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"Bridging Gaps with Creativity for Future Sustainability"

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“Bridging the Gaps with Creativity for Future Sustainability”

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IDENTIFICATION OF WILD BANANA FAMILY (MUSACEAE) USING MOLECULAR MARKERS

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Abstract

Musaceae is a small family with two genera under the order of Zingiberales. In Malaysia, its taxonomic status is still debating due to conflict against scientific names given by various authors in the past. In this study, we performed phylogenetic analysis of 34 accessions from Peninsular Malaysia and five accessions from Indonesia. Here, I present an updated *Musa* taxa phylogeny focusing on six plastid regions (*matK*, *rps16*, *rpl16*, *psbA-trnH*, *trnL-trnH*, *atpB-rbcL*) and one nrDNA marker (ITS) under Maximum Likelihood (ML), Maximum Parsimony (MP) and Bayesian. Based on MP, ML and Bayesian analysis in chloroplast and ITS markers, *Musa* taxa in Peninsular Malaysia corresponded well to the two sections in Musaceae. *Musa* taxa that have been linked to subspecies *acuminata* previously resolved as monophyletic in one large clade with strong bootstrap support (BS>88) and high posterior probability (pp =100%). The scope of this analysis also provides a much wider view for future research on *Musa* systematics, ecology, biogeography and other evolutionary studies.

ENTREPRENEURIAL RISK SMART

Oswald Timothy Edward, Azitadoly Mohd Arifin, Nurul Aida Harun,
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Abstract

In life we are always exposed to risks of one sort or another, in whatever we may be doing, wherever we are, at work or at home. Unfortunately, we must live with some of these risks, since there is little we can do about them. However, there are ways of managing the risks, and there are ways of spreading risks – risk sharing. Insurance comes into picture. Unfortunately, many people find the word ‘insurance’ a taboo and always try not to engage in it as a result of lack of exposure. This leads to increased risk exposures which could possibly result to potential loss to potential entrepreneurs. Thus, we designed ‘Entrepreneurial RiskSmart’ which is an innovative package of risk management and insurance educational tool for potential entrepreneurs. This innovative package is work of art to help potential entrepreneurs profiling their risks and managing them in a smart way. It is a well-balanced treatment on the subject of risk and insurance. This package is designed by experienced lecturers – who have served the insurance industry in one way or another, thus provide vast reference to the local context which is a rarity in Malaysia. In a nutshell, Entrepreneurial RiskSmart’ is an integrated educational tool which can serve multiple users to be smart risk managers. As such, it has high potential to be commercialized to prospective entrepreneurs and business undergraduates.