

Foreword

Welcome to the third issue of 2021 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 11 articles; two review articles and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

A selected article entitled “Small Pteropodid Bats are Important Pollinators of Durian in Terengganu, Malaysia” reported the role of small pteropodid bats as pollinating agents to flowering durian trees. Samplings were conducted in April 2018 to record three small pteropodid bats, namely, *Cynopterus brachyotis*, *Cynopterus horsfieldii*, and *Eonycteris spelaea*, visiting the flowers of two durian species, *Durio zibethinus* and *Durio lowianus* at agricultural areas in Hulu Terengganu. Captured bats were swabbed for conspecific pollen load on their bodies to determine their potential role as pollinators. Based on the observation, *E. spelaea* was likely to be a more important pollinating agent since this species was frequently captured near the flowering trees and found to carry a significantly high number of conspecific pollen grains on their bodies. The detailed information of this article is available on page 583.

A review paper entitled “The Potential of Silicon in Improving Rice Yield, Grain Quality, and Minimising Chalkiness” discussed the ability to uptake silicon (Si) and its benefits on rice. An update on the potentials of Si in improving the rice yield and grain quality, including Si’s ability to minimise grain chalkiness, was presented as well. The further details of this study are found on page 655.

Anto Budiharjo and his teammates from Diponegoro University evaluated the improvement in the quality and concentration of RNA after the optimised TRIzol-based treatment. One-month-old tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) stem was used in this research. Several optimisation steps, such as the increment of the initial sample amount, twice chloroform extraction, overnight precipitation at low temperature, and three times final washing with ethanol, were practised. A higher quantity and quality of extracted RNA was obtained. Full information of this study is presented on page 673.

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.

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