



Hidden Treasure of Crocker Range Park

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Crocker Range Park (CRP), which is the largest terrestrial park in Sabah, is blessed with high biodiversity and the orchid family is one of the most fascinating plants growing abundantly in this park. The richness of orchids in CRP was due to the various forest zones which were classified according to elevation. These are lowland forest and hill dipterocarp forest on the lower elevations, while upper dipterocarp, lower montane and montane forest are on the upper elevations. To date, a total of 200 species belonging to 66 genera were recorded in this park. Two genera of orchids namely *Bulbophyllum* and *Dendrochilum* yielded the highest number of species with 40 and 28, respectively.

Many endemic species have been discovered in this park. Amongst them are *Ceratochilus jiewhoei*, *Dimorphorchis lowii*, *Enthomophobia kinabaluensis*, *Epigeneium kinabaluense* and *Paphiopedilum javanicum* var. *virens*. Other fascinating and beautiful orchid species found include *Corybas muluensis*, *Corybas pictus*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis*, *Trichoglottis jiewhoei* and *Vanilla kinabaluensis*. These treasure are one of the attraction that CRP can offer to visitors and naturalists.