9.47$, $P<0.01$) in Sintok island, indicating that the presence of arrowroot was high when the other species, such *S. acuta*, *S. taccada*, *I. cylindrical* and *M. citrifolia* was low. In contrary to *Carica papaya* ($cs=3.95$, $P<0.05$) in Cendikia island has a positive association indicating that the occurrence of *C. papaya* growing naturally has similar habitat on the presence of arrowroot.

Some other species surrounding arrowroot could indirectly affect the existence of arrowroot, although their existence have limited at each sampling plot. Furthermore, the other species

found in the study plots varied, and there were only a few species found in almost all sampling areas, namely, *Cocos nucifera*, *Premna corymbosa* and *Sida acuta*. The last species, *S. acuta* was abundant and uniformly distributed in the sub-plots on Kumbang and Seruni islands. The other species were abundant, but their distribution tended to be clustered in one or two sub-plots, such as *Guettarda speciosa* on Kumbang island and *Glochidion littorale* on Seruni island.

The existence of other species around arrowroot greatly affected arrowroot growth when they appeared at the initial/vegetative phase of arrowroot, as the number of other plants was abundant with seedlings on Kumbang island. During the adult/generative phase, when the arrowroot plant produced some flowers and fruits, the plants did not really need other shading plants, of which only a few were found, as observed in Katang island.

The population of arrowroot and its correlation to soil nutrients is presented in Fig. 6. It shows that there was a distribution of arrowroot population in each site with soil nutrient, where the N, P, K, Mg, C, and Na nutrients did not significantly affect the presence of arrowroot, as found in Kumbang, Nyamuk, Seruni and Sintok islands. In Cendikia island, calcium (Ca) has influenced the arrowroot, while on Katang island the arrowroot population tended to be affected by potassium (K) content. The correlation could be

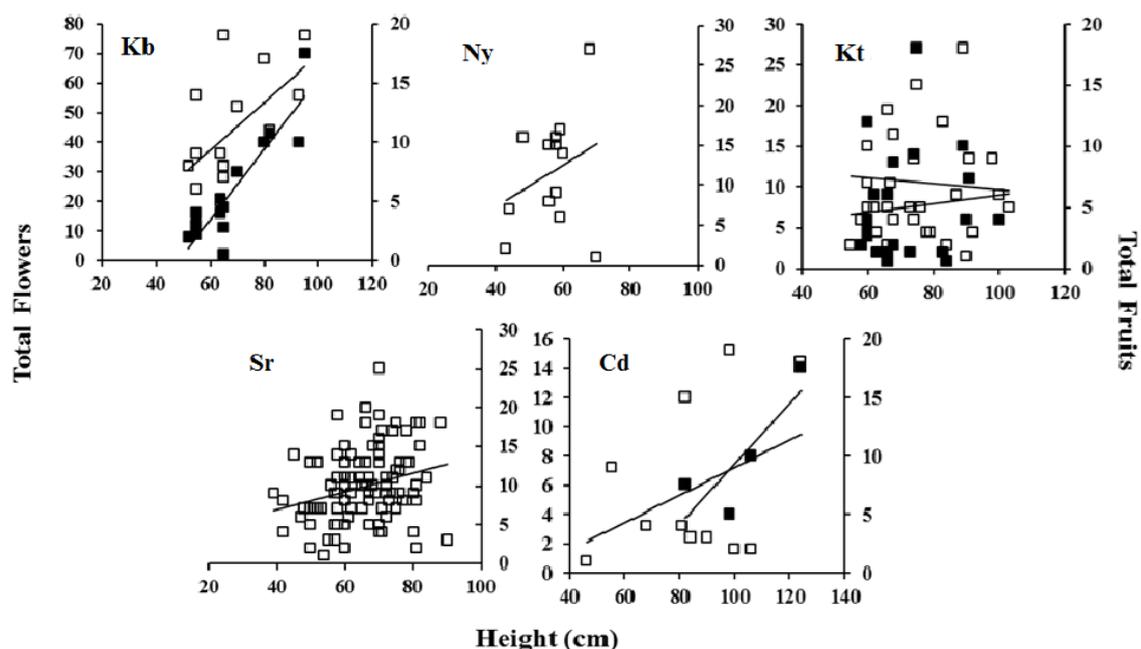


Fig. 5. Total flowers (closed squares; left) and fruits (open squares; right) in sampling areas, plotted against arrowroot height. Kb= Kumbang, Ny= Nyamuk, Kt= Katang, Sr= Seruni and Cd= Cendikia islands sampling plots.

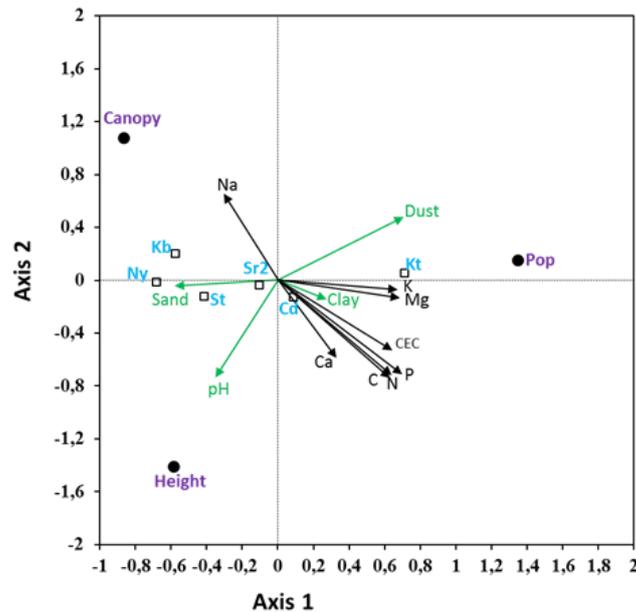


Fig. 6. The population (Pop) of arrowroot plant at each sampling sites, with soil nutrient components [pH, C (Carbon), N (Nitrogen), P (Phosphorus), Ca (Calcium), Mg (Magnesium), K (Potassium), Na (Sodium) and CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity)], using CCA (Canonical Correlation Analysis), at Karimunjawa NP, Central Java. The Kb, Ny, Kt, Sr, Cd and St are, respectively, Kumbang, Nyamuk, Katang, Seruni, Cendikia and Sintok islands.

attributed to the lower Ca reaching $22.1 \text{ (cmol(+)) kg}^{-1}$ with a bit lower in abundance in Cendikia island, and the ranging K value reached $0.2 \text{ (cmol(+)) kg}^{-1}$ with high abundance in Katang island.

Soil texture throughout the sampling plots consisted of the sandy type. The type was different from the texture of the soil of the arrowroot in other places (Susiarti *et al.*, 2011; Susiarti *et al.*, 2012). In East Java, the sandy content was lower than in the current study with soil type between the clay and loam (Susiarti *et al.*, 2011). In Cendikia island, where one area had been cleaned/opened by means of combustion, large amounts of carbon loss occurred and contributed to organic matter content reaching 11.3% (C/N Ratio). Whereas in Sintok island was 11.6 %.

In addition, Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCA) clearly showed that the highest population was on Katang island, although the sandy content in the Island was a bit lower than the other islands. The sandy type characteristically has lower soil organic materials and will influence arrowroot growth, so for cultivation of the plant added organic matter is needed. Also, the low soil clay content could affect the Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) and in this study CEC reached variably $3.5\text{--}7 \text{ cmol(+)) kg}^{-1}$. Generally to increase the arrowroot tuber production, it needs the proper condition such as within the vegetative and/or generative phases requires the shading plant for example *Carica papaya*, the soil texture must be

high sandy with more than 90%. For the nutrient content of soil is appropriate to arrowroot growth of 7.5–8 (pH), 2–2.5% (C), 0.2% (N), and 10–11 ppm (P). Also the cation of Ca, Mg, K, Na, and CEC are, respectively, 22; 2–3; 0.2; 0.2–0.4 and 5–5.5 cmol(+)) kg^{-1} .

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Appendix. Other plant species surrounding arrowroot, at Karimunjava National Park, Central Java.

No	Species Name	Location (Island)					
		Kb	Ny	Kt	Sr	Cd	St
1	<i>Aidia racemosa</i> (Cav.) Tirveng.	√	√			√	√
2	<i>Amorphophallus muelleri</i> Blume.		√		√	√	
3	<i>Ardisia humilis</i> Vahl						
4	<i>Buchanania arborescens</i> (Blume) Blume.	√				√	
5	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.				√	√	
6	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> L.	√		√			
7	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.	√	√	√	√	√	
8	<i>Dioscorea hispida</i> Dennst.			√			
9	<i>Ficus septica</i> Burm.f.				√	√	
10	<i>Glochidion rubrum</i> Blume.		√		√		√
11	<i>Glochidion littorale</i> Blume.		√		√	√	√
12	<i>Guettarda speciosa</i> L.	√			√	√	
13	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> Koord.	√					
14	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (L.) Raeusch.		√	√			√
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i> (Blume.) Kurz	√				√	√
16	<i>Litsea accedentoides</i> Koords. & Valetton	√					√
17	<i>Litsea glutinosa</i> (Lour.) C.B.Rob.	√					√
18	<i>Morinda citrifolia</i> L.			√		√	√
19	<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i> (Sw.) Schott					√	
20	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i> Parkinson ex Du Roi	√					
21	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.		√				
22	<i>Physalis minima</i> L.		√				
23	<i>Planchonella nitida</i> (Blume.) Dubard	√					
24	<i>Polygala paniculata</i> L.	√	√				
25	<i>Premna corymbosa</i> Rottler & Willd.	√	√	√	√		√
26	<i>Rhus taitensis</i> Guill.	√		√			
27	<i>Scaevola taccada</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	√	√				√
28	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f.	√		√	√	√	√
29	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> L.	√				√	
30	<i>Wedelia biflora</i> (L.) DC.					√	

Note: Kb = Kumbang; Ny = Nyamuk; Kt = Katang; Sr = Seruni; Cd = Cendikia and St = Sintok

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