

Ecological Aspects of Plant Conservation at the Klang Gates Ridge, a Special Feature of the Taman Warisan Selangor (Selangor Heritage Park)

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The distribution of *Eulalia milsumii* (Poaceae), *Aleisanthia rupestris* (Rubiaceae) and *Ilex praetermissa* (Aquifoliaceae), rare quartz ridge endemics, was surveyed by quadrat sampling on very and less disturbed parts of the Klang Gates ridge spine (in both exposed and tree-sheltered sites) and rock face. *E. milsumii* established well on the spine, whereas *A. rupestris* and *I. praetermissa* preferred rock faces. There were more *E. milsumii* and *A. rupestris* in exposed than sheltered sites on the spine. These species were adversely affected by tree-cutting, trampling and fires that encouraged invading weedy species. *E. milsumii* was absent from very disturbed parts but had the highest frequency, cover and density on less disturbed parts. In exposed sites on the spine, *A. rupestris* survived in very disturbed parts, but had lower frequency, density and cover compared to the less disturbed parts. It was similarly abundant on both exposed and sheltered rock faces. *I. praetermissa* was much higher in frequency and density along the undisturbed, sheltered, north face, compared to the disturbed, exposed, south face. Absence or rarity of *E. milsumii* and *A. rupestris* in disturbed sites is probably due to inability to compete against invading, weedy species rather than intolerance to changed site conditions, because both survive well in exposed, infertile sites with minimal disturbance, and *A. rupestris* had similar occurrence on both disturbed and undisturbed rock faces with low inter-specific competition. However, rarity of *I. praetermissa* along the south-facing side could be due to both reasons. Proper regulation of human activities, protection of less accessible parts of the ridge east of the dam, and increased public awareness of the uniqueness of the ridge and threats to rare plants, would be important conservation aspects in the management of this ridge under the new Selangor Heritage Park.