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# Comparison of levels of chloroplast DNA diversity of two Shorea species with contrasting geographical distribution

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**Abstract.** The analysis of the distribution of genetic diversity in a species provides useful information for conservation programs and management at the species level. The objective of this study was to observe the distribution of chloroplast DNA haplotypes and to assess their variation within and among populations of two *Shorea* species. Results of this study showed that each of the two species was characterized by a different common haplotype. Polymorphisms were found in each species, but the overall haplotype variation was low due to the low number of cpSSR markers investigated. A low level of intra-specific variation was detected in natural populations of *S. parvifolia* and *S. laevis* in which only three haplotypes and four haplotypes were found, respectively. A strong differentiation among populations of *S. parvifolia* and *S. laevis* were observed ( $G_{ST} = 0.582$  and  $G_{ST} = 0.736$ , respectively), indicating limited gene flow among populations of two *Shorea* species. Despite its restricted distribution, *S. laevis* exhibited higher genetic diversity than the more widespread *S. parvifolia*. It is clear that the expectation of reduced genetic diversity in species with restricted distribution is not always borne out. Geographical distribution of haplotypes did not clearly reflect the distribution of two *Shorea* species populations. The findings of this study could be utilized as basic information to conserve the sources of genetic diversity in *S. parvifolia* and *S. laevis* in the future.

Keywords: Chloroplast microsatellite, Genetic variation, Shorea laevis, Shorea parvifolia.

## INTRODUCTION

Shorea parvifolia and Shorea laevis are members of genus Shorea (Kamiya et al., 2005) and plays significant economic and ecological roles in Indonesia. The hard wood of these species are suitable for plywood, veneer, heavy construction, flooring, furniture, window panels, doors, and stairs. In Indonesia, S. parvifolia is locally known as meranti sarang punai and have become target species for commercial plantations and reforestations due to their fast growth rates compared to other dipterocarps. S. parvifolia is a long-lived tree species; adults can reach 65 m in height and 200 cm in diameter at breast height (Newman et al., 1996a, b), which grows well and even abundantly in lowland to upper hill land at altitudes of up to 800 m above sea level (Ashton, 1982).

Shorea laevis is locally known as balau or sometimes bangkirai. This species of emergent tree can reach 60 m tall and up to 240 cm in diameter, and grows well in undisturbed mixed dipterocarp forests up to 600 m altitude, hillsides, ridges and alluvial sites to sandy soils. *S. laevis* is classified in a 'lower risk/least concern species category' according to red list of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature of Natural Resources) (Ashton, 1998). Both *S. parvifolia* and *S. laevis* reproduce sexually with cross pollination systems and are pollinated by less energetic insects as beetle and thrips (Sakai *et al.*, 1999). The seeds of two species are dispersed by wind and gravity and their natural distribution covers two big islands in Indonesia. According to Ashton (1982) and Newman *et al.* (1996a, b). *S. parvifolia* is the most common *Shorea* species and is widely distributed in Sumatra and Borneo while *S. laevis* is restricted to northern Sumatra (Aceh) (Newman *et al.*, 1996b) and commonly in Borneo (Newman *et al.*, 1996a).

Conservation of these species is important due to their habitat losses as an impact of human activities such as over exploitation, and land use changes leading to further losses of genetic diversity at species and population levels. Deforestation can eliminate partial or entire populations

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of species and reduces the genetic diversity of residual populations. Currently, conservation activities of these species have been performed but did not consider the genetic information gained based on DNA markers. Until now, studies into genetic variation of S. parvifolia in Indonesia have been conducted based on various markers targeted at nuclear DNA, such as AFLP (Cao et al., 2006; 2009), SCAR (Nuroniah, 2010), and sequencing of five nuclear gene regions (Iwanaga et al., 2012). Information on the population genetic structure is unavailable for S. laevis, but Masuda et al. (2010) have reported the isolation and characterization of SSR markers in S. maxwelliana and S. laevis. However, investigation using chloroplast DNA is limited for both species and related to the population numbers and represented species. Indrioko (2007) carried out analysis of chloroplast DNA from a few sample of four Shorea species using PCR-RFLP and microsatellite analysis, and Tsumura et al. (2011) have done sequencing analysis on many species of Shorea but these do not represent the population distribution of all species.

As we know, S. parvifolia has a broader geographical distribution than S. laevis (Ashton, 1982; Newman et al., 1996a, b). Plant species with restricted geographical distribution tend to have lower genetic variation than their more widespread congeners (Karron, 1987; Gitzendanner and Soltis, 2000), and species' restricted distribution renders them more vulnerable than more plant widespread species to threats such as collectors and habitat degradation (Srimuang et al., 2010). Therefore, we need to recognize that the Shorea species, S. parvifolia and S. laevis are widely distributed and restricted in distribution, respectively. Analysis of the distribution of genetic diversity and population structure in species that are widely distributed or with a more restricted distribution is crucial as a basis for formulating an effective strategy for conservation and sustainable utilization of the genetic resources. Long-term survival and evolution of species depend on the maintenance of sufficient genetic variation within and among populations to adapt to environmental changes. Within a species, genetic diversity of a plant's population is largely determined by factors such as genetic drift, gene flow, mating system and mode of reproduction, as well as its evolution and life history.

The use of DNA-based molecular marker techniques in studies of the genetic diversity of forest tree species has significantly increased (Semagn *et al.*, 2006; Spooner *et al.*, 2005), in particular of those markers displaying high polymorphism like microsatellites. Microsatellites, also called simple sequence repeats (SSRs), are short DNA sequence stretches in which a single motif consisting of one to six bases is tandemly repeated (Schlötterer, 1998; 2000). Microsatellite markers are characterized by a high degree of polymorphism, co-dominant inheritance, high genomic abundance (Schlötterer, 1998; 2000; Weising *et al.*, 2005). In addition, it is easy to assess size variation using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with pairs of flanking primers (Weising *et al.*, 2005). These attributes make microsatellites more powerful and popular in the analysis of population genetic structures and when addressing phylogeographical issues in plant species. Microsatellite markers have been developed for Shorea species including S. parvifolia and S. laevis (Lee et al., 2004; Ng et al., 2009; Masuda et al., 2010). In this study, we analyzed the chloroplast genome using microsatellite markers. In plants, chloroplast DNA has slow mutation and recombination rates, and thus it is a good tool for studying genetic variation of closely related species, or at the intraspecific level, particular of non-coding regions (Yamane et al., 2006). Chloroplast DNA is known to be maternally inherited in most angiosperms (Petit et al., 2005) and thus gene flow or haplotype exchange occurs exclusively by seed. Maternally inherited markers generally reveal much greater genetic structure than nuclear markers, are smaller than nuclear markers, and have a smaller effective population size than nuclear DNA (Petit et al., 2005). Analysis of chloroplast microsatellites has often been applied to the study of population genetic structures of forest trees (Li et al., 2012; Derero et al., 2010; Zulfahmi et al., 2010; Ayele et al., 2009; Pakkad et al., 2008; Setsuko et al., 2007), phylogeography (Scotti-Saintagne et al., 2013; Ferreira et al., 2011; Duminil et al., 2010; Grassi et al., 2006), colonization history (Dainou et al., 2010; Heuertz et al., 2004), and detection of the geographic origin of species (Deguilloux et al., 2004). The objectives of this research were to determine the distribution of chloroplast DNA haplotypes, including estimated genetic diversity of chloroplast DNA, within and between populations of S. parvifolia and S. laevis using microsatellite markers and to formulate directives for genetic conservation of the target species.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Sample collection.** Leaf samples of *Shorea parvifolia* were collected from seven natural populations, four populations from Sumatra (Pasir Mayang, Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, Asialog, and Nanjak Makmur) and three populations from Borneo (Sumalindo, Sari Bumi Kusuma and Batu Ampar). The reason for exclusion of Aceh from sampling is the security problems preventing safe sample collection. In addition, this area is not dominated by dipterocarp species, but by the Pinus merkusii plant. A total of 44 individuals were sampled from seven different geographic locations for *S. parvifolia*.

For *Shorea laevis*, leaf samples were also collected from seven representative natural populations located across west Borneo (Suka Jaya Makmur population), central Borneo (Sari Bumi Kusuma and Sarpatim Populations) and East Borneo (Berau, Batu Ampar, Bangkirai and ITCI Karya Utama populations). In total, 35 individuals of *S. laevis* were analyzed in this study.

For each species, 5-10 individuals per population were collected among individuals distributed more than 50 m apart. Determination of the number of samples taken per population was based on reports of Pons and Petit (1995), who conclude that sampling in many populations is more important than many individuals per population, for an accurate measurement of gene diversity. Related to slow mutation rates in chloroplast DNA, two samples per population is sufficient to observe the gene diversity (Pons and Petit, 1995). Our estimates that the numbers of samples in this study are sufficient to determine the level of variation within populations using chloroplast DNA, and low haplotype variation can be detected due to the low number of cpSSR markers present. Five individuals per population has previously been shown to be sufficient (Petit et al., 2002a; 2002b; 2002c). Sampling locations and individuals collected per population are described in Table 1. Leaf tissues were taken from each individual, marked and stored in plastic bags containing silica gel. Samples were stored in a freezer at -60°C until DNA extraction was performed.

**DNA extraction.** Total DNA was extracted following the Qiagen Dneasy kit protocol (Manufacturer: Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The success and the quality of DNA isolation was tested on 0.8% (w/v) agarose gels.

Electrophoresis was performed using 1X Tris-acetate (TAE) buffer for about 30-80 minutes at 100-150 V. The quality of extracted DNA for each sample was determined by a comparison of ethidium bromide stained band intensities with a Lambda DNA standard.

**Primer Screening, PCR amplification of cpSSRs, and genotyping.** Ten universal primers, namely consensus chloroplast microsatellite primers (*ccmp*) *ccmp1- ccmp10* (Weising and Gardner 1999) were initially screened in order to analyze chloroplast microsatellite variation. Two samples per population and a negative control were amplified. Out of ten chloroplast microsatellites, two markers (*ccmp3 and ccmp6*) revealed intraspecific variation for *Shorea parvifolia*; two markers (ccmp2 and ccmp10) also displayed intraspecific variation for *S. laevis*, and were used for further analysis. The PCR amplification of cpSSRs and genotyping followed procedure of Zulfahmi *et al.* (2010).

**Data analysis.** Haplotypes were inferred as combinations from individual allele sizes found at each locus. In analyzing fragment patterns of cpSSR, the fragments were coded with 1 and 0 to indicate the presence or absence of fragments. Haplotype frequencies and population genetic parameters (average diversity within populations  $H_s$ ; total diversity

Population Name	Population Abbreviation	N	Longitude	Latitude	
<i>S. parvifolia</i> Batu Ampar, East Borneo Sumalindo, Central Borneo Sari Bumi Kusuma,Central Borneo Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, Riau	SP-BA SP-SM SP-SBK SP-BTNP	5 6 7 6	116o48'-117°00'E 115o19'-116°36'E 111°39' - 112°25'E 102°13'-102°45'E	00°45'-00°50'N 00°55'-00°56'N 00 ° 36' - 01°10'S 00°40'-01°30'S	
Nanjak Makmur, Riau Ex-Asialog, Jambi Pasir Mayang, Jambi Total	SP-NM SP-EA SP-PM	5 10 5 44	101°30'37"- 103°21'36"E 103°10'47"E 101°48'57"-101°49'17"E	00°46'24"-00°24'34"S 01°09'31"S 00°52'32"-01°54'17"S	
<i>S. laevis</i> Berau, East Borneo Batu Ampar, East Borneo Bangkirai, East Borneo ITCI Karya Utama, East Borneo Sari Bumi Kusuma,Central Borneo Sarpatim,Central Borneo Suka Jaya Makmur,West Borneo Total	SL-BR SL-BA SL-BK SL-IKU SL-SBK SL-SPT SL-SKJ	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 35	116°49'-117°24 BT 116°48'-117°00'E 11732'-118°35' BT 116°17'-1176' BT 111°39' - 112°25'E 112'03'13,7" BT 110'49'54,2" BT	02°05'- 02°36' LS 00°45'-00°50'N 00°14'- 01°15' LS 00°20'- 01°18' LS 00°36' - 01°10'S 01'0458,3"LS 01'31'07,2"LS	

Table 1. Approximate latitude and longitude, and number of individuals each population [N] of S. parvifolia and S. laevis.

 $H_{\tau}$ ; differentiation among populations  $G_{ST}$ ) were calculated using the POPGEN Software Version 32 (Yeh et al., 1999). Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) was also peformed to examine the hierarchical genetic structure using ARLEQUIN Software Version 3.5.1 (Excoffier and Lischer, 2011) with three levels of population structure for S. parvifolia i.e. between islands (Sumatra and Borneo), among populations within islands, and within populations, but two levels of population structure for S. laevis, i.e. among populations and within populations, since S. laevis is only found in Borneo. A UPGMA dendogram analysis based on Nei's genetic distance (1972) was performed with NTSYSpc Software Version 2.00 (Rohlf, 1998) to determine the genetic relationship among populations.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

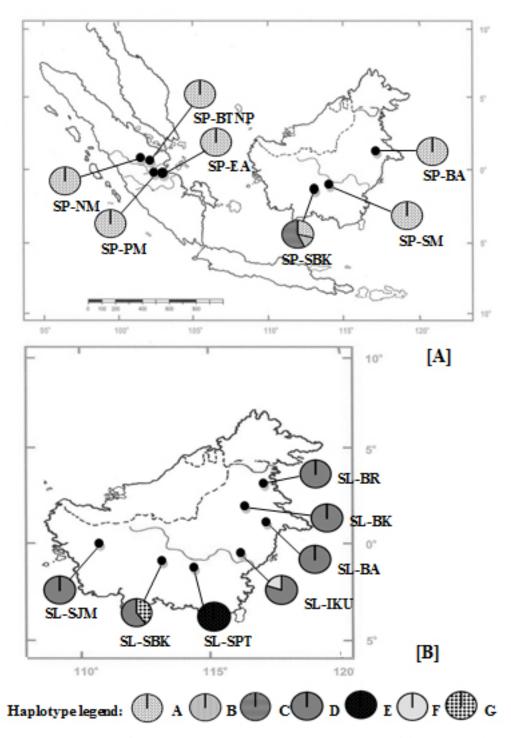
cpSSR haplotypes. The joint analysis of both polymorphic cpSSR loci (ccmp3 and ccmp6) in Shorea parvifolia allowed the observation of three haplotypes, namely A, B, and C. The haplotypes of S. parvifolia and variants identified here are in accordance with those already published by Zulfahmi et al. (2010) in Shorea acuminata, namely R, S and U. Haplotype A was a common haplotype and found in all populations of S. parvifolia, whereas Haplotype B and C were only observed in Sari Bumi Kusuma population. For S. laevis, based on the combination of the two loci polymorphic cpSSR (ccmp2 and ccmp10), four haplotypes were observed: D, E, F and G. Haplotype D was a common haplotype and found in almost all populations of S. laevis, except in the Sarpatim population, whereas haplotype E, F, and G were only observed in Sarpatim, Sari Bumi Kusuma and ITCI Karya Utama populations, respectively. Details of haplotype frequencies and haplotype distribution for each Shorea species are shown in Figure 1. Two populations harbored specific haplotypes in each species, Sari Bumi Kusuma in the case of S. parvifolia, and Sarpatim, Sari Bumi Kusuma, ITCI Karya Utama in the case of S. laevis). These haplotype differences can be used as diagnostic markers for the identification of geographical origin of wood and seed of these Shorea species, which is valuable for the conservation of this species. The utilization of a cpDNA marker to identify the origin of wood has been developed in mahogany species (Swietenia macrophylla King) (Degen et al., 2013), Merbau species (Lowe et al., 2010), other Shorea species (Indrioko, 2007; Finkeldey et al., 2010; Tsumura et al., 2011), Neobalanocarpus heimii (Tnah et al., 2009), Gonystylus spp. (Ogden et al., 2008), and Oak species (Deguilloux et al., 2004).

Polymorphisms were found in each species, but overall haplotype variation was low, even though multiple populations were investigated for both species. The low haplotype variation of chloroplast DNA found in this study is closely related to the uniparental mode of inheritance, the absence of recombination, and, most important, low mutation rates (Jakobsson et al., 2007; Weising et al., 2005). The mutation rate measured in chloroplasts ranges from 0.8 x 10<sup>-9</sup> (Yamane et al., 2006) to 2.8 x 10<sup>-9</sup> (Jakobsson et al., 2007). Substitution rates are knows to be particularly low in trees, a likely consequence of their long generation time (Kay et al., 2006; Petit and Hampe, 2006). Low haplotype diversity in Shorea species in particular has been reported in S. parvifolia (three haplotypes, Indrioko, 2007); S. *johorensis* (three haplotypes, Indrioko, 2007); S. acuminata (six haplotypes, Zulfahmi et al., 2010); and S. leprosula (one haplotype, Indrioko, 2007). A low number of haplotype was observed in other species using chloroplast microsatellite markers such as in Corylus avellana (three haplotypes, Leinemann et al., 2013), Cordia africana (three haplotypes, Derero et al., 2010), Jatropha curcas (four haplotypes, Mittal and Dubey, 2010), Fraxinus ornus (four haplotypes, Heuertz et al., 2006) and wild Grapevine (five haplotypes, Grassi et al., 2006).

The low cpDNA genetic diversity in this species is in contrast with other dipterocarp species studied previously using different markers, i.e. DNA sequencing. Based on DNA sequencing, a total of 21 cpDNA haplotypes were detected from 32 populations of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* (*trnL* intron, trnG intron, *trnK* intron, and *psbK-trnS* spacer regions, Tnah *et al.*, 2009) and 15 haplotypes were found in eight populations of *S. curtisii* (*trnH*-psbA*-trnK* and *trnL-trnF* regions, Kamiya *et al.*, 2012). These studies also showed that most of the populations contained multiple haplotypes, so the low level of genetic variation in *S. parvifolia* and *S. laevis* were specific in the cpDNA regions examined in this study.

Population structure. Chloroplast microsatellite variation within populations of S. parvifolia and S. laevis was low, with an average haplotype diversity value of  $H_s = 0.031$  and  $H_s = 0.046$ , respectively. Total haplotype diversity in the overall sample of both species was higher than within populations (Table 2). The overall differentiation among populations was high ( $G_{sT} = 0.582$ ). Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) of S. parvifolia is displayed in Table 4. The high variation existed within populations (42.30%) and between populations within the island (44.05%). Only 13.65% of total variation existed between islands. For S. laevis, the overall differentiation among populations (GST) was 0.74 ( $H_s = 0.046, H_T =$ 0.173) (Table 3). The results of AMOVA of S. laevis indicate that 70.59% of the total genetic variation was due to differences between populations and 29.41% of the variation was due to differences within populations (Table 3).

Very low genetic and haplotype diversity within populations ( $H_s = 0.031$  for *S. parvifolia* and  $H_s = 0.046$  for *S. laevis*) and very high differentiation among



**Figure 1. Geographical distribution of chloroplast microsatellite haplotypes in** *S. parvifolia* **[A]** and *S. laevis* **[B]**. The haplotype frequency of each population is indicated a by pie chart. For population abbreviations see Table 1.

Tabel	2	Estimates	of	diversity	of	chloroplast
miscrosatellite of S. Parvifolia and S. laevis.						

Species	Ν	HS	HT	GST
S. parvifolia	7	0.031	0.074	0.582
S. laevis	7	0.046	0.173	0.736

populations (GST = 0.582 for *S. parvifolia* and GST = 0.736 for *S. laevis*) demonstrated a marked genetic separation of the populations. This result contrasts with low differentiation between populations and high variation within populations in other *Shorea* species such as *S. parvifolia* (GST = 0.150, Indrioko, 2007); S. acuminata (GST = 0.150, Zulfahmi *et al.*, 2010), and may be explained by the increase

Source variation	degree of freedom	Sum of Squared deviations	Variance Component	Percentages of Total Variation (%)	P-value
Shorea parvifolia					
Between islands	1	1.76	0.04	13.65	< 0.00
Among populations within island	5	4.54	0.12	44.05	< 0.00
Within population	39	4.57	0.12	42.30	< 0.00
Shorea laevis					
Among populations	6	11.14	0.34	70.59	< 0.00
Within populations	28	4.00	0.14	29.41	< 0.00

Table 3. Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) of S. parvifolia and S. laevis

of fragmentation in the study area due to illegal logging, forest fire and over-exploitation. Young and Boyle (2000) suggest that habitat fragmentation will decrease genetic variation within a population and increase inter-population genetic differentiation, effecting both short and long term population viability. Another genetic consequence of reduced populations are increased genetic drift and inbreeding (Li *et al.*, 2012). In *Shorea* species, an increase of selfing rates due to habitat fragmentation has been reported by Murawski *et al.* (1994); Obayashi *et al.* (2002); Naito *et al.* (2005); and Fukue *et al.* (2007).

Chloroplast DNA is generally maternally inherited in angiosperms and therefore differentiation is reflected in seeds only, but not in pollen dispersal. The strong genetic differentiation among populations of S. parvifolia and S. laevis observed here ( $G_{ST} = 0.582$  and  $G_{ST} = 0.736$ , respectively) indicate that restricted seed migration between populations of two Shorea species over an extended period is due to isolation of population by deforestation or naturally occurring barriers (mountains, valleys, rivers and geographical distance). The limited seed dispersal of these species is also assumed to be due to their relatively heavy seeds and abiotic dispersal by wind or gravity. The seed dispersal distance of S. parvifolia can be up to 100 m or even further, and more than half of the mature seeds land within 50 m of the parent tree under forest conditions (Takeuchi et al., 2004). Ashton (1982) reports an observation by van Steenis: during a dry spell at Bogor with strong southern wind, fruit dispersal of Shorea grown in Bogor Botanic Garden over the large lawn in front of the palace did not exceed 500 m. The differentiation ( $G_{ST}$  values) in this study is lower than the mean  $G_{ST}$  estimated in angiosperms species for maternally inherited haplotypes such as Sinocalycanthus chinensis ( $G_{ST} = 0.756$ , Li et al., 2012), Hegenia abyssinica ( $G_{ST} = 0.899$ , Ayele et al., 2009), *Fraxinus ornus* ( $G_{ST} = 0.983$ , Heuertz *et al.*, 2006), and *Fraxinus angustifolia* ( $G_{ST} = 0.964$ , Heuertz *et al.*, 2006), and an average GST for regional and widespread

distribution of species (0.28 and 0.31, respectively, Nybom, 2004).

Although many studies have demonstrated that rare tree species and species with a restricted geographic distribution tend to possess lower levels of genetic variation than widespread species (Karron, 1987; Gitzendanner and Soltis, 2000), our findings were not consistent with these; S. laevis showed higher genetic diversity ( $H_T = 0.173$ ) than widespread species (S. parvifolia,  $H_T = 0.074$ ). Cao et al. (2009) that rare species S. blumutensis exhibited found higher genetic diversity than other widespread dipterocarp species and Rachmat et al. (2012) also reported that endemic species in Moluccas Island, such as S. selanica, displayed higher genetic diversity than S. javanica which has a wider distribution. Some other studies have also shown opposite findings (e.g. Eliades et al., 2011; Molin et al., 2009), finding high cpDNA genetic diversity in narrowly distributed tree species Cedrus brevifolia ( $H_T = 0.93$ ; Eliades et al., 2011) and S. rodriguezii ( $H_T = 0.840$ ; Molin et al., 2009). These results confirmed that not all types of rarity have the same genetic implications. Clearly, many other factors, such as the nature of the speciation process, life-history traits, and the recent history of population fluctuations, may affect the amount and distribution of genetic variation in plant species (Karron, 1987). However, our results need to be confirmed through studying more rare species and more populations of each species.

The genetic clustering among populations of each *Shorea* species is illustrated in Figure 2. UPGMA dendograms based on Nei's genetic distance (1972) divided *S. parvifolia* into two clusters with the Sari Bumi Kusuma population forming the first cluster, and other populations (Batu Ampar, Tering, Sumalindo, BTNP, Pasir Mayang, Nanjak Makmur and Asialog) forming a second cluster (Figure 2a). Geographic distribution of *S. parvifolia* is not clearly separated among islands. In this

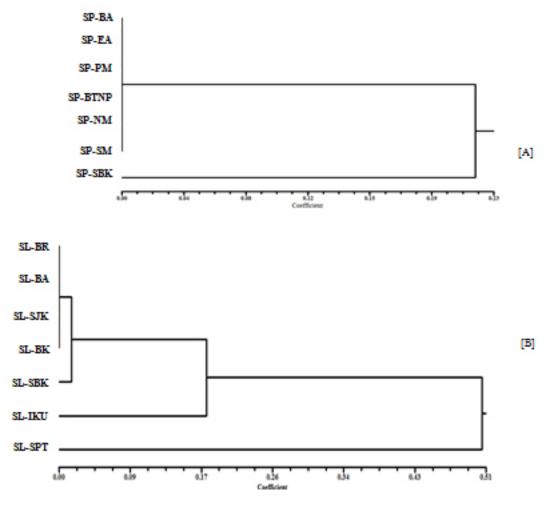


Figure 2. Dendogram (UPGMA cluster analysis) illustrating genetic differentiation in *S. parvifolia* [A] and *S. laevis* [B] populations based on Nei's genetic distance (1972). For population abbreviation, see Table 1.

study, we observed admixing between populations from Borneo (Sumalindo and Batu Ampar) clustered with the Sumatra population group. Analysis of the S. parvifolia populations based on AFLP (Cao et al., 2006) also showed them to be separated into two groups. They also found admixed populations from Sumatra and Borneo, such as the BTNP population from Sumatra clustering with the Borneo population group. A recent study by Iwanaga et al. (2012) also revealed admixture of an Asiolog population from Sumatraclustering with Borneo populations (Sari Bumi Kusuma and Sumalindo) and vice versa: one population from Borneo (ITCI Karya Utama) clustered with the Sumatra-Malay group. The chloroplast DNA haplotype A was most common in this study and has had wide distribution. These facts reflect the migration

between two population groups which must have occurred in the past, and expansion of *S. parvifolia* into Indonesia, possibility from Borneo to the Sumatra islands or vice versa. Iwanaga *et al.* (2012) also estimated that migration rates of *S. parvifolia* in both directions were very low (2  $N_m$  per generation < 2), but that migration rates from Borneo to Sumatra (2  $N_m$  = 1.65) were higher than the migration rates from Sumatra to Borneo (2  $N_m$  = 0.25). Our study showed moderate gene flow between Sumatra and Borneo islands for *S. parvifolia* ( $G_{ST}$  = 13.65%), and this likely occurred when Sumatra and Borneo islands were connected in the last glacial time which sandy soil exposed in central Sundaland (Slik *et al.*, 2011). Based on a species distribution model (SDM) analysis by Raes *et al.* (2014), climate in central Sundaland during the Late Glacial Maximum (LGM) was suitable for the growth of dipterocarp rainforest and acted as a bridge (contact zone) between western Sumatra and southern Borneo, allowing for gene flow between the two islands.

For S. laevis, UPGMA dendograms divide into four groups: the first group was the Sarpatim population; the second group was the ITCI Karya Utama population; the third group was the Sari Bumi Kusuma population; and the last group comprised the Berau, Batu Ampar, Suka Java Makmur, Bangkirai populations (Figure 2b). The Sarpatim population separated so far from the others because this population has a unique haplotype and is isolated geographically by mountains and valleys. The Sari Bumi Kusuma and ITCI Karya Utama populations are highly divergent from one another. This is supported by the observation that specific haplotypes were found in both populations. The West Borneo populations represented by that from Suka Java Makmur clustered with the East Borneo population. Many studies explain that eastern Borneo was one of the rainforest refugia at the last glacial maximum period and there was the possibility of haplotype migration from East Borneo to West Borneo via the Sari Bumi Kusuma population, but it is necessary to study this in more detail using larger samples because West Borneo is known to be an area of high species richness, as is supported by studies of the dipterocarp-dominated rainforest at Gunung Palung National Park (Cannon and Leighton, 2004). Sarpatim and Sari Bumi Kusuma populations representing Central Borneo possessed three of the four haplotypes of S. laevis. Petit et al. (2003) suggested that regions with a high level of genetic diversity could be identified as putative refugia, therefore our estimate indicates that Sari Bumi Kusuma, Sarpatim and ITCI Karya utama populations may have been a part of a refugia in Borneo, though more evidence is required.

The maintenance of genetic diversity is critical for the long-term survival of species, because loss of variation may significantly limit the adaptability of populations to changing environments. Shorea populations have declined due to shifting cultivation practices, forest fires, agricultural development and illegal logging, which in recent years has in Indonesia totaled about 0.61 million ha/year (Ministry of Forestry, 2014). These activities have caused severe reduction and fragmentation of populations which may now be vulnerable to genetic drift or complete loss. Our study has shown high levels of inter-population genetic differentiation and low diversity intra -population in two Shorea species. The maintenance of effective population sizes and reduction of human disturbance are thus top priority requirements for conservation. Our data also showed that many of the haplotypes were considerably rarer, and unique to a single population, and these populations should be given the highest priority for conservation of this species. For precise definition of a conservation strategy of these species, it is not appropriate to select genetic resources based only the observations of maternally inherited cpDNA markers, since the variation in cpDNA observed is not representative for neutral diversity in nuclear genome, nor for adaptive genetic variation (Finkeldey & Mátyás, 2003). Therefore, additional study of adaptive traits is necessary. Furthermore, our results support the importance of conservation of genetic resources of comparatively rare dipterocarps and species with a restricted distribution (Cao *et al.*, 2009). *S. laevis* is less common and has a more restricted distribution than *S. parvifolia*, but the diversity seen within its chloroplast genome is considerably higher than that in *S. parvifolia*. These findings in this study can be utilized as basic information to guide the conservation of the sources of genetic diversity in *S. parvifolia* and *S. laevis* in future.

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