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Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

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Abstract

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. This study revealed that 15 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

Keywords: aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Introduction

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy & Stroyan, 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Blackman & Eastop, 2000). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhawe et al., 2020). A single species of aphids can act as a vector for over 150 viruses (Blackman & Eastop, 2000). In tropical areas, aphids can always be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman & Eastop, 2017). Aphids consume plant sap, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Müller et al., 2001). Moreover, when aphids transmit viral diseases from one plant to another, this can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones, 2022). According to Kinley et al. (2021), aphids cause yield losses directly (35 - 40%) by sucking the plant sap or indirectly (20 - 80%) through viral transmission. Therefore, aphid infestations can have adverse effects on crop yields and overall plant health (Sarwan Kumar, 2019).

Due to their function as vectors, the presence of aphids on a plant can be highly damaging (Jaouannet et al., 2014). They feed by piercing the plant's tissues and consuming its sap, which can reduce the plant's growth and productivity, ultimately leading to weakness and possible death (Chandel et al., 2022). Additionally, as vectors, aphids can transmit a variety of plant diseases. They are as carriers for various plant viruses, and when they move from infected to healthy plants, these viruses can rapidly spread and cause extensive damage (Guo et al., 2019). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh & Singh, 2021). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

Understanding the species diversity of aphids is fundamental to effective aphid control, as it facilitates the development of measures to keep their populations in check. In addition, understanding the diversity of aphid species can provide valuable insights into potential plant diseases, as different aphid species carry distinct viruses. Methods used to control aphids often encompass various techniques, including the use of natural enemies such as predators (like ladybugs, lacewings, and parasitic wasps) (Singh & Singh, 2021; Völkl et al., 2023), parasitoids (Boivin et al., 2012), entomopathogens (Hullé et al., 2020), the use of essential oils as botanical pesticides to control aphids (Ikbal & Pavela, 2019), and crop rotation techniques (Degani et al., 2019). Regular monitoring of aphid populations and diversity can help in detecting when population sizes may be reaching harmful levels, allowing for prompt implementation of the necessary countermeasures.

According to Irsan *et al.* (1998), many aphid species were found on plants that were not their actual hosts. Aphids have one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al., 2020). An alternative host can also be a collateral host belonging to the same plant family as the primary host, helping crop pests to survive when the primary hosts are unavailable (Sileshi et al., 2008). These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Capinera, 2005). However, they may provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions (Kumar et al., 2021). According to Liu et al. (2017), since hibiscus serves as an overwintering host for cotton-specialized aphids but not for cucurbit-specialized aphids, it is evident that host-specialized aphids have refuges during times of food shortage. The life cycles of numerous aphid species exhibit such complexity (Jousselin et al., 2010). They maintain a cycle of host alternation, shifting between their primary hosts (typically a woody plant) and secondary hosts (often

herbaceous plants) (Moran, 1992). Weeds pose a continuous threat in both cropped and non-crop areas, providing food, shelter and reproductive sites for various pest organisms (Kumar et al., 2021). This indicates that weeds can serve as alternative hosts for aphids.

A study of aphid species on horticultural plants has been conducted (Maharani et al., 2018). However, information about aphid species on ornamental and wild plants has not received as much attention and remains largely unexplored. In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagaralam, there are numerous ornamental and native plants. The research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has received little attention. Therefore, this study was conducted in Pagaralam, a highland region of South Sumatra, with the aim of obtaining information on the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants. The findings from this study can serve as a valuable resource for aphid management.

Methods

The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing fruit, vegetable, and ornamental varieties, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, aphids, and their natural enemies involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids were documented as aphid hosts. Aphids, along with their natural enemies within the aphid colonies, were systematically collected. All components of the collected observations were then identified.

Guidelines for finding host plants were written by Blackman & Eastop (1994, 2000; Irsan 1998; Kranz *et al.* 1978). Aphid identification was conducted using identification keys made by Blackman & Eastop (1994, 2000); Heie (1992, 1994, 1995); Irsan (1998); Kranz *et al.* (1978); Martin (1983). Identification of aphid species took place in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified based on identification keys made by van Steenis (1988). The location and size of aphid colonies, morphology of aphids including their shape and color, as well as any symptoms observed in the host plants were recorded, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their host plants were taken.

Results

The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipapis erysimi*. Based on the observation, these aphids were found on various ornamental plants (Table 1). The primary colony locations were generally in flowers, and this study documented these colony locations in ornamental plants (Figure 1).

Table 1: Aphid species found in ornamental plants and their colony locations

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Sitobion luteum</i>	flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia</i> sp	flower
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i>	flower
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	flower
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flower
9	<i>Cosmos caudatus</i>	<i>Uroleucon</i> sp.	flower
10	<i>Dahlia Kelvin</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
13	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	<i>Aphis glycines</i> <i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	flower
20	<i>Spondiras dulcissoland</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower



Fig 1. The location of aphid colonization on various plant parts. a) *A. gossypii* in *D. Kelvin* flower b) *A. gossypii* in *H. rosasinensis* flower c) *A. gossypii* in tuberose flower, d) *A. craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *A. citricola* in *Helianthus* sp., f) *A. aurantii* on the *M. paniculata* flower, g) *T. odinae* in the *S. dulcissoland*, h) *Uroleucon* sp. in chrysanthemums, i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *R. indica* flower, j) *Pentalonia nigronervosa* in *C. indica* leaves

In addition, this study documented the presence of weeds, which might serve as alternative hosts for aphids (Table 2). The location of aphid colonies also varied, namely on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves and old leaves of wild plants (Figure 2). The presence of specific plants or host plants within a habitat influenced the types of aphids found. Many aphid species are found on a broad range of plants or host plants, while others are highly specialized and are only found on specific plants or host plants. This is closely related to the polyphagous, oligophagous or monophagous nature of aphids (Blackman & Eastop 2000).

Table 2: Species of aphids found in wild plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	<i>Hysteronera setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinochloa crusgali</i>	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	<i>Hysteronera setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	<i>Hysteronera setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	<i>Hysteronera setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Lagerstromea</i> Sp.	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	<i>Hysteronera setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	<i>Aphis</i> <i>gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> , <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (pupus), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	<i>Hysteronera setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	<i>Hysteronera setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, seeds
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs, petioles
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flower
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> , <i>A. gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arventris</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flower, fruit

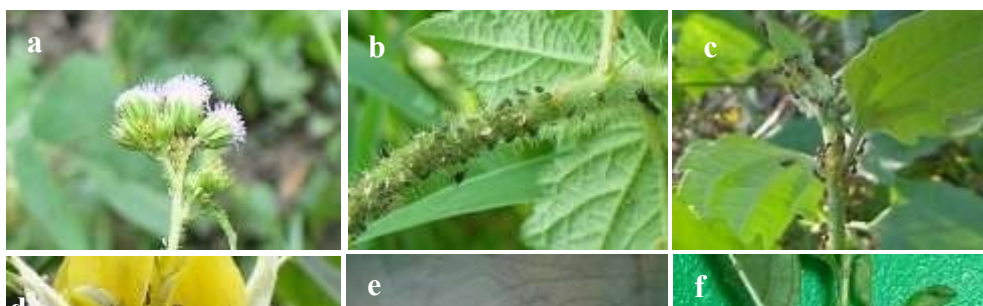


Figure 2. Aphids found on wild plants a) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *A. gossypii* on Croton weed *hirtus* c) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *A. gossypii* on plants *Pachystochys* sp., e) *A. gossypii* on plants *Caladium* sp., f) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *A. gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* weeds, h) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Euphorbia hirta*, i) *A. citricola* on the weed *Phyllanthus nerruri*, j) *A. citricola* on *Sida rhombifolia* weed, k) *A. citricola* on plants *Annona muricata*, l) *A. citricola* on the weed *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A. craccivora* on *Mimosa pudica* weed, n) *A. craccivora* on weeds *Amaranthus gracilis*, o) *A. glycine* in *Mikania micranta* weed, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in Eleusin weeds, q) *Greenidae* sp. in kenidai trees (shrubs) *indica*, r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali* Weed, s) *L. erysimi* on weed *sonchus arvensis*, t) *Rhopalosiphum rice* on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum Maidis* on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*.

Discussion

The plant species or host plant influences the distribution of aphids. There are aphid species that can be found on a wide range of host plants, which is closely related to the polyphagous nature of aphids, allowing them to colonize many different species of host plants. Host plants can also affect the distribution of aphids, as evidenced by the presence of aphid species exclusively found on certain host plants (Peccoud et al., 2010). But there are some species of aphids found only on one particular host and are not found on other host plants (Döring, 2014). *A. gossypii*, and *Aphis aurantii* have been found on many host plants because both aphids are classified as polyphagous aphids (Margaritopoulos et al., 2006; Piron et al., 2019).

Aphids can commonly be found infesting a variety of ornamental plants. They are attracted to these plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Wäckers & Van Rijn, 2012). In this present study, some aphid species were found on some ornamental plants in Pagaralam. The location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Adiantum predatum* plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and on newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera* sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Uroleucon* sp., and they were associated with ants.

On the *Brugmansia suaveolens* (angel's trumpet), *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have started to turn yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. (taro) was found one species of aphids: *A. gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms. The aphids were yellow green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black in color. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants.

Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The

aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body. The identification results showed that the aphids were *P. nigronervosa*. The colonies of *P. nigronervosa* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and the colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or flower stalks that had not fully bloomed. The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants.

Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems and young leaves. The aphids were brown to black in color. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently associated with ants. On the plant *Cosmos caudatus*, aphids were found on the flower petals. The colonies were not very large. The body color was green and light green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were also associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia kelvin plant* formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. Aphids on *Datura metel* (amethyst) were found to form colonies on the undersides of old leaves. The aphids were medium-sized with a green body color. The colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Myzus ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. Within *Dendrobium* sp., aphid colonies were found on the young leaves. The aphids were yellow, green to dark green. The colonized plants did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp. (bonsai), colonies of aphids were located on the undersides of young leaves. The colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The aphids were green in color. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants.

On the *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) plants, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The colonized flowers, especially the crowns, exhibited a tendency to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in color. The colonies were small. The identification

results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that were parasitized by Aphidiidae were found.

On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging in color from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, similar to sugar. The aphids had yellow, green or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The identification results showed that the aphids were

A. gossypii, and they were almost always associated with ants. The second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants.

In *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves and unopened flowers. The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white, resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost always associated with ants. Another species of aphids were founded and formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce any symptoms of plant disease. The aphids were yellow or yellow-green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were

very small to small in size. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also frequently found in association with ants.

Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies in different locations. The first type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease symptoms. The aphids were yellow, green, and some with dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots and within flower parts. The plant parts they infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*.

The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids. This indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green, yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* or alligator grass was also colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots, flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and they were often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers and young and old leaves. They were dark brown to black in color, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* aphids. These aphids were bright green, and of medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* or fire grass was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow-green to dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the leaf axils of the plant. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to red-brown. They were associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* or nut grass was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were

quite large and associated with both black and red ants. The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* or grass puzzle was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies scattered on the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinochloa crusgali* or water hyacinth plants were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black, and formed large colonies on the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Ecliptica prostrata* or urang aring was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants.

Eleusin indica was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H. setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks and leaf axils resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae* body color ranged from red-brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis* formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and on leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants. The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow to green in colour. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves.

Eragrostis tenella was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red-brown. Small colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae* were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* or wart grass was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupotarium odoratum* was colonized by both *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young twigs. Young leaves that were colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this plant showed yellow-green to dark green in body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green

coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of both *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants.

Hymenochera acutigluma or hair axis was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea* sp. or *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo grass plants were colonized by two species of aphids: *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis* aphids were green to bright green in color, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix.

Melastoma affine was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly emerging shoots and on newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis glycine*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a single colony.

Mimosa invisa (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa pudica* was observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots, and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms.

Oryza rufipogon was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species could be distinguished by their

body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black sifunculi and cauda, while *R. rice* appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants. *Oxonopus compressus* or *pait* grass was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower stalks, seeds, and sometimes in the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown in color. Small colonies were formed, and they were also consistently associated with ants.

Paspalum conjugatum was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phylanthus niruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted, and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black sifunculi and cauda, and the colonies formed were quite large. *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots and in flowers. The colonized plant parts became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that appeared glossy black.

Physalis angulata plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. *Rorippa indica* or mustard land was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks and the lower surface of leaves. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* or cacabeau was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks and flower petals. The colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling. and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colours, and the colonies formed on flower stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically displayed typical symptoms of damage, but some did not show any symptoms. Generally, the symptoms of the plants caused by aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves. These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition happened

because the colonized parts had reached their maximum growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the leaves and plant parts were old. The old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid infestations.

The part of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued to grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others become stunted (Pettersson et al., 2017). This condition could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants or plants was often easier to recognize through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al., 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the presence of aphid colonies.

Throughout their life cycle, aphids exhibited host alternation by switching between two distinct host plants (Peccoud et al., 2010). They overwintered on woody plants, reproduced in the spring, and migrated to herbaceous plants during the summer before returning to their primary host in the autumn (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This allowed aphids to maximize resource utilization, avoid congestion and competition, evade predators and parasites, circumvent plant defenses, and colonize new areas. Aphids could distribute their population efficiently, thereby avoiding overcrowding, predators and parasites, and plant defenses developing over time through host switching (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This behavior was essential for the survival and environmental adaptation of aphids.

Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new growth or reproductive parts of plants. Flowers contain nutrient- rich nature (Jakubczyk et al., 2022) and easy access to sap, therefore aphids were attractive to sap the flowers. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Chittka, 2007), while others preferred different types of plants and plant parts (Sorensen, 2009). It's worth noting that different aphid species often had distinct preferences for plant ty(Harrington et al., 2007)pes and parts.

Herbs served as an alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consumed sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as "sap". Aphids considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilized needle-like mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and access this fluid (Brożek et al., 2015). Numerous herbs had structural characteristics, such as folds, crevices, and concealed flowering portions (Harrington et al., 2007), that provided aphids with refuge .

Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson & Mooney, 2022). The honeydew contained an abundance of sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Detrain et al., 2010). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew, ants provided aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and parasitic wasps (Karami-jamour et al., 2018). Certain species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for improved foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al., 2021). Honeydew not only nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann & Vega, 2020).

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Cover Letter for Submission of a Paper

Dear Editor in Chief,


We would like to submit a new manuscript entitled **Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra** for consideration by Biodiversitas Journal

We confirm that this work is original and has neither been published elsewhere nor currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this paper, we report on research statement. This is significant because this article provides new information regarding alternative host plants for aphids, this information can be resource for basis control of aphids. The paper should be of interest to readers in Entomology and insect ecology. Since Biodiversitas Journal contains diversity of animals include insects, therefore, this article is submitted to Biodiversitas.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chandra Irsan', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chandra Irsan

Corresponding



Author

STATEMENT LETTER

- Name : Dr. Ir. Chandra Irsan, M.Si.
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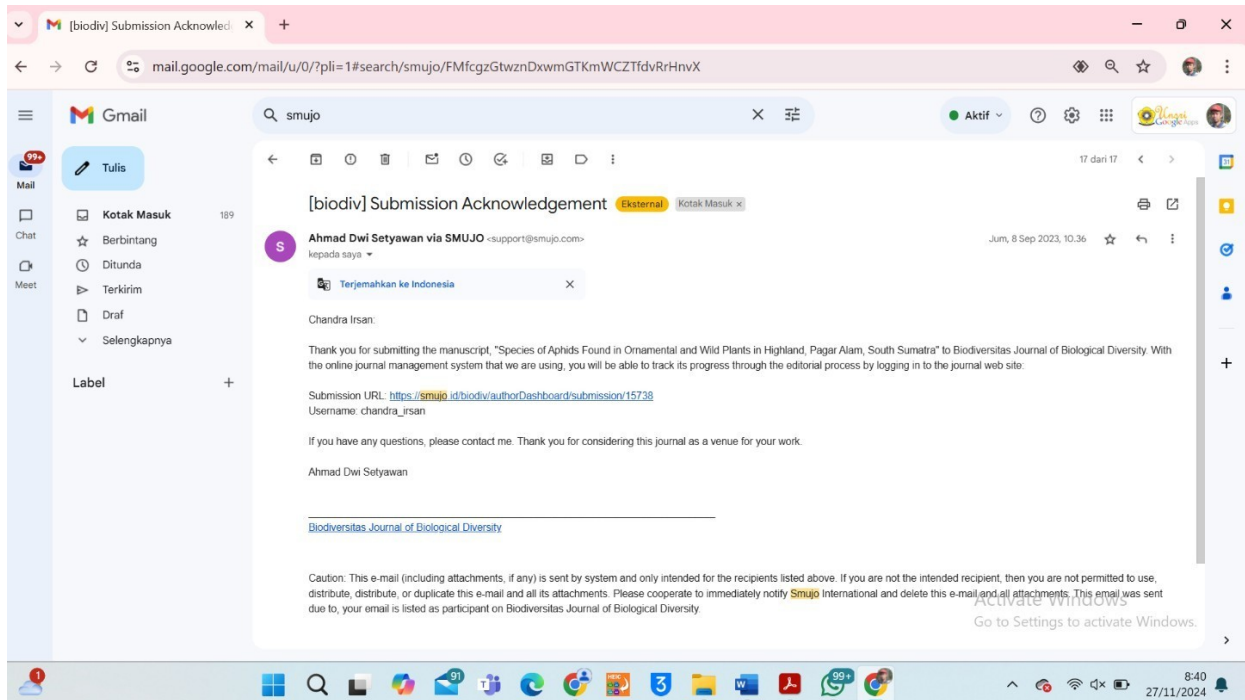
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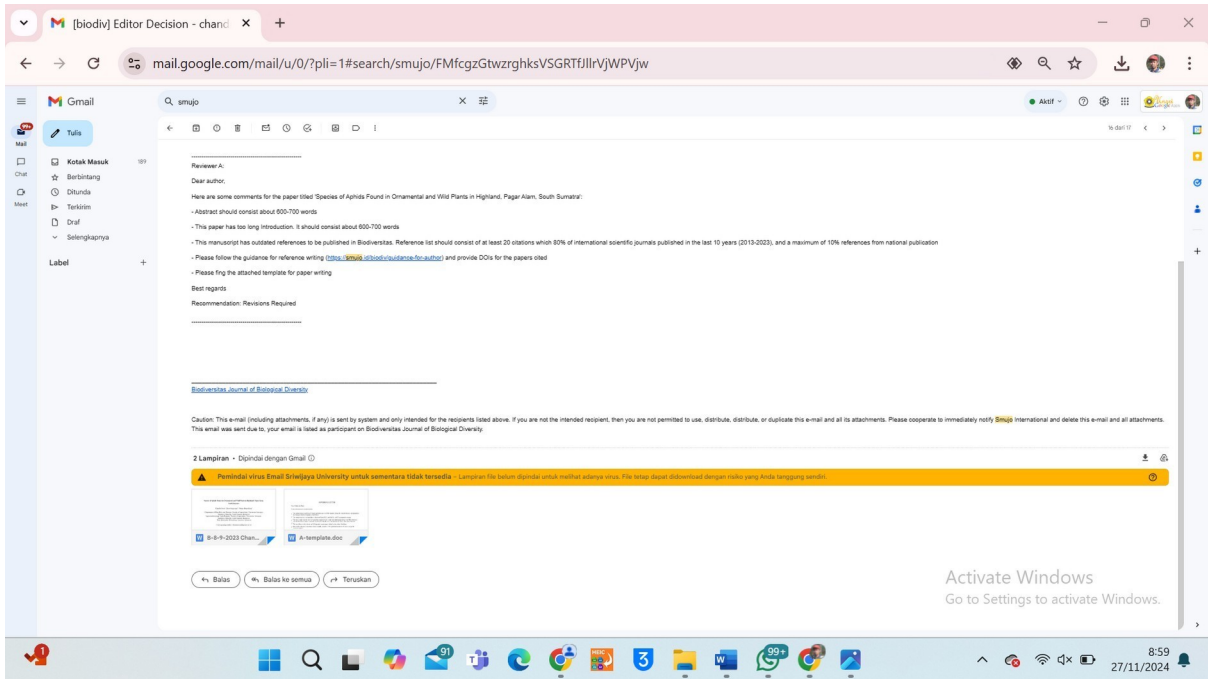
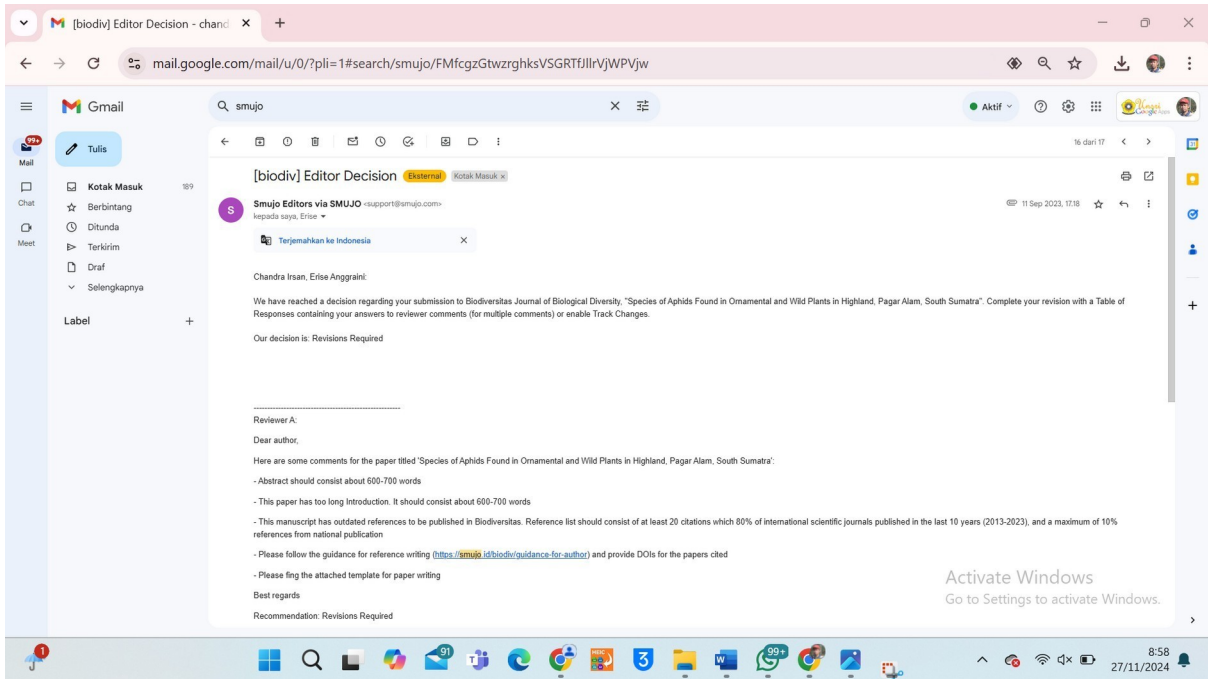
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Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Author(s) name:

Chandra Irsan^{a*}, Erise Angraini^{a,b}, Siti Herlinda^a, Wenny Ramadhani^c, M. Umar Harun^d,

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Dr. Chandra Irsan

Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

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Abstract

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. This study revealed that 15 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

Keywords: aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy & Stroyan, 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al., 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhve et al., 2020). Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc, 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can always be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman & Eastop, 2017). Aphids consume young leaves sap, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al., 2018). Moreover, when aphids transmit viral diseases from one plant to another, this can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones, 2022). According to Kinley et al. (2021), aphids cause yield losses directly (35 - 40%) by sucking the plant sap or indirectly (20 - 80%) through viral transmission. Therefore, aphid infestations can have adverse effects on crop yields and overall plant health (Sarwan Kumar, 2019).

Due to their function as vectors, the presence of aphids on a plant can be highly damaging (Jaouannet et al., 2014). They feed by piercing the plant's tissues and consuming its sap, which can reduce the plant's growth and productivity, ultimately leading to weakness and possible death (Chandel et al., 2022). Additionally, as vectors, aphids can transmit a variety of plant diseases. They are as carriers for various plant viruses, and when they move from infected to healthy plants, these viruses can rapidly spread and cause extensive damage (Guo et al., 2019). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh & Singh, 2021). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

Understanding the species diversity of aphids is fundamental to effective aphid control, as it facilitates the development of measures to keep their populations in check. In addition, understanding the diversity of aphid species can provide valuable insights into potential plant diseases, as different aphid species carry distinct viruses. Methods used to

47 control aphids often encompass various techniques, including the use of natural enemies such as predators (like ladybugs,
48 lacewings, and parasitic wasps) (Singh & Singh, 2021; Völkl et al., 2023), parasitoids (Boivin et al., 2012),
49 entomopathogens (Hullé et al., 2020), the use of essential oils as botanical pesticides to control aphids (Ikbāl & Pavela,
50 2019), and crop rotation techniques (Degani et al., 2019). Regular monitoring of aphid populations and diversity can help
51 in detecting when population sizes may be reaching harmful levels, allowing for prompt implementation of the necessary
52 countermeasures.

53 Many aphid species were found on plants that were not their actual hosts (Peccoud et al., 2010). Aphids have one
54 or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they
55 feed on most frequently (Clarke et al., 2020). An alternative host can also be a collateral host belonging to the same plant
56 family as the primary host, helping crop pests to survive when the primary hosts are unavailable (Kumar et al., 2021).
57 These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Mo & Smilanich, 2023). However, they may provide a
58 means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions
59 (Kumar et al., 2021). According to Liu et al. (2017), since hibiscus serves as an overwintering host for cotton-specialized
60 aphids but not for cucurbit-specialized aphids, it is evident that host-specialized aphids have refuges during times of food
61 shortage. The life cycles of numerous aphid species exhibit such complexity (Jousselin et al., 2010). They maintain a cycle
62 of host alternation, shifting between their primary hosts (typically a woody plant) and secondary hosts (often herbaceous
63 plants) (Yamamoto et al., 2020). Weeds pose a continuous threat in both cropped and non-crop areas, providing food,
64 shelter and reproductive sites for various pest organisms (Kumar et al., 2021). This indicates that weeds can serve as
65 alternative hosts for aphids.

66 A study of aphid species on horticultural plants has been conducted (Maharani et al., 2018). However,
67 information about aphid species on ornamental and wild plants has not received as much attention and remains largely
68 unexplored. In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and
69 native plants. The research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has received little attention.
70 Therefore, this study was conducted in Pagar Alam, a highland region of South Sumatra, with the aim of obtaining
71 information on the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants. The findings from this study can serve
72 as a valuable resource for aphid management.

73 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

74 The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants
75 hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing fruit, vegetable,
76 and ornamental varieties, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, aphids, and their
77 natural enemies involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of
78 aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by
79 aphids were documented as aphid hosts. Aphids, along with their natural enemies within the aphid colonies, were
80 systematically collected. All components of the collected observations were then identified.

81 Aphid identification was conducted using identification keys (Blackman & Eastop, 2008). Identification of aphid
82 species took place in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on
83 morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using weed identification hand book (Kallas, 2010;
84 Meuninck, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, morphology of aphids including their shape and
85 color, as well as any symptoms observed in the host plants were recorded, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their
86 host plants were taken.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagaram, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipapis erysimi*. Based on the observation, these aphids were found on various ornamental plants (Table 1). The primary colony locations were generally in flowers, and this study documented these colony locations in ornamental plants (Figure 1).

Table 1: Aphid species found in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Sitobion luteum</i>	flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia</i> sp.	flower
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i>	flower
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	flower
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flower
9	<i>Cosmos caudatus</i>	<i>Uroleucon</i> sp.	flower
10	<i>Dahlia Kelvin</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
13	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	<i>Aphis glycines</i> <i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	flower
20	<i>Spondiras dulcissoland</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower



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103 Fig 1. The location of aphid colonization on various plant parts. a) *A. gossypii* in *D. Kelvin* flower b) *A. gossypii* in *H.*
104 *rosasinensis* flower c) *A. gossypii* in tuberose flower, d) *A. craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *A. citricola* in
105 *Helianthus* sp., f) *A. aurantii* on the *M. paniculata* flower, g) *T. odinae* in the *S. dulcssoland*, h) *Uroleucon* sp. in
106 chrysanthemums, i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *R. indica* flower, j) *Pentalonia nigronervosa* in *C. indica* leaves
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108 In addition, this study documented the presence of weeds, which might serve as alternative hosts for aphids
109 (Table 2). The location of aphid colonies also varied, namely on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves and old leaves of
110 wild plants (Figure 2). The presence of specific plants or host plants within a habitat influenced the types of aphids found.
111 Many aphid species are found on a broad range of plants or host plants, while others are highly specialized and are only
112 found on specific plants or host plants. This is closely related to the polyphagous, oligophagous or monophagous nature of
113 aphids (Blackman & Eastop 2000).

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Table 2: Species of aphids found in wild plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinochloa crusgali</i>	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Lagerstromia</i> Sp.	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
25	<i>Mimosa vigma</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> , <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (pupus), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, seeds
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs petioles
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flower
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> , <i>A. gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arventris</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flower, fruit

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157 Figure 2. Aphids found on wild plants a) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *A. gossypii* on *Croton weed hirtus* c) *A.*
158 *gossypii* on the weed *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *A.gossypii* on plants *Pachystochys* sp., e) *A.gossypii* on plants *Caladium* sp., f) *A.*
159 *gossypii* on the weed *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *A.gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* weeds, h) *A.gossypii* on the weed *Euphorbia hirta*, i)
160 *A. citricola* on the weed *Phylantus nerruri*, j) *A. citricola* on *Sida rhombifolia* weed, k) *A. citricola* on plants *Annona muricata*, l)
161 *A.citricola* on the weed *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A. craccivora* on *Mimosa pudica* weed, n) *A.craccivora* on weeds *Amaranthus gracilis*,
162 o) *A. glycine* in *Mikania micranta* weed, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusin* weeds, q) *Greenidae* sp. in kenidai trees (shrubs) *indica*,
163 r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinocloa crusgali* Weed, s) *L. erysimi* on weed *sonchus arventris*, t) *Rhopalosiphum* rice on the weed *Oryza*
164 *rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum* *Maidis* on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*.
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166 **Discussion**

167 The plant species or host plant influences the distribution of aphids. There are aphid species that can be found on
168 a wide range of host plants, which is closely related to the polyphagous nature of aphids, allowing them to colonize many
169 different species of host plants. Host plants can also affect the distribution of aphids, as evidenced by the presence of aphid
170 species exclusively found on certain host plants (Peccoud et al., 2010). But there are some species of aphids found only on
171 one particular host and are not found on other host plants (Döring, 2014). *A. gossypii*, and *Aphis aurantii* have been found
172 on many host plants because both aphids are classified as polyphagous aphids (Margaritopoulos et al., 2006; Alotaibi et al.,
173 2023).

174 Aphids can commonly be found infesting a variety of ornamental plants. They are attracted to these plants due to
175 the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Wäckers & Van Rijn, 2012). In this present study, some aphid species were found
176 on some ornamental plants in Pagaram. The location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Adiantum predatum*
177 plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and on newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black
178 coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The
179 identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera* sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On
180 *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively
181 large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The
182 identification results showed that the aphids were *Uroleucon* sp., and they were associated with ants.

183 On the *Brugmansia suaveolens* (angel's trumpet), *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or
184 leaves that have started to turn yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies.
185 The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. (taro) was found one species of aphids: *A.*
186 *gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The occupied leaf areas did not display
187 severe symptoms. The aphids were yellow green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like
188 appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides
189 of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized
190 parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black in color. The colonies of *T.*
191 *aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants.

192 Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the
193 leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a
194 medium-sized body. The identification results showed that the aphids were *P. nigronervosa*. The colonies of *P.*
195 *nigronervosa* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were
196 found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and
197 the colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed
198 colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or flower stalks that
199 had not fully bloomed. The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green with small to
200 medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results
201 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants.

202 Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems and young leaves.
203 The aphids were brown to black in color. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting
204 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently
205 associated with ants. On the plant *Cosmos caudatus*, aphids were found on the flower petals. The colonies were not very

206 large. The body color was green and light green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and
207 they were also associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia kelvin plant* formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with
208 a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results
209 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. Aphids on *Datura metel* (amethyst) were found to form colonies on the
210 undersides of old leaves. The aphids were medium sized with a green body color. The colonized plant parts did not show
211 any symptoms of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Myzus ornatus*. The aphid colonies were
212 not associated with ants. Within *Dendrobium* sp., aphid colonies were found on the young leaves. The aphids were yellow,
213 green to dark green. The colonized plants did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the
214 aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp. (bonsai), colonies of aphids were located on
215 the undersides of young leaves. The colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The
216 aphids were green in color. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were
217 consistently associated with ants.

218 On the *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) plants, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The
219 colonized flowers, especially the crowns, exhibited a tendency to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in
220 color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies
221 were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies
222 were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease
223 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with
224 ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that were parasitized by Aphidiidae were found.

225 On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging in color from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed
226 colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large.
227 The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with
228 ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the
229 undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The
230 occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and
231 slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, similar to sugar. The aphids had
232 yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The
233 identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were almost always associated with ants. The
234 second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could
235 also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs
236 of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The
237 identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants.

238 In *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves
239 and unopened flowers. The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from
240 yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white,
241 resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost
242 always associated with ants. Another species of aphids was founded and formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet
243 bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce any symptoms
244 of plant disease. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very small

245 to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also
246 frequently found in association with ants.

247 Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies in different locations. The first
248 type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease
249 symptoms. The aphids were yellow, green, and some with dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids
250 were *A. gossypii*. The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as
251 if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots and within flower parts. The plant parts they
252 infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had
253 tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*.

254 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids.
255 This indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
256 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
257 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
258 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* or alligator grass was also colonized
259 by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging
260 from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots,
261 flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and they were often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus*
262 *gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers and young and old leaves.
263 They were dark brown to black in color, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with
264 both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* aphids. These aphids were bright green, and of
265 medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies
266 were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* or fire grass was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow-green to
267 dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon*
268 *dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks
269 and sometimes in the leaf axils of the plant. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to red-brown. They were
270 associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* or nut grass was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were
271 found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants.
272 The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* or grass puzzle was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*
273 aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small
274 colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies scattered on
275 the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinochloa crussgali* or water hyacinth
276 plants were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on
277 the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Ecliptica*
278 *prostrata* or urang aring was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids
279 were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants.

280 *Eleusin indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H.*
281 *setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks and leaf axils resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae* body
282 color ranged from red brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis*
283 formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and on leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were
284 not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These

285 aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants.
286 The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow
287 to green in colour. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves.

288 *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red brown. Small
289 colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae*
290 were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* or wart grass was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed
291 colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in
292 color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupotarium odoratum* was colonied
293 by both *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young
294 twigs. Young leaves that were colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this
295 plant showed yellow-green to dark green in body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the
296 shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of
297 both *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants.

298 *Hymenochera acutigluma* or hair axis was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the
299 flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea sp.* or
300 *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae sp.* These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with
301 thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not
302 show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo grass plants were colonized by two species of aphids:
303 *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves,
304 leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to
305 red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis*
306 aphids were green to bright green in color, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species
307 of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix.

308 *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly
309 emerging shoots and on newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The
310 colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis*
311 *glycine*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and
312 curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were
313 light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a
314 single colony.

315 *Mimosa invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants
316 formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa*
317 *pudica* was observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots,
318 and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the
319 colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of
320 aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were
321 shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms.

322 *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both
323 aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species
324 could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black sifunculi and cauda, while *R. rice*

325 appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants.
326 *Oxonopus compressus* or *pait* grass was colonized by *Hysteronera setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower
327 stalks, seeds, and sometimes in the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown in color. Small colonies were formed,
328 and they were also consistently associated with ants.

329 *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the
330 seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phylanthus niruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The
331 colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted,
332 and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black sifunculi and cauda, and the colonies formed were quite large.
333 *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants
334 formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots and in flowers. The colonized plant parts
335 became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that
336 appeared glossy black.

337 *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with
338 glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant
339 parts did not show any symptoms of disease. *Rorippa indica* or mustard land was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The
340 colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks and the lower surface of leaves. The colonized plant parts showed
341 symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* or cacabean was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had
342 green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks and flower petals. The
343 colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arventris* plants
344 were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colours, and the colonies formed on flower
345 stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

346 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
347 displayed typical symptoms of damage, but some did not show any symptoms. Generally, the symptoms of the plants
348 caused by aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves.
349 These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show
350 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition happened because the colonized parts had reached their maximum
351 growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that
352 did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the
353 leaves and plant parts were old. The old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid
354 infestations.

355 The part of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a
356 cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued to
357 grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others become stunted (Pettersson et al., 2017). This condition
358 could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf
359 growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any
360 distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed
361 from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants or plants was often easier to recognize
362 through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids
363 had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al., 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the presence
364 of aphid colonies.

365 Throughout their life cycle, aphids exhibited host alternation by switching between two distinct host plants
366 (Peccoud et al., 2010). They overwintered on woody plants, reproduced in the spring, and migrated to herbaceous plants
367 during the summer before returning to their primary host in the autumn (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This allowed aphids to
368 maximize resource utilization, avoid congestion and competition, evade predators and parasites, circumvent plant
369 defenses, and colonize new areas. Aphids could distribute their population efficiently, thereby avoiding overcrowding,
370 predators and parasites, and plant defenses developing over time through host switching (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This
371 behavior was essential for the survival and environmental adaptation of aphids.

372 Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in
373 new growth or reproductive parts of plants. Flowers contain nutrient-rich nature (Jakubczyk et al., 2022) and easy access
374 to sap, therefore aphids were attractive to sap the flowers. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Chittka,
375 2007), while others preferred different types of plants and plant parts (Sorensen, 2009). It's worth noting that different
376 aphid species often had distinct preferences for plant ty(Harrington et al., 2007)pes and parts.

377 Herbs served as an alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consumed sugar-rich liquid in plants,
378 known as "sap". Aphids considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilized needle-like
379 mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and access this fluid (Brožek et al., 2015). Numerous herbs had structural
380 characteristics, such as folds, crevices, and concealed flowering portions (Harrington et al., 2007), that provided aphids
381 with refuge .

382 Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a
383 delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson &
384 Mooney, 2022). The honeydew contained an abundance of sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Detrain et al.,
385 2010). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew,
386 ants provided aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and parasitic
387 wasps (Karami-jamour et al., 2018). Certain species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for improved
388 foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al., 2021). Honeydew not only
389 nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
390 species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann & Vega, 2020).

391 CONCLUSION

392 15 species of aphids were found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
393 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia*
394 *nigronevosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus*
395 sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

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399

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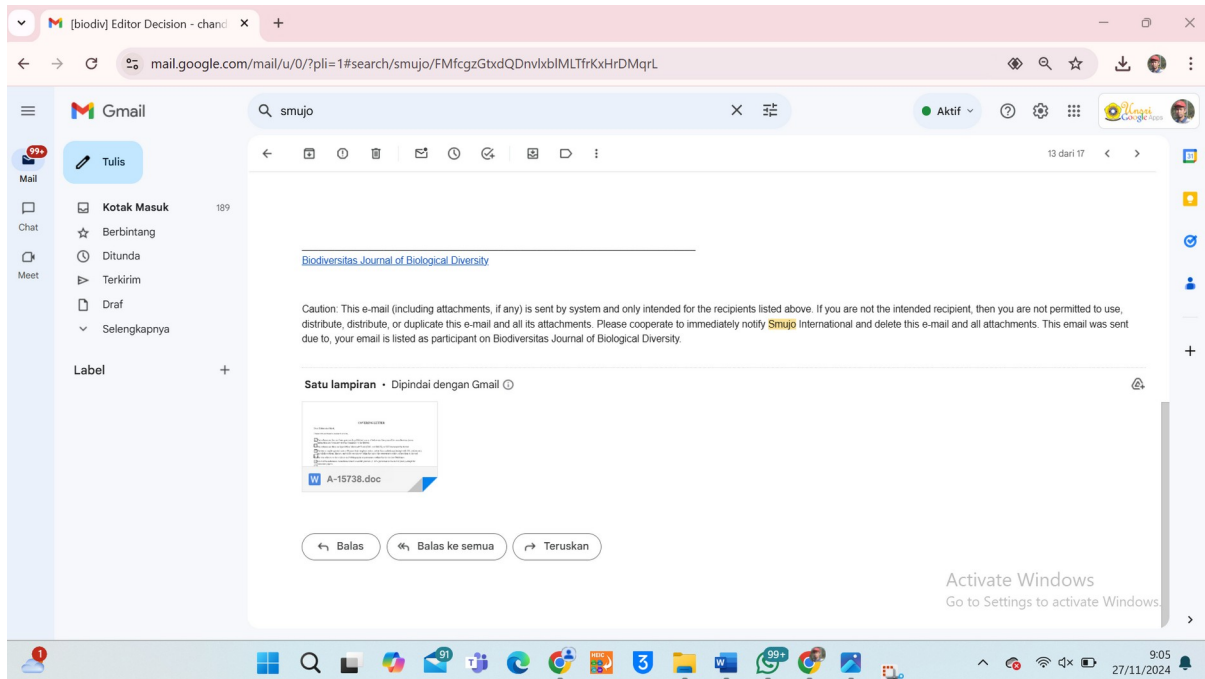
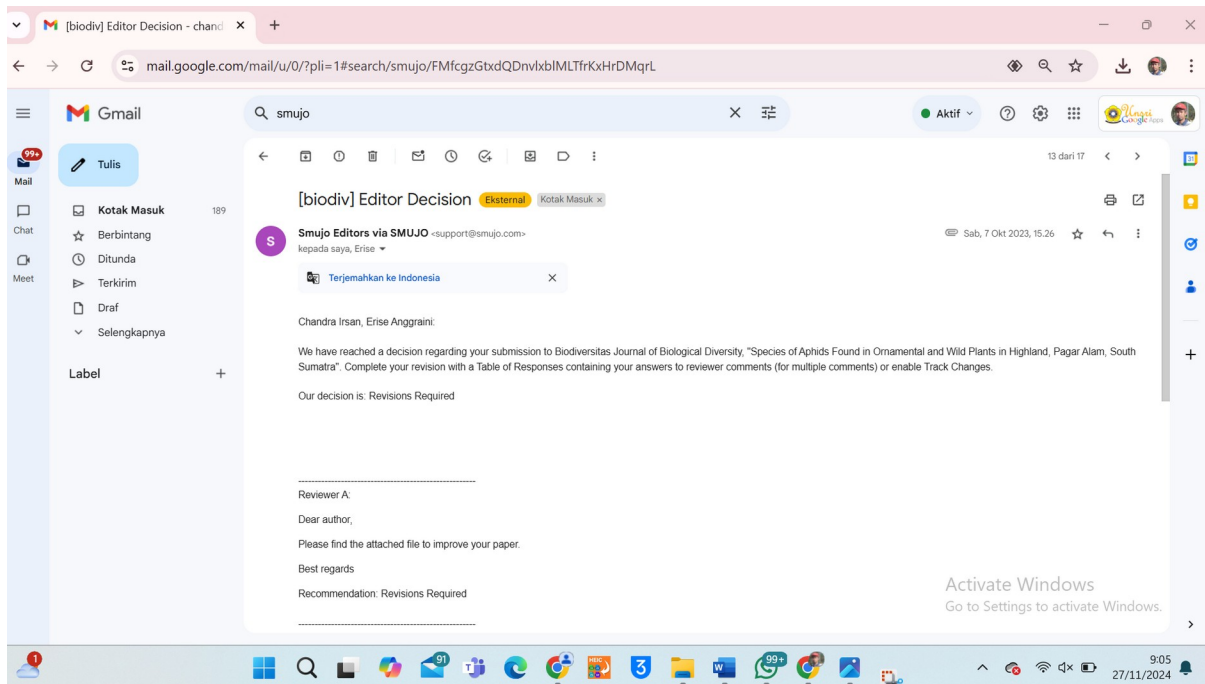
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Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. This study revealed that 15 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

Keywords: aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy & Stroyan, 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al., 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhawe et al., 2020). Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc, 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can always be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman & Eastop, 2017). Aphids consume young leaves sap, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al., 2018). Moreover, when aphids transmit viral diseases from one plant to another, this can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones, 2022). According to Kinley et al. (2021), aphids cause yield losses directly (35 - 40%) by sucking the plant sap or indirectly (20 - 80%) through viral transmission. Therefore, aphid infestations can have adverse effects on crop yields and overall plant health (Sarwan Kumar, 2019).

Due to their function as vectors, the presence of aphids on a plant can be highly damaging (Jaouannet et al., 2014). They feed by piercing the plant's tissues and consuming its sap, which can reduce the plant's growth and productivity, ultimately leading to weakness and possible death (Chandel et al., 2022). Additionally, as vectors, aphids can transmit a variety of plant diseases. They are as carriers for various plant viruses, and when they move from infected to healthy plants, these viruses can rapidly spread and cause extensive damage (Guo et al., 2019). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh & Singh, 2021). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

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46 Understanding the species diversity of aphids is fundamental to effective aphid control, as it facilitates the
47 development of measures to keep their populations in check. In addition, understanding the diversity of aphid species can
48 provide valuable insights into potential plant diseases, as different aphid species carry distinct viruses. Methods used to
49 control aphids often encompass various techniques, including the use of natural enemies such as predators (like ladybugs,
50 lacewings, and parasitic wasps) (Singh & Singh, 2021; Völkl et al., 2023), parasitoids (Boivin et al., 2012),
51 entomopathogens (Hullé et al., 2020), the use of essential oils as botanical pesticides to control aphids (Ikbal & Pavela,
52 2019), and crop rotation techniques (Degani et al., 2019). Regular monitoring of aphid populations and diversity can help
53 in detecting when population sizes may be reaching harmful levels, allowing for prompt implementation of the necessary
54 countermeasures.

55 Many aphid species were found on plants that were not their actual hosts (Peccoud et al., 2010). Aphids have one
56 or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they
57 feed on most frequently (Clarke et al., 2020). An alternative host can also be a collateral host belonging to the same plant
58 family as the primary host, helping crop pests to survive when the primary hosts are unavailable (Kumar et al., 2021).
59 These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Mo & Smilanich, 2023). However, they may provide a
60 means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions
61 (Kumar et al., 2021). According to Liu et al. (2017), since hibiscus serves as an overwintering host for cotton-specialized
62 aphids but not for cucurbit-specialized aphids, it is evident that host-specialized aphids have refuges during times of food
63 shortage. The life cycles of numerous aphid species exhibit such complexity (Jousselin et al., 2010). They maintain a cycle
64 of host alternation, shifting between their primary hosts (typically a woody plant) and secondary hosts (often herbaceous
65 plants) (Yamamoto et al., 2020). Weeds pose a continuous threat in both cropped and non-crop areas, providing food,
66 shelter and reproductive sites for various pest organisms (Kumar et al., 2021). This indicates that weeds can serve as
67 alternative hosts for aphids.

68 A study of aphid species on horticultural plants has been conducted (Maharani et al., 2018). However,
69 information about aphid species on ornamental and wild plants has not received as much attention and remains largely
70 unexplored. In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and
71 native plants. The research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has received little attention.
72 Therefore, this study was conducted in Pagar Alam, a highland region of South Sumatra, with the aim of obtaining
73 information on the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants. The findings from this study can serve
74 as a valuable resource for aphid management.

75 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

76 The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants
77 hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing fruit, vegetable,
78 and ornamental varieties, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, aphids, and their
79 natural enemies involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of
80 aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by
81 aphids were documented as aphid hosts. Aphids, along with their natural enemies within the aphid colonies, were
82 systematically collected. All components of the collected observations were then identified.

83 Aphid identification was conducted using identification keys (Blackman & Eastop, 2008). Identification of aphid
84 species took place in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on
85 morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using weed identification hand book (Kallas, 2010;

86 Meuninck, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, morphology of aphids including their shape and
 87 color, as well as any symptoms observed in the host plants were recorded, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their
 88 host plants were taken.

89 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

90 Result

91 The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
 92 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*,
 93 *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipapis*
 94 *erysimi*. Based on the observation, these aphids were found on various ornamental plants (Table 1). The primary colony
 95 locations were generally in flowers, and this study documented these colony locations in ornamental plants (Figure 1).
 96

97 Table 1: Aphid species found in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Sitobion luteum</i>	flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia</i> sp	flower
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i>	flower
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	flower
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flower
9	<i>Cosmos caudatus</i>	<i>Uroleucon</i> sp.	flower
10	<i>Dahlia Kelvin</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
13	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	<i>Aphis glycines</i> <i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	flower
20	<i>Spondiras dulcissoland</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower



105 Fig 1. The location of aphid colonization on various plant parts. a) *A. gossypii* in *D. Kelvin* flower b) *A. gossypii* in *H.*
 106 *rosasinensis* flower c) *A. gossypii* in tuberose flower, d) *A. craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *A. citricola* in
 107 *Helianthus* sp., f) *A. aurantii* on the *M. paniculata* flower, g) *T. odinae* in the *S. dulcsoland*, h) *Uroleucon* sp. in
 108 chrysanthemums, i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *R. indica* flower, j) *Pentalonia nigronervosa* in *C. indica* leaves
 109

110 In addition, this study documented the presence of weeds, which might serve as alternative hosts for aphids
 111 (Table 2). The location of aphid colonies also varied, namely on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves and old leaves of
 112 wild plants (Figure 2). The presence of specific plants or host plants within a habitat influenced the types of aphids found.
 113 Many aphid species are found on a broad range of plants or host plants, while others are highly specialized and are only
 114 found on specific plants or host plants. This is closely related to the polyphagous, oligophagous or monophagous nature of
 115 aphids (Blackman & Eastop 2000).

116
 117
 118
 119

120 Table 2: Species of aphids found in wild plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinocloa crussgali</i>	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Lagerstromea</i> Sp.	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invis</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> , <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (pupus), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, seeds
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs petioles
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flower
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> , <i>A. gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arventris</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flower, fruit

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Figure 2. Aphids found on wild plants a) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *A. gossypii* on Croton weed *hirtus* c) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *A.gossypii* on plants *Pachystochys* sp., e) *A.gossypii* on plants *Caladium* sp., f) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *A.gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* weeds, h) *A.gossypii* on the weed *Euphorbia hirta*, i) *A. citricola* on the weed *Phyllanthus nerruri*, j) *A. citricola* on *Sida rhombifolia* weed, k) *A. citricola* on plants *Amnora muricata*, l) *A.citricola* on the weed *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A. craccivora* on *Mimosa pudica* weed, n) *A.craccivora* on weeds *Amaranthus gracilis*, o) *A. glycine* in *Mikania micrantha* weed, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusin* weeds, q) *Greenidae* sp. in kenidai trees (shrubs) *indica*, r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali* Weed, s) *L. erysimi* on weed *sonchus arventris*, t) *Rhopalosiphum* rice on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum* *Maidis* on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*.

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168 Discussion

169 The plant species or host plant influences the distribution of aphids. There are aphid species that can be found on
170 a wide range of host plants, which is closely related to the polyphagous nature of aphids, allowing them to colonize many
171 different species of host plants. Host plants can also affect the distribution of aphids, as evidenced by the presence of aphid
172 species exclusively found on certain host plants (Peccoud et al., 2010). But there are some species of aphids found only on
173 one particular host and are not found on other host plants (Döring, 2014). *A. gossypii*, and *Aphis aurantii* have been found
174 on many host plants because both aphids are classified as polyphagous aphids (Margaritopoulos et al., 2006; Alotaibi et al.,
175 2023).

176 Aphids can commonly be found infesting a variety of ornamental plants. They are attracted to these plants due to
177 the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Wäckers & Van Rijn, 2012). In this present study, some aphid species were found
178 on some ornamental plants in Pagaralam. The location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Adiantum predatum*
179 plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and on newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black
180 coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The
181 identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera* sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On
182 *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively
183 large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The
184 identification results showed that the aphids were *Uroleucon* sp., and they were associated with ants.

185 On the *Brugmansia suaveolens* (angel's trumpet), *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or
186 leaves that have started to turn yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies.
187 The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. (taro) was found one species of aphids: *A.*
188 *gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The occupied leaf areas did not display
189 severe symptoms. The aphids were yellow green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like
190 appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides
191 of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized
192 parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black in color. The colonies of *T.*
193 *aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants.

194 Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the
195 leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a
196 medium-sized body. The identification results showed that the aphids were *P. nigronervosa*. The colonies of *P.*
197 *nigronervosa* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were
198 found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and
199 the colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed
200 colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or flower stalks that
201 had not fully bloomed. The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green with small to
202 medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results
203 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants.

204 Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems and young leaves.
205 The aphids were brown to black in color. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting
206 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently
207 associated with ants. On the plant *Cosmos caudatus*, aphids were found on the flower petals. The colonies were not very

208 large. The body color was green and light green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and
209 they were also associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia kelvin* plant formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with
210 a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results
211 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. Aphids on *Datura metel* (amethyst) were found to form colonies on the
212 undersides of old leaves. The aphids were medium sized with a green body color. The colonized plant parts did not show
213 any symptoms of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Myzus ornatus*. The aphid colonies were
214 not associated with ants. Within *Dendrobium* sp., aphid colonies were found on the young leaves. The aphids were yellow,
215 green to dark green. The colonized plants did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the
216 aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp. (bonsai), colonies of aphids were located on
217 the undersides of young leaves. The colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The
218 aphids were green in color. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were
219 consistently associated with ants.

220 On the *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) plants, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The
221 colonized flowers, especially the crowns, exhibited a tendency to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in
222 color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies
223 were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies
224 were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease
225 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with
226 ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that were parasitized by Aphidiidae were found.

227 On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging in color from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed
228 colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large.
229 The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with
230 ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the
231 undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The
232 occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and
233 slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, similar to sugar. The aphids had
234 yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The
235 identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were almost always associated with ants. The
236 second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could
237 also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs
238 of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The
239 identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants.

240 In *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves
241 and unopened flowers. The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from
242 yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white,
243 resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost
244 always associated with ants. Another species of aphids was founded and formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet
245 bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce any symptoms
246 of plant disease. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very small

247 to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also
248 frequently found in association with ants.

249 Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies in different locations. The first
250 type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease
251 symptoms. The aphids were yellow, green, and some with dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids
252 were *A. gossypii*. The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as
253 if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots and within flower parts. The plant parts they
254 infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had
255 tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*.

256 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids.
257 This indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
258 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
259 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
260 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* or alligator grass was also colonized
261 by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging
262 from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots,
263 flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and they were often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus*
264 *gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers and young and old leaves.
265 They were dark brown to black in color, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with
266 both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* aphids. These aphids were bright green, and of
267 medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies
268 were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* or fire grass was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow-green to
269 dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon*
270 *dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks
271 and sometimes in the leaf axils of the plant. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to red-brown. They were
272 associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* or nut grass was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were
273 found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants.
274 The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* or grass puzzle was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*
275 aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small
276 colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies scattered on
277 the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinocloa crussgali* or water hyacinth
278 plants were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on
279 the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Ecliptica*
280 *prostrata* or urang aring was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids
281 were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants.

282 *Eleusin indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H.*
283 *setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks and leaf axils resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae* body
284 color ranged from red brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis*
285 formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and on leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were
286 not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These

287 aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants.
288 The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow
289 to green in colour. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves.

290 *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red brown. Small
291 colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae*
292 were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* or wart grass was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed
293 colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in
294 color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupotarium odoratum* was colonized
295 by both *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young
296 twigs. Young leaves that were colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this
297 plant showed yellow-green to dark green in body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the
298 shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of
299 both *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants.

300 *Hymenochera acutigluma* or hair axis was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the
301 flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea sp.* or
302 *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae sp.* These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with
303 thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not
304 show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo grass plants were colonized by two species of aphids:
305 *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves,
306 leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to
307 red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis*
308 aphids were green to bright green in color, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species
309 of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix.

310 *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly
311 emerging shoots and on newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The
312 colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis*
313 *glycine*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and
314 curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were
315 light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a
316 single colony.

317 *Mimosa invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants
318 formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa*
319 *pudica* was observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots,
320 and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the
321 colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of
322 aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were
323 shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms.

324 *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both
325 aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species
326 could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black sifunculi and cauda, while *R. rice*

327 appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants.
328 *Oxonopus compressus* or *pait* grass was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower
329 stalks, seeds, and sometimes in the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown in color. Small colonies were formed,
330 and they were also consistently associated with ants.

331 *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the
332 seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phyllanthus niruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The
333 colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted,
334 and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black sifunculi and cauda, and the colonies formed were quite large.
335 *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants
336 formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots and in flowers. The colonized plant parts
337 became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that
338 appeared glossy black.

339 *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with
340 glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant
341 parts did not show any symptoms of disease. *Rorippa indica* or mustard land was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The
342 colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks and the lower surface of leaves. The colonized plant parts showed
343 symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* or cacabean was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had
344 green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks and flower petals. The
345 colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants
346 were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colours, and the colonies formed on flower
347 stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

348 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
349 displayed typical symptoms of damage, but some did not show any symptoms. Generally, the symptoms of the plants
350 caused by aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves.
351 These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show
352 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition happened because the colonized parts had reached their maximum
353 growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that
354 did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the
355 leaves and plant parts were old. The old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid
356 infestations.

357 The part of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a
358 cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued to
359 grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others become stunted (Pettersson et al., 2017). This condition
360 could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf
361 growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any
362 distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed
363 from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants or plants was often easier to recognize
364 through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids
365 had colonized the plant (Tegelhaar et al., 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the presence
366 of aphid colonies.

367 Throughout their life cycle, aphids exhibited host alternation by switching between two distinct host plants
368 (Peccoud et al., 2010). They overwintered on woody plants, reproduced in the spring, and migrated to herbaceous plants
369 during the summer before returning to their primary host in the autumn (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This allowed aphids to
370 maximize resource utilization, avoid congestion and competition, evade predators and parasites, circumvent plant
371 defenses, and colonize new areas. Aphids could distribute their population efficiently, thereby avoiding overcrowding,
372 predators and parasites, and plant defenses developing over time through host switching (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This
373 behavior was essential for the survival and environmental adaptation of aphids.

374 Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in
375 new growth or reproductive parts of plants. Flowers contain nutrient-rich nature (Jakubczyk et al., 2022) and easy access
376 to sap, therefore aphids were attractive to sap the flowers. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Chittka,
377 2007), while others preferred different types of plants and plant parts (Sorensen, 2009). It's worth noting that different
378 aphid species often had distinct preferences for plant ty(Harrington et al., 2007)pes and parts.

379 Herbs served as an alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consumed sugar-rich liquid in plants,
380 known as "sap". Aphids considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilized needle-like
381 mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and access this fluid (Brožek et al., 2015). Numerous herbs had structural
382 characteristics, such as folds, crevices, and concealed flowering portions (Harrington et al., 2007), that provided aphids
383 with refuge .

384 Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a
385 delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson &
386 Mooney, 2022). The honeydew contained an abundance of sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Detrain et al.,
387 2010). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew,
388 ants provided aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and parasitic
389 wasps (Karami-jamour et al., 2018). Certain species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for improved
390 foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al., 2021). Honeydew not only
391 nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
392 species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann & Vega, 2020).

393 CONCLUSION

394 15 species of aphids were found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagaram, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
395 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia*
396 *nigronevosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus*
397 sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

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9 October 2023

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Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

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Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that 15 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

Keywords: aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy & Stroyan, 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al., 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhawe et al., 2020). Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc, 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can always be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman & Eastop, 2017). Aphids consume young leaves sap, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al., 2018). Moreover, when aphids transmit viral diseases from one plant to another, this can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones, 2022). According to Kinley et al. (2021), aphids cause yield losses directly (35 - 40%) by sucking the plant sap or indirectly (20 - 80%) through viral transmission. Therefore, aphid infestations can have adverse effects on crop yields and overall plant health (Sarwan Kumar, 2019).

Due to their function as vectors, the presence of aphids on a plant can be highly damaging (Jaouannet et al., 2014). They feed by piercing the plant's tissues and consuming its sap, which can reduce the plant's growth and productivity, ultimately leading to weakness and possible death (Chandel et al., 2022). Additionally, as vectors, aphids can transmit a variety of plant diseases. They are as carriers for various plant viruses, and when they move from infected to healthy plants, these viruses can rapidly spread and cause extensive damage (Guo et al., 2019). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's

48 leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh & Singh, 2021). Therefore, it is
49 crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

50 Understanding the species diversity of aphids is fundamental to effective aphid control, as it facilitates the
51 development of measures to keep their populations in check. In addition, understanding the diversity of aphid species can
52 provide valuable insights into potential plant diseases, as different aphid species carry distinct viruses. Methods used to
53 control aphids often encompass various techniques, including the use of natural enemies such as predators (like ladybugs,
54 lacewings, and parasitic wasps) (Singh & Singh, 2021; Völkl et al., 2023), parasitoids (Boivin et al., 2012),
55 entomopathogens (Hullé et al., 2020), the use of essential oils as botanical pesticides to control aphids (Ikbāl & Pavela,
56 2019), and crop rotation techniques (Degani et al., 2019). Regular monitoring of aphid populations and diversity can help
57 in detecting when population sizes may be reaching harmful levels, allowing for prompt implementation of the necessary
58 countermeasures.

59 Many aphid species were found on plants that were not their actual hosts (Maharani et al., 2018). Aphids have
60 one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants
61 they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al., 2020). An alternative host can also be a collateral host belonging to the same
62 plant family as the primary host, helping crop pests to survive when the primary hosts are unavailable (Kumar et al., 2021).
63 These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Mo & Smilanich, 2023). However, they may provide a
64 means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions
65 (Kumar et al., 2021). According to Liu et al. (2017), since hibiscus serves as an overwintering host for cotton-specialized
66 aphids but not for cucurbit-specialized aphids, it is evident that host-specialized aphids have refuges during times of food
67 shortage. The life cycles of numerous aphid species exhibit such complexity (Jousselin et al., 2010). They maintain a cycle
68 of host alternation, shifting between their primary hosts (typically a woody plant) and secondary hosts (often herbaceous
69 plants) (Yamamoto et al., 2020). Weeds pose a continuous threat in both cropped and non-crop areas, providing food,
70 shelter and reproductive sites for various pest organisms (Kumar et al., 2021). This indicates that weeds can serve as
71 alternative hosts for aphids.

72 A study of aphid species on horticultural plants has been conducted (Maharani et al., 2018). However,
73 information about aphid species on ornamental and wild plants has not received as much attention and remains largely
74 unexplored. In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and
75 native plants. The research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has received little attention.
76 Therefore, this study was conducted in Pagar Alam, a highland region of South Sumatra, with the aim of obtaining
77 information on the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants. The findings from this study can serve
78 as a valuable resource for aphid management.

79 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

80 The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants
81 hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental
82 plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic
83 searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all
84 existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids were documented as aphid hosts.
85 Aphids, along with their natural enemies within the aphid colonies, were systematically collected. All components of the
86 collected observations were then identified.

87 Aphid identification was conducted using identification keys (Blackman & Eastop, 2008). Identification of aphid
 88 species took place in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on
 89 morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using weed identification hand book (Kallas, 2010;
 90 Meuninck, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, morphology of aphids including their shape and
 91 color, as well as any symptoms observed in the host plants were recorded, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their
 92 host plants were taken.

93 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

94 Result

95 The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
 96 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*,
 97 *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipapis*
 98 *erysimi*. Based on the observation, these aphids were found on various ornamental plants (Table 1). The primary colony
 99 locations were generally in flowers, and this study documented these colony locations in ornamental plants (Figure 1).

100
 101 Table 1: Aphid species found in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Sitobion luteum</i>	flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia</i> sp.	flower
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i>	flower
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	flower
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flower
9	<i>Cosmos caudatus</i>	<i>Uroleucon</i> sp.	flower
10	<i>Dahlia Kelvin</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
13	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	<i>Aphis glycines</i> <i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	flower
20	<i>Spondiras dulcissoland</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower



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109 Fig 1. The location of aphid colonization on various plant parts. a) *A. gossypii* in *D. Kelvin* flower b) *A. gossypii* in *H.*
110 *rosasinensis* flower c) *A. gossypii* in tuberose flower, d) *A. craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *A. citricola* in
111 *Helianthus* sp., f) *A. aurantii* on the *M. paniculata* flower, g) *T. odinae* in the *S. dulcissoland*, h) *Uroleucon* sp. in
112 chrysanthemums, i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *R. indica* flower, j) *Pentalonia nigronervosa* in *C. indica* leaves
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114 In addition, this study documented the presence of weeds, which might serve as alternative hosts for aphids
115 (Table 2). The location of aphid colonies also varied, namely on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves and old leaves of
116 wild plants (Figure 2). The presence of specific plants or host plants within a habitat influenced the types of aphids found.
117 Many aphid species are found on a broad range of plants or host plants, while others are highly specialized and are only
118 found on specific plants or host plants. This is closely related to the polyphagous, oligophagous or monophagous nature of
119 aphids (Blackman & Eastop 2000).

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Table 2: Species of aphids found in wild plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinochloa crusgali</i>	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Lagerstromia</i> Sp.	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> , <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (pupus), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, seeds
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs petioles
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flower
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> , <i>A. gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arventris</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flower, fruit

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163 Figure 2. Aphids found on wild plants a) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *A. gossypii* on *Croton weed hirtus* c) *A.*
164 *gossypii* on the weed *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *A.gossypii* on plants *Pachystochys* sp., e) *A.gossypii* on plants *Caladium* sp., f) *A.*
165 *gossypii* on the weed *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *A.gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* weeds, h) *A.gossypii* on the weed *Euphorbia hirta*, i)
166 *A. citricola* on the weed *Phyllanthus nerruri*, j) *A. citricola* on *Sida rhombifolia* weed, k) *A. citricola* on plants *Annona muricata*, l)
167 *A.citricola* on the weed *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A. craccivora* on *Mimosa pudica* weed, n) *A.craccivora* on weeds *Amaranthus gracilis*,
168 o) *A. glycine* in *Mikania micranta* weed, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusine* weeds, q) *Greenidae* sp. in kenidai trees (shrubs) *indica*,
169 r)*Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali* Weed, s) *L. erysimi* on weed *sonchus arventris*, t) *Rhopalosiphum* rice on the weed *Oryza*
170 *rufipogon*, u)*Rhopalosiphum* *Maidis* on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*.
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Discussion

The plant species or host plant influences the distribution of aphids. There are aphid species that can be found on a wide range of host plants, which is closely related to the polyphagous nature of aphids, allowing them to colonize many different species of host plants. Host plants can also affect the distribution of aphids, as evidenced by the presence of aphid species exclusively found on certain host plants (Santiago et al., 2017). But there are some species of aphids found only on one particular host and are not found on other host plants (Döring, 2014). *A. gossypii*, and *Aphis aurantii* have been found on many host plants because both aphids are classified as polyphagous aphids (Alotaibi et al., 2023).

Aphids can commonly be found infesting a variety of ornamental plants. They are attracted to these plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al., 2023). In this present study, some aphid species were found on some ornamental plants in Pagaralam. The location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Adiantum predatum* plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and on newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera* sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Uroleucon* sp., and they were associated with ants.

On the *Brugmansia suaveolens*, *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have started to turn yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. (taro) was found one species of aphids: *A. gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms. The aphids were yellow green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black in color. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants.

Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body. The identification results showed that the aphids were *P. nigronervosa*. The colonies of *P. nigronervosa* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and the colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or flower stalks that had not fully bloomed. The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants.

Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems and young leaves. The aphids were brown to black in color. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently associated with ants. On the plant *Cosmos caudatus*, aphids were found on the flower petals. The colonies were not very large. The body color was green and light green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and

212 they were also associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia kelvin plant* formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with
213 a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results
214 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. Aphids on *Datura metel* (amethyst) were found to form colonies on the
215 undersides of old leaves. The aphids were medium sized with a green body color. The colonized plant parts did not show
216 any symptoms of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Myzus ornatus*. The aphid colonies were
217 not associated with ants. Within *Dendrobium* sp., aphid colonies were found on the young leaves. The aphids were yellow,
218 green to dark green. The colonized plants did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the
219 aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp. (bonsai), colonies of aphids were located on
220 the undersides of young leaves. The colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The
221 aphids were green in color. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were
222 consistently associated with ants.

223 On the *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) plants, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The
224 colonized flowers, especially the crowns, exhibited a tendency to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in
225 color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies
226 were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies
227 were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease
228 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with
229 ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that were parasitized by Aphidiidae were found.

230 On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging in color from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed
231 colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large.
232 The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with
233 ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the
234 undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The
235 occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and
236 slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, similar to sugar. The aphids had
237 yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The
238 identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were almost always associated with ants. The
239 second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could
240 also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs
241 of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The
242 identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants.

243 In *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves
244 and unopened flowers. The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from
245 yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white,
246 resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost
247 always associated with ants. Another species of aphids was founded and formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet
248 bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce any symptoms
249 of plant disease. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very small
250 to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also
251 frequently found in association with ants.

252 Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies in different locations. The first
253 type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease
254 symptoms. The aphids were yellow, green, and some with dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids
255 were *A. gossypii*. The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as
256 if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots and within flower parts. The plant parts they
257 infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had
258 tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*.

259 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids.
260 This indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
261 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
262 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
263 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* or alligator grass was also colonized
264 by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging
265 from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots,
266 flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and they were often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus*
267 *gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers and young and old leaves.
268 They were dark brown to black in color, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with
269 both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* aphids. These aphids were bright green, and of
270 medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies
271 were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* or fire grass was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow-green to
272 dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon*
273 *dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks
274 and sometimes in the leaf axils of the plant. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to red-brown. They were
275 associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* or nut grass was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were
276 found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants.
277 The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* or grass puzzle was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*
278 aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small
279 colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies scattered on
280 the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinochloa crusgali* or water hyacinth
281 plants were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on
282 the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Ecliptica*
283 *prostrata* or urang aring was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids
284 were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants.

285 *Eleusin indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H.*
286 *setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks and leaf axils resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae* body
287 color ranged from red brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis*
288 formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and on leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were
289 not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These
290 aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants.

291 The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow
292 to green in colour. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves.

293 *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red brown. Small
294 colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae*
295 were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* or wart grass was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed
296 colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in
297 color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupotarium odoratum* was colonied
298 by both *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young
299 twigs. Young leaves that were colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this
300 plant showed yellow-green to dark green in body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the
301 shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of
302 both *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants.

303 *Hymenochera acutigluma* or hair axis was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the
304 flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea sp.* or
305 *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with
306 thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not
307 show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo grass plants were colonized by two species of aphids:
308 *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves,
309 leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to
310 red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis*
311 aphids were green to bright green in color, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species
312 of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix.

313 *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly
314 emerging shoots and on newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The
315 colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis*
316 *glycine*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and
317 curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were
318 light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a
319 single colony.

320 *Mimosa invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants
321 formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa*
322 *pudica* was observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots,
323 and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the
324 colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of
325 aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were
326 shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms.

327 *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both
328 aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species
329 could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black sifunculi and cauda, while *R. rice*
330 appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants.

331 *Oxonopus compressus* or *pait* grass was colonized by *Hysteronura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower
332 stalks, seeds, and sometimes in the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown in color. Small colonies were formed,
333 and they were also consistently associated with ants.

334 *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the
335 seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phylanthus niruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The
336 colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted,
337 and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black sifunculi and cauda, and the colonies formed were quite large.
338 *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants
339 formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots and in flowers. The colonized plant parts
340 became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that
341 appeared glossy black.

342 *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with
343 glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant
344 parts did not show any symptoms of disease. *Rorippa indica* or mustard land was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The
345 colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks and the lower surface of leaves. The colonized plant parts showed
346 symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* or cacabean was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had
347 green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks and flower petals. The
348 colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants
349 were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colours, and the colonies formed on flower
350 stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

351 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
352 displayed typical symptoms of damage, but some did not show any symptoms. Generally, the symptoms of the plants
353 caused by aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves.
354 These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show
355 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition happened because the colonized parts had reached their maximum
356 growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that
357 did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the
358 leaves and plant parts were old. The old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid
359 infestations.

360 The part of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a
361 cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued to
362 grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others become stunted (Pettersson et al., 2017). This condition
363 could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf
364 growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any
365 distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed
366 from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants or plants was often easier to recognize
367 through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids
368 had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al., 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the presence
369 of aphid colonies.

370 Throughout their life cycle, aphids exhibited host alternation by switching between two distinct host plants
371 (Yamamoto et al., 2020). They overwintered on woody plants, reproduced in the spring, and migrated to herbaceous plants
372 during the summer before returning to their primary host in the autumn (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This allowed aphids to
373 maximize resource utilization, avoid congestion and competition, evade predators and parasites, circumvent plant
374 defenses, and colonize new areas. Aphids could distribute their population efficiently, thereby avoiding overcrowding,
375 predators and parasites, and plant defenses developing over time through host switching (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This
376 behavior was essential for the survival and environmental adaptation of aphids.

377 Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new
378 growth or reproductive parts of plants. Flowers contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap, therefore aphids were
379 attractive to sap the flowers. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al., 2022). Herbs served as an
380 alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as "sap". Aphids
381 considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate
382 plant tissues and access this fluid (Brożek et al., 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *Lipaphis*
383 *erysimi*, and *Myzus persicae* are the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al.,
384 2022).

385 Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a
386 delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson &
387 Mooney, 2022). The honeydew contained an abundance of sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et al.,
388 2022). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew,
389 ants provided aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and parasitic
390 wasps (Karami-jamour et al., 2018). Certain species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for improved
391 foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al., 2021). Honeydew not only
392 nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
393 species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann & Vega, 2020).

394 CONCLUSION

395 15 species of aphids were found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
396 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia*
397 *nigronevosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus*
398 sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

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Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that 15 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

Keywords: aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild

Plants 30

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy & Stroyan, 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al., 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhawe et al., 2020). Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc, 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can always be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman & Eastop, 2017). Aphids consume young leaves sap, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al., 2018). Moreover, when aphids transmit viral diseases from one plant to another, this can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones, 2022). According to Kinley et al. (2021), aphids cause yield losses directly (35 - 40%) by sucking the plant sap or indirectly (20 - 80%) through viral transmission. Therefore, aphid infestations can have adverse effects on crop yields and overall plant health (Sarwan Kumar, 2019).

Due to their function as vectors, the presence of aphids on a plant can be highly damaging (Jaouannet et al., 2014). They feed by piercing the plant's tissues and consuming its sap, which can reduce the plant's growth and productivity, ultimately leading to weakness and possible death (Chandel et al., 2022). Additionally, as vectors, aphids can transmit a variety of plant diseases. They are as carriers for various plant viruses, and when they move from infected to healthy plants, these viruses can rapidly spread and cause extensive damage (Guo et al., 2019). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's

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48 leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh & Singh, 2021). Therefore, it is
49 crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

50 Understanding the species diversity of aphids is fundamental to effective aphid control, as it facilitates the
51 development of measures to keep their populations in check. In addition, understanding the diversity of aphid species can
52 provide valuable insights into potential plant diseases, as different aphid species carry distinct viruses. Methods used to
53 control aphids often encompass various techniques, including the use of natural enemies such as predators (like ladybugs,
54 lacewings, and parasitic wasps) (Singh & Singh, 2021; Völkl et al., 2023), parasitoids (Boivin et al., 2012),
55 entomopathogens (Hullé et al., 2020), the use of essential oils as botanical pesticides to control aphids (Ikbāl & Pavela,
56 2019), and crop rotation techniques (Degani et al., 2019). Regular monitoring of aphid populations and diversity can help
57 in detecting when population sizes may be reaching harmful levels, allowing for prompt implementation of the necessary
58 countermeasures.

59 Many aphid species were found on plants that were not their actual hosts (Maharani et al., 2018). Aphids have
60 one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants
61 they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al., 2020). An alternative host can also be a collateral host belonging to the same
62 plant family as the primary host, helping crop pests to survive when the primary hosts are unavailable (Kumar et al., 2021).
63 These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Mo & Smilanich, 2023). However, they may provide a
64 means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions
65 (Kumar et al., 2021). According to Liu et al. (2017), since hibiscus serves as an overwintering host for cotton-specialized
66 aphids but not for cucurbit-specialized aphids, it is evident that host-specialized aphids have refuges during times of food
67 shortage. The life cycles of numerous aphid species exhibit such complexity (Jousselin et al., 2010). They maintain a cycle
68 of host alternation, shifting between their primary hosts (typically a woody plant) and secondary hosts (often herbaceous
69 plants) (Yamamoto et al., 2020). Weeds pose a continuous threat in both cropped and non-crop areas, providing food,
70 shelter and reproductive sites for various pest organisms (Kumar et al., 2021). This indicates that weeds can serve as
71 alternative hosts for aphids.

72 A study of aphid species on horticultural plants has been conducted (Maharani et al., 2018). However,
73 information about aphid species on ornamental and wild plants has not received as much attention and remains largely
74 unexplored. In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and
75 native plants. The research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has received little attention.
76 Therefore, this study was conducted in Pagar Alam, a highland region of South Sumatra, with the aim of obtaining
77 information on the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants. The findings from this study can serve
78 as a valuable resource for aphid management.

79 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

80 The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants
81 hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental
82 plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic
83 searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all
84 existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids were documented as aphid hosts.
85 Aphids, along with their natural enemies within the aphid colonies, were systematically collected. All components of the
86 collected observations were then identified.

87 Aphid identification was conducted using identification keys (Blackman & Eastop, 2008). Identification of aphid
 88 species took place in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on
 89 morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using weed identification hand book (Kallas, 2010;
 90 Meuninck, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, morphology of aphids including their shape and
 91 color, as well as any symptoms observed in the host plants were recorded, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their
 92 host plants were taken.

93 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

94 Result

95 The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagaram, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
 96 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*,
 97 *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipapis*
 98 *erysimi*. Based on the observation, these aphids were found on various ornamental plants (Table 1). The primary colony
 99 locations were generally in flowers, and this study documented these colony locations in ornamental plants (Figure

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101 Table 1: Aphid species found in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Sitobion luteum</i>	flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia</i> sp.	flower
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i>	flower
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	flower
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flower
9	<i>Cosmos caudatus</i>	<i>Uroleucon</i> sp.	flower
10	<i>Dahlia Kelvin</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
13	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	<i>Aphis glycines</i> <i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	flower
20	<i>Spondiras dulcissoland</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower



109 Fig 1. The location of aphid colonization on various plant parts. a) *A. gossypii* in *D. Kelvin* flower b) *A. gossypii* in *H.*
 110 *rosasinensis* flower c) *A. gossypii* in tuberose flower, d) *A. craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *A. citricola* in
 111 *Helianthus* sp., f) *A. aurantii* on the *M. paniculata* flower, g) *T. odinae* in the *S. dulssoland*, h) *Uroleucon* sp. in
 112 chrysanthemums, i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *R. indica* flower, j) *Pentalonia nigronervosa* in *C. indica*
 113 leaves

114 In addition, this study documented the presence of weeds, which might serve as alternative hosts for aphids
 115 (Table 2). The location of aphid colonies also varied, namely on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves and old leaves of
 116 wild plants (Figure 2). The presence of specific plants or host plants within a habitat influenced the types of aphids found.
 117 Many aphid species are found on a broad range of plants or host plants, while others are highly specialized and are only
 118 found on specific plants or host plants. This is closely related to the polyphagous, oligophagous or monophagous nature of
 119 aphids (Blackman & Eastop 2000).

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124 Table 2: Species of aphids found in wild plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinocloa crussgali</i>	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Lagerstromea</i> Sp.	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> , <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (pupus), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, seeds
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs petioles
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flower
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> , <i>A. gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arventris</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flower, fruit

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Figure 2. Aphids found on wild plants a) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *A. gossypii* on Croton weed *hirtus* c) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *A. gossypii* on plants *Pachystochys* sp., e) *A. gossypii* on plants *Caladium* sp., f) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *A. gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* weeds, h) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Euphorbia hirta*, i) *A. citricola* on the weed *Phyllanthus nerruri*, j) *A. citricola* on *Sida rhombifolia* weed, k) *A. citricola* on plants *Annona muricata*, l) *A. citricola* on the weed *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A. craccivora* on *Mimosa pudica* weed, n) *A. craccivora* on weeds *Amaranthus gracilis*, o) *A. glycine* in *Mikania micrantha* weed, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusin* weeds, q) *Greenidae* sp. in kenidai trees (shrubs) *indica*, r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinocloa crusgali* Weed, s) *L. erysimi* on weed *sonchus arventris*, t) *Rhopalosiphum rice* on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum Maidis* on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*.

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172 Discussion

173 The plant species or host plant influences the distribution of aphids. There are aphid species that can be found on
174 a wide range of host plants, which is closely related to the polyphagous nature of aphids, allowing them to colonize many
175 different species of host plants. Host plants can also affect the distribution of aphids, as evidenced by the presence of aphid
176 species exclusively found on certain host plants (Santiago et al., 2017). But there are some species of aphids found only on
177 one particular host and are not found on other host plants (Döring, 2014). *A. gossypii*, and *Aphis aurantii* have been found
178 on many host plants because both aphids are classified as polyphagous aphids (Alotaibi et al., 2023).

179 Aphids can commonly be found infesting a variety of ornamental plants. They are attracted to these plants due to
180 the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al., 2023). In this present study, some aphid species were found on
181 some ornamental plants in Pagaralam. The location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Adiantum predatum*
182 plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and on newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black
183 coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The
184 identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera* sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On
185 *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively
186 large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The
187 identification results showed that the aphids were *Uroleucon* sp., and they were associated with ants.

188 On the *Brugmansia suaveolens*, *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have started
189 to turn yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant
190 parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. (taro) was found one species of aphids: *A. gossypii*. The aphids
191 formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms.
192 The aphids were yellow green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their
193 bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the
194 shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially
195 shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black in color. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to
196 be associated with black ants.

197 Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the
198 leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a
199 medium-sized body. The identification results showed that the aphids were *P. nigronervosa*. The colonies of *P.*
200 *nigronervosa* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were
201 found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and
202 the colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed
203 colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or flower stalks that
204 had not fully bloomed. The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green with small to
205 medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results
206 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants.

207 Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems and young leaves.
208 The aphids were brown to black in color. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting
209 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently
210 associated with ants. On the plant *Cosmos caudatus*, aphids were found on the flower petals. The colonies were not very
211 large. The body color was green and light green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and

212 they were also associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia kelvin plant* formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with
213 a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results
214 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. Aphids on *Datura metel* (amethyst) were found to form colonies on the
215 undersides of old leaves. The aphids were medium sized with a green body color. The colonized plant parts did not show
216 any symptoms of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Myzus ornatus*. The aphid colonies were
217 not associated with ants. Within *Dendrobium* sp., aphid colonies were found on the young leaves. The aphids were yellow,
218 green to dark green. The colonized plants did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the
219 aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp. (bonsai), colonies of aphids were located on
220 the undersides of young leaves. The colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The
221 aphids were green in color. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were
222 consistently associated with ants.

223 On the *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) plants, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The
224 colonized flowers, especially the crowns, exhibited a tendency to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in
225 color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies
226 were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies
227 were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease
228 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with
229 ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that were parasitized by Aphidiidae were found.

230 On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging in color from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed
231 colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large.
232 The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with
233 ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the
234 undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The
235 occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and
236 slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, similar to sugar. The aphids had
237 yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The
238 identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were almost always associated with ants. The
239 second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could
240 also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs
241 of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The
242 identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants.

243 In *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves
244 and unopened flowers. The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from
245 yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white,
246 resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost
247 always associated with ants. Another species of aphids was founded and formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet
248 bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce any symptoms
249 of plant disease. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very small
250 to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also
251 frequently found in association with ants.

252 Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies in different locations. The first
253 type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease
254 symptoms. The aphids were yellow, green, and some with dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids
255 were *A. gossypii*. The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as
256 if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots and within flower parts. The plant parts they
257 infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had
258 tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*.

259 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids.
260 This indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
261 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
262 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
263 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* or alligator grass was also colonized
264 by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging
265 from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots,
266 flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and they were often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus*
267 *gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers and young and old leaves.
268 They were dark brown to black in color, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with
269 both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* aphids. These aphids were bright green, and of
270 medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies
271 were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* or fire grass was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow-green to
272 dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon*
273 *dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks
274 and sometimes in the leaf axils of the plant. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to red-brown. They were
275 associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* or nut grass was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were
276 found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants.
277 The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* or grass puzzle was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*
278 aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small
279 colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies scattered on
280 the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinocloa crusgali* or water hyacinth
281 plants were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on
282 the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Ecliptica*
283 *prostrata* or urang aring was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids
284 were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants.

285 *Eleusin indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H.*
286 *setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks and leaf axils resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae* body
287 color ranged from red brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis*
288 formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and on leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were
289 not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These
290 aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants.

291 The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow
292 to green in colour. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves.

293 *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red brown. Small
294 colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae*
295 were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* or wart grass was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed
296 colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in
297 color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupotarium odoratum* was colonized
298 by both *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young
299 twigs. Young leaves that were colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this
300 plant showed yellow-green to dark green in body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the
301 shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of
302 both *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants.

303 *Hymenochera acutigluma* or hair axis was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the
304 flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea sp.* or
305 *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with
306 thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not
307 show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo grass plants were colonized by two species of aphids:
308 *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves,
309 leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to
310 red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis*
311 aphids were green to bright green in color, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species
312 of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix.

313 *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly
314 emerging shoots and on newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The
315 colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis*
316 *glycine*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and
317 curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were
318 light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a
319 single colony.

320 *Mimosa invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants
321 formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa*
322 *pudica* was observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots,
323 and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the
324 colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of
325 aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were
326 shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms.

327 *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both
328 aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species
329 could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black sifunculi and cauda, while *R. rice*
330 appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants.

331 *Oxonopus compressus* or *pait* grass was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower
332 stalks, seeds, and sometimes in the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown in color. Small colonies were formed,
333 and they were also consistently associated with ants.

334 *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the
335 seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phylanthus niruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The
336 colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted,
337 and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black sifunculi and cauda, and the colonies formed were quite large.
338 *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants
339 formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots and in flowers. The colonized plant parts
340 became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that
341 appeared glossy black.

342 *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with
343 glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant
344 parts did not show any symptoms of disease. *Rorippa indica* or mustard land was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The
345 colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks and the lower surface of leaves. The colonized plant parts showed
346 symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* or cacabean was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had
347 green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks and flower petals. The
348 colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants
349 were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green colours, and the colonies formed on flower
350 stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

351 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
352 displayed typical symptoms of damage, but some did not show any symptoms. Generally, the symptoms of the plants
353 caused by aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves.
354 These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show
355 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition happened because the colonized parts had reached their maximum
356 growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that
357 did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the
358 leaves and plant parts were old. The old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid
359 infestations.

360 The part of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a
361 cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued to
362 grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others become stunted (Petterson et al., 2017). This condition
363 could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf
364 growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any
365 distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed
366 from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants or plants was often easier to recognize
367 through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids
368 had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al., 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the presence
369 of aphid colonies.

370 Throughout their life cycle, aphids exhibited host alternation by switching between two distinct host plants
371 (Yamamoto et al., 2020). They overwintered on woody plants, reproduced in the spring, and migrated to herbaceous plants
372 during the summer before returning to their primary host in the autumn (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This allowed aphids to
373 maximize resource utilization, avoid congestion and competition, evade predators and parasites, circumvent plant
374 defenses, and colonize new areas. Aphids could distribute their population efficiently, thereby avoiding overcrowding,
375 predators and parasites, and plant defenses developing over time through host switching (Yamamoto et al., 2020). This
376 behavior was essential for the survival and environmental adaptation of aphids.

377 Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new
378 growth or reproductive parts of plants. Flowers contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap, therefore aphids were
379 attractive to sap the flowers. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al., 2022). Herbs served as an
380 alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as "sap". Aphids
381 considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate
382 plant tissues and access this fluid (Brożek et al., 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *Lipaphis*
383 *erysimi*, and *Myzus persicae* are the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al.,
384 2022).

385 Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a
386 delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson &
387 Mooney, 2022). The honeydew contained an abundance of sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et al.,
388 2022). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew,
389 ants provided aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and parasitic
390 wasps (Karami-jamouir et al., 2018). Certain species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for improved
391 foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al., 2021). Honeydew not only
392 nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
393 species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann & Vega, 2020).

394 CONCLUSION

395 15 species of aphids were found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagaram, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
396 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia*
397 *nigronevosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus*
398 sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

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16 October 2023

Dear Editor,
Biodiversitas

As requested, this is our response to reviewers' comments and suggestions.

Thank you so much for the very kind attention and great helps provided by editorial team of Journal of Biodiversitas

"Letter on responses to reviewers' comments and suggestions from Reviewer 1"

No.	Reviewers' suggestion	Our response	Location in revised manuscript
1	The Introduction has more than 700 words	The Introduction has been revised	Line 32-83
2	The reference must be revised following Biodiversitas guidelines.	The references have been updated	Line 394

Sincerely
Corresponding author,



Chandra Irsan

COVERING LETTER

Dear **Editor-in-Chief**,

I herewith enclosed a research article,

- The submission has not been previously published, nor is it before another journal for consideration (or an explanation has been provided in Comments to the Editor).
- The submission file is in OpenOffice, Microsoft Word (DOC, not DOCX), or RTF document file format.
- The text is single-spaced; uses a 10-point font; employs italics, rather than underlining (except with URL addresses); and all illustrations, figures, and tables are placed within the text at the appropriate points, rather than at the end.
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Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

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Species of Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that 15 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

Keywords: aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids Found in Ornamental and Wild Plants

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhve et al. 2020). Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can always be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids consume young leaves sap, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, when aphids transmit viral diseases from one plant to another, this can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). According to Kinley et al. (2021), aphids cause yield losses directly (35 - 40%) by sucking the plant sap or indirectly (20 - 80%) through viral transmission. Therefore, aphid infestations can have adverse effects on crop yields and overall plant health (Kumar 2019).

Due to their function as vectors, the presence of aphids on a plant can be highly damaging (Jaouannet et al. 2014). They feed by piercing the plant's tissues and consuming its sap, which can reduce the plant's growth and productivity, ultimately leading to weakness and possible death (Chandel et al. 2022). Additionally, as vectors, aphids can transmit a variety of plant diseases. They are as carriers for various plant viruses, and when they move from infected to healthy plants, these viruses can rapidly spread and cause extensive damage (Guo et al. 2019). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's

48 leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh and Singh 2021). Therefore, it
49 is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

50 Many aphid species were found on plants that were not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one
51 or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they
52 feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). An alternative host can also be a collateral host belonging to the same plant
53 family as the primary host, helping crop pests to survive when the primary hosts are unavailable (Kumar et al., 2021).
54 These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Mo and Smilanich 2023), However, they may provide
55 a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions
56 (Kumar et al., 2021). According to Liu et al. (2017), since hibiscus serves as an overwintering host for cotton-specialized
57 aphids but not for cucurbit-specialized aphids, it is evident that host-specialized aphids have refuges during times of food
58 shortage. The life cycles of numerous aphid species exhibit such complexity (Jousselin, Gwenaelle, and Armelle 2010).
59 They maintain a cycle of host alternation, shifting between their primary hosts (typically a woody plant) and secondary
60 hosts (often herbaceous plants) (Yamamoto, Hattori, and Itino 2020). Weeds pose a continuous threat in both cropped and
61 non-crop areas, providing food, shelter and reproductive sites for various pest organisms (Kumar et al., 2021). This
62 indicates that weeds can serve as alternative hosts for aphids.

63 A study of aphid species on horticultural plants has been conducted (Maharani et al. 2018), However, information
64 about aphid species on ornamental and wild plants has not received as much attention and remains largely unexplored. In
65 South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and native plants. The
66 research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has received little attention. Therefore, this study
67 was conducted in Pagar Alam, a highland region of South Sumatra, with the aim of obtaining information on the diversity
68 of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants. The findings from this study can serve as a valuable resource for
69 aphid management.

70 MATERIALS AND METHODS

71 The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants
72 hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental
73 plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic
74 searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all
75 existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids were documented as aphid hosts.
76 Aphids, along with their natural enemies within the aphid colonies, were systematically collected. All components of the
77 collected observations were then identified.

78 Aphid identification was conducted using identification keys (Blackman and Eastop 2008). Identification of aphid
79 species took place in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on
80 morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using weed identification hand book (Kallas, 2010;
81 Meuninck, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, morphology of aphids including their shape and
82 color, as well as any symptoms observed in the host plants were recorded, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their
83 host plants were taken.

84 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

85 Result

86 The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
87 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*,

88 *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipapis*
89 *erysimi*. Based on the observation, these aphids were found on various ornamental plants (Table 1). The primary colony
90 locations were generally in flowers, and this study documented these colony locations in ornamental plants (Figure 1).
91

92 Table 1: Aphid species found in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Sitobion luteum</i>	flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia</i> sp.	flower
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i>	flower
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	flower
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flower
9	<i>Cosmos caudatus</i>	<i>Uroleucon</i> sp.	flower
10	<i>Dahlia Kelvin</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
13	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	<i>Aphis glycines</i> <i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	flower
20	<i>Spondiras dulcissoland</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower



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100 Fig 1. The location of aphid colonization on various plant parts. a) *A. gossypii* in *D. Kelvin* flower b) *A. gossypii* in *H.*
101 *rosasinensis* flower c) *A. gossypii* in tuberose flower, d) *A. craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *A. citricola* in
102 *Helianthus* sp., f) *A. aurantii* on the *M. paniculata* flower, g) *T. odinae* in the *S. dulcissoland*, h) *Uroleucon* sp. in
103 chrysanthemums, i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *R. indica* flower, j) *Pentalonia nigronervosa* in *C. indica* leaves
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105 In addition, this study documented the presence of weeds, which might serve as alternative hosts for aphids
106 (Table 2). The location of aphid colonies also varied, namely on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves and old leaves of
107 wild plants (Figure 2). The presence of specific plants or host plants within a habitat influenced the types of aphids found.
108 Many aphid species are found on a broad range of plants or host plants, while others are highly specialized and are only
109 found on specific plants or host plants. This is closely related to the polyphagous, oligophagous or monophagous nature of
110 aphids (Blackman & Eastop 2000).

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Table 2: Species of aphids found in wild plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinochloa crusgali</i>	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Lagerstromia</i> Sp.	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> , <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (pupus), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, seeds
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs petioles
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flower
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> , <i>A. gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arventris</i>	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flower, fruit

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154 Figure 2. Aphids found on wild plants a) *A. gossypii* on the weed *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *A. gossypii* on Croton weed *hirtus* c) *A.*
155 *gossypii* on the weed *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *A.gossypii* on plants *Pachystochys* sp., e) *A.gossypii* on plants *Caladium* sp., f) *A.*
156 *gossypii* on the weed *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *A.gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* weeds, h) *A.gossypii* on the weed *Euphorbia hirta*, i)
157 *A. citricola* on the weed *Phylantus nerruri*, j) *A. citricola* on *Sida rhombifolia* weed, k) *A. citricola* on plants *Annona muricata*, l)
158 *A.citricola* on the weed *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A. craccivora* on *Mimosa pudica* weed, n) *A.craccivora* on weeds *Amaranthus gracilis*,
159 o) *A. glycine* in *Mikania micranta* weed, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusin* weeds, q) *Greenidae* sp. in kenidai trees (shrubs) *indica*,
160 r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinocloa crusgali* Weed, s) *L. erysimi* on weed *sonchus arventris*, t) *Rhopalosiphum* rice on the weed *Oryza*
161 *rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum* *Maidis* on the weed *Oryza rufipogon*.
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Discussion

The plant species or host plant influences the distribution of aphids. There are aphid species that can be found on a wide range of host plants, which is closely related to the polyphagous nature of aphids, allowing them to colonize many different species of host plants. Host plants can also affect the distribution of aphids, as evidenced by the presence of aphid species exclusively found on certain host plants (Santiago et al. 2017). But there are some species of aphids found only on one particular host and are not found on other host plants (Döring 2014). *A. gossypii*, and *Aphis aurantii* have been found on many host plants because both aphids are classified as polyphagous aphids (Alotaibi et al., 2023).

Aphids can commonly be found infesting a variety of ornamental plants. They are attracted to these plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al. 2023). In this present study, some aphid species were found on some ornamental plants in Pagaralam. The location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Adiantum predatum* plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and on newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera* sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Uroleucon* sp., and they were associated with ants.

On the *Brugmansia suaveolens*, *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have started to turn yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. (taro) was found one species of aphids: *A. gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms. The aphids were yellow green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black in color. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants.

Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body. The identification results showed that the aphids were *P. nigronervosa*. The colonies of *P. nigronervosa* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and the colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or flower stalks that had not fully bloomed. The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants.

Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems and young leaves. The aphids were brown to black in color. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently associated with ants. On the plant *Cosmos caudatus*, aphids were found on the flower petals. The colonies were not very large. The body color was green and light green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and

203 they were also associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia kelvin* plant formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with
204 a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results
205 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. Aphids on *Datura metel* (amethyst) were found to form colonies on the
206 undersides of old leaves. The aphids were medium sized with a green body color. The colonized plant parts did not show
207 any symptoms of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Myzus ornatus*. The aphid colonies were
208 not associated with ants. Within *Dendrobium* sp., aphid colonies were found on the young leaves. The aphids were yellow,
209 green to dark green. The colonized plants did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the
210 aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp. (bonsai), colonies of aphids were located on
211 the undersides of young leaves. The colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The
212 aphids were green in color. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were
213 consistently associated with ants.

214 On the *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) plants, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The
215 colonized flowers, especially the crowns, exhibited a tendency to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in
216 color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies
217 were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies
218 were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease
219 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with
220 ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that were parasitized by Aphidiidae were found.

221 On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging in color from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed
222 colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large.
223 The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with
224 ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the
225 undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The
226 occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and
227 slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, similar to sugar. The aphids had
228 yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The
229 identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were almost always associated with ants. The
230 second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could
231 also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs
232 of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The
233 identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants.

234 In *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves
235 and unopened flowers. The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from
236 yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white,
237 resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost
238 always associated with ants. Another species of aphids was founded and formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet
239 bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce any symptoms
240 of plant disease. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very small
241 to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also
242 frequently found in association with ants.

243 Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies in different locations. The first
244 type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease
245 symptoms. The aphids were yellow, green, and some with dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids
246 were *A. gossypii*. The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as
247 if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots and within flower parts. The plant parts they
248 infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had
249 tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*.

250 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids.
251 This indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
252 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
253 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
254 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* or alligator grass was also colonized
255 by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging
256 from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots,
257 flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and they were often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus*
258 *gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers and young and old leaves.
259 They were dark brown to black in color, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with
260 both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* aphids. These aphids were bright green, and of
261 medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies
262 were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* or fire grass was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow-green to
263 dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon*
264 *dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks
265 and sometimes in the leaf axils of the plant. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to red-brown. They were
266 associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* or nut grass was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were
267 found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants.
268 The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* or grass puzzle was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*
269 aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small
270 colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies scattered on
271 the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinocloa crussgali* or water hyacinth
272 plants were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on
273 the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Ecliptica*
274 *prostrata* or urang aring was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids
275 were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants.

276 *Eleusin indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H.*
277 *setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks and leaf axils resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae* body
278 color ranged from red brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis*
279 formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and on leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were
280 not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These
281 aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants.

282 The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow
283 to green in colour. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves.

284 *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red brown. Small
285 colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae*
286 were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* or wart grass was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed
287 colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in
288 color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupatorium odoratum* was colonied
289 by both *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young
290 twigs. Young leaves that were colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this
291 plant showed yellow-green to dark green in body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the
292 shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of
293 both *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants.

294 *Hymenochera acutigluma* or hair axis was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the
295 flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea sp.* or
296 *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with
297 thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not
298 show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo grass plants were colonized by two species of aphids:
299 *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves,
300 leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to
301 red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis*
302 aphids were green to bright green in color, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species
303 of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix.

304 *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly
305 emerging shoots and on newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The
306 colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis*
307 *glycine*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and
308 curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were
309 light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a
310 single colony.

311 *Mimosa invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants
312 formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa*
313 *pudica* was observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots,
314 and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the
315 colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of
316 aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were
317 shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms.

318 *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both
319 aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species
320 could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black sifunculi and cauda, while *R. rice*
321 appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants.

322 *Oxonopus compressus* or *pait* grass was colonized by *Hysteronura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower
323 stalks, seeds, and sometimes in the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown in color. Small colonies were formed,
324 and they were also consistently associated with ants.

325 *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the
326 seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phylanthus niruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The
327 colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted,
328 and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black sifunculi and cauda, and the colonies formed were quite large.
329 *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants
330 formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots and in flowers. The colonized plant parts
331 became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that
332 appeared glossy black.

333 *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with
334 glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant
335 parts did not show any symptoms of disease. *Rorippa indica* or mustard land was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The
336 colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks and the lower surface of leaves. The colonized plant parts showed
337 symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* or cacabean was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had
338 green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks and flower petals. The
339 colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants
340 were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colours, and the colonies formed on flower
341 stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

342 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
343 displayed typical symptoms of damage, but some did not show any symptoms. Generally, the symptoms of the plants
344 caused by aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves.
345 These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show
346 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition happened because the colonized parts had reached their maximum
347 growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that
348 did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the
349 leaves and plant parts were old. The old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid
350 infestations.

351 The part of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a
352 cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued to
353 grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others become stunted (Pettersson, Tjallingii, and Hardie 2017).
354 This condition could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or
355 stunted leaf growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display
356 any distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves
357 differed from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants or plants was often easier to
358 recognize through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility
359 that aphids had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al. 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the
360 presence of aphid colonies.

361 Throughout their life cycle, aphids exhibited host alternation by switching between two distinct host plants
362 (Yamamoto et al. 2020). They overwintered on woody plants, reproduced in the spring, and migrated to herbaceous plants
363 during the summer before returning to their primary host in the autumn (Yamamoto et al. 2020). This allowed aphids to
364 maximize resource utilization, avoid congestion and competition, evade predators and parasites, circumvent plant
365 defenses, and colonize new areas. Aphids could distribute their population efficiently, thereby avoiding overcrowding,
366 predators and parasites, and plant defenses developing over time through host switching (Yamamoto et al. 2020). This
367 behavior was essential for the survival and environmental adaptation of aphids.

368 Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new
369 growth or reproductive parts of plants. Flowers contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap, therefore aphids were
370 attractive to sap the flowers. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al. 2022). Herbs served as an
371 alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as "sap". Aphids
372 considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate
373 plant tissues and access this fluid (Brożek et al. 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *Lipaphis*
374 *erysimi*, and *Myzus persicae* are the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al.
375 2022).

376 Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a
377 delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson
378 and Mooney 2022). The honeydew contained an abundance of sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et
379 al. 2022). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for
380 honeydew, ants provided aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and
381 parasitic wasps (Karami-jamour et al. 2018). Certain species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for
382 improved foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al. 2021). Honeydew not
383 only nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
384 species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann and Vega 2020).

385 CONCLUSION

386 15 species of aphids were found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
387 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia*
388 *nigronevosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus*
389 sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

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393

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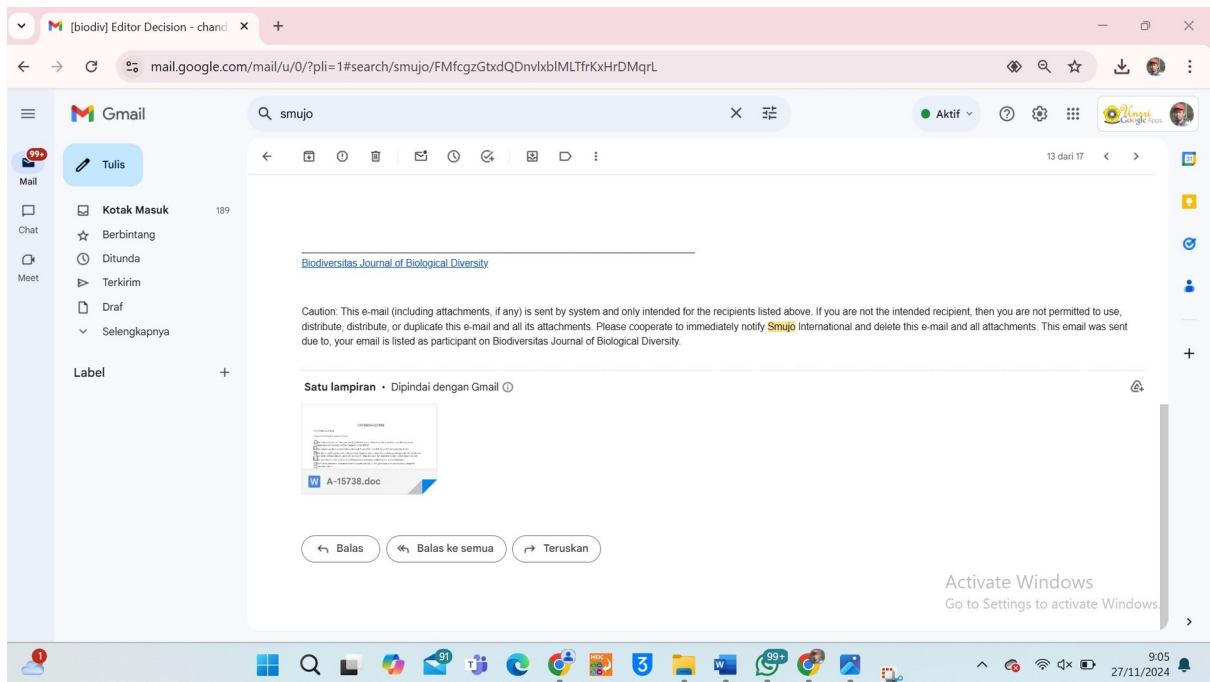
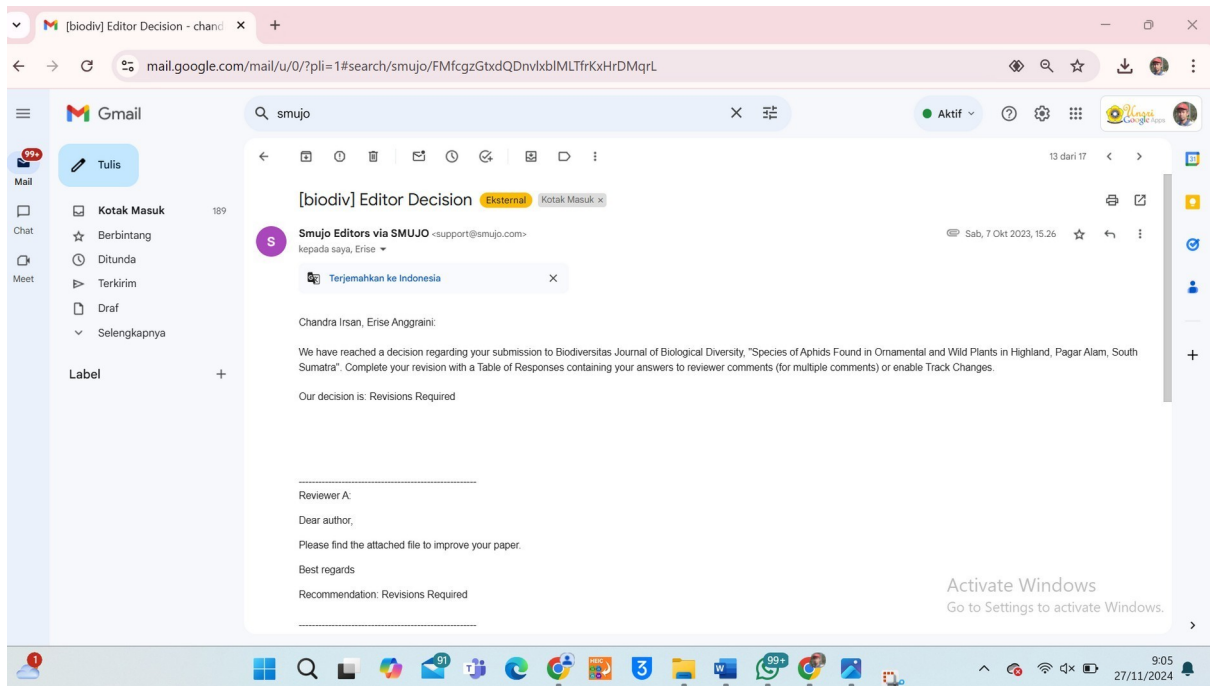
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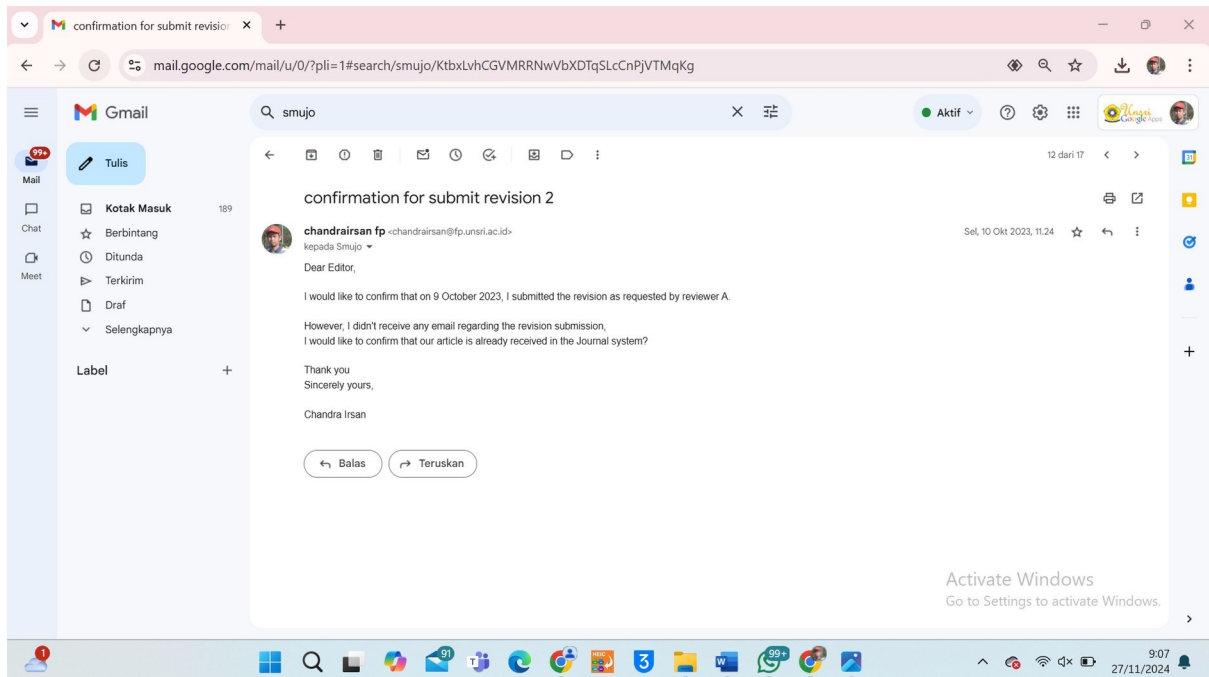
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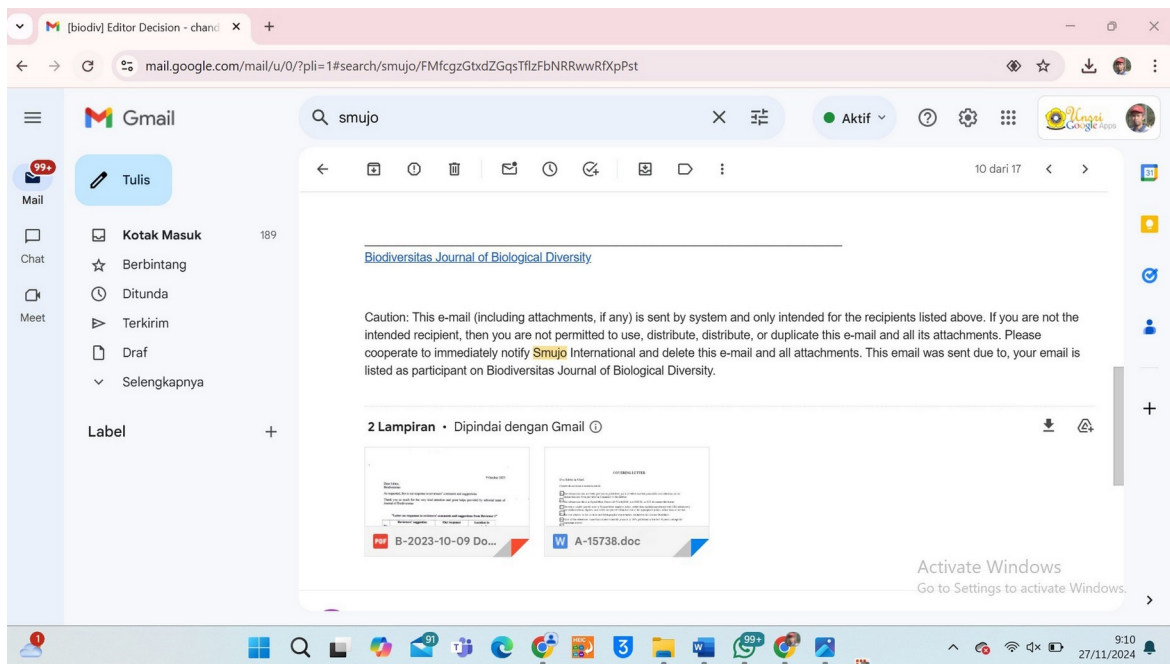
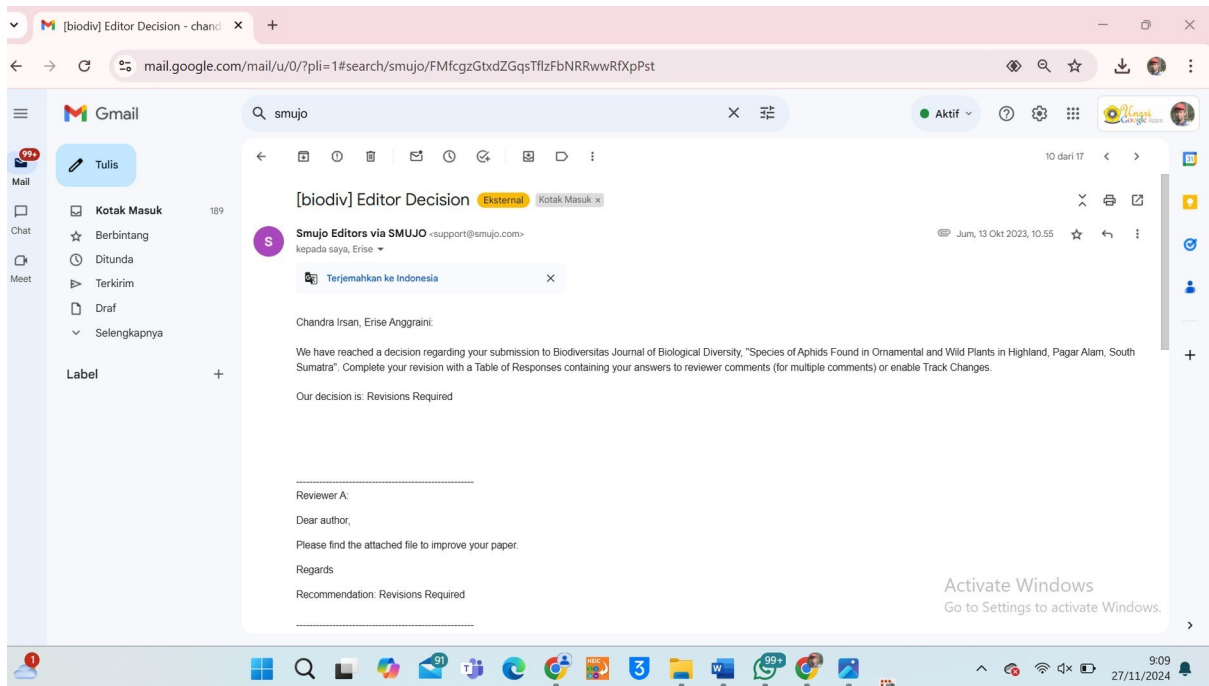
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Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract. Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that 15 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

Keywords: Aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids found in ornamental and wild plants

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhawe et al. 2020). Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can always be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids suck phloem sap of tender plant parts consume young leaves sap, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, vector species when aphids transmit viral diseases from one plant to another, this can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). According to Kinley et al. (2021), aphids cause yield losses directly (35–40%) by sucking the plant sap or indirectly (20–80%) through viral transmission. Therefore, aphid infestations can have adverse effects on crop yields and overall plant health (Kumar 2019).

Due to their function as vectors, the presence of aphids on a plant can be highly damaging (Jaouannet et al. 2014). They feed by piercing the plant's tissues and consuming its sap, which can reduce the plant's growth and productivity, ultimately leading to weakness and possible death (Chandel et al. 2022). Additionally, as vectors, aphids can transmit a variety of plant diseases. They are as carriers for various plant viruses, and when they move from infected to healthy plants, these viruses can rapidly spread and cause extensive damage (Guo et al. 2019). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh and Singh 2021). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

Many aphid species were found on plants that were not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). Alternative plants An alternative host can also be a collateral host belonging to the same plant family as the primary host, helping crop pests to survive when the primary hosts are unavailable (Kumar et al., 2021). These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Mo and Smlanieh 2023). However, they may provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or

53 under certain environmental conditions (Kumar et al., 2021). According to Liu et al. (2017), since hibiscus serves as an
 54 overwintering host for cotton-specialized aphids but not for cucurbit-specialized aphids, it is evident that host-specialized
 55 aphids have refuges during times of food shortage. The life cycles of numerous aphid species exhibit such complexity
 56 (Jousselin, Gwenaelle, and Armelle 2010). They maintain a cycle of host alternation, shifting between their primary hosts
 57 (typically a woody plant) and secondary hosts (often herbaceous plants) (Yamamoto, Hattori, and Itino 2020). Weeds pose
 58 a continuous threat in both cropped and non-crop areas, providing food, shelter and reproductive sites for various pest
 59 organisms (Kumar et al., 2021). This indicates that weeds can serve as alternative hosts for aphids.

60 A study of aphid species on horticultural plants has been conducted (Maharani et al. 2018). However, information
 61 about aphid species on ornamental and wild plants has not received as much attention and remains largely unexplored. In
 62 South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and native plants. The
 63 research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has received little attention. Therefore, this
 64 study reports was conducted in Pagar Alam, a highland region of South Sumatra, with the aim of obtaining information on
 65 the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants found in this area. The findings from this study can
 66 serve as a valuable resource for aphid management.

67 MATERIALS AND METHODS

68 The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory of cultivated or wild plants
 69 hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental
 70 plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, and natural enemies
 71 where available, involved systematic searches of for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of
 72 aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by
 73 aphids were documented as aphid hosts. Aphids, along with their natural enemies within the aphid colonies, were
 74 systematically collected. All components of the collected observations were then identified.

75 Aphid identification was done using identification keys (Blackman and Eastop 2008). Identification of
 76 aphid species took place in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification
 77 relied on morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using weed identification hand book (Kallas, 2010;
 78 Meuninck, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, morphology of aphids including their life shape
 79 and color, as well as any symptoms observed in the host plants were recorded, and photographs of the aphid colonies and
 80 their host plants were recorded taken.

81 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

82 Result

83 The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagar Alam, namely (Tables 1, 2). *Aphis gossypii*,
 84 *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia*
 85 *nigronevosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus*
 86 *sp.*, *Lipapis erysimi*. Based on the observation, these aphids mostly colonised flowers of were found on various
 87 ornamental plants (Table 1, Figure 1). The primary colony locations were generally in flowers, and this study documented
 88 these colony locations in ornamental plants (Figure 1).

89 **Table 1.** Aphid species recorded found in ornamental plants and their colony locations

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Sitobion luteum</i>	flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia</i> sp.	flower
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Pentalonia nigronevosa</i>	flower
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	flower
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flower
9	<i>Cosmos caudatus</i>	<i>Uroleucon</i> sp.	flower
10	<i>Dahlia</i> , 'Kelvin'	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower

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13	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	<i>Aphis glycyines</i> <i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	flower
20	<i>Spondias dulcissoland</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	flower



Fig 1. Photos showing colonies of different aphid species in ornamental plants: The location of aphid colonization on various plant parts: a) *A. gossypii* in *D. kelvin* flower b) *A. gossypii* in *H. rosasinensis* flower c) *A. gossypii* in tuberose flower, d) *A. craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *A. citricola* in *Helianthus* sp., f) *A. aurantii* on the *M. paniculata* flower, g) *T. odinae* in the *S. dulcissoland*, h) *Uroleucon* sp. in chrysanthemums, i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *R. indica* flower, j) *Pentalonia nigronervosa* in *C. indica* leaves

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99 In addition, this study documented the presence of weeds, which might serve as alternative hosts for aphids (Table 2).
 100 The location of aphid colonies also varied, namely on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves and old leaves of wild
 101 plants (Table 2, Figure 2). The presence of specific plants or host plants within a habitat influenced the types of aphids
 102 found. Many aphid species are found on a broad range of plants or host plants, while others are highly specialized and are
 103 only found on specific plants or host plants. This is closely related to the polyphagous, oligophagous or monophagous
 104 nature of aphids (Blackman & Eastop-
 2000).

105

106 **Table 2.** Species of aphids found in wild or weed plants and their colony locations

107

No	Host Plant	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinocloa crusgali</i>	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusine indica</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
		<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> ; <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Lagerstromea</i> Sp.	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycine</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> ; <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (pupus), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalk, seeds
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs, petioles
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flower
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> ; <i>A. gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flower, fruit

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118 weeds-*Amaranthus gracilis*, o) *A. glycine* in *Mikania micrantha*-weed, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusin*-weeds, q) *Greenidae* sp. in kenidai
119 trees (shrubs) *indica*, r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinocloa crusgali*-Weed, s) *L. erysimi* on weed-sonchus arventris, t) *Rhopalosiphum rice*
120 inon the-weed-*Oryza rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum Maidis* inon the-weed-*Oryza rufipogon*.
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122 Discussion

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124 The plant species or host plant influences the distribution of aphids. There are aphid species that can be found on a
125 wide range of host plants, which is closely related to the polyphagous nature of aphids, allowing them to colonize many
126 different species of host plants. Host plants can also affect the distribution of aphids, as evidenced by the presence of aphid
127 species exclusively found on certain host plants (Santiago et al. 2017). But there are some species of aphids found only on
128 one particular host and are not found on other host plants (Döring 2014). *A. gossypii*, and *Aphis aurantii* have been found
129 on many host plants because both aphids are classified as polyphagous aphids (Alotaibi et al., 2023).

130 Many aphid species can commonly be found infesting a variety of ornamental plants because these insects are
131 attracted to such these plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al. 2023). In this present study,
132 some aphid species were found on some ornamental plants in Pagaralam. The location of aphid colonization on the plants
133 varied. On *Adiantum predatum* plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and on newly emerging leaves. The
134 aphids displayed brown and black coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and the colonized plant parts showed
135 no signs of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera* sp., and notably, they were not
136 associated with ants. On *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the
137 colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed
138 symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Uroleucon* sp., and they were associated with
139 ants.

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140 On the *Brugmansia suaveolens*, *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have started to
141 turn yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts
142 did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. (taro) was found one species of aphids: *A. gossypii*. The aphids formed
143 colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms. The aphids
144 were yellow green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On
145 the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds,
146 and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized plants, especially shoots,
147 showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black in color. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be
148 associated with black ants.

149 Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf
150 surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-
151 sized body. The identification results showed that the aphids were *P. nigronervosa*. The colonies of *P. nigronervosa* were
152 found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were found. The aphids were
153 yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and the colonized plant parts
154 did not show any symptoms of disease. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of
155 young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or flower stalks that had not fully bloomed. The
156 colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green with small to medium-sized bodies. The
157 colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were
158 *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants.

159 Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems and young leaves. The
160 aphids were brown to black in color. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting
161 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently
162 associated with ants. On the plant *Cosmos caudatus*, aphids were found on the flower petals. The colonies were not very
163 large. The body color was green and light green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and
164 they were also associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia kelyvin plant* formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with
165 a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results
166 showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. Aphids on *Datura metel* (amethyst) were found to form colonies on the
167 undersides of old leaves. The aphids were medium sized with a green body color. The colonized plant parts did not show
168 any symptoms of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Myzus ornatus*. The aphid colonies were
169 not associated with ants. Within *Dendrobium* sp., aphid colonies were found on the young leaves. The aphids were yellow,
170 green to dark green. The colonized plants did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the
171 aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp. (bonsai), colonies of aphids were located on
172 the undersides of young leaves. The colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The
173 aphids were green in color. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were
174 consistently associated with ants.

175 On the *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) plants, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The colonized
176 flowers, especially the crowns, exhibited a tendency to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in color. The
177 colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were

178 associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies were
179 small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease
180 symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with
181 ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that were parasitized by Aphidiidae were found.

182 On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging in color from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed
183 colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large.
184 The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with
185 ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the
186 undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The
187 occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and
188 slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, similar to sugar. The aphids had
189 yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The
190 identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were almost always associated with ants. The
191 second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could
192 also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs
193 of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The
194 identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants.

195 In *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves
196 and unopened flowers. The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from
197 yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white,
198 resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost
199 always associated with ants. Another species of aphids was founded and formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet
200 bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce any symptoms
201 of plant disease. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very small
202 to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also
203 frequently found in association with ants.

204 Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies in different locations. The first
205 type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease
206 symptoms. The aphids were yellow, green, and some with dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids
207 were *A. gossypii*. The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as
208 if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots and within flower parts. The plant parts they
209 infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had
210 tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*.

211 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids. This
212 indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
213 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
214 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
215 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* or alligator grass was also colonized
216 by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging
217 from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots,
218 flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and they were often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus*
219 *gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers and young and old leaves.
220 They were dark brown to black in color, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with
221 both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* aphids. These aphids were bright green, and of
222 medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies
223 were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* or fire grass was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow-green to
224 dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon*
225 *dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks
226 and sometimes in the leaf axils of the plant. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to red-brown. They were
227 associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* or nut grass was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were
228 found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants.
229 The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* or grass puzzle was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*
230 aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small
231 colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies scattered on
232 the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinocloa crusgali* or water hyacinth
233 plants were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on
234 the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Ecliptica*
235 *prostrata* or orang aring was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids
236 were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants.

237 *Eleusine indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H. setariae*
238 formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks and leaf axils resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae* body color ranged
239 from red brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis* formed
240 colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and on leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were not
241 densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These aphids
242 had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants. The plant
243 *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow to green
244 in colour. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves.

245 *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red brown. Small colonies
246 formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae* were
247 consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* or wart grass was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed
248 colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in
249 color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupotarium odoratum* was colonized
250 by both *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young
251 twigs. Young leaves that were colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this
252 plant showed yellow-green to dark green in body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the
253 shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of
254 both *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants.

255 *Hymenochera acutigluma* or hair axis was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the flower
256 stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromia sp.* or
257 *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with
258 thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not
259 show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo grass plants were colonized by two species of aphids:
260 *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves,
261 leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to
262 red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis*
263 aphids were green to bright green in color, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species
264 of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix.

265 *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly emerging
266 shoots and on newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The colonized
267 plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis glycine*. *A.*
268 *gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and curled leaves. *A.*
269 *glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were light green to green
270 in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a single colony.

271 *Mimosa invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants
272 formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa*
273 *pudica* was observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots,
274 and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the
275 colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of
276 aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were
277 shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms.

278 *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both aphids
279 colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species could
280 be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black siphunculi and cauda, while *R. rice*
281 appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants.
282 *Oxonopus compressus* or *pait* grass was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower
283 stalks, seeds, and sometimes in the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown in color. Small colonies were formed,
284 and they were also consistently associated with ants.

285 *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the seeds
286 and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phyllanthus niruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The
287 colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted,
288 and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black siphunculi and cauda, and the colonies formed were quite large.
289 *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants
290 formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots and in flowers. The colonized plant parts
291 became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that
292 appeared glossy black.

293 *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with glossy
294 black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant parts did
295 not show any symptoms of disease. *Rorippa indica* or mustard land was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The colonies
296 formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks and the lower surface of leaves. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms

297 such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* or cacabean was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had green-yellow
298 to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks and flower petals. The colonized plant
299 parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants were colonized
300 by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colours, and the colonies formed on flower stalks, under petals,
301 and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

302 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
303 displayed typical symptoms of damage, but some did not show any symptoms. Generally, the symptoms of the plants
304 caused by aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves.
305 These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show
306 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition happened because the colonized parts had reached their maximum
307 growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that
308 did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the
309 leaves and plant parts were old. The old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid
310 infestations.

311 The part of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a cessation
312 in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued to grow,
313 resulting in some parts developing normally while others become stunted (Pettersson, Tjallingii, and Hardie 2017). This
314 condition could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted
315 leaf growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any
316 distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed
317 from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants or plants was often easier to recognize
318 through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids
319 had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al. 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the presence of
320 aphid colonies.

321 ~~Throughout their life cycle, aphids exhibited host alternation by switching between two distinct host plants (Yamamoto
322 et al. 2020). They overwintered on woody plants, reproduced in the spring, and migrated to herbaceous plants during the
323 summer before returning to their primary host in the autumn (Yamamoto et al. 2020). This allowed aphids to maximize
324 resource utilization, avoid congestion and competition, evade predators and parasites, circumvent plant defenses, and
325 colonize new areas. Aphids could distribute their population efficiently, thereby avoiding overcrowding, predators and
326 parasites, and plant defenses developing over time through host switching (Yamamoto et al. 2020). This behavior was
327 essential for the survival and environmental adaptation of aphids.~~

328 Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new
329 growth or reproductive parts of plants. Flowers contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap, therefore aphids were
330 attractive to sap the flowers. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al. 2022). Herbs served as an
331 alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as "sap". Aphids
332 considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate
333 plant tissues and access this fluid (Brožek et al. 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *Lipaphis*
334 *erysimi*, and *Myzus persicae* are the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al.
335 2022).

336 Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a
337 delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson
338 and Mooney 2022). The honeydew contained an abundance of sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et
339 al. 2022). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for
340 honeydew, ants provided aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and
341 parasitic wasps (Karami-jamouir et al. 2018). Certain species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for
342 improved foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al. 2021). Honeydew not
343 only nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
344 species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann and Vega 2020).

345 CONCLUSION

346 15 species of aphids were found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp.,
347 *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*,
348 *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis*
349 *erysimi*.

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15738 / **IRSAN et al.** / Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagar Alam District, South Sum

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Workflow

Publication

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Round 1

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Dear Editors,
BIODIVERSITAS Journal of Biological Diversity

As requested, this is our response to reviewers' comments and suggestions.

Thank you so much for the very kind attention and great help provided by editorial team of BIODIVERSITAS Journal of Biological Diversity.

"Letter on responses to reviewers' comments and suggestions"

No.	Location in manuscript	Reviewers' suggestion	Our response
1	Introduction section	<p>This is a simple survey study undertaken in an area to record presence of aphid species in ornamental and herbaceous or shrub weed plants. However, the 'Introduction' section attempts to distinguish primary and alternate host plants of aphids, terming weeds as the 'alternate' host plants. This point is widely recorded, and it does not require an explanation. It should be restricted to a few sentences as matter of reference only. Accordingly, I have suggested trimming of this section.</p>	<p>The Introduction has been rewritten as recommended</p>
2	Materials and method section	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I wonder that so few ornamental plant species are present in the study area in this study. This section must include the number of aphid samples collected, the area in square kilometre surveyed, frequency of sampling done from the sampling area, any seasonal survey done, and a schematic diagram of the study area be provided showing scale in sq. km and geo-coordinates.2. Names of some plant species and aphid species mentioned in tables 1 and 2 do not match with that mentioned in the figure legends and more so in the 'Discussion' section (see below).	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We collected samples by direct observation and did not take the location sampling sites. Therefore, we do apologize can't revise as the suggestion.2. We already made the corrections as suggested by reviewer

3	Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This section should be divided into two sub-heading: 2. Aphids infesting ornamental plants. 3. Aphids infesting wild and weed plants. 4. Each sub-heading should have a table providing following information: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Sr No.</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Aphid species* plants parts color Present (+) or absent (-)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Ornamental Aphid Antlife colonized</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Plant Plant attendance</th> </tr> </thead> </table>	Sr No.	Aphid species* plants parts color Present (+) or absent (-)	Ornamental Aphid Antlife colonized	Plant Plant attendance	The recommended tables had been added
Sr No.	Aphid species* plants parts color Present (+) or absent (-)	Ornamental Aphid Antlife colonized	Plant Plant attendance				
4	Results	<p>*Aphid species names should accompany by mention of author names in the first mention only.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Table 1. Following discrepancies require correction/clarification: 2. Record of <i>Sitobion luteum</i> from <i>Aster alpinus</i> is unusual; this aphid normally infest crops and weed plants of Cyperaceae family; <i>Aster alpinus</i> is a plant of Asteraceae family; authors may re-check the identification of this aphid sample! 3. Record of <i>Pentalonia</i> from <i>Caladium</i> sp. require a re-check! I suggest the authors to read the paper by Bhadra P, Agarwala BK. 2010. A comparison of fitness characters of two host plant-based congeneric species of the banana aphid, <i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i> and <i>P. caladii</i>. <i>Journal of Insect Science</i> 10:140 available online: insectscience.org/10.140 and P. Bhadra and B.K. Agarwala, 2012. On the Morphological and Genotypic Variations of Two Congeneric species of Banana Aphid <i>Pentalonia</i> (Homoptera: Aphididae) from India, <i>Advances in Life Sciences</i>, 2(3): 75-81, DOI: 10.5932/j.als.20120203.06, DOI: 10.5932/j.als.20120203.06. Authors can identify the aphid species based on the identification key based on morphological characters and host plant association. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We already checked and clarified. 2. We revised the species aphid; the aphid species is <i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i> 3. The species and the sentences have been revised 				

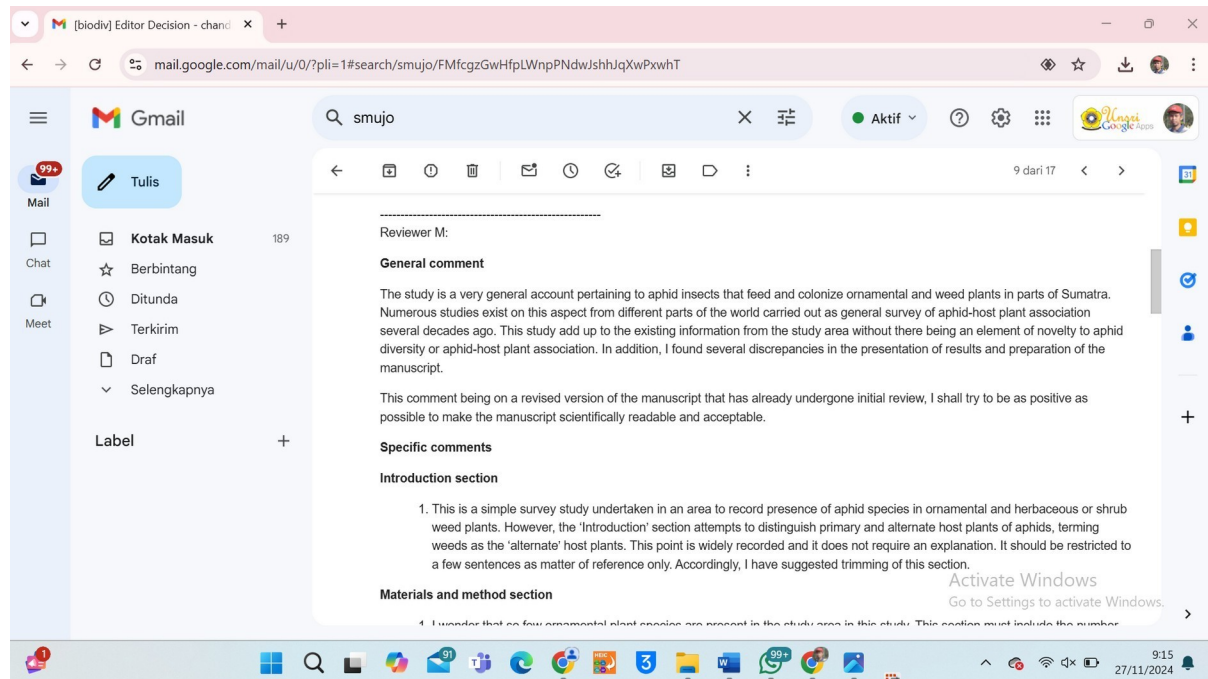
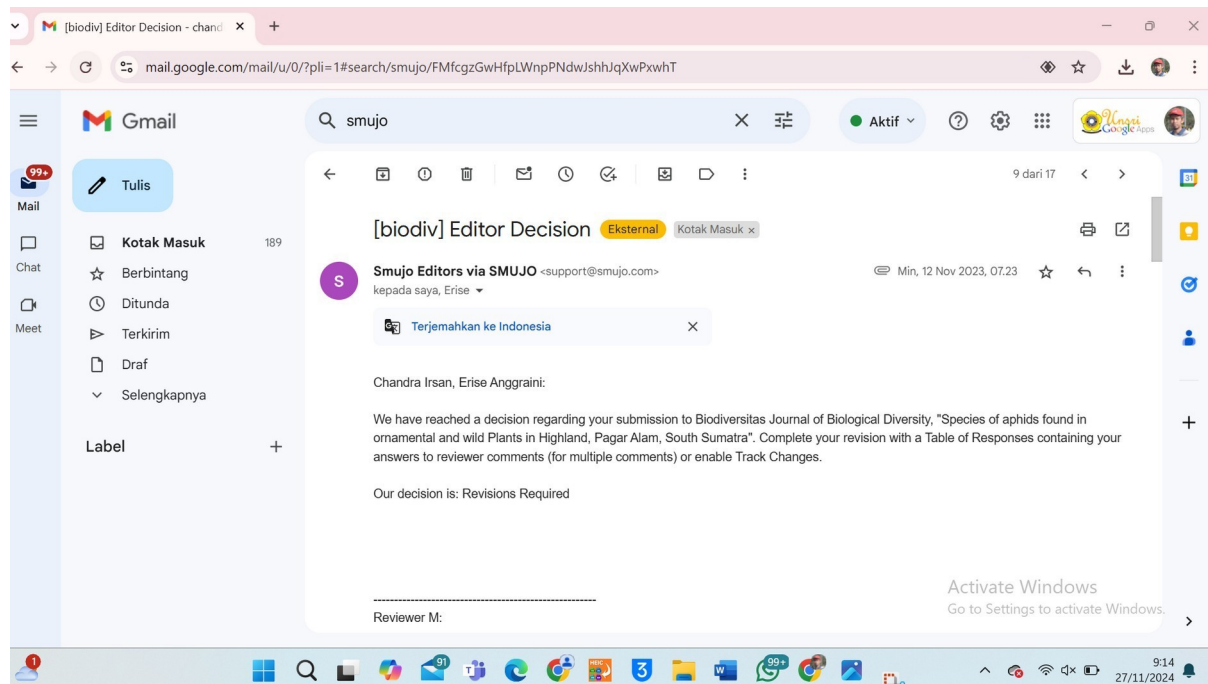
5	Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of <i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i> from <i>Canna indica</i> require checking following the identification key provided in the above-said reference. 2. Identification of <i>Uroleucon</i> sp. from <i>Cosmos caudatus</i> mentioned in the table does not match with the figure legend “<i>Uroleucon</i> sp. in <i>Chrysanthemum</i>”. These are entirely different. 3. Similarly, <i>Aphis craccivora</i> from <i>Murraya paniculata</i> stated in the table does not match with the “<i>aurantii</i> in the <i>M. paniculata</i> flower” 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i> was revised to be <i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i> 2. The corrected sentences have been revised, the species of <i>Uroleucon</i> sp. In <i>Chrysanthemum</i> 3. The species has been corrected
6	Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All the figures in the plate should be denoted by alphabets in serial order corresponding to those in the fused in the figure legend, and each of these figures should be credited to the photographer by name on the photographs. 2. Table 2. Table contents be provided with similar information as suggested for the table 1. In addition, a column should include ‘Plant type’ to denote herb or shrub and weed or non-weed wild plant. 3. Serial no. 19 in the table 2 mentions <i>Lagerstroemia</i> sp. infested by <i>Greenidea</i> sp. but the figure legend mentions (q) <i>Greenidae</i> in kenidai trees (shrubs) <i>indica</i>; these do not match! 4. ‘t) <i>Rhopalosiphum rice</i> in <i>Oryza rufipogon</i>,’ mentioned in the figure legend does not match with the sr. no. 26 of the table, please check and correct. 5. Other suggestions regarding improvements in the figures and figure legend made for figure 1 are to be followed for figure 2 as well. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The figures have been corrected 2. The table 2 has been corrected 3. The species has been corrected 4. The species has been corrected 5. The figures have been improved
7	Discussions	<p>This section should be brief and to the point. Presently, it is written ad nauseous, without proper context and too elaborate. This section can divided in to three paragraphs as under:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First paragraph should briefly recount the results of this study. 2. Second paragraph should highlight the major features of aphid colonization of important ornamental and weed plants with respect to association of one or more aphid species association and pattern of 	<p>The discussions section has been changed</p>

		<p>colonization; for example, <i>Aphis gossypii</i> is found on many different plant species but their life color and colonization pattern differ in different plants;</p> <p>3. Third and final paragraph should be devoted to comparison of this study findings to those reported from neighboring or other parts of Indonesia or Southeast Asia.</p>	
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Sincerely,
Corresponding author,

Chandra Irsan

Bukti email artikel diterima 12 November 2023



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Materials and method section

1. I wonder that so few ornamental plant species are present in the study area in this study. This section must include the number of aphid samples collected, the area in square kilometer surveyed, frequency of sampling done from the sampling area, any seasonal survey done, and a schematic diagram of the study area be provided showing scale in sq. km and geo-coordinates.
2. Names of some plant species and aphid species mentioned in tables 1 and 2 do not match with that mentioned in the figure legends and more so in the 'Discussion' section (see below).

Results

1. This section should be divided into two sub-heading:
2. Aphids infesting ornamental plants
3. Aphids infesting wild and weed plants
4. Each sub-heading should have a table providing following information:

Sr No.	Aphid species*	Ornamental plants	Aphid	Plant parts	Ant
life color	colonized	attendance			

Present(+) or absent (-)

*Aphid species names should accompany by mention of author names in the first mention only.

1. Table 1. Following discrepancies require correction/clarification:
2. Record of *Sitobion luteum* from *Aster alpinus* is unusual; this aphid normally infest crops and weed plants of Cyperaceae family;

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3. Record of *Pentalonia* from *Caladium* sp. require a re-check! I suggest the authors to read the paper by Bhadra P, Agarwala BK. 2010. A comparison of fitness characters of two host plant-based congeneric species of the banana aphid, *Pentalonia nigronervosa* and *P. caladilii*. *Journal of Insect Science* 10:140 available online: [insectscience.org/10.140](https://doi.org/10.5932/j.ais.20120203.06) and P. Bhadra and B.K. Agarwala, 2012. On the Morphological and Genotypic Variations of Two Congeneric species of Banana Aphid *Pentalonia* (Homoptera: Aphididae) from India, *Advances in Life Sciences*, 2(3): 75-81, DOI: 10.5932/j.ais.20120203.06, DOI: 10.5932/j.ais.20120203.06. Authors can identify the aphid species based on the identification key based on morphological characters and host plant association.

- Identification of *Pentalonia nigronervosa* from *Canna indica* require checking following the identification key provided in the above-said reference.

1. Identification of *Uroleucon* sp. from *Cosmos caudatus* mentioned in the table does not match with the figure legend "*Uroleucon* sp. in *Chrysanthemum*". These are entirely different.

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1. Similarly, *Aphis craccivora* from *Murraya paniculata* stated in the table does not match with the "aurantii in the *M. paniculata* flower"

1. All the figures in the plate should be denoted by alphabets in serial order corresponding to those in the fused in the figure legend, and each of these figures should be credited to the photographer by name on the photographs.

- Table 2. Table contents be provided with similar information as suggested for the table 1. In addition, a column should include 'Plant type' to denote herb or shrub and weed or non-weed wild plant;
- Serial no. 19 in the table 2 mentions *Lagerstroemia* sp. infested by *Greenidea* sp. but the figure legend mentions (q) *Greenidae* in kenadi trees (shrubs) *indica*, these do not match!

1. *Rhopalosiphum rice* in *Oryza rufipogon*, mentioned in the figure legend does not match with the sr. no. 26 of the table, please check and correct.
2. Other suggestions regarding improvements in the figures and figure legend made for figure 1 are to be followed for figure 2 as well.

Discussion

1. This section should be brief and to the point. Presently, it is written ad nauseous, without proper context and too elaborate. This section can be divided in to three paragraphs as under:

- First paragraph should briefly recount the results of this study
- Second paragraph should highlight the major features of aphid colonization of important ornamental and weed plants with respect to association of one or more aphid species

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- Third and final paragraph should be devoted to comparison of this study findings to those reported from neighboring or other parts of Indonesia or Southeast Asia.

Recommendation: Revisions Required

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Table 4. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the

No	Aphid Species	Wild plants	Aphids life colour	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance	count	number
1	<i>Aphis</i> <i>gossypii</i>	<i>Leucaetum conyzoides</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old flowers	+	1	1
		<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Light green	shoots, buds	+	1	2
		<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Light green	shoots, buds	-	0	3
		<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Dark green	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	1	4
	<i>Aphis</i> <i>gossypii</i>	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	green	shoots, young leaves	+	1	5
		<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	green	flower, flower stalks, shoots	+	1	6
		<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	light green	young leaves, old leaves	+	1	7
		<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	light green	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	1	8
		<i>Melastoma affine</i>	light green	shoots, young leaves	+	1	9
		<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	light green yellowish	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	1	10
		<i>Physalis angulata</i>	green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds	+	1	11
		<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	yellowish green	flowers, shoots, young leaves,	-	0	12
2	<i>Aphis</i> <i>ivivora</i>			old leaves	+	1	1
		<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	black	shoots, pods	+	1	2
		<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	black	shoots, pods, flowers	+	1	3
		<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	black	shoots, pods	+	1	4
		<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	black	shoots, young leaves, flowers	+	1	5
		<i>Physalis angulata</i>	black	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	1	6
3	<i>Aphis</i> <i>gossypii</i>	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	Greenish yellow	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	1	1
		<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	1	2
4	<i>Aphis</i> <i>citricola</i>	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Greenish	shoot, young leaves, young twigs, petioles	+	1	1
5	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	<i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i>	Greenish Yellow	young leaves	-	0	1
		<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks	+	1	1
		<i>Eleusin indica</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1	2
		<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks, seeds	+	1	3
		6	<i>Hemiteles</i> <i>sericeus</i>	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	reddish-brown	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+
<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	reddish-brown			young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	1	5
7	<i>Hiperomyzus</i>	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalk, leaf axils	+	1	6
		<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalk, seeds	+	1	7
8	<i>Lipaphis</i> sp.	<i>Echinochloa crussgal i</i>	Black	young leaves, old leaves	-		1
		<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Whitish green	flowers, shoots, and buds	+	1	1
		<i>Rauvolfia indica</i>	Whitish green	flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves, fruit stalks,	+	1	2
		<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Whitish green	flower, fruit	+	1	3
		<i>Eleusin indica</i>	green	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1	1
9	<i>Rhopalosiphu</i> <i>m maidis</i>	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	green	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	1	2
		<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot),	-	0	3

		leaf					
10	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Whitish green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	+	1	1
	<i>Schizaphis</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Green	flowers, flower stalks	+	1	1
11	<i>rotundiventris</i>	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	green	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1	2
	^s	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	green	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1	3

(+): present, (-): absent

Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract. Aphids are one of the crucial pests in ~~the~~-tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species ~~were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plant, such as wild plants, were found on plants that were not actually hosts.~~ Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental ~~plants and the~~ wild plants. The field research employed a ~~a~~-purposive and direct observation ~~methods approach~~ to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that 21 species of aphids were found in **Pagaralam**, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Aphis glycines*, *Aulacorthum solani*, *Greenidae* sp., *Hyperomyzus* sp., *Hysteroneura setariae*, *Lipaphis erysimi*, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Neomyzus circumflexus*, *Pentalonia caladii*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Sinemogoura citricola*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Toxoptera citricidus*, *Toxoptera odinae*, and *Schizaphis rotundiventris*.

Keywords: Aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids found in ornamental and wild plants.

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are ~~one of the~~-crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhve et al. 2020); ~~a.~~ Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids suck phloem sap of tender plant parts, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, vector species can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). ~~Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.~~

Many aphid species are found on plants that are not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). Alternative plants provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions (Kumar et al., 2021). In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and native plants. Research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has ~~less noticed received little attention.~~ This study reports ~~the~~ diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants found in this area. The findings from this study can serve as a valuable resource for aphid management.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field research employed a purposive and direct observation ~~approach~~ to inventory ~~of cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids cultivated or wild plants hosting~~ and collecting aphids. The plant selection ~~process~~ included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. ~~The collection and identification of host plants, and~~

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aphids, and natural enemies where available. Where available, collecting and identifying host plants, aphids, and natural enemies involved systematic searches of all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids are documented as aphid hosts. Aphid identification was done using identification keys (Blackman and Eastop 2008) in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using the weed identification handbook (Kallas, 2010; Meunink, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, including their life color, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their host plants were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Aphids infesting in ornamental plants

The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagar Alam (Tables 1 and 2). These aphids mostly colonised flowers of various ornamental plants (Table 1, Figure 1).

Table 1. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Leaves, young twig, flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	Leaves, flower Leaves Leaves, flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	Leaves,
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Leaves, flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	Leaf
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Shoot, flower Young leaves
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flower
9	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Shoot, twig
10	<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	Flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
13	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i> .	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Flower Shoot, young leaves
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Flower Flower Shoot, flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	Young Twig Shoot, flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	Shoot, flower Shoot, flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	Flower
20	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Flower



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Fig 1. Photos showing colonies of different aphid species in ornamental plants: a) *Aphis gossypii* in *Dahlia* sp. flower, b) *Aphis gossypii* in *Hibiscus rosinensis* flower, c) *Aphis gossypii* in ~~cestrum~~-*Cestrum* twig and flower, d) *Aphis craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *Aphis glycines* in *Helianthus giganteus* flower, f) *Aphis craccivora* on the *Muraya paniculata* flower, g) *Toxoptera odinae* in the *Mussaenda frondosa*, h) *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*. in *Chrysanthemum* sp. leaves i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *Rosa indica* flower, j) *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* in *Canna indica* leaves. ~~All the photos were captured by Chandra Irsan~~ *Chandra Irsan captured all the photos.*

The relationship between aphids and ants was also recorded. Aphids produce a sweet, sticky substance called honeydew. ~~Ants are attracted to this honey because it serves as a food source for them.~~ When aphids are present, they secrete honeydew, which attracts ants. This research recorded the presence of ants on plant parts colonized by aphids (Table 2).

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86 **Table 2.** Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized

No	Aphid Species	Ornamental plants	Aphids life color	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance
1	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	black	flowers	+
2	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	black	flowers	+
		<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	greenish yellow	flowers	+
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	greenish yellow	flowers	+
		<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	greenish yellow	shoots, flowers	+
		<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	greenish yellow	flowers	+
3	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	greenish yellow	flowers	+
4	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	green	shoots, flowers	+
		<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	light green	shoots, flowers	+
		<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	green dark	flowers	+
		<i>Duranta</i> sp.	light green	shoots, flowers	+
		<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	dark green	flowers	+
		<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	light green	flowers	+
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	light green	flowers	+
5	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	greenish yellow	leaves, flowers	-
6	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	brown black	leaves, twigs, flowers	+
		<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	reddish brown	leaves, twigs	+
7	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	<i>Rosa indica</i>	green	flowers	-
8	<i>Myzus persicae</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	greenish yellow	leaves, flowers	-
9	<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	light green	young leaves, flowers	-
		<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	light green	flowers	-
10	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	brown-black	leaves	+
11	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	<i>Canna indica</i>	green black	leaves	+
12	<i>Sinemegoura citricola</i>	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	brown	flowers	-
13	<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	brown black	flowers	+
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	brown black	flowers	+
14	<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	black	stems	+
15	<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	reddish-brown	flowers	+

87 (+): present, (-):

absent 88

89 **Aphids infesting in wild plants (weed or non-weed plants)**

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91 In addition, this study documented aphid colonies on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves, and old leaves of wild
92 plants (Table 3, Figure 2).

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94 **Table 3.** Species of aphids found in wild (weed or non-weed) plants and their col

ony locations.

No	Host Plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinocloa crusgali</i>	weed	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
			<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	young leaves, old leaves,
			<i>Aphis glycines</i>	shoot, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	Non-weed	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	young leaves

No	Host Plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Weed - liana	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	weed	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	shoot, young twig
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods, flowers
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	weed	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, seeds
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	weed	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs, petioles
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, young leaves, flowers
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
34	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	weed	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	flowers, fruits, shoots, young leaves
			<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
			<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruits

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96 The presence of ants in aphid colonization symbolizes a mutually beneficial relationship where the ants receive food
97 from the aphids while providing protection to protect the m-aphids. This study recorded the ant attendance in aphids
98 colonization (Table 4).

99 **Table 4.** Aphid species were recorded in ornamental plants, and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized.

No	Aphid Species	Wild plants	Aphids life colour	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance
1	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> <i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> <i>Croton hirtus</i> <i>Ecliptica prostrata</i> <i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> <i>Euphorbia hirta</i> <i>Eupatorium</i> <i>Eupatorium</i> <i>odoratum</i> <i>Melastoma affine</i> <i>Mikania micrantha</i> <i>Physalis angulata</i> <i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Light green Light green Light green Dark green green green light green light green light green light green light green yellowish green yellowish green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers shoots, buds shoots, buds flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs shoots, young leaves flower, flower stalks, shoots young leaves, old leaves young leaves, old leaves, young twigs shoots, young leaves shoots, young leaves, old leaves shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds	+ + - + + + + + + + + + -
2	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i> <i>Mimosa invisa</i> <i>Mimosa pudica</i> <i>Mimosa vigra</i> <i>Portulaca oleraceae</i> <i>Physalis angulata</i>	black black black black black black	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves shoots, pods shoots, pods, flowers shoots, pods shoots, young leaves, flowers shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+ + + + + +
3	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Eupatorium</i> <i>Eupatorium</i> <i>odoratum</i> <i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Greenish yellow Light green	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+ +
4	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Greenish Yellow	shoot, young leaves, young twigs, petioles	+
5	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	<i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i>	Greenish Yellow	young leaves	-
6	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i> <i>Eleusin indica</i> <i>Eragrostis tenella</i> <i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i> <i>Lophatherum gracile</i> <i>Oxonopus compressus</i> <i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks flower, flower stalks, leaf axils flower, flower stalks, seeds flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils flower, flower stalk, leaf axils flower, flower stalk, seeds	+ + + + + + +
7	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	<i>Echinochloa crusgali</i>	Black	young leaves, old leaves	-
8	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	<i>Blumea lacera</i> <i>Rorippa indica</i> <i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Whitish green Whitish green Whitish green	flowers, shoots, and buds flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruit	+ + +
9	<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	<i>Eleusin indica</i> <i>Lophatherum gracile</i> <i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	green green green	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	+ + -
10	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Whitish green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	-
11	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> <i>Cyperus rotundus</i> <i>Cyperus compressus</i>	Green green green	flowers, flower stalks flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+ + +

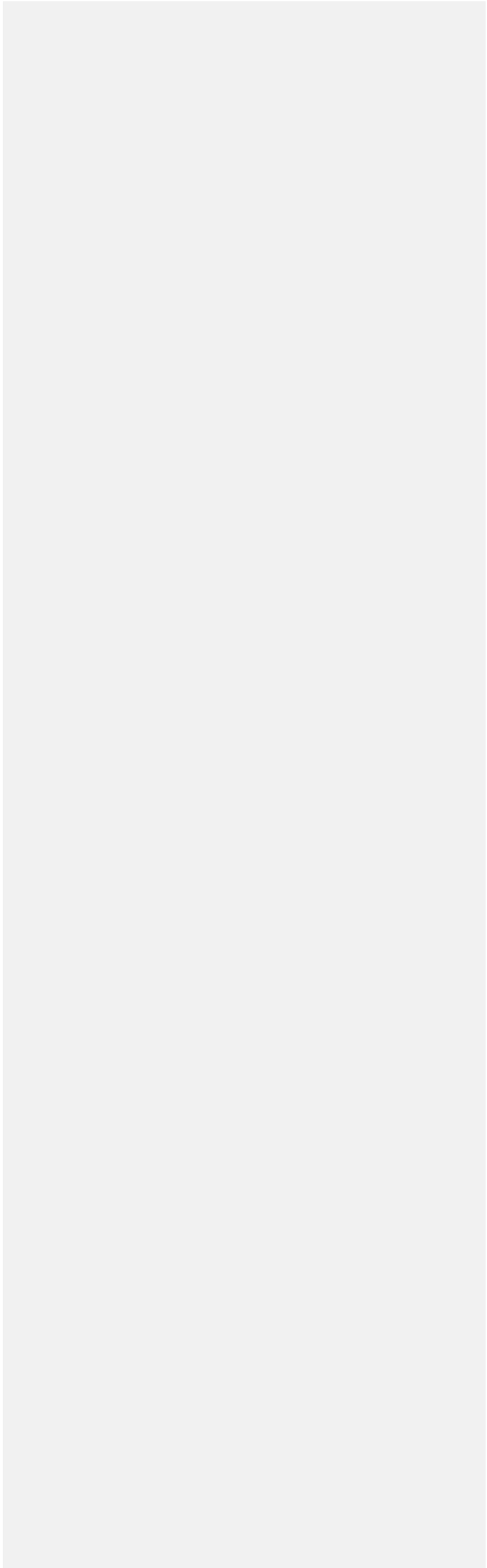
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Figure 2. Aphids found infesting wild plants a) *Aphis gossypii* in *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *Aphis gossypii* in *Croton hirtus* c) *A. gossypii* in *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *Aphis gossypii* in *Pachystochys* sp., e) *Pentalonia caladii* in *Caladium* sp., f) *Aphis. gossypii* in *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *Aphis gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* h) *Aphis gossypii* in *Euphorbia hirta*, i) *Aphis citricola* in *Phylantus nerruri*, j) *Aphis citricola* in *Sida rhombifolia*, k) *Aphis citricola* in *Annona muricata*, l) *Aphis citricola* in *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A.*



123 *craccivora* in *Mimosa pudica*, n) *Aphis craccivora* in *Amaranthus gracilis*, o) *Aphis glycine* in *Mikania micranta*, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in
124 *Eleusine*, q) *Greenidae* sp. in *Bridelia tomentosa* young leaves., r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali*, s) *Lipaphis erysimi* in
125 *sonchus arvensis*, t) *Rhopalosiphum padi* in *Oryza rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum Maidis* in *Oryza rufipogon*. All the photos were
126 captured by Chandra Irsan.

127 Discussion

128
129 In the present study, some aphid species were found on ~~several~~ **some** ornamental plants in Pagar Alam. ~~t.~~ The location
130 of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On ***Adiantum predatum* plants**, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and
131 ~~on~~ newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and
132 the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera*
133 sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or
134 young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized
135 plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Macrosiphoniella*
136 ~~sanborni~~, ~~and they were~~ ~~and~~ associated with ants. On the *Brugmansia suaveolens*, *M. persicae* were found on the
137 undersides of old leaves or leaves that have ~~started to turn~~ **turned** yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids
138 found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. was
139 found one species of aphids: *P. caladii*. *P. caladii* was known and found in taro plants, ~~i~~ the aphids formed colonies under
140 the surface of young and older leaves (Bhadra and Agarwala 2014). ~~According to this present study, This study found that~~
141 the occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms. ~~t.~~ The aphids were ~~yellow-yellow~~ green to dark green. The
142 wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang),
143 colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T.*
144 *aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids
145 found were brown to black ~~in color~~. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants. Aphids on *C.*
146 *indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the
147 leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body and
148 the identification results showed that the aphids were *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* (Acharya and Singh 2004). The colonies
149 of *R. nymphaeae* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were
150 found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and
151 the colonized plant parts ~~did not show any~~ ~~showed no symptoms of disease~~ ~~disease symptoms~~. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard
152 jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between
153 petals or ~~flower~~ stalks that had not fully bloomed; ~~t.~~ The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to
154 dark green, with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms.
155 The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated
156 with ants. Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems, and young
157 leaves. The aphids were brown to black ~~in color~~. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed
158 stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently
159 associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia* sp. formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with a significant population
160 among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids
161 were *A. gossypii*. According to this present study, *Sinemegoura citricola* colonies were found on the young leaves of
162 *Dendrobium* sp., with the color body of the *S. citricola* aphids were yellow, green to dark green, and the colonized plants
163 ~~did not show~~ ~~ing no any~~ disease symptoms, and ~~they~~ were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp., colonies of aphids ~~were~~
164 ~~located~~ on the undersides of young leaves, and the colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were
165 very large. The aphids were green ~~in color~~. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid
166 colonies were consistently associated with ants. Furthermore, on the *Helianthus annuus*, aphid colonies were found
167 between the flower petals. The colonized flowers, especially the crowns, ~~exhibited a tendency~~ ~~tended~~ to fall off easily. The
168 aphids were green and yellow ~~in color~~. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A.*
169 *gossypii*. These aphid colonies were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides
170 of old leaves. These colonies were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant
171 parts did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid
172 colonies were not associated with ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that ~~were parasitized by~~
173 ~~Aphidiidae~~ ~~Aphidiidae parasitized~~ were found. On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging ~~in color~~ from yellow to dark
174 green were found. The aphids formed colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging
175 leaves. The colonies grew to be very large. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid
176 colonies were consistently associated with ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*.
177 First, the aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on
178 flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf
179 shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet
180 and sticky, like sugar. The aphids had yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a
181 powdery white upper surface. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, ~~and they were~~ ~~and they~~
182 ~~were~~ almost always associated with ants. The second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface

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183 of young and older leaves. The colonies could also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts
184 occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched
185 stigma and venation in their black wings. The identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids
186 were also associated with ants. Moreover, ~~in *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered~~ two forms of
187 ~~aphids were discovered in *Ixora* sp. flower plants~~. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves, and unopened flowers;
188 ~~t-~~The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from yellow and green to
189 a slightly darker green. Sometimes, the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white, resembling flour. The
190 identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost always associated with
191 ants. Another species of aphids ~~was founded and~~ formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed and on newly
192 emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce ~~any symptoms of plant disease~~ plant
193 ~~disease symptoms~~. The aphids were yellow or yellowish green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very
194 small to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also
195 frequently found in association with ants. Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies
196 in different locations. The first type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied
197 showed no obvious disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Toxoptera odinae*. The
198 aphids were yellow, green, and ~~some with~~ dark green (Blackman et al. 2011). The second type of aphids formed colonies
199 on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young
200 leaves, shoots, and within flower parts. The plant parts they infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow
201 or ~~yellow-yellow~~-green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed
202 that the aphids were *A. citricola*. Many aphid species infest a variety of various ornamental plants because these insects are
203 attracted to such plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al. 2023).

204 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids. This
205 indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
206 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
207 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
208 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, or alligator grass, was also
209 colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green,
210 ranging from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on
211 shoots, flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and ~~they were~~ often associated with tiny brown ants.
212 *Amaranthus gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers, and young
213 and old leaves. They were dark brown to black ~~in color~~, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were
214 associated with both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. These aphids were bright
215 green, and of medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks, and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The
216 aphid colonies were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus*, or fire grass, was infested by *Aphis gossypii*; ~~the~~ aphids
217 were ~~yellow-yellow~~-green to dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds, and flowers, often forming
218 large colonies. *Cynodon dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the
219 flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes ~~in the plant~~ leaf axils ~~of the plant~~. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were
220 brown to reddish brown. They were associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus*, or nut grass, was infested by *Schizaphis*
221 *rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and
222 associated with both black and red ants. The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus*, or grass puzzle, was
223 colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes in the axils
224 and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteronera setariae*
225 aphids, with small colonies scattered on the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color.
226 *Echinocloa crussgali*, or water hyacinth plants, were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown
227 to black and formed large colonies on the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in
228 association with ants. *Ecliptica prostrata*, or orange ring, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the
229 shoots and flowers. The aphids were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated
230 with ants. *Eleusine indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteronera setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H.*
231 *setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks, and leaf axils, resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae*'s body
232 color ranged from ~~red-red~~-brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R.*
233 *maidis* formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and ~~on~~ leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies
234 were not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These
235 aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants.
236 The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*; ~~the~~ aphids were
237 yellow to green in color. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves. *Eragrostis tenella* was
238 infested by *Hysteronera setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to ~~red-red~~-brown. Small colonies formed on flowers
239 near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae* were consistently associated
240 with ants. *Euphorbia hirta*, or wart grass, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides
241 of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in color. *A. gossypii* colonies on
242 *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. ~~*Eupatorium*~~ *Eupatorium odoratum* was colonized by both *Aphis*

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243 *gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young twigs. Young
 244 leaves ~~that were~~ colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this plant showed
 245 yellow-green to ~~dark-dark-green~~ in-body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the shoots,
 246 with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of ~~both~~ *A.*
 247 *gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants. *Hymenochera acutigluma*, or
 248 hair axis, was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the flower stalks and flowers. The colonized
 249 parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea sp.*, or *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp.
 250 These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the
 251 undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum*
 252 *gracile* or bamboo grass plants, were colonized by two species of aphids: *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum*
 253 *maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized
 254 leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to ~~red-red~~-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed
 255 colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis* aphids were green to bright green ~~in color~~,
 256 with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix. In addition,
 257 *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly emerging
 258 shoots and ~~on~~ newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The colonized
 259 plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis glycine*. *A.*
 260 *gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and curled leaves. *A.*
 261 *glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were light green to green
 262 in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a single colony. *Mimosa*
 263 *invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisus* plants formed colonies
 264 only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa pudica* was
 265 observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots, and
 266 occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the colonized
 267 plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of aphids
 268 occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were shiny
 269 black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of
 270 aphids: ~~*Rhopalosiphum*~~ *rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened
 271 leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis*
 272 appeared green with black siphunculi and cauda, while *R. rice* appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O.*
 273 *rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants. *Oxonopus compressus*, or *pait* grass, was colonized by
 274 *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower stalks, seeds, and sometimes ~~in~~ in the leaf axils. The
 275 aphids were brown to dark brown ~~in color~~. Small colonies were formed, and they were also consistently associated with
 276 ants. *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the seeds
 277 and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phyllanthus neiruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The
 278 colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted,
 279 and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black siphunculi and cauda, ~~and~~ the colonies formed were quite large.
 280 *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants
 281 formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots, and ~~in~~ in flowers. The colonized plant parts
 282 became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that
 283 appeared glossy black. *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black
 284 bodies, with glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The
 285 colonized plant parts did not show ~~any symptoms of disease symptoms~~. *Rorippa indica*, or mustard land, was colonized by
 286 *Lipaphis erysimi*. The colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks, and the lower ~~leaf's surface of leaves~~. The
 287 colonized plant parts showed symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia*, or cacabeau, was colonized by
 288 *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves,
 289 stalks, and flower petals. The colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled
 290 downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colours,
 291 and the colonies formed on flower stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became
 292 stunted over time.

293 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
 294 displayed typical ~~damage symptoms of damage~~, but some did not show any symptoms ~~at all~~. Generally, the ~~plants'~~
 295 ~~symptoms of the plants due to caused by~~ aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape,
 296 and stunted or curly leaves. These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants
 297 or plant parts did not show symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition ~~occurrehappened~~ because the colonized
 298 parts had reached ~~their~~ maximum growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing
 299 a growth phase. The colonies that did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their
 300 maximum growth or when the leaves and plant parts were old. ~~Furthermore, t-~~The old leaves or twigs might not show the
 301 typical symptoms associated with aphid infestations. ~~The plant parts of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when~~
 302 ~~colonized by aphids also often experienced a cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas~~

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303 surrounding the puncture site continued to grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others
 304 become growing, resulting in some parts developing ordinary while others became stunted (Pettersson, Tjallingii, and
 305 Hardie 2017). This condition could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of bending shoots or young stems,
 306 curling leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of
 307 grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be
 308 because the growth or development of their leaves differed from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in
 309 monocot plants or plants was often easier to recognize through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a
 310 significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al. 2012). Therefore, the
 311 presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the presence of aphid colonies. According to this present study, ants were
 312 present in some aphids colonies from the subfamily aphidini, while the ants were absent in some aphids present study, ants
 313 were present in some aphid colonies from the subfamily aphidini, while the ants were absent in some aphid colonies from
 314 the macrocypini subfamily. The absent absence of ants in aphids colonies could be because the colonies have just formed,
 315 or the population is still low (Kummel, Brown, and Bruder 2013). Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an
 316 accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new growth or reproductive plant parts of plants. Flowers
 317 contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap, therefore, aphids were attracted to flower saps. In addition, the
 318 flowers s. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al. 2022). Herbs served as an alternative host for
 319 aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as "sap". Aphids considered herbs and
 320 other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and
 321 access this fluid (Brożek et al. 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *Lipaphis erysimi*, and
 322 *Myzus persicae*, are the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al. 2022). Due to a
 323 symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a delicious substance
 324 known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson and Mooney 2022).
 325 The honeydew contained an abundance of abundant sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et al. 2022).
 326 Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew, ants
 327 provided aphids with protectionected aphids from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae,
 328 and parasitic wasps (Karami-jamour et al. 2018). Certain ant species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for
 329 improved foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al. 2021). Honeydew not
 330 only nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
 331 species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann and Vega 2020).

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- Commented [A4]: Please check whether this sentence (plant) is redundant or a monocot and dicot plant. Please clarify
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- Commented [A5]: macrocypini subfamily was not available online. Please clarify
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332 CONCLUSION

333 Moreover, 21 species of aphids were found in Pagar Alam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*,
 334 *Aphis glycines*, *Aulacorthum solani*, *Greenidae* sp., *Hyperomyzus* sp., *Hysteroneura setariae*, *Lipaphis erysimi*,
 335 *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Neomyzus circumflexus*, *Pentalonia caladii*,
 336 *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Sinemogoura citricola*, *Toxoptera aurantii*,
 337 *Toxoptera citricidus*, *Toxoptera odinae*, and *Schizaphis rotundiventris*.

- Commented [A6]: Please clarify the wording Pagar Alam (as stated in the title); it is not a continuous pattern as Pagaralam.
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- Commented [A7]: This conclusion could be more deeply investigated by presenting (in brief) the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants (this study's purposes), what kind of aphid species are preferred by ants, why apids prefer the weed species, why *aphis gossypii* species could colonize 12 plants while *aphis citricola* only one, etc.
- Commented [A8]: It is better to state that further research on the diversity of aphid species found in the area's ornamental and wild plants.

338 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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 340 with contract number 0188/UN9.3.1/SK/2023, 18 April 2023, with the chairman Chandra Irsan.

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Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract. Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that 15 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Uroleucon* sp., *Toxoptera odinae*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Hystenura* sp., *Aphis glycine*, *Greenidae* sp., *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Hyperomyzus* sp. *Lipaphis erysimi*.

Keywords: Aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids found in ornamental and wild plants

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhawe et al. 2020). Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can ~~always~~ be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids ~~suck phloem sap of tender plant parts~~ ~~consume young leaves sap~~, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, ~~vector species when aphids transmit viral diseases from one plant to another, this can~~ further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). ~~According to Kinley et al. (2021), aphids cause yield losses directly (35–40%) by sucking the plant sap or indirectly (20–80%) through viral transmission. Therefore, aphid infestations can have adverse effects on crop yields and overall plant health (Kumar 2019).~~

~~Due to their function as vectors, the presence of aphids on a plant can be highly damaging (Jaouannet et al. 2014). They feed by piercing the plant's tissues and consuming its sap, which can reduce the plant's growth and productivity, ultimately leading to weakness and possible death (Chandel et al. 2022). Additionally, as vectors, aphids can transmit a variety of plant diseases. They are as carriers for various plant viruses, and when they move from infected to healthy plants, these viruses can rapidly spread and cause extensive damage (Guo et al. 2019). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh and Singh 2021). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.~~

Many aphid species ~~are~~ found on plants that ~~are~~ not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). ~~Alternative plants~~ ~~An alternative host can also be a collateral host belonging to the same plant family as the primary host, helping crop pests to survive when the primary hosts are unavailable (Kumar et al., 2021). These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Mo and Smilanich 2023), However, they may provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or~~

11 December 2023

Dear Editors,
BIODIVERSITAS Journal of Biological Diversity

As requested, this is our response to reviewers' comments and suggestions.

Thank you so much for the very kind attention and great help provided by editorial team of BIODIVERSITAS Journal of Biological Diversity.

"Letter on responses to reviewers' comments and suggestions"

No.	Location in manuscript	Reviewers' suggestion	Our response
1	Introduction section	<p>This is a simple survey study undertaken in an area to record presence of aphid species in ornamental and herbaceous or shrub weed plants. However, the 'Introduction' section attempts to distinguish primary and alternate host plants of aphids, terming weeds as the 'alternate' host plants. This point is widely recorded, and it does not require an explanation. It should be restricted to a few sentences as matter of reference only. Accordingly, I have suggested trimming of this section.</p>	<p>The Introduction has been rewritten as recommended</p>
2	Materials and method section	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I wonder that so few ornamental plant species are present in the study area in this study. This section must include the number of aphid samples collected, the area in square kilometre surveyed, frequency of sampling done from the sampling area, any seasonal survey done, and a schematic diagram of the study area be provided showing scale in sq. km and geo-coordinates.2. Names of some plant species and aphid species mentioned in tables 1 and 2 do not match with that mentioned in the figure legends and more so in the 'Discussion' section (see below).	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We collected samples by direct observation and did not take the location sampling sites. Therefore, we do apologize can't revise as the suggestion.2. We already made the corrections as suggested by reviewer

3	Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This section should be divided into two sub-heading: 2. Aphids infesting ornamental plants. 3. Aphids infesting wild and weed plants. 4. Each sub-heading should have a table providing following information: <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Sr No.</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Aphid species*</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Ornamental plants</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Aphid Antlife</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Plant attendance</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>colonized</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>parts color</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Present (+) or absent (-)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Sr No.	Aphid species*	Ornamental plants	Aphid Antlife	Plant attendance				colonized				parts color					Present (+) or absent (-)			The recommended tables had been added
Sr No.	Aphid species*	Ornamental plants	Aphid Antlife	Plant attendance																			
			colonized																				
		parts color																					
		Present (+) or absent (-)																					
4	Results	<p>*Aphid species names should accompany by mention of author names in the first mention only.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Table 1. Following discrepancies require correction/clarification: 2. Record of <i>Sitobion luteum</i> from <i>Aster alpinus</i> is unusual; this aphid normally infest crops and weed plants of Cyperaceae family; <i>Aster alpinus</i> is a plant of Asteraceae family; authors may re-check the identification of this aphid sample! 3. Record of <i>Pentalonia</i> from <i>Caladium</i> sp. require a re-check! I suggest the authors to read the paper by Bhadra P, Agarwala BK. 2010. A comparison of fitness characters of two host plant-based congeneric species of the banana aphid, <i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i> and <i>P. caladii</i>. <i>Journal of Insect Science</i> 10:140 available online: insectscience.org/10.140 and P. Bhadra and B.K. Agarwala, 2012. On the Morphological and Genotypic Variations of Two Congeneric species of Banana Aphid <i>Pentalonia</i> (Homoptera: Aphididae) from India, <i>Advances in Life Sciences</i>, 2(3): 75-81, DOI: 10.5932/j.als.20120203.06, DOI: 10.5932/j.als.20120203.06. Authors can identify the aphid species based on the identification key based on morphological characters and host plant association. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We already checked and clarified. 2. We revised the species aphid; the aphid species is <i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i> 3. The species and the sentences have been revised 																				

5	Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of <i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i> from <i>Canna indica</i> require checking following the identification key provided in the above-said reference. 2. Identification of <i>Uroleucon</i> sp. from <i>Cosmos caudatus</i> mentioned in the table does not match with the figure legend “<i>Uroleucon</i> sp. in <i>Chrysanthemum</i>”. These are entirely different. 3. Similarly, <i>Aphis craccivora</i> from <i>Murraya paniculata</i> stated in the table does not match with the “<i>aurantii</i> in the <i>M. paniculata</i> flower” 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Pentalonia nigronervosa</i> was revised to be <i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i> 2. The corrected sentences have been revised, the species of <i>Uroleucon</i> sp. In <i>Chrysanthemum</i> 3. The species has been corrected
6	Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All the figures in the plate should be denoted by alphabets in serial order corresponding to those in the fused in the figure legend, and each of these figures should be credited to the photographer by name on the photographs. 2. Table 2. Table contents be provided with similar information as suggested for the table 1. In addition, a column should include ‘Plant type’ to denote herb or shrub and weed or non-weed wild plant. 3. Serial no. 19 in the table 2 mentions <i>Lagerstroemia</i> sp. infested by <i>Greenidea</i> sp. but the figure legend mentions (q) <i>Greenidae</i> in kenidai trees (shrubs) <i>indica</i>; these do not match! 4. ‘t) <i>Rhopalosiphum rice</i> in <i>Oryza rufipogon</i>,’ mentioned in the figure legend does not match with the sr. no. 26 of the table, please check and correct. 5. Other suggestions regarding improvements in the figures and figure legend made for figure 1 are to be followed for figure 2 as well. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The figures have been corrected 2. The table 2 has been corrected 3. The species has been corrected 4. The species has been corrected 5. The figures have been improved
7	Discussions	<p>This section should be brief and to the point. Presently, it is written ad nauseous, without proper context and too elaborate. This section can divided in to three paragraphs as under:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First paragraph should briefly recount the results of this study. 2. Second paragraph should highlight the major features of aphid colonization of important ornamental and weed plants with respect to association of one or more aphid species association and pattern of 	<p>The discussions section has been changed</p>

		<p>colonization; for example, <i>Aphis gossypii</i> is found on many different plant species but their life color and colonization pattern differ in different plants;</p> <p>3. Third and final paragraph should be devoted to comparison of this study findings to those reported from neighboring or other parts of Indonesia or Southeast Asia.</p>	
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Sincerely,
Corresponding author,

Chandra Irsan

Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract. Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plants. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental plants and the wild plants. The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that 21 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Aphis glycines*, *Aulacorthum solani*, *Greenidae* sp., *Hyperomyzus* sp., *Hysteroneura setariae*, *Lipaphis erysimi*, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Neomyzus circumflexus*, *Pentalonia caladii*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Sinemogoura citricola*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Toxoptera citricidus*, *Toxoptera odinae*, and *Schizaphis rotundiventris*.

Keywords: Aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids found in ornamental and wild plants.

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are one of the crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhav et al. 2020). Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids suck phloem sap of tender plant parts, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, vector species can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

Many aphid species are found on plants that are not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). Alternative plants provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions (Kumar et al., 2021). In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and native plants. Research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has received little attention. This study reports diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants found in this area. The findings from this study can serve as a valuable resource for aphid management.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field research employed a purposive and direct observation approach to inventory of cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, and natural enemies where available, involved systematic searches of all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants

50 colonized by aphids are documented as aphid hosts. Aphid identification was done using identification keys (Blackman and
 51 Eastop 2008) in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on
 52 morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using weed identification hand book (Kallas, 2010;
 53 Meuninck, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, including their life color, and photographs of the
 54 aphid colonies and their host plants were recorded.

55 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

56 Result

57 Aphids infesting in ornamental plants

58 The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagar Alam (Tables 1, 2). These aphids mostly colonised
 59 flowers of various ornamental plants (Table 1, Figure
 1). 60

61 **Table 1.** Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Leaves, young twig, flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	Leaves, flower
		<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Leaves
		<i>Myzus persicae</i>	Leaves, flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	Leaves,
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Leaves, flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	Leaf
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
		<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Young leaves
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flower
9	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Shoot, twig
10	<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	Flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
13	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i> .	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> ,	Flower
		<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Shoot, young leaves
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Flower
		<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
		<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Shoot, flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Young Twig
		<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	Shoot, flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, flower
		<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	Shoot, flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	Flower
20	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Flower

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Fig 1. Photos showing colonies of different aphid species in ornamental plants: a) *Aphis gossypii* in *Dahlia* sp. flower b) *Aphis gossypii* in *Hibiscus rosasinensis* flower c) *Aphis gossypii* in *Cestrum* twig and flower, d) *Aphis craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *Aphis glycines* in *Helianthus giganteus* flower, f) *Aphis craccivora* on the *Murayya paniculata* flower, g) *Toxoptera odinae* in the *Mussaenda frondosa*, h) *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*. in *Chrysanthemum* sp. leaves i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *Rosa indica* flower, j) *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* in *Canna indica* leaves. All the photos were captured by Chandra Irsan.

The relationship between aphids and ants was also recorded. Aphids produce a sweet, sticky substance called honeydew. Ants are attracted to this honey because it serves as a food source for them. When aphids are present, they secrete honeydew, which attracts ants. This research recorded the presence of ants on plant parts colonized by aphids (Table 2).

Table 2. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized

No	Aphid Species	Ornamental plants	Aphids life colour	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance
1	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> <i>Murraya paniculata</i>	black	flowers	+
2	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Catharanthus</i> <i>roseus</i> <i>Ixora</i> sp. <i>Mussaenda</i> <i>frondosa</i> <i>Spondias</i> <i>dulcis</i>	black greenish yellow greenish yellow greenish yellow	flowers flowers flowers shoots, flowers flowers	+ + + + +
3	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	greenish yellow	flowers	+
4	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp. <i>Cananga odoratum</i> <i>Dahlia</i> sp. <i>Duranta</i> sp. <i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i> <i>Ixora paludosa</i> <i>Ixora</i> sp.	green light green green dark light green dark green light green light green	shoots, flowers shoots, flowers flowers shoots, flowers flowers flowers flowers	+ + + + + + +
5	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	greenish yellow	leaves, flowers	-
6	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	<i>Aster alpinus</i> <i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	brown black reddish brown	leaves, twigs, flowers leaves, twigs	+ +
7	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	<i>Rosa indica</i>	green	flowers	-
8	<i>Myzus persicae</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	greenish yellow	leaves, flowers	-
9	<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp. <i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	light green light green	young leaves, flowers flowers	- +
10	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	brown-black	leaves	+
11	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	<i>Canna indica</i>	green black	leaves	+
12	<i>Sinemegoura citricola</i>	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	brown	flowers	-
13	<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	<i>Ixora paludosa</i> <i>Ixora</i> sp.	brown black brown black	flowers flowers	+ +
14	<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	black	stems	+
15	<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	reddish-brown	flowers	+

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(+): present, (-): absent

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Aphids infesting in wild plants (weed or non-weed plants)

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In addition, this study documented aphid colonies on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves and old leaves of wild plants (Table 3, Figure 2).

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Table 3. Species of aphids found in wild (weed or non-weed) plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinocloa crusgali</i>	weed	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycines</i>	young leaves, old leaves, shoot, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	Non-weed	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils

No	Host Plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	Weed - liana	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	weed	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	shoot, young twig
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods, flowers
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	weed	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	shoots, pods
		weed	<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalk, leaf axils
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	weed	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	flowers, flower stalk, seeds
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs, petioles
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, young leaves, flowers
		weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
		weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	weed	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	flowers, fruits, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	weed	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruits

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93 The presence of ants in aphid colonization symbolizes a mutually beneficial relationship where the ants receive food
94 from the aphids while providing protection to the aphids. This study recorded the ant attendance in aphids colonization
95 (Table 4).

96 **Table 4.** Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized.

No	Aphid Species	Wild plants	Aphids life colour	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance
1	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers	+
		<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Light green	shoots, buds	+
		<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Light green	shoots, buds	-
		<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Dark green	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+
		<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	green	shoots, young leaves	+
		<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	light green	flower, flower stalks, shoots	+
		<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	light green	young leaves, old leaves	+
		<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	light green	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+
		<i>Melastoma affine</i>	light green	shoots, young leaves	+
		<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	yellowish green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+
		<i>Physalis angulata</i>	yellowish green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds	-
		<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	black	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+
		<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	black	shoots, pods	+
2	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	black	shoots, pods, flowers	+
		<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	black	shoots, pods	+
		<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	black	shoots, young leaves, flowers	+
		<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	black	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+
		<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	Greenish yellow	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+
		<i>Physalis angulata</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+
3	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+
		<i>Mikania mikranta</i>			
4	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Greenish Yellow	shoot, young leaves, young twigs, petioles	+
5	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	<i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i>	Greenish Yellow	young leaves	-
6	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks	+
		<i>Eleusin indica</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+
		<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks, seeds	+
		<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	reddish-brown	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+
		<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	reddish-brown	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+
		<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalk, leaf axils	+
		<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalk, seeds	+
7	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	<i>Echinocloa crussgali</i>	Black	young leaves, old leaves	-
8	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Whitish green	flowers, shoots, and buds	+
		<i>Rorippa indica</i>	Whitish green	flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves	+
		<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Whitish green	young leaves, fruit stalks, flower, fruit	+
9	<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	green	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+
		<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	green	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+
		<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	-
10	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Whitish green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	+
11	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Green	flowers, flower stalks	+
		<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	green	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+
		<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	green	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+

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(+): present, (-): absent

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Figure 2. Aphids found infesting wild plants a) *Aphis gossypii* in *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *Aphis gossypii* in *Croton hirtus* c) *A. gossypii* in *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *Aphis gossypii* in *Pachystochys* sp., e) *Pentalonia caladii* in *Caladium* sp., f) *Aphis. gossypii* in *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *Aphis gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* h) *Aphis gossypii* in *Euphorbia hirta*, i) *Aphis citricola* in *Phyllanthus nerruri*, j) *Aphis citricola* in *Sida rhombifolia*, k) *Aphis citricola* in *Annona muricata*, l) *Aphis citricola* in *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A. craccivora* in *Mimosa pudica*, n) *Aphis craccivora* in *Amaranthus gracilis*, o) *Aphis glycine* in *Mikania micranta*, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusine*, q) *Greenidae* sp. in *Bridelia tomentosa* young leaves., r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali*, s) *Lipaphis erysimi* in *sonchus arventris*, t) *Rhopalosiphum padi* in *Oryza rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum Maidis* in *Oryza rufipogon*. All the photos were captured by Chandra Irsan.

124 **Discussion**

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In the present study, some aphid species were found on some ornamental plants in Pagaram. The location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Adiantum predatum* plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and on newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera* sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, and they were associated with ants. On the *Brugmansia suaveolens*, *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have started to turn yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. was found one species of aphids: *P. caladii*. *P. caladii* was known and found in taro plants, the aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves (Bhadra and Agarwala 2014). According to this present study, the occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms. The aphids were yellow green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black in color. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants. Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body and the identification results showed that the aphids were *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* (Acharya and Singh 2004). The colonies of *R. nymphaeae* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and the colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or flower stalks that had not fully bloomed. The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants. Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems and young leaves. The aphids were brown to black in color. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia* sp. formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. According to this present study, *Sinemegoura citricola* colonies were found on the young leaves of *Dendrobium* sp., with the color body of the *S. citricola* aphids were yellow, green to dark green, and the colonized plants did not show any disease symptoms, and they were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp., colonies of aphids were located on the undersides of young leaves and the colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The aphids were green in color. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants. Furthermore, on the *Helianthus annuus*, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The colonized flowers, especially the crowns, exhibited a tendency to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that were parasitized by Aphidiidae were found. On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging in color from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, like sugar. The aphids had yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, and they were almost always associated with ants. The second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants. Moreover, in *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves and unopened flowers. The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors

184 ranging from yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes the upper surface of the wingless imago's body
185 appeared white, resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid
186 colonies were almost always associated with ants. Another species of aphids was founded and formed colonies on flower
187 stalks that had not yet bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not
188 induce any symptoms of plant disease. The aphids were yellow or yellowish green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their
189 bodies were very small to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A.*
190 *citricola* were also frequently found in association with ants. Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each
191 forming colonies in different locations. The first type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant
192 parts they occupied showed no obvious disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were
193 *Toxoptera odinae*. The aphids were yellow, green, and some with dark green (Blackman et al. 2011). The second type of
194 aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as if piled up. The aphid colonies could
195 also be found on young leaves, shoots and within flower parts. The plant parts they infested showed no signs of diseases.
196 The aphids were yellow or yellow green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had tiny to small bodies. The
197 identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. Many aphid species infest a variety of ornamental plants
198 because these insects are attracted to such plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al. 2023).

199 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids. This
200 indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
201 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
202 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
203 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* or alligator grass was also colonized
204 by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging
205 from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots,
206 flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and they were often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus*
207 *gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers and young and old leaves.
208 They were dark brown to black in color, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with
209 both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. These aphids were bright green, and of
210 medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies
211 were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* or fire grass was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow green to
212 dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon*
213 *dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks
214 and sometimes in the leaf axils of the plant. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to reddish brown. They
215 were associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* or nut grass was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies
216 were found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red
217 ants. The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* or grass puzzle was colonized by *Schizaphis*
218 *rotundiventris* aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or
219 buds. Small colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies
220 scattered on the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinocloa crussgali* or water
221 hyacinth plants were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large
222 colonies on the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants.
223 *Ecliptica prostrata* or urang aring was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers.
224 The aphids were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants. *Eleusin indica*
225 was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H. setariae* formed colonies in
226 flower parts, flower stalks and leaf axils resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae* body color ranged from red brown to
227 dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis* formed colonies in the leaf axils
228 and undersides of leaves and on leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were not densely packed. The leaf aphids
229 of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These aphids had relatively large bodies with a
230 slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants. The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized
231 by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids were yellow to green in colour. The colonies formed
232 near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves. *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids
233 were brown to red brown. Small colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's
234 seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae* were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* or wart grass was colonized by
235 *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The
236 aphids were yellow to dark green in color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants.
237 *Eupotarium odoratum* was colonized by both *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds,
238 young leaves, old leaves, and young twigs. Young leaves that were colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an
239 irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this plant showed yellow-green to dark green in body colour. The colonies of *A.*
240 *citricola* formed on the young twigs near the shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having
241 black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of both *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated
242 with either black or red ants. *Hymenochera acutigluma* or hair axis was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed
243 colonies on the flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms.

244 *Lagerstromea* sp. or *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated
245 siphunculi with thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized
246 leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo grass plants were colonized by two species of
247 aphids: *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of
248 leaves, leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were
249 brown to red brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R.*
250 *maidis* aphids were green to bright green in color, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two
251 species of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix. In addition, *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed
252 on shoots, particularly near newly emerging shoots and on newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids
253 ranged from yellow to green. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was
254 colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis glycine*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of
255 the leaves, resulting in stunted and curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely
256 populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two
257 species of aphids could mix to form a single colony. *Mimosa invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The
258 aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared
259 dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa pudica* was observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed
260 colonies on shoots, especially young shoots, and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium
261 size, resulting in stunted growth of the colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized
262 by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were
263 black, and wingless adults were shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Oryza*
264 *rufipogon* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both aphids colonized
265 the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species could be
266 distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black siphunculi and cauda, while *R. rice* appeared white.
267 The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants. *Oxonopus*
268 *compressus* or *pait* grass was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower stalks,
269 seeds, and sometimes in the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown in color. Small colonies were formed, and
270 they were also consistently associated with ants. *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies
271 occupied flower parts, especially the seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phyllanthus niruri*
272 was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The
273 colonized parts became distorted, stunted, and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black siphunculi and cauda, and
274 the colonies formed were quite large. *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A.*
275 *craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots and in
276 flowers. The colonized plant parts became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black
277 bodies, with wingless imagoes that appeared glossy black. *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*.
278 The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the
279 shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant parts did not show any symptoms of disease. *Rorippa indica* or mustard
280 land was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks and the lower surface of
281 leaves. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* or cacabeau was
282 colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of
283 lower leaves, stalks and flower petals. The colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges
284 curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body
285 colours, and the colonies formed on flower stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts
286 became stunted over time.

287 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
288 displayed typical symptoms of damage, but some did not show any symptoms. Generally, the symptoms of the plants
289 caused by aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves.
290 These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show
291 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition happened because the colonized parts had reached their maximum
292 growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that
293 did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the
294 leaves and plant parts were old. The old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid
295 infestations. The part of the plant exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a
296 cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued to
297 grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others become stunted (Pettersson, Tjallingii, and Hardie 2017).
298 This condition could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or
299 stunted leaf growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display
300 any distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves
301 differed from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants or plants was often easier to
302 recognize through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility
303 that aphids had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al. 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the

304 presence of aphid colonies. According to this present study, ants were present in some aphids colonies from the subfamily
305 aphidini, while the ants were absent in some aphids colonies from the macrocypini subfamily. The absent of ants in aphids
306 colonies could be the colonies have just formed, or the population is still low (Kummel, Brown, and Bruder 2013). Aphids
307 colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new growth or
308 reproductive parts of plants. Flowers contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap, therefore aphids were attractive
309 to sap the flowers. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al. 2022). Herbs served as an alternative
310 host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as "sap". Aphids considered herbs
311 and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and
312 access this fluid (Brożek et al. 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *Lipaphis erysimi*, and
313 *Myzus persicae* are the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al. 2022). Due to a
314 symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a delicious substance
315 known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson and Mooney 2022).
316 The honeydew contained an abundance of sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et al. 2022). Ants were
317 drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew, ants provided
318 aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and parasitic wasps (Karami-
319 jamour et al. 2018). Certain species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for improved foraging opportunities,
320 ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al. 2021). Honeydew not only nourished the ant colony,
321 but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain species) and provided energy
322 for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann and Vega 2020).

323 CONCLUSION

324 21 species of aphids were found in Pagaralam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Aphis*
325 *glycines*, *Aulacorthum solani*, *Greenidae* sp., *Hyperomyzus* sp., *Hysteroneura setariae*, *Lipaphis erysimi*,
326 *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Neomyzus circumflexus*, *Pentalonia caladii*,
327 *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Sinemogoura citricola*, *Toxoptera aurantii*,
328 *Toxoptera citricidus*, *Toxoptera odinae*, and *Schizaphis rotundiventris*.

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Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam, South Sumatra

Abstract. Aphids are one of the crucial pests in ~~the~~ tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species ~~were found on plants that were not actually hosts such as wild plant, such as wild plants, were found on plants that were not actually hosts.~~ Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental ~~plants and the~~ wild plants. The field research employed a purposive and direct observation ~~methods approach~~ to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants, and aphids, involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that 21 species of aphids were found in **Pagaralam**, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Aphis glycines*, *Aulacorthum solani*, *Greenidae* sp., *Hyperomyzus* sp., *Hysteroneura setariae*, *Lipaphis erysimi*, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Neomyzus circumflexus*, *Pentalonia caladii*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Sinemogoura citricola*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Toxoptera citricidus*, *Toxoptera odinae*, and *Schizaphis rotundiventris*.

Keywords: Aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids found in ornamental and wild plants.

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are ~~one of the~~ crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhve et al. 2020); ~~a.~~ Aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids suck phloem sap of tender plant parts, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, vector species can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). ~~Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.~~

Many aphid species are found on plants that are not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). Alternative plants provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions (Kumar et al., 2021). In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and native plants. Research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has ~~less noticed~~ **received little attention**. This study reports ~~the~~ diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants found in this area. The findings from this study can serve as a valuable resource for aphid management.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field research employed a purposive and direct observation ~~approach~~ to inventory ~~of cultivated or wild plants hosting aphids~~ **cultivated or wild plants hosting** and collecting aphids. The plant selection ~~process~~ included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. ~~The collection and identification of host plants, and~~

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aphids, and natural enemies where available. Where available, collecting and identifying host plants, aphids, and natural enemies involved systematic searches of all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids are documented as aphid hosts. Aphid identification was done using identification keys (Blackman and Eastop 2008) in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using the weed identification handbook (Kallas, 2010; Meuninck, 2023; Naidu, 2012). The location and size of aphid colonies, including their life color, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their host plants were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Aphids infesting in ornamental plants

The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagar Alam (Tables 1 and 2). These aphids mostly colonised flowers of various ornamental plants (Table 1, Figure 1).

Table 1. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Leaves, young twig, flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i> <i>Myzus persicae</i>	Leaves, flower Leaves Leaves, flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	Leaves,
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Leaves, flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	Leaf
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Shoot, flower Young leaves
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flower
9	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Shoot, twig
10	<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	Flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
13	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i> .	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> , <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Flower Shoot, young leaves
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Flower Flower Shoot, flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	Young Twig Shoot, flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i> <i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	Shoot, flower Shoot, flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	Flower
20	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Flower



69
70
71 **Fig 1.** Photos showing colonies of different aphid species in ornamental plants: a) *Aphis gossypii* in *Dahlia* sp. flower, b) *Aphis gossypii*
72 in *Hibiscus rosinensis* flower, c) *Aphis gossypii* in ~~cestrum~~-*Cestrum* twig and flower, d) *Aphis craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower,
73 e) *Aphis glycines* in *Helianthus giganteus* flower, f) *Aphis craccivora* on the *Muraya paniculata* flower, g) *Toxoptera odinae* in the
74 *Mussaenda frondosa*, h) *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*. in *Chrysanthemum* sp. leaves i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *Rosa indica* flower, j)
75 *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* in *Canna indica* leaves. ~~All the photos were captured by Chandra Irsan~~ *Chandra Irsan* captured all the
76 photos.
77

78
79 The relationship between aphids and ants was also recorded. Aphids produce a sweet, sticky substance called
80 honeydew. ~~Ants~~ Ants are attracted to this honey because it serves as a food source ~~for them~~. When aphids are present, they
81 secrete honeydew, which attracts ants. This research recorded the presence of ants on plant parts colonized by aphids
82 (Table 2).
83
84

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86 **Table 2.** Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized

No	Aphid Species	Ornamental plants	Aphids life color	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance
1	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	black	flowers	+
2	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	black	flowers	+
		<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	greenish yellow	flowers	+
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	greenish yellow	flowers	+
		<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	greenish yellow	shoots, flowers	+
		<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	greenish yellow	flowers	+
3	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	greenish yellow	flowers	+
4	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	green	shoots, flowers	+
		<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	light green	shoots, flowers	+
		<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	green dark	flowers	+
		<i>Duranta</i> sp.	light green	shoots, flowers	+
		<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	dark green	flowers	+
		<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	light green	flowers	+
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	light green	flowers	+
5	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	greenish yellow	leaves, flowers	-
6	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	brown black	leaves, twigs, flowers	+
		<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	reddish brown	leaves, twigs	+
7	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	<i>Rosa indica</i>	green	flowers	-
8	<i>Myzus persicae</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	greenish yellow	leaves, flowers	-
9	<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	light green	young leaves, flowers	-
		<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	light green	flowers	-
10	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	brown-black	leaves	+
11	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	<i>Canna indica</i>	green black	leaves	+
12	<i>Sinemegoura citricola</i>	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	brown	flowers	-
13	<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	brown black	flowers	+
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	brown black	flowers	+
14	<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	black	stems	+
15	<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	reddish-brown	flowers	+

87 (+): present, (-):

absent 88

89 **Aphids infesting in wild plants (weed or non-weed plants)**

90

91 In addition, this study documented aphid colonies on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves, and old leaves of wild
92 plants (Table 3, Figure 2).

93

94 **Table 3.** Species of aphids found in wild (weed or non-weed) plants and their col

ony locations.

No	Host Plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinocloa crusgali</i>	weed	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
			<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	young leaves, old leaves,
			<i>Aphis glycines</i>	shoot, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	Non-weed	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	young leaves

No	Host Plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves
22	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Weed - liana	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	weed	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	shoot, young twig
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods, flowers
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	weed	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, seeds
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	weed	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs, petioles
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, young leaves, flowers
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves
34	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	weed	<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	flowers, fruits, shoots, young leaves
			<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
			<i>Lipapis erysimi</i>	young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruits

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96 The presence of ants in aphid colonization symbolizes a mutually beneficial relationship where the ants receive food
97 from the aphids while providing protection to protect the aphids. This study recorded the ant attendance in aphids
98 colonization (Table 4).

99 **Table 4.** Aphid species were recorded in ornamental plants, and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized.

No	Aphid Species	Wild plants	Aphids life colour	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance
1	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> <i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> <i>Croton hirtus</i> <i>Ecliptica prostrata</i> <i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> <i>Euphorbia hirta</i> <i>Eupatorium</i> — <i>Eupatorium odoratum</i> <i>Melastoma affine</i> <i>Mikania micrantha</i> <i>Physalis angulata</i> <i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Light green Light green Light green Dark green green green light green light green light green light green light green yellowish green yellowish green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers shoots, buds shoots, buds flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs flower, flower stalks, shoots young leaves, old leaves young leaves, old leaves, young twigs shoots, young leaves shoots, young leaves, old leaves shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds	+ + - + + + + + + + + + -
2	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i> <i>Mimosa invisa</i> <i>Mimosa pudica</i> <i>Mimosa vigra</i> <i>Portulaca oleraceae</i> <i>Physalis angulata</i>	black black black black black black	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves shoots, pods shoots, pods, flowers shoots, pods shoots, young leaves, flowers shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+ + + + + +
3	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Eupatorium</i> — <i>Eupatorium odoratum</i> <i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Greenish yellow Light green	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+ +
4	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Greenish Yellow	shoot, young leaves, young twigs, petioles	+
5	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	<i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i>	Greenish Yellow	young leaves	-
6	<i>Hysteronura setariae</i>	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i> <i>Eleusin indica</i> <i>Eragrostis tenella</i> <i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i> <i>Lophatherum gracile</i> <i>Oxonopus compressus</i> <i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks flower, flower stalks, leaf axils flower, flower stalks, seeds flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils flower, flower stalk, leaf axils flower, flower stalk, seeds	+ + + + + + +
7	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	<i>Echinochloa crusgali</i>	Black	young leaves, old leaves	-
8	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	<i>Blumea lacera</i> <i>Rorippa indica</i> <i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Whitish green Whitish green Whitish green	flowers, shoots, and buds flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruit	+ + +
9	<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	<i>Eleusin indica</i> <i>Lophatherum gracile</i> <i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	green green green	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	+ + -
10	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Whitish green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	-
11	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> <i>Cyperus rotundus</i> <i>Cyperus compressus</i>	Green green green	flowers, flower stalks flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+ + +

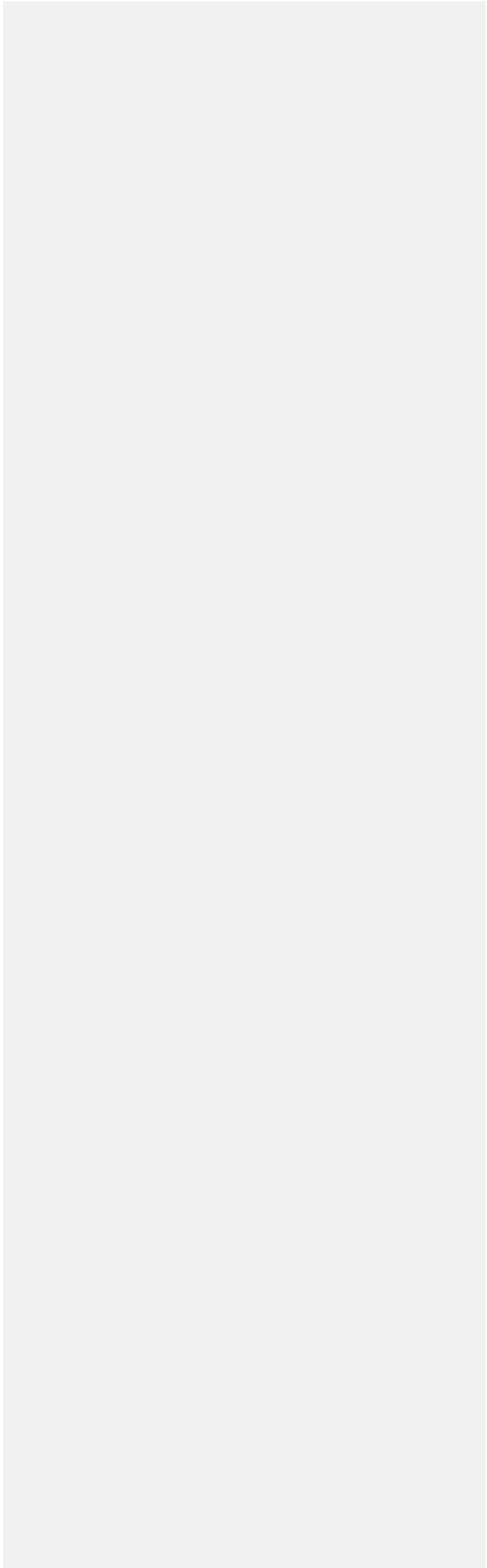
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Figure 2. Aphids found infesting wild plants a) *Aphis gossypii* in *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *Aphis gossypii* in *Croton hirtus* c) *A. gossypii* in *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *Aphis gossypii* in *Pachystochys* sp., e) *Pentalonia caladii* in *Caladium* sp., f) *Aphis. gossypii* in *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *Aphis gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* h) *Aphis gossypii* in *Euphorbia hirta*, i) *Aphis citricola* in *Phylantus nerruri*, j) *Aphis citricola* in *Sida rhombifolia*, k) *Aphis citricola* in *Annona muricata*, l) *Aphis citricola* in *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A.*



123 *craccivora* in *Mimosa pudica*, n) *Aphis craccivora* in *Amaranthus gracilis*, o) *Aphis glycine* in *Mikania micranta*, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in
124 *Eleusine*, q) *Greenidae* sp. in *Bridelia tomentosa* young leaves., r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali*, s) *Lipaphis erysimi* in
125 *sonchus arvensis*, t) *Rhopalosiphum padi* in *Oryza rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum Maidis* in *Oryza rufipogon*. All the photos were
126 captured by Chandra Irsan.

127 Discussion

128
129 In the present study, some aphid species were found on ~~several~~ ornamental plants in Pagar Alam. The location
130 of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On Adiantum predatum plants, aphids formed colonies on young leaf stalks and
131 ~~on~~ newly emerging leaves. The aphids displayed brown and black coloration. The aphid colonies found were small, and
132 the colonized plant parts showed no signs of disease. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Neotoxoptera*
133 sp., and notably, they were not associated with ants. On *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or
134 young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized
135 plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Macrosiphoniella*
136 ~~sanborni~~, and they were ~~and~~ associated with ants. On the *Brugmansia suaveolens*, *M. persicae* were found on the
137 undersides of old leaves or leaves that have ~~started to turn~~ yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids
138 found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. was
139 found one species of aphids: *P. caladii*. *P. caladii* was known and found in taro plants, ~~i~~ the aphids formed colonies under
140 the surface of young and older leaves (Bhadra and Agarwala 2014). ~~According to this present study, This study found that~~
141 the occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms. ~~t~~ The aphids were ~~yellow-yellow~~ green to dark green. The
142 wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang),
143 colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T.*
144 *aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids
145 found were brown to black ~~in color~~. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants. Aphids on *C.*
146 *indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the
147 leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body and
148 the identification results showed that the aphids were *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* (Acharya and Singh 2004). The colonies
149 of *R. nymphaeae* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were
150 found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and
151 the colonized plant parts ~~did not show any~~ showed no symptoms of disease symptoms. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard
152 jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between
153 petals or ~~flower~~ stalks that had not fully bloomed; ~~t~~ The colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to
154 dark green, with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms.
155 The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated
156 with ants. Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems, and young
157 leaves. The aphids were brown to black ~~in color~~. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed
158 stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently
159 associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia* sp. formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with a significant population
160 among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids
161 were *A. gossypii*. According to this present study, *Sinemegoura citricola* colonies were found on the young leaves of
162 *Dendrobium* sp., with the color body of the *S. citricola* aphids were yellow, green to dark green, and the colonized plants
163 ~~did not show~~ ~~ing no any~~ disease symptoms, and ~~they~~ were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp., colonies of aphids ~~were~~
164 ~~located~~ on the undersides of young leaves, and the colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were
165 very large. The aphids were green ~~in color~~. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid
166 colonies were consistently associated with ants. Furthermore, on the *Helianthus annuus*, aphid colonies were found
167 between the flower petals. The colonized flowers, especially the crowns, ~~exhibited a tendency~~ tended to fall off easily. The
168 aphids were green and yellow ~~in color~~. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A.*
169 *gossypii*. These aphid colonies were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides
170 of old leaves. These colonies were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant
171 parts did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid
172 colonies were not associated with ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that ~~were parasitized by~~
173 ~~Aphidiidae~~ ~~Aphidiidae parasitized~~ were found. On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging ~~in color~~ from yellow to dark
174 green were found. The aphids formed colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging
175 leaves. The colonies grew to be very large. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid
176 colonies were consistently associated with ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*.
177 First, the aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on
178 flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf
179 shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet
180 and sticky, like sugar. The aphids had yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a
181 powdery white upper surface. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*, ~~and they were and they~~
182 ~~were~~ almost always associated with ants. The second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface

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183 of young and older leaves. The colonies could also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts
184 occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched
185 stigma and venation in their black wings. The identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids
186 were also associated with ants. Moreover, ~~in *Ixora* sp. flower plants, two forms of aphids were discovered~~ two forms of
187 ~~aphids were discovered in *Ixora* sp. flower plants~~. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves, and unopened flowers;
188 ~~t-~~ The affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from yellow and green to
189 a slightly darker green. Sometimes, the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white, resembling flour. The
190 identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost always associated with
191 ants. Another species of aphids ~~was founded and~~ formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed and on newly
192 emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce ~~any symptoms of plant disease~~ plant
193 ~~disease symptoms~~. The aphids were yellow or yellowish green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very
194 small to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also
195 frequently found in association with ants. Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa*, each forming colonies
196 in different locations. The first type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied
197 showed no obvious disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Toxoptera odinae*. The
198 aphids were yellow, green, and ~~some with~~ dark green (Blackman et al. 2011). The second type of aphids formed colonies
199 on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young
200 leaves, shoots, and within flower parts. The plant parts they infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow
201 or ~~yellow-yellow~~-green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed
202 that the aphids were *A. citricola*. Many aphid species infest a variety of various ornamental plants because these insects are
203 attracted to such plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al. 2023).

204 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids. This
205 indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
206 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *Aphis gossypii*. These aphids formed
207 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
208 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, or alligator grass, was also
209 colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green,
210 ranging from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming colonies on
211 shoots, flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and ~~they were~~ often associated with tiny brown ants.
212 *Amaranthus gracilis* was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers, and young
213 and old leaves. They were dark brown to black ~~in color~~, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were
214 associated with both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. These aphids were bright
215 green, and of medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks, and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The
216 aphid colonies were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus*, or fire grass, was infested by *Aphis gossypii*; ~~the~~ aphids
217 were ~~yellow-yellow~~-green to dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds, and flowers, often forming
218 large colonies. *Cynodon dactylon* or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the
219 flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes ~~in the plant~~ leaf axils ~~of the plant~~. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were
220 brown to reddish brown. They were associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus*, or nut grass, was infested by *Schizaphis*
221 *rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and
222 associated with both black and red ants. The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus*, or grass puzzle, was
223 colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes in the axils
224 and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae*
225 aphids, with small colonies scattered on the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color.
226 *Echinocloa crussgali*, or water hyacinth plants, were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown
227 to black and formed large colonies on the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in
228 association with ants. *Ecliptica prostrata*, or orange ring, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*, forming small colonies on the
229 shoots and flowers. The aphids were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated
230 with ants. *Eleusin indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H.*
231 *setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks, and leaf axils, resulting in quite large colonies. *H. setariae's* body
232 color ranged from ~~red-red~~-brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R.*
233 *maidis* formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and ~~on~~ leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies
234 were not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These
235 aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants.
236 The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*; ~~the~~ aphids were
237 yellow to green in color. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves. *Eragrostis tenella* was
238 infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to ~~red-red~~-brown. Small colonies formed on flowers
239 near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae* were consistently associated
240 with ants. *Euphorbia hirta*, or wart grass, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides
241 of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in color. *A. gossypii* colonies on
242 *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. ~~*Eupatorium*~~ *Eupatorium odoratum* was colonized by both *Aphis*

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243 *gossypii* and *Aphis citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young twigs. Young
 244 leaves ~~that were~~ colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this plant showed
 245 yellow-green to ~~dark-dark-green~~ in-body colour. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the shoots,
 246 with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of ~~both~~ *A.*
 247 *gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants. *Hymenochera acutigluma*, or
 248 hair axis, was colonized by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the flower stalks and flowers. The colonized
 249 parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea sp.*, or *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp.
 250 These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the
 251 undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum*
 252 *gracile* or bamboo grass plants, were colonized by two species of aphids: *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum*
 253 *maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized
 254 leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to ~~red-red~~-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed
 255 colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis* aphids were green to bright green ~~in color~~,
 256 with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix. In addition,
 257 *Melastoma affine* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly emerging
 258 shoots and ~~on~~ newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body colour of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The colonized
 259 plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis glycine*. *A.*
 260 *gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and curled leaves. *A.*
 261 *glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were light green to green
 262 in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a single colony. *Mimosa*
 263 *invisa* (cater-grass) was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisus* plants formed colonies
 264 only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa pudica* was
 265 observed to be colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots, and
 266 occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the colonized
 267 plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of aphids
 268 occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were shiny
 269 black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of
 270 aphids: ~~*Rhopalosiphum*~~ *rice* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened
 271 leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis*
 272 appeared green with black siphunculi and cauda, while *R. rice* appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O.*
 273 *rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants. *Oxonopus compressus*, or *pait* grass, was colonized by
 274 *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower stalks, seeds, and sometimes ~~in~~ in the leaf axils. The
 275 aphids were brown to dark brown ~~in color~~. Small colonies were formed, and they were also consistently associated with
 276 ants. *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the seeds
 277 and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phyllanthus neiruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The
 278 colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted,
 279 and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black siphunculi and cauda, ~~and~~ the colonies formed were quite large.
 280 *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants
 281 formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots, and ~~in~~ in flowers. The colonized plant parts
 282 became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that
 283 appeared glossy black. *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black
 284 bodies, with glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The
 285 colonized plant parts did not show ~~any symptoms of disease symptoms~~. *Rorippa indica*, or mustard land, was colonized by
 286 *Lipaphis erysimi*. The colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks, and the lower ~~leaf's surface of leaves~~. The
 287 colonized plant parts showed symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia*, or cacabeau, was colonized by
 288 *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves,
 289 stalks, and flower petals. The colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled
 290 downward. *Sonchus arvensis* plants were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colours,
 291 and the colonies formed on flower stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became
 292 stunted over time.

293 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
 294 displayed typical ~~damage symptoms of damage~~, but some did not show any symptoms ~~at all~~. Generally, the ~~plants'~~
 295 symptoms ~~of the plants due to caused by~~ aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape,
 296 and stunted or curly leaves. These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants
 297 or plant parts did not show symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition ~~occurrehappened~~ because the colonized
 298 parts had reached ~~their~~ maximum growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing
 299 a growth phase. The colonies that did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their
 300 maximum growth or when the leaves and plant parts were old. ~~Furthermore, t-~~The old leaves or twigs might not show the
 301 typical symptoms associated with aphid infestations. ~~The plant parts of the plant~~ exhibiting characteristic symptoms when
 302 colonized by aphids also often experienced a cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas

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303 surrounding the puncture site continued to grow, resulting in some parts developing normally while others
304 become growing, resulting in some parts developing ordinary while others became stunted (Pettersson, Tjallingii, and
305 Hardie 2017). This condition could lead to the bending of shoots or young stems, curling of bending shoots or young stems,
306 curling leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of
307 grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be
308 because the growth or development of their leaves differed from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in
309 monocot plants or plants was often easier to recognize through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a
310 significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al. 2012). Therefore, the
311 presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the presence of aphid colonies. According to this present study, ants were
312 present in some aphids colonies from the subfamily aphidini, while the ants were absent in some aphids present study, ants
313 were present in some aphid colonies from the subfamily aphidini, while the ants were absent in some aphid colonies from
314 the macrocypini subfamily. The absent absence of ants in aphids colonies could be because the colonies have just formed,
315 or the population is still low (Kummel, Brown, and Bruder 2013). Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an
316 accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new growth or reproductive plant parts of plants. Flowers
317 contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap, therefore, aphids were attracted to flower saps. In addition, the
318 flowers s. Some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al. 2022). Herbs served as an alternative host for
319 aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as "sap". Aphids considered herbs and
320 other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and
321 access this fluid (Brożek et al. 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *Lipaphis erysimi*, and
322 *Myzus persicae*, are the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al. 2022). Due to a
323 symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a delicious substance
324 known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive as a food source (Nelson and Mooney 2022).
325 The honeydew contained an abundance of abundant sugars, extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et al. 2022).
326 Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew, ants
327 provided aphids with protection from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and
328 parasitic wasps (Karami-jamour et al. 2018). Certain ant species of ants would transport aphids to new host plants for
329 improved foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al. 2021). Honeydew not
330 only nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
331 species) and provided energy for the growth of their own progeny (Biedermann and Vega 2020).

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332 CONCLUSION

333 Moreover, 21 species of aphids were found in Pagar Alam, namely *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis craccivora*,
334 *Aphis glycines*, *Aulacorthum solani*, *Greenidae* sp., *Hyperomyzus* sp., *Hysteroneura setariae*, *Lipaphis erysimi*,
335 *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Neomyzus circumflexus*, *Pentalonia caladii*,
336 *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Sinemogoura citricola*, *Toxoptera aurantii*,
337 *Toxoptera citricidus*, *Toxoptera odinae*, and *Schizaphis rotundiventris*.

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Commented [A7]: This conclusion could be more deeply investigated by presenting (in brief) the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants (this study's purposes), what kind of aphid species are preferred by ants, why apids prefer the weed species, why *aphis gossypii* species could colonize 12 plants while *aphis citricola* only one, etc.

Commented [A8]: It is better to state that further research on the diversity of aphid species found in the area's ornamental and wild plants.

338 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

339 The authors thank Universitas Sriwijaya, that who supported this research. This research is a part of Research research
340 with contract number 0188/UN9.3.1/SK/2023, 18 April 2023, with the chairman Chandra Irsan.

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Table 4. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the

No	Aphid Species	Wild plants	Aphids life colour	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance	count	number		
1	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Leucaena conyzoides</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old flowers	+	1	1		
		<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Light green	shoots, buds	+	1	2		
		<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Light green	shoots, buds	-	0	3		
		<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Dark green	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	1	4		
		<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	green	shoots, young leaves	+	1	5		
		<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	green	flower, flower stalks, shoots	+	1	6		
		<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	light green	young leaves, old leaves	+	1	7		
		<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	light green	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	1	8		
		<i>Melastoma affine</i>	light green	shoots, young leaves	+	1	9		
		<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	light green yellowish	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	1	10		
2	<i>Aphis vivora</i>			old leaves	+	1	1		
		<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	black	shoots, pods	+	1	2		
		<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	black	shoots, pods, flowers	+	1	3		
		<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	black	shoots, pods	+	1	4		
		<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	black	shoots, young leaves, flowers	+	1	5		
		<i>Physalis angulata</i>	black	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	1	6		
		3	<i>Aphis</i>	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	Greenish	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	1	1
				<i>Mikania mikranta</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	1	2
		4	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Greenish	shoot, young leaves, young twigs, petioles	+	1	1
		5	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	<i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i>	Greenish	young leaves	-	0	1
<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	Yellow			flower, flower stalks	+	1	1		
<i>Eleusin indica</i>	Yellow			flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1	2		
<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	Yellow			flower, flower stalks, seeds	+	1	3		
6	<i>Hemiteles</i>			<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	reddish-brown	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1	4
				<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	reddish-brown	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	1	5
7	<i>Hiperomyzus</i>	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalk, leaf axils	+	1	6		
		<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalk, seeds	+	1	7		
8	<i>Lipaphis</i> sp.	<i>Echinochloa crussgal i</i>	Black	young leaves, old leaves	-		1		
		<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Whitish green	flowers, shoots, and buds	+	1	1		
		<i>Rauvolfia indica</i>	Whitish green	flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves, fruit stalks,	+	1	2		
		<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Whitish green	flower, fruit	+	1	3		
		<i>Eleusin indica</i>	green	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1	1		
9	<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	green	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	1	2		
		<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot),	-	0	3		

		leaf				
10	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Whitish green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	+	1 1
	<i>Schizaphis</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Green	flowers, flower stalks	+	1 1
11	<i>rotundiventris</i>	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	green	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1 2
	^s	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	green	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	1 3

(+): present, (-): absent

December 2023

Dear Editors,
BIODIVERSITAS Journal of Biological Diversity

As requested, this is our response to reviewers' comments and suggestions.

Thank you so much for a very kind attention and great helps provided by editorial team of BIODIVERSITAS Journal of Biological Diversity.

"Letter on responses to reviewers' comments and suggestions"

No.	Location in manuscript	Reviewers' suggestion	Our response
1	Line 129	<i>Adiantum raddianum</i> is not available in the table	We already made the corrections. We delete it from the discussion
2	Line 260	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> not <i>Rhopalosiphum rice</i>	We have already corrected it
3	Line 302	macrocephali not macrocypini	The word had been corrected
4	Line 321	This conclusion could be more deeply investigated by presenting (in brief) the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants (this study's purposes), what kind of aphid species are preferred by ants, why aphids prefer the weed species, why <i>aphis gossypii</i> species could colonize 12 plants while <i>aphis citricola</i> only one, etc.	The conclusion has been corrected. We highlighted the total species of aphids in ornamental and weeds because we would like to answer our title. For the presence and absence of the ants, we add some sentences to explain it in discussion part.

Best regards,
Corresponding author,

Chandra Irsan

Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild Plants in Highland, Pagar Alam Regency, South Sumatra, Indonesia

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Abstract. Aphids are one of the crucial pests in tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species, such as wild plants, were found on plants that were not hosts. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental and wild plants. The field research employed purposive and direct observation to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants and wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants and aphids involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that the total of 15 species aphids found in Ornamental plants, *Aphis craccivora*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis glycines*, *Aphis gossypii*, *Aulacorthum solani*, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Neomyzus circumflexus*, *Pentalonia caladii*, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, *Sinemegoura citricola*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Toxoptera citricidus*, *Toxoptera odinae* and the total of 11 species aphids found in weeds, *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Aphis glycines*, *Aphis citricola*, *Greenidea* sp., *Hystrotroneura setariae*, *Hiperomyzus* sp., *Lipaphis erysimi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Schizaphis rotundiventris*.

Keywords: Aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

Running title: Aphids found in ornamental and wild plants.

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhav et al. 2020); aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids suck phloem sap of tender plant parts, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, vector species can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

Many aphid species are found on plants that are not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one or more secondary, or "alternative," host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). Alternative plants provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions (Kumar et al. 2021). In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and native plants. Research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has less noticed. This study reports the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants found in this area. The findings from this study can serve as a valuable resource for aphid management.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

49 The field research employed a purposive and direct observation to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting and
 50 collecting aphids. The plant selection included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or
 51 weeds. Where available, collecting and identifying host plants, aphids, and natural enemies involved systematic searches
 52 of all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids are documented as aphid
 53 hosts. Aphid identification was done using identification keys (Blackman and Eastop 2008) in the Laboratory of
 54 Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on morphological characteristics. The host
 55 plants were identified using the weed identification handbook (Kallas 2010; Meuninck 2023; Naidu 2012). The location
 56 and aphid colony sizes, including their life color, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their host plants were
 57 recorded.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

59 Result

60 Aphids infesting in ornamental plants

61 The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagar Alam (Tables 1 and 2). These aphids mostly
 62 colonized flowers of various ornamental plants (Table 1, Figure 1).
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64 **Table 1.** Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Aphid Species	Colony location
1	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Leaves, young twig, flower
2	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	Leaves, flower
		<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Leaves
		<i>Myzus persicae</i>	Leaves, flower
3	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	Leaves,
4	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Leaves, flower
5	<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	Leaf
6	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, flower
7	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
		<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Young leaves
8	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flower
9	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Shoot, twig
10	<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
11	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	Flower
12	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
13	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i> .	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Flower
14	<i>Hibiscus rosinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
15	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> ,	Flower
		<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Shoot, young leaves
16	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Flower
		<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
		<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Shoot, flower
17	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Young Twig
		<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	Shoot, flower
18	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, flower
		<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	Shoot, flower
19	<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	Flower
20	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Flower

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Fig 1. Photos showing colonies of different aphid species in ornamental plants: a) *Aphis gossypii* in *Dahlia* sp. flower, b) *Aphis gossypii* in *Hibiscus rosasinensis* flower, c) *Aphis gossypii* in *Cestrum* twig and flower, d) *Aphis craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower, e) *Aphis glycines* in *Helianthus giganteus* flower, f) *Aphis craccivora* on the *Murayya paniculata* flower, g) *Toxoptera odinae* in the *Mussaenda frondosa*, h) *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*. in *Chrysanthemum* sp. leaves i) *Macrosiphum rosae* in *Rosa indica* flower, j) *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* in *Canna indica* leaves. Chandra Irsan captured all the photos.

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79 The relationship between aphids and ants was also recorded. Aphids produce a sweet, sticky substance called
80 honeydew; ants are attracted to this honey because it serves as a food source. When aphids are present, they secrete
81 honeydew, which attracts ants. This research recorded the presence of ants on plant parts colonized by aphids (Table 2).
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Table 2. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized

No	Aphid Species	Ornamental plants	Aphids life color	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance	Total Individual of ant
1	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	black	flowers	+	3
		<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	black	flowers	+	2
2	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	greenish yellow greenish	flowers	+	2
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	yellow greenish yellow	flowers	+	3
		<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	greenish yellow	shoots, flowers	+	7
		<i>Spondias dulcis</i>		flowers	+	8
3	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	greenish yellow	flowers	+	3
4	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	green	shoots, flowers	+	4
		<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	light green	shoots, flowers	+	1
		<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	green dark	flowers	+	2
		<i>Duranta</i> sp.	light green	shoots, flowers	+	5
		<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	dark green	flowers	+	6
		<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	light green	flowers	+	2
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	light green	flowers	+	7
5	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	greenish yellow	leaves, flowers	-	0
6	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	brown black	leaves, twigs, flowers	+	5
		<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	reddish brown	leaves, twigs	+	5
7	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	<i>Rosa indica</i>	green	flowers	-	0
8	<i>Myzus persicae</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	greenish yellow	leaves, flowers	-	0
9	<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	light green	young leaves, flowers	-	0
		<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	light green	flowers	-	0
10	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	brown-black	leaves	+	7
11	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	<i>Canna indica</i>	green black	leaves	+	1
12	<i>Sinemegoura citricola</i>	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	brown	flowers	-	0
13	<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	brown black	flowers	+	5
		<i>Ixora</i> sp.	brown black	flowers	+	4
14	<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	black	stems	+	6
15	<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	reddish-brown	flowers	+	4

(+): present, (-): absent

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89 Aphids infesting in wild plants (weed or non-weed plants)

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91 In addition, this study documented aphid colonies on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves, and old leaves of wild
92 plants (Table 3, Figure 2).

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94 **Table 3.** Species of aphids found in wild (weed or non-weed) plants and their colony locations.

No	Host Plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
1	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
2	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, buds
3	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, buds
4	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
5	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	flowers, shoots, and buds
6	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
7	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks
8	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
9	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
10	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks
11	<i>Echinocloa crussgali</i>	weed	<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	young leaves, old leaves
12	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves
13	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
			<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
14	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	flower, flower stalks, shoots
15	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flower, flower stalks, seeds
16	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	young leaves, old leaves
17	<i>Eupotarium odoratum</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	young leaves, old leaves,
			<i>Aphis glycines</i>	shoot, young twigs
18	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
19	<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	Non-weed	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	young leaves
20	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
			<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
21	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves

No	Host Plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
22	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> <i>Aphis glycines</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves shoot, young twig
23	<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods
24	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods, flowers
25	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, pods
26	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	weed	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> , <i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
27	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
28	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	flowers, flower stalks, seeds
29	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	weed	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs, petioles
30	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	shoots, young leaves, flowers
31	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i> <i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves shoots, young leaves, old leaves
32	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	flowers, fruits, shoots, young leaves
33	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
34	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruits

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96 The presence of ants in aphid colonization symbolizes a mutually beneficial relationship where the ants receive food
97 from the aphids while protecting them. This study recorded the ant attendance in aphids colonization (Table 4).
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Table 4. Aphid species were recorded in wild plants, and the presence of ants in the plant parts colonized.

No	Aphid Species	Wild plants	Aphids life color	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance	Total Individual of ant	
1	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers	+	5	
		<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Light green	shoots, buds	+	3	
		<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Light green	shoots, buds	-	0	
		<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Dark green	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	7	
		<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	green	shoots, young leaves	+	5	
		<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	green	flower, flower stalks, shoots	+	6	
		<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	light green	young leaves, old leaves	+	7	
		<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	light green	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	8	
		<i>Melastoma affine</i>	light green	shoots, young leaves	+	8	
		<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	light green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	9	
		<i>Physalis angulata</i>	yellowish green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds	+	10	
		<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	yellowish green		-	0	
2		<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	black	flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	3
			<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	black	shoots, pods	+	2
	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>		black	shoots, pods, flowers	+	3	
	<i>Mimosa vigra</i>		black	shoots, pods	+	4	
	<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>		black	shoots, young leaves, flowers	+	7	
	<i>Physalis angulata</i>		black	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	4	
	<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>		Greenish yellow	young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	6	
3	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Light green	shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	4	
4		<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Greenish Yellow	shoot, young leaves, young twigs, petioles	+	5	
5	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	<i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i>	Greenish Yellow	young leaves	-	0	
6	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks	+	3	
		<i>Eleusin indica</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4	
		<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalks, seeds	+	4	
		<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	reddish-brown	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	3	
		<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	reddish-brown	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	6	
		<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalk, leaf axils	+	3	
		<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	reddish-brown	flower, flower stalk, seeds	+	6	
7		<i>Hiperomyzus</i> sp.	<i>Echinochloa crusgali</i>	Black	young leaves, old leaves	-	0
8		<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Whitish green	flowers, shoots, and buds	+	4
			<i>Rorippa indica</i>	Whitish green	flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves	+	4
	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>		Whitish green	young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruit	+	5	
9	<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	green	flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	3	
		<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	green	young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	4	
		<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	-	0	
10	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Whitish green	old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	+	4	
11	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Green	flowers, flower stalks	+	6	
		<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	green	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4	
		<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	green	flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4	

(+): present, (-): absent

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Figure 2. Aphids found infesting wild plants a) *Aphis gossypii* in *Ageratum conyzoides*, b) *Aphis gossypii* in *Croton hirtus* c) *A. gossypii* in *Eupatorium odoratum*, d) *Aphis gossypii* in *Pachystochys* sp., e) *Pentalonia caladii* in *Caladium* sp., f) *Aphis. gossypii* in *Alternanthera sessilis*, g) *Aphis gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae* h) *Aphis gossypii* in *Euphorbia hirta*, i) *Aphis citricola* in *Phyllanthus nerruri*, j) *Aphis citricola* in *Sida rhombifolia*, k) *Aphis citricola* in *Annona muricata*, l) *Aphis citricola* in *Ludwigia peruviana*, m) *A. craccivora* in *Mimosa pudica*, n) *Aphis craccivora* in *Amaranthus gracilis*, o) *Aphis glycine* in *Mikania micranta*, p) *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusine*, q) *Greenidae* sp. in *Bridelia tomentosa* young leaves., r) *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali*, s) *Lipaphis erysimi* in *sonchus arvensis*, t) *Rhopalosiphum padi* in *Oryza rufipogon*, u) *Rhopalosiphum Maidis* in *Oryza rufipogon*. All the photos were captured by Chandra Irsan.

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Discussion

In the present study, some aphid species were found on several ornamental plants in Pagar Alam; the location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Aster alpinus*, aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Macrosiphoniella sanborni* associated with ants. On the *Brugmansia suaveolens*, *M. persicae* were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have turned yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. was found one species of aphids: *P. caladii*. *P. caladii* was known and found in taro plants; the aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves (Bhadra and Agarwala 2014). This study found that the occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms; the aphids were yellow-green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odoratum* (ylang-ylang), colonies of *T. aurantii* were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants. Aphids on *C. indica* (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body and the identification results showed that the aphids were *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* (Acharya and Singh 2004). The colonies of *R. nymphaeae* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle), *A. citricola* aphids were found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and the colonized plant parts showed no disease symptoms. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or stalks that had not fully bloomed; the colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green, with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants. Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems, and young leaves. The aphids were brown to black. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. craccivora*. These colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia* sp. formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. According to this present study, *Sinemegoura citricola* colonies were found on the young leaves of *Dendrobium* sp., with the color body of the *S. citricola* aphids were yellow, green to dark green, and the colonized plants showing no disease symptoms, and were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp., colonies of aphids on the undersides of young leaves, and the colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The aphids were green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants. Furthermore, on the *Helianthus annuus*, aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The colonized flowers, especially the crowns, tended to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *M. ornatus*. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that Aphidiidae parasitized were found. On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, aphids ranging from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa*. First, the aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, like sugar. The aphids had yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii* almost always associated with ants. The second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants. Moreover, two forms of aphids were discovered in *Ixora* sp. flower plants. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves, and unopened flowers; the affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes, the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white, resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost always associated with ants. Another species of aphids formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce plant disease symptoms. The aphids were yellow or yellowish green, with black cauda and

187 siphunculi. Their bodies were very small to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The
188 colonies of *A. citricola* were also frequently found in association with ants. Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda*
189 *frondosa*, each forming colonies in different locations. The first type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and
190 flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the
191 aphids were *Toxoptera odinae*. The aphids were yellow, green, and dark green (Blackman et al. 2011). The second type of
192 aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as if piled up. The aphid colonies could
193 also be found on young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts. The plant parts they infested showed no signs of diseases.
194 The aphids were yellow or yellow-green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had tiny to small bodies. The
195 identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. Many aphid species infest various ornamental plants
196 because these insects are attracted to such plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al. 2023).

197 The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids. This
198 indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were
199 generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* was infested by *A. gossypii*. These aphids formed
200 colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green,
201 yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, or alligator grass, was also
202 colonized by *A. gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green,
203 ranging from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* was colonized by *A. gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots,
204 flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus gracilis*
205 was infested by *Aphis craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers, and young and old leaves. They were
206 dark brown to black, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with both black and red
207 ants. *Blumea lacera* was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. These aphids were bright green and of medium size. The colonies
208 formed on flowers, flower stalks, and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies were not associated with
209 ants. *Croton hirtus*, or fire grass, was infested by *A. gossypii*; the aphids were yellow-green to dark green. The colonies
210 were found on the stems, leaves, buds, and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon dactylon* or Bermuda grass was
211 colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris*. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes the plant leaf axils.
212 Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to reddish brown. They were associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus*,
213 or nut grass, was infested by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf
214 axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants. The aphids were dark brown in color.
215 *Cyperus compressus*, or grass puzzle, was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* aphids, forming colonies in the flowers,
216 flower stalks, and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris*
217 was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids, with small colonies scattered on the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids
218 were light brown to brown in color. *Echinocloa crussgali*, or water hyacinth plants, were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp.
219 aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on the undersides of both young and old leaves.
220 The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Ecliptica prostrata*, or urang-aring, was colonized by *Aphis*
221 *gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids were bright green to blackish green. The aphid
222 colonies were also consistently associated with ants. *Eleusin indica* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura*
223 *setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. *H. setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks, and leaf axils, resulting in
224 large colonies. *H. setariae's* body color ranged from red-brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated
225 with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis* formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and leaf shoots that had not
226 yet opened. The colonies were not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black
227 siphunculi and cauda. These aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were
228 always associated with ants. The plant *Emilia sonchifolia*, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *Aphis*
229 *gossypii*; the aphids were yellow to green in color. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves.
230 *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red-brown. Small colonies
231 formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae* were
232 consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta*, or wart grass, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids formed
233 colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in
234 color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupatorium odoratum* was colonized
235 by *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young twigs. Young
236 leaves colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this plant showed yellow-
237 green to dark-green body color. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the shoots, with these aphids
238 displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola*
239 on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants. *Hymenochera acutigluma*, or hair axis, was colonized
240 by *Hysteroneura setariae*, which formed colonies on the flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did
241 not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromea* sp., or *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright
242 green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves,
243 especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* or bamboo
244 grass plants, were colonized by two species of aphids: *hysteroneura setariae* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. The aphids of *H.*
245 *setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any
246 disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides

247 of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis* aphids were green to bright green, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was
248 possible for colonies of the two species of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix. In addition, *Melastoma affine* was colonized by
249 *Aphis gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly emerging shoots and newly emerging fruits and
250 flowers. The body color of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease
251 symptoms. *Mikania miranta* was colonized by *Aphis gossypii* and *Aphis glycine*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the
252 shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the
253 branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. Glycine* aphids were light green to green in color. The colonized plant
254 parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a single colony. *Mimosa invisa* (cater-grass) was
255 colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants formed colonies only on the shoots with
256 small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa pudica* was observed to be colonized by
257 *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots, and occasionally on flowers and pods.
258 The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the colonized plant parts. The colonies were
259 quite large. *Mimosa vigra* was colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The colonies of aphids occupied the pods and shoots with
260 small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not
261 show any disease symptoms. *Oryza rufipogon* was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum macr* and
262 *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. Both aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with
263 large colonies. The two species could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black siphunculi
264 and cauda, while *R. rice* appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. rice* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with
265 the presence of red ants. *Oxonopus compressus*, or pait grass, was colonized by *Hysterononeura setariae* aphids. The
266 colonies occupied flowers, flower stalks, seeds, and sometimes the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown. Small
267 colonies were formed, and they were also consistently associated with ants. *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H.*
268 *setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark
269 brown bodies. *Phyllanthus neruri* was colonized by *Aphis citricola*. The colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides
270 of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted, and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with
271 black sifunculi and cauda; the colonies formed were large. *Portulaca oleraceae* plants were colonized by *Aphis*
272 *craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially
273 young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The colonized plant parts became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids
274 had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that appeared glossy black. *Physalis angulata* plants were
275 colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with glossy black wingless imagoes. *A.*
276 *craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease
277 symptoms. *Rorippa indica*, or mustard land, was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi*. The colonies formed on the flowers,
278 fruits, flower stalks, and the lower leaf's surface. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms such as curling and stunting.
279 *Sida rhombifolia*, or cacabean, was colonized by *Aphis gossypii*. The aphids had green-yellow to green body colors. The
280 colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks, and flower petals. The colonized plant parts, especially the shoots,
281 showed curling. and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvenstris* plants were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids
282 had green to whitish green body colors, and the colonies formed on flower stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or
283 leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

284 In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically
285 displayed typical damage symptoms, but some did not show any symptoms at all. Generally, the plants' symptoms due to
286 aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves. These
287 characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show
288 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition occurred because the colonized parts had reached maximum growth
289 or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that did not
290 induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the leaves and
291 plant parts were old. Furthermore, the old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid
292 infestations. The plant parts exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a
293 cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued
294 growing, resulting in some parts developing ordinary while others became stunted (Pettersson et al. 2017). This condition
295 could lead to bending shoots or young stems, curling leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf growth. In
296 this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any distinctive
297 symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed from that
298 of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants was often easier to recognize through the presence of
299 ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids had colonized the plant
300 (Tegelaar et al. 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the aphid colonies. According to this
301 study, ants were present in some aphid colonies from the subfamily Aphidinae, while the ants were absent in some aphid
302 colonies from the macrosiphini subfamily. The bodies of aphids from the subfamily Aphidinae are relatively small and
303 have short sifunculi. On the other hand, aphids, which have large bodies and relatively long sifunculi, are never visited by
304 ants. This happens because long sifunculi are reported to disturb ants, so the ants don't like to come close. Additionally,
305 large aphids and long sifunculi generally do not produce honeydew, so ants do not want to come close.

306 The absence of ants in aphid colonies could be because the colonies have just formed or the population is still low
307 (Kummel, Brown, and Bruder 2013). Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source,
308 sugary plant sap found in new growth or reproductive plant parts. Flowers contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to
309 sap; therefore, aphids were attracted to flower saps. In addition, some aphid species were drawn to certain colors
310 (Jakubczyk et al. 2022). Herbs served as an alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich
311 liquid in plants, known as "sap." Aphids considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids
312 utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and access this fluid (Brožek et al. 2015). Several aphids colonized
313 herbs such as Indian mustards, *Lipaphis erysimi*, and *Myzus persicae*, the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems,
314 and floral parts (Jayaswal et al. 2022). Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently
315 correlated. Aphids produced a delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly
316 attractive food sources (Nelson and Mooney 2022). The honeydew contained abundant sugars extracted by aphids from the
317 plant juice (Zheng et al. 2022). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often 'farm' aphids for it. In
318 exchange for honeydew, ants protected aphids from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and
319 parasitic wasps (Karami-jamour et al. 2018). Certain ant species would transport aphids to new host plants for improved
320 foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al. 2021). Honeydew not only
321 nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain
322 species) and provided energy for the growth of their progeny (Biedermann and Vega 2020). Ornamental plants, and also
323 weeds are generally grown with simple maintenance and usually free pesticides. The ecological habitat of ornamental
324 plants and weeds is assumed to be the same. Therefore, many species of aphids found on ornamental plants were also
325 found on weeds.

326 CONCLUSION

327 The total of 15 species aphids found in Ornamental plants, *Aphis craccivora*, *Aphis citricola*, *Aphis glycines*, *Aphis*
328 *gossypii*, *Aulacorthum solani*, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, *Macrosiphum rosae*, *Myzus persicae*, *Neomyzus circumflexus*,
329 *Pentalonia caladii*, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, *Sinemegoura citricola*, *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Toxoptera citricidus*,
330 *Toxoptera odinae*. The total of 11 species aphids found in weeds, *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis craccivora*, *Aphis glycines*, *Aphis*
331 *citricola*, *Greenidea* sp., *Hystroneura setariae*, *Hiperomyzus* sp., *Lipaphis erysimi*, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*,
332 *Rhopalosiphum padi*, *Schizaphis rotundiventris*.
333

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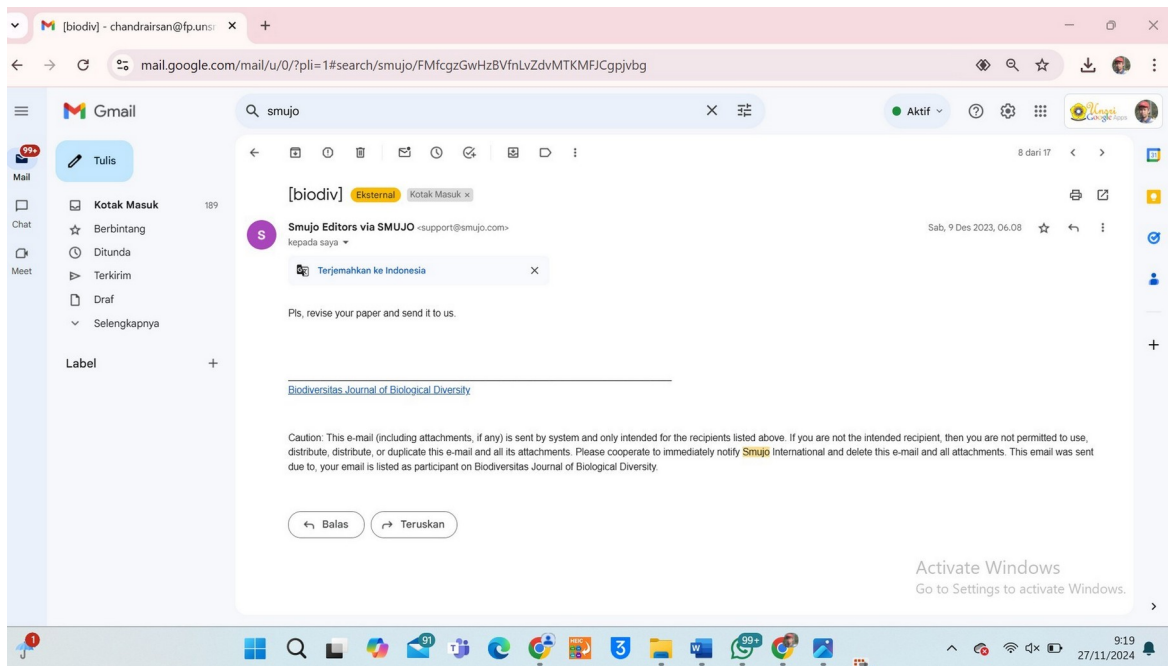
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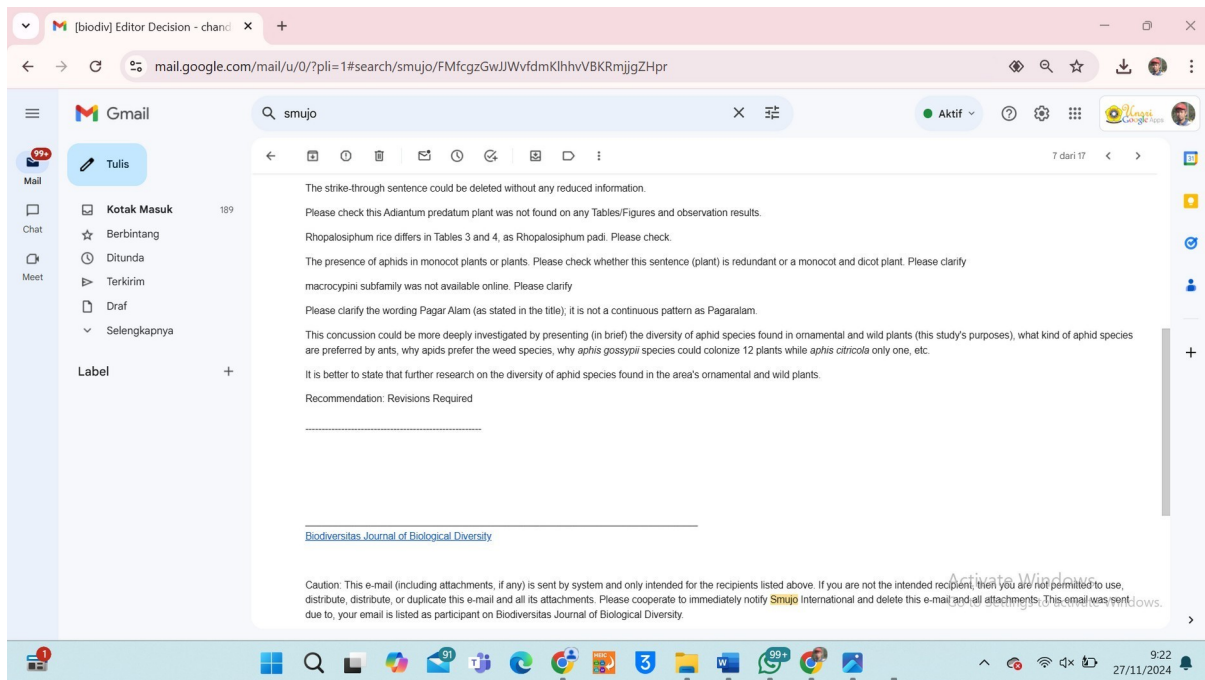
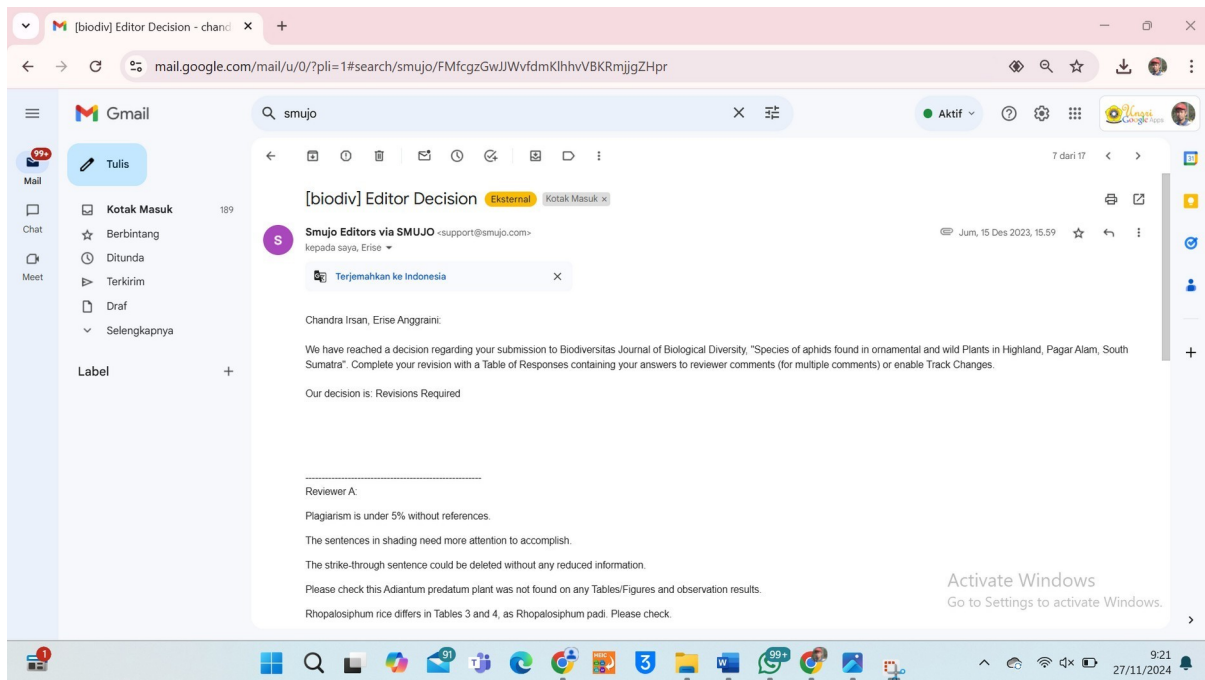
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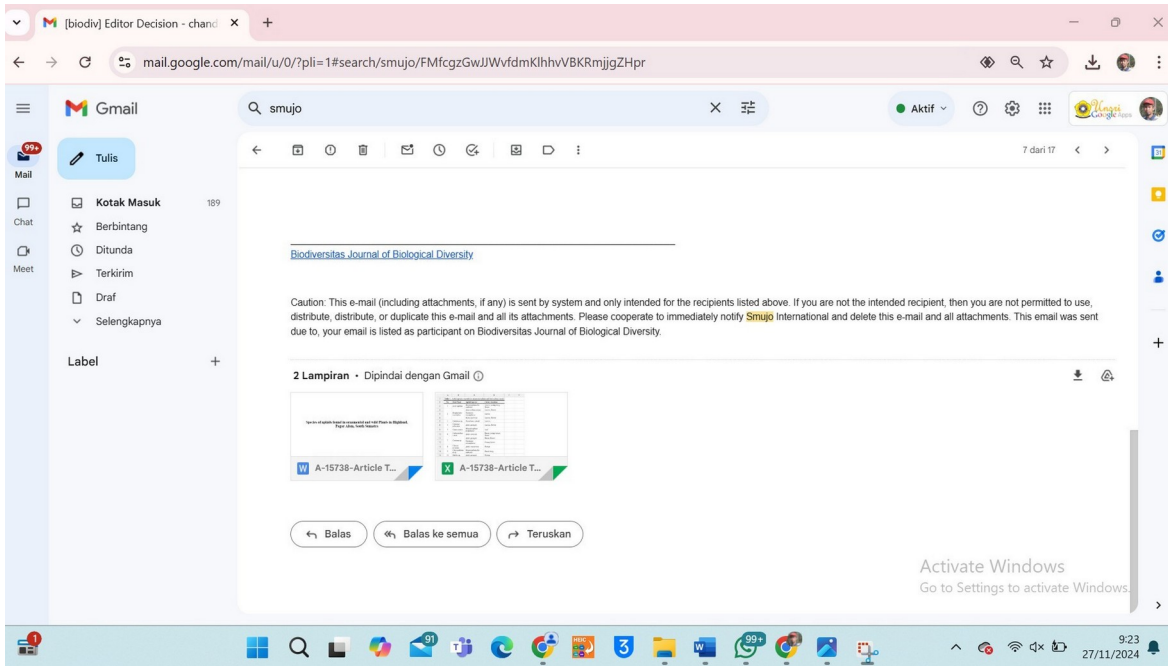
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Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild plants in Highland, Pagar Alam District, South Sumatra, Indonesia

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Abstract. Irsan C, Anggraini E, Ramadhani W. 2023. Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild plants in Highland, Pagar Alam District, South Sumatra, Indonesia. Biodiversitas 24: xxx-xxx. Aphids are one of the crucial pests in tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species, such as wild plants, were found on plants that were not hosts. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental and wild plants. The field research employed purposive and direct observation to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants and wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants and aphids involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that the total of 15 species aphids found in Ornamental plants, *Aphis craccivora* Koch, 1854, *Aphis citricola* van der Goot, 1912, *Aphis glycines* Matsumura, 1917, *Aphis gossypii* Glover, 1877, *Aulacorthum solani* Kaltenbach, 1843, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni* Gillette, 1908, *Macrosiphum rosae* Linnaeus, 1758, *Myzus persicae* Sulzer, 1776, *Neomyzus circumflexus* Buckton, 1876, *Pentalonia caladii* van der Goot, 1917, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* Linnaeus, 1761, *Sinemegoura citricola* van der Goot, 1917, *Toxoptera aurantii* Boyer de Fonscolombe, 1841, *Toxoptera citricidus* Kirkaldy, 1907, *Toxoptera odinae* van der Goot, 1917 and the total of 11 species aphids found in weeds, *A. gossypii*, *A. craccivora*, *A. glycines*, *A. citricola*, *Greenidea* sp., *Hystro-neura setariae* Thomas, 1878, *Hiperomyzus* sp., *Lipaphis erysimi* Kaltenbach, 1843, *Rhopalosiphum maidis* Fitch, 1856, *Rhopalosiphum padi* Linnaeus, 1758, *Schizaphis rotundiventris* Signoret, 1860.

Keywords: Aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhve et al. 2020); aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids suck phloem sap of tender plant parts, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, vector species can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

Many aphid species are found on plants that are not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one or more secondary, or alternative, host plants in addition to their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). Alternative plants provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain

environmental conditions (Kumar et al. 2021). In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and native plants. Research on the diversity of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has less noticed. This study reports the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants found in this area. The findings from this study can serve as a valuable resource for aphid management.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field research employed a purposive and direct observation to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting and collecting aphids. The plant selection included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. Where available, collecting and identifying host plants, aphids, and natural enemies involved systematic searches of all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids are documented as aphid hosts. Aphid identification was done using identification keys (Blackman and Eastop 2008) in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on

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morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using the weed identification handbook (Kallas 2010; Naidu 2012; Meuninck 2023). The location and aphid colony sizes, including their life color, and photographs of the aphid colonies and their host plants were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Aphids infesting in ornamental plants

The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagar Alam (Tables 1 and 2). These aphids mostly colonized flowers of various ornamental plants (Table 1, Figure 1).

The relationship between aphids and ants was also recorded. Aphids produce a sweet, sticky substance called honeydew; ants are attracted to this honey because it serves as a food source. When aphids are present, they secrete honeydew, which attracts ants. This research recorded the presence of ants on plant parts colonized by aphids (Table 2).

Aphids infesting in wild plants (weed or non-weed plants)

In addition, this study documented aphid colonies on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves, and old leaves of wild plants (Table 3, Figure 2).

The presence of ants in aphid colonization symbolizes a mutually beneficial relationship where the ants receive food from the aphids while protecting them. This study recorded the ant attendance in aphids colonization (Table 4).

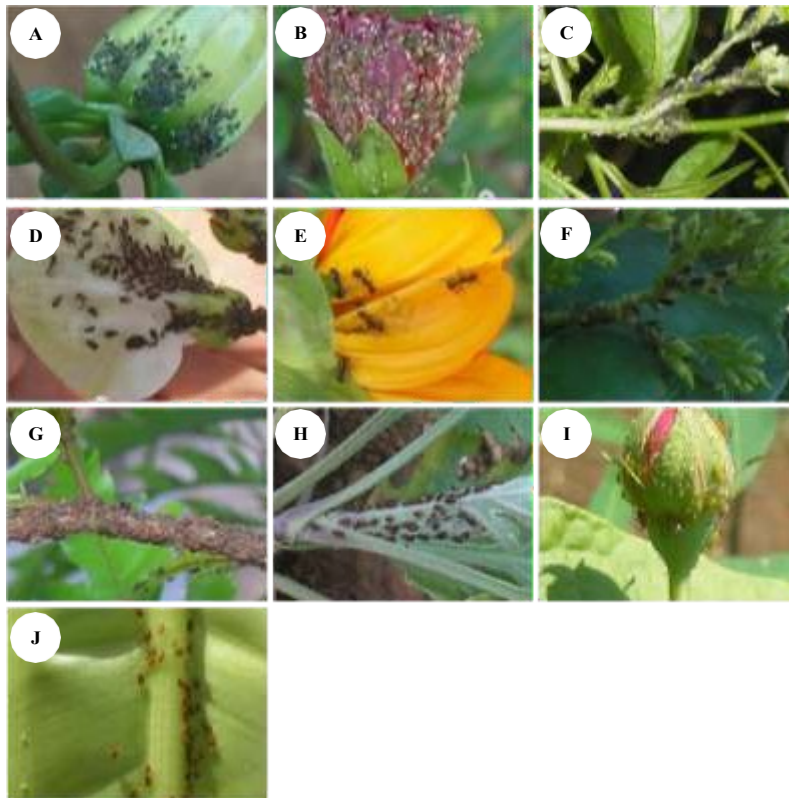


Figure 1. Photos showing colonies of different aphid species in ornamental plants: A. *Aphis gossypii* in *Dahlia* sp. flower; B. *Aphis gossypii* in *Hibiscus rosinensis* flower; C. *Aphis gossypii* in *Cestrum* twig and flower; D. *Aphis craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower; E. *Aphis glycines* in *Helianthus giganteus* flower; F. *Aphis craccivora* on the *Muraya paniculata* flower; G. *Toxoptera odinae* in the *Mussaenda frondose*; H. *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*. in *Chrysanthemum* sp. Leaves; I. *Macrosiphum rosae* in *Rosa indica* flower; J. *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* in *Canna indica* leaves. Chandra Irsan captured all the photos

Table 1. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and their colony locations

Host plant	Aphid species	Colony location
<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Leaves, young twig, flower
<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	Leaves, flower
	<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Leaves
	<i>Myzus persicae</i>	Leaves, flower
<i>Caladium sp.</i>	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	Leaves,
<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Leaves, flower
<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	Leaf
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, flower
<i>Cestrum sp.</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
	<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Young leaves
<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flower
<i>Chrysanthemum sp.</i>	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Shoot, twig
<i>Dahlia sp.</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
<i>Dendrobium sp.</i>	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	Flower
<i>Duranta sp.</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
<i>Helianthus giganteus.</i>	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Flower
<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
	<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Shoot, young leaves
<i>Ixora sp.</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Flower
	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
	<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Shoot, flower
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Young Twig
	<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	Shoot, flower
<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, flower
	<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	Shoot, flower
<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	Flower
<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Flower

Table 2. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized

Aphid species	Ornamental plants	Aphids life color	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance	Total individual of ant
<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	Black	Flowers	+	3
	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Black	Flowers	+	2
<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Greenish yellow	Flowers	+	2
	<i>Ixora sp.</i>	greenish yellow	Flowers	+	3
	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	greenish yellow	Shoots, flowers	+	7
	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	greenish yellow	Flowers	+	8
<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	Greenish yellow	Flowers	+	3
<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Cestrum sp.</i>	Green	Shoots, flowers	+	4
	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	Light green	Shoots, flowers	+	1
	<i>Dahlia sp.</i>	Green dark	Flowers	+	2
	<i>Duranta sp.</i>	Light green	Shoots, flowers	+	5
	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	Dark green	Flowers	+	6
	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	Light green	Flowers	+	2
	<i>Ixora sp.</i>	Light green	Flowers	+	7
<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	Greenish yellow	Leaves, flowers	-	0
<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	Brown black	Leaves, twigs, flowers	+	5
	<i>Chrysanthemum sp.</i>	Reddish brown	Leaves, twigs	+	5
<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	<i>Rosa indica</i>	Green	Flowers	-	0
<i>Myzus persicae</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	Greenish yellow	Leaves, flowers	-	0
<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	<i>Cestrum sp.</i>	Light green	Young leaves,	-	0
	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	Light green	flowers	-	0
			Flowers		
<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	<i>Caladium sp.</i>	Brown-black	Leaves	+	7
<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	<i>Canna indica</i>	Green black	Leaves	+	1
<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	<i>Dendrobium sp.</i>	Brown	Flowers	-	0
<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	Brown black	Flowers	+	5
	<i>Ixora sp.</i>	Brown black	Flowers	+	4
<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Black	Stems	+	6
<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	Reddish-brown	Flowers	+	4

Notes: (+) = present; (-) = absent

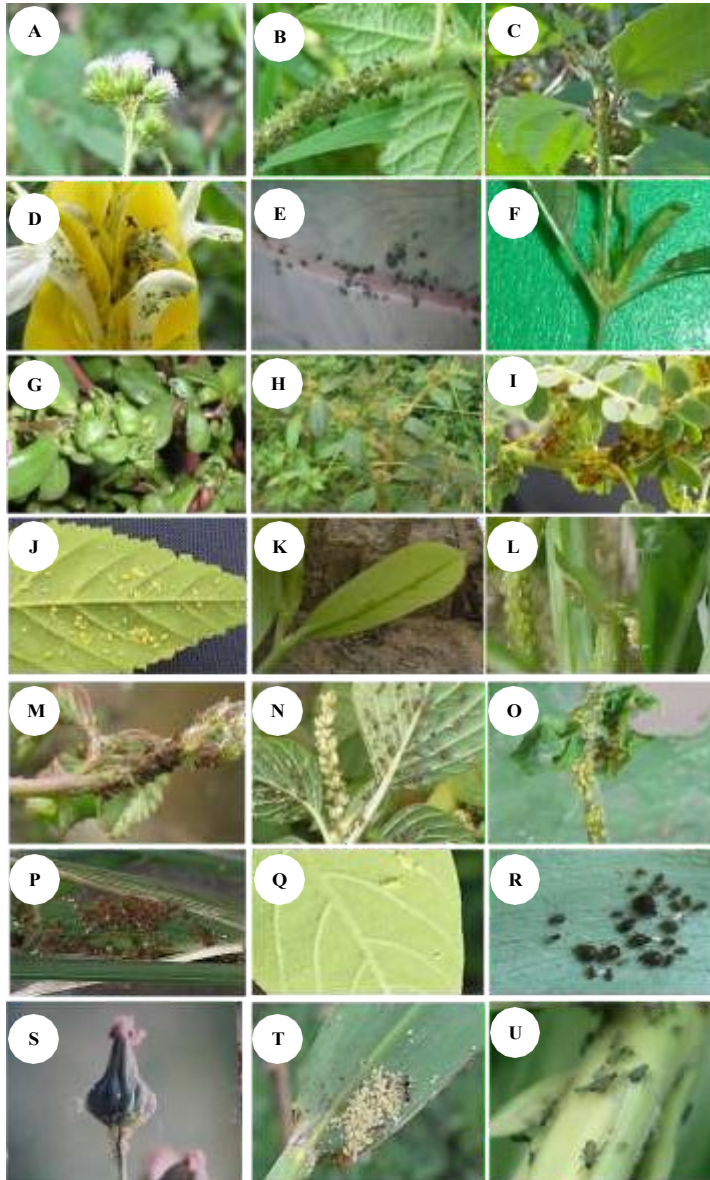


Figure 2. Aphids found infesting wild plants A. *Aphis gossypii* in *Ageratum conyzoides*; B. *Aphis gossypii* in *Croton hirtus*; C. *Aphis gossypii* in *Eupatorium odoratum*; D. *Aphis gossypii* in *Pachystochys* sp.; E. *Pentalonia caladii* in *Caladium* sp.; F. *Aphis gossypii* in *Alternanthera sessilis*; G. *Aphis gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae*; H. *Aphis gossypii* in *Euphorbia hirta*; I. *Aphis citricola* in *Phyllanthus nerruri*; J. *Aphis citricola* in *Sida rhombifolia*; K. *Aphis citricola* in *Annona muricata*; L. *Aphis citricola* in *Ludwigia peruviana*; M. *A. craccivora* in *Mimosa pudica*; N. *Aphis craccivora* in *Amaranthus gracilis*; O. *Aphis glycine* in *Mikania micrantha*; P. *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusin* sp.; Q. *Greenidae* sp. in *Bridelia tomentosa* young leaves.; R. *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali*; S. *Lipaphis erysimi* in *sonchus arvensis*; T. *Rhopalosiphum padi* in *Oryza rufipogon*; U. *Rhopalosiphum maidis* in *Oryza rufipogon*. All the photos were captured by Chandra Irsan

Table 3. Species of aphids found in wild (weed or non-weed) plants and their colony locations

Host plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	Weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
<i>Echinocloa crusgali</i>	Weed	<i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
<i>Eleusine indica</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
		<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves,
		<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Shoot, young twigs
<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	Non-weed	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
		<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
		<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Shoot, young twig
<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Weed	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> ,	Old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
		<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, seeds
<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis citricola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs, petioles
<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flowers
<i>Physalis angulata</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
		<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
<i>Rorippa indica</i>	Weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, fruits, shoots, young leaves
<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruits

Table 4. Aphid species were recorded in wild plants, and the presence of ants in the plant parts colonized

Aphid species	Wild plants	Aphids life color	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance	Total individual of ant	
<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Light green	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers	+	5	
	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Light green	Shoots, buds	+	3	
	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Light green	Shoots, buds	-	0	
	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Dark green	Shoots, buds	+	7	
	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	Green	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	5	
	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	Green	old leaves, young twigs	+	6	
	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Light green	Shoots, young leaves	+	7	
	<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	Light green	Flower, flower stalks, shoots	+	8	
	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Light green	Young leaves, old leaves	+	8	
	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Light green	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	9	
	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	Yellowish green	twigs	+	10	
	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	green	Shoots, young leaves	-	0	
	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Yellowish green	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves			
	<i>Sonchus oleraceae</i>	green	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds			
	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Amaranthus gracilis</i>	Black	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	3
		<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	Black	old leaves	+	2
<i>Mimosa pudica</i>		Black	Shoots, pods	+	3	
<i>Mimosa vigra</i>		Black	Shoots, pods, flowers	+	4	
<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>		Black	Shoots, pods	+	7	

	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	Black	Shoots, young leaves, flowers	+	4	
<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	Greenish yellow	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	6	
	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Light green	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	4	
<i>Aphis citricola</i>	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Greenish yellow	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	5	
			Shoot, young leaves, young twigs, petioles			
<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	<i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i>	Greenish yellow	Young leaves	-	0	
<i>Hystroneura setariae</i>	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalks	+	3	
	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4	
	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalks, seeds	+	4	
	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	Reddish-brown	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	3	
	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Reddish-brown	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	6	
	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils	+	3	
	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>		Flower, flower stalk, seeds		6	
	<i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	<i>Echinocloa crussgali</i>	Black	Young leaves, old leaves	-	0
	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Whitish green	Flowers, shoots, and buds	+	4
		<i>Rorippa indica</i>	Whitish green	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves	+	4
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>		Whitish green	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruit	+	5	
<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	Green	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	3	
	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Green	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	4	
	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Green	Old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	-	0	
<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Whitish green	Old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	+	4	
<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Green	Flowers, flower stalks	+	6	
	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Green	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4	
	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	Green	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4	

Notes: (+): present, (-): absent

Discussion

In the present study, some aphid species were found on several ornamental plants in Pagar Alam, the location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Aster alpinus* L., aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Macrosiphoniella sanborni* Gillette, 1908 associated with ants. On the *Brugmansia suaveolens* (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) Bercht. & J.Presl, *Myzus persicae* Sulzer, 1776 were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have turned yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. was found one species of aphids: *Pentalonia caladii* van der Goot, 1917. *P. caladii* was known and found in taro plants; the aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves (Bhadra and Agarwala 2014). This study found that the occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms; the aphids were yellow-green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odorata* (Lam.) Hook.f. & Thomson (ylang-ylang), colonies of *Toxoptera aurantii* Boyer de Fonscolombe, 1841 were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii*

colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants. Aphids on *Canna indica* L. (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body and the identification results showed that the aphids were *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* Linnaeus, 1761 (Ghosh and Singh 2004). The colonies of *R. nymphaeae* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G.Don (periwinkle), *Aphis citricola* van der Goot, 1912 aphids were found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and the colonized plant parts showed no disease symptoms. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or stalks that had not fully bloomed; the colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green, with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Aphis gossypii* Glover, 1877. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants. Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* L. were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems, and young

leaves. The aphids were brown to black. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Aphis craccivora* Koch, 1854. These colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia* sp. formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. According to this present study, *Sinemegoura citricola* van der Goot, 1917 colonies were found on the young leaves of *Dendrobium* sp., with the color body of the *S. citricola* aphids were yellow, green to dark green, and the colonized plants showing no disease symptoms, and were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp., colonies of aphids on the undersides of young leaves, and the colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The aphids were green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants. Furthermore, on the *Helianthus annuus* L., aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The colonized flowers, especially the crowns, tended to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Myzus ornatus* Laing, 1932. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that Aphidiidae parasitized were found. On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L., aphids ranging from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa* (Blume) Kurz. First, the aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, like sugar. The aphids had yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii* almost always associated with ants. The second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants.

Moreover, two forms of aphids were discovered in *Ixora* sp. flower plants. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves, and unopened flowers; the affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes, the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white, resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost always associated with ants. Another species of aphids formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce plant disease symptoms. The aphids were yellow or yellowish green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very small to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also frequently found in association with ants. Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa* L., each forming colonies in different locations. The first type formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Toxoptera odinae* van der Goot, 1917. The aphids were yellow, green, and dark green (Blackman et al. 2011). The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts. The plant parts they infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow-green, with black cauda and siphunculi.

They had tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. Many aphid species infest various ornamental plants because these insects are attracted to such plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al. 2023).

The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids. This indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* L. was infested by *A. gossypii*. These aphids formed colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green, yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (Mart.) Griseb., or alligator grass, was also colonized by *A. gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R.Br. ex DC. was colonized by *A. gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots, flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus gracilis* Desf. was infested by *A. craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers, and young and old leaves. They were dark brown to black, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* (Burm.fil.) DC. was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* Kaltentbach, 1843. These aphids were bright green and of medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower

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stalks, and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* L'Hér., or fire grass, was infested by *A. gossypii*; the aphids were yellow-green to dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds, and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* Signoret, 1860. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes the plant leaf axils. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to reddish brown. They were associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* L., or nut grass, was infested by *S. rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants. The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* L., or grass puzzle, was colonized by *S. rotundiventris* aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small colonies were observed. *Digitaria ciliaris* (Retz.) Koeler was infested by *Hysteronera setariae* Thomas 1878 aphids, with small colonies scattered on the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) P.Beauv., or water hyacinth plants, were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L., or urang-aring, was colonized by *A. gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants. *Eleusin indica* (L.) Gaertn. was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteronera setariae* Thomas, 1878 and *Rhopalosiphum maidis* Fitch, 1856. *H. setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks, and leaf axils, resulting in large colonies. *H. setariae*'s body color ranged from red-brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis* formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants. The plant *Emilia sonchifolia* (L.) DC. ex Wight, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *A. gossypii*; the aphids were yellow to green in color. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves. *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *H. setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red-brown. Small colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae* were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* L., or wart grass, was colonized by *A. gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupatorium odoratum* L. was colonized by *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young

leaves, old leaves, and young twigs. Young leaves colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this plant showed yellow-green to dark-green body color. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants. *Hymenachne acutigluma* (Steud.) Gilliland, or hair axis, was colonized by *H. setariae*, which formed colonies on the flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromia* sp., or *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* Brongn. or bamboo grass plants, were colonized by two species of aphids: *H. setariae* and *R. maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis* aphids were green to bright green, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix. In addition, *Melastoma affine* D.Don was colonized by *A. gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly emerging shoots and newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body color of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania micrantha* Kunth was colonized by *A. gossypii* and *Aphis glycines* Matsumura, 1917. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. glycines* aphids were light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a single colony. *Mimosa invisa* Mart. ex Colla (cater-grass) was colonized by *A. craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa pudica* L. was observed to be colonized by *A. craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots, and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa pigra* L. was colonized by *A. craccivora*. The colonies of aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Oryza rufipogon* Griff. was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum macr* and *R. maidis*. Both aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green

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with black siphunculi and cauda, while *Rhopalosiphum padi* Linnaeus, 1758 appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. padi* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants. *Axonopus compressus* (Sw.) P.Beauv., or pait grass, was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower stalks, seeds, and sometimes the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown. Small colonies were formed, and they were also consistently associated with ants. *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phyllanthus neruri* L. was colonized by *A. citricola*. The colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted, and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black siphunculi and cauda; the colonies formed were large. *Portulaca oleracea* L. plants were colonized by *A. craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleracea* plants formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The colonized plant parts became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that appeared glossy black. *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant parts did not show disease symptoms. *Rorippa indica* (L.) Hiern, or mustard land, was colonized by *L. erysimi*. The colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks, and the lower leaf's surface. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* L., or cacabea, was colonized by *A. gossypii*. The aphids had green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks, and flower petals. The colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* L. plants were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colors, and the colonies formed on flower stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically displayed typical damage symptoms, but some did not show any symptoms at all. Generally, the plants' symptoms due to aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves. These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition occurred because the colonized parts had reached maximum growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the leaves and plant parts were old. Furthermore, the old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid infestations.

The plant parts exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued growing, resulting in some parts developing ordinary while others became stunted (Pettersson et al. 2017). This condition could lead to bending shoots or young stems, curling leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants was often easier to recognize through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al. 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator of the aphid colonies. According to this study, ants were present in some aphid colonies from the subfamily Aphidinae, while the ants were absent in some aphid colonies from the macrosiphini subfamily. The bodies of aphids from the subfamily Aphidinae are relatively small and have short siphunculi. On the other hand, aphids, which have large bodies and relatively long siphunculi, are never visited by ants. This happens because long siphunculi are reported to disturb ants, so the ants don't like to come close. Additionally, large aphids and long siphunculi generally do not produce honeydew, so ants do not want to come close.

The absence of ants in aphid colonies could be because the colonies have just formed or the population is still low (Kummel et al. 2013). Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new growth or reproductive plant parts. Flowers contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap; therefore, aphids were attracted to flower saps. In addition, some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al. 2022). Herbs served as an alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as sap. Aphids considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and access this fluid (Brožek et al. 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *L. erysimi*, and *M. persicae*, the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al. 2022). Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive food sources (Nelson and Mooney 2022). The honeydew contained abundant sugars extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et al. 2022). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often farm aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew, ants protected aphids from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and parasitic wasps (Karami-Jamour et al. 2018). Certain ant species would transport aphids to new host plants for improved foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al. 2021). Honeydew

not only nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain species) and provided energy for the growth of their progeny (Biedermann and Vega 2020). Ornamental plants, and also weeds are generally grown with simple maintenance and usually free pesticides. The ecological habitat of ornamental plants and weeds is assumed to be the same. Therefore, many species of aphids found on ornamental plants were also found on weeds.

In conclusion total of 15 species aphids found in ornamental plants, *A. craccivora*, *A. citricola*, *A. glycines*, *A. gossypii*, *A. solani*, *M. sanborni*, *M. rosae*, *M. persicae*, *N. circumflexus*, *P. caladii*, *R. nymphaeae*, *S. citricola*, *T. aurantii*, *T. citricidus*, *T. odinae*. The total of 11 species aphids found in weeds, *A. gossypii*, *A. craccivora*, *A. glycines*, *A. citricola*, *Greenidea* sp., *H. setariae*, *Hiperomyzus* sp., *L. erysimi*, *R. maidis*, *R. padi*, *S. rotundiventris*.

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January 2024

Dear Editors,
BIODIVERSITAS Journal of Biological Diversity

As requested, this is our response to reviewers' comments and suggestions.

Thank you so much for a very kind attention and great helps provided by editorial team of BIODIVERSITAS Journal of Biological Diversity.

"Letter on responses to reviewers' comments and suggestions"

No.	Location in manuscript	Reviewers' suggestion	Our response
1	Introduction	The introduction is too brief, introduction is about 600-700 words, covering the aims of the research and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results. Please add some references that support your research background.	We already made the corrections.
2	Abstract and table	<i>Aphis ctiricola</i> is not accepted	We have already corrected it; we change to <i>Aphis Spiraecola</i>

Best regards,

Corresponding author,

Chandra Irsan

Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagar Alam District, South Sumatra, Indonesia

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Abstract. Irsan C, Anggraini E, Ramadhani W. 2023. *Species of aphids found in ornamental and wild plants in Pagar Alam District, South Sumatra, Indonesia. Biodiversitas 24: xxx-xxx.* Aphids are one of the crucial pests in tropical and sub-tropical regions. The presence of aphids in a plant can be very detrimental due to their role as vectors. Aphids exhibit species diversity, but not much information has been reported about the species diversity of aphids associated with essential crops such as ornamental plants. Furthermore, many aphid species, such as wild plants, were found on plants that were not hosts. Therefore, this study reported the species of aphids found in ornamental and wild plants. The field research employed purposive and direct observation to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting and collecting aphids. The plant selection process included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants and wild plants or weeds. The collection and identification of host plants and aphids involved systematic searches for the selected plants and subsequent examination for the presence of aphids. Observations were made to all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. This study revealed that the total of 15 species aphids found in Ornamental plants, *Aphis craccivora* Koch, 1854, *Aphis spiraeicola* Patch, 1914, *Aphis glycines* Matsumura, 1917, *Aphis gossypii* Glover, 1877, *Aulacorthum solani* Kaltentbach, 1843, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni* Gillette, 1908, *Macrosiphum rosae* Linnaeus, 1758, *Myzus persicae* Sulzer, 1776, *Neomyzus circumflexus* Buckton, 1876, *Pentalonia caladii* van der Goot, 1917, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* Linnaeus, 1761, *Sinemegoura citricola* van der Goot, 1917, *Toxoptera aurantii* Boyer de Fonscolombe, 1841, *Toxoptera citricidus* Kirkaldy, 1907, *Toxoptera odinae* van der Goot, 1917 and the total of 11 species aphids found in weeds, *A. gossypii*, *A. craccivora*, *A. glycines*, *A. citricola*, *Greenidea* sp., *Hystroneura setariae* Thomas, 1878, *Hiperomyzus* sp., *Lipaphis erysimi* Kaltentbach, 1843, *Rhopalosiphum maidis* Fitch, 1856, *Rhopalosiphum padi* Linnaeus, 1758, *Schizaphis rotundiventris* Signoret, 1860.

Keywords: Aphids, ornamental plants, wild plants

INTRODUCTION

Aphids are crucial pests in the tropics and sub-tropics, exhibiting various polyphagous, oligophagous, and monophagous characteristics (Kennedy and Stroyan 1959). One species of aphids can host more than 400 species from 40 families (Bass et al. 2014). In addition to pests, aphids can also be vectors of plant viral diseases (Gadhare et al. 2020); aphids can transmit 275 viruses (Ertunc 2020). In tropical areas, aphids can be found throughout the year due to their parthenogenetic nature of reproduction (Blackman and Eastop 2017). Aphids suck phloem sap of tender plant parts, which can deplete essential nutrients for healthy growth (Cao et al. 2018). Moreover, vector species can further weaken and stunt the growth of infected plants (Jones 2022). In addition, the honeydew that aphids secrete can lead to the growth of sooty mold, a black fungus that can prevent sunlight from reaching the plant's leaves, thereby impairing photosynthesis, the process by which plants produce food (Singh and Singh 2021). Therefore, it is crucial to control aphid populations in gardens and crops.

Many aphid species are found on plants that are not their actual hosts (Maharani et al. 2018). Aphids have one or more secondary, or alternative, host plants in addition to

their primary host plants, which are the types of plants they feed on most frequently (Clarke et al. 2020). Alternative plants provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions (Kumar et al. 2021). These secondary hosts may offer less adequate nutrition for insects (Mo and Smilanich 2023). However, they may provide a means of survival when primary hosts are unavailable, during certain seasons, or under certain environmental conditions (Kumar et al., 2021). According to Liu et al. (2017), hibiscus serves as an overwintering host for cotton-specialized aphids but not for cucurbit-specialized aphids, it is evident that host-specialized aphids have refuges during times of food shortage. The life cycles of numerous aphid species exhibit such complexity (Jousselin et al. 2010). They maintain a cycle of host alternation, shifting between their primary hosts (typically woody plants) and secondary hosts (often herbaceous plants) (Yamamoto et al. 2020). Weeds pose a continuous threat in both cropped and non-crop areas, providing food, shelter, and reproductive sites for various pest organisms (Kumar et al., 2021). This indicates that weeds can serve as alternative hosts for aphids.

In South Sumatra, particularly in the highland areas like Pagar Alam, there are numerous ornamental and wild plants. Research on the inventory of aphid species in ornamental and wild plants has less noticed. This study reports the diversity of aphid species found in ornamental and wild plants found in this area. The findings from this study can serve as a valuable resource for aphid management.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field research employed a purposive and direct observation to inventory cultivated or wild plants hosting and collecting aphids. The plant selection included cultivated plants encompassing ornamental plants, as well as wild plants or weeds. Where available, collecting and identifying host plants, aphids, and natural enemies involved systematic searches of all existing plant species to find those colonized by aphids. Any plants colonized by aphids are documented as aphid hosts. Aphid identification was done using identification keys (Blackman and Eastop 2008) in the Laboratory of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. Identification relied on morphological characteristics. The host plants were identified using the weed identification handbook (Kallas 2010; Naidu 2012; Meuninck 2023). The location and aphid colony sizes, including their life color, and

photographs of the aphid colonies and their host plants were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Aphids infesting in ornamental plants

The results showed that 15 aphid species were found in Pagar Alam (Tables 1 and 2). These aphids mostly colonized flowers of various ornamental plants (Table 1, Figure 1).

The relationship between aphids and ants was also recorded. Aphids produce a sweet, sticky substance called honeydew; ants are attracted to this honey because it serves as a food source. When aphids are present, they secrete honeydew, which attracts ants. This research recorded the presence of ants on plant parts colonized by aphids (Table 2).

Aphids infesting in wild plants (weed or non-weed plants)

In addition, this study documented aphid colonies on flowers, stalks, plant tops, young leaves, and old leaves of wild plants (Table 3, Figure 2).

The presence of ants in aphid colonization symbolizes a mutually beneficial relationship where the ants receive food from the aphids while protecting them. This study recorded the ant attendance in aphids colonization (Table 4).

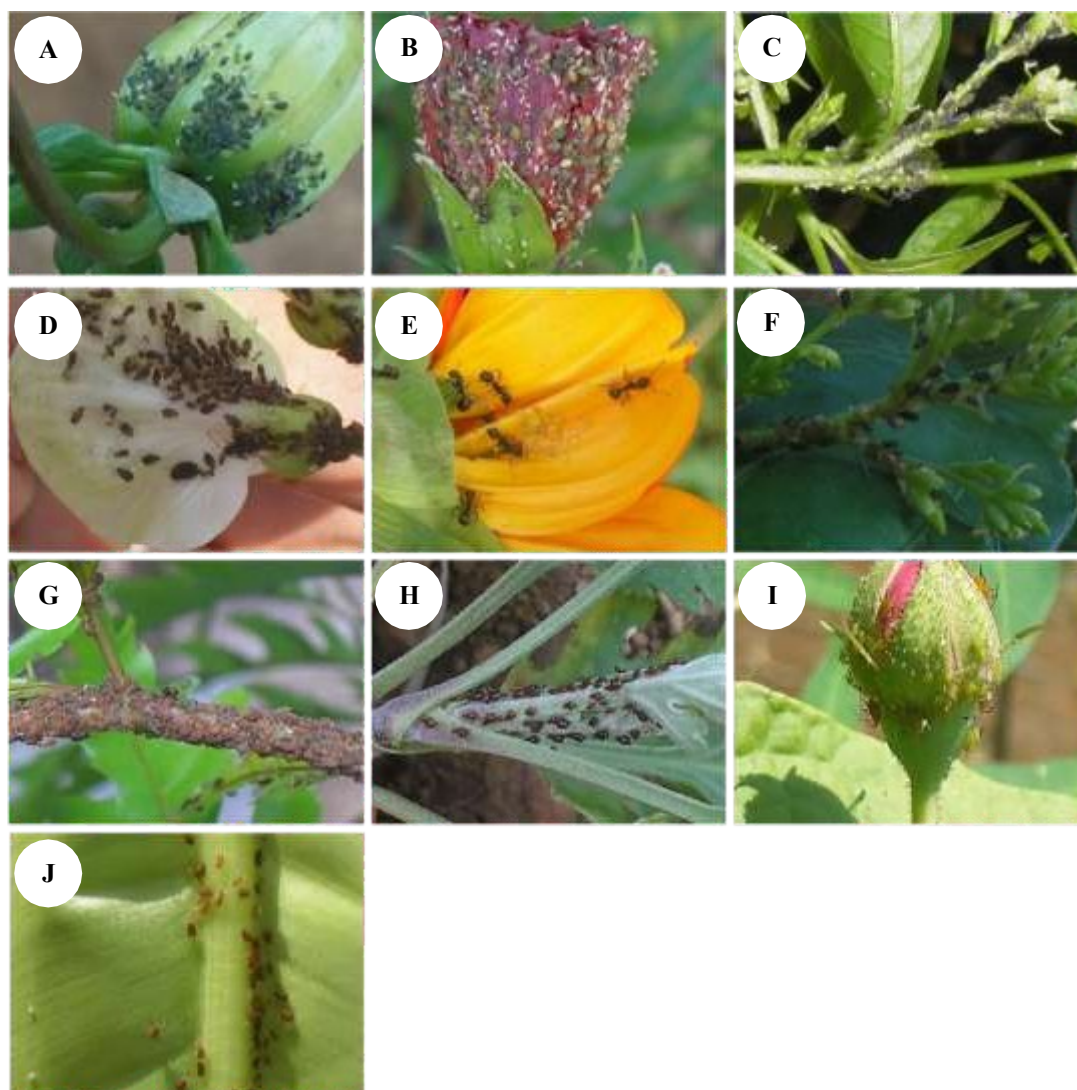


Figure 1. Photos showing colonies of different aphid species in ornamental plants: A. *Aphis gossypii* in *Dahlia* sp. flower; B. *Aphis gossypii* in *Hibiscus rosinensis* flower; C. *Aphis gossypii* in *Cestrum* twig and flower; D. *Aphis craccivora* in *Clitoria ternatea* flower; E. *Aphis glycines* in *Helianthus giganteus* flower; F. *Aphis craccivora* on the *Murayya paniculata* flower; G. *Toxoptera odinae* in the *Mussaenda frondose*; H. *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*. in *Chrysanthemum* sp. Leaves; I. *Macrosiphum rosae* in *Rosa indica* flower; J. *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* in *Canna indica* leaves. Chandra Irsan captured all the photos.

Table 1. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and their colony locations

Host plant	Aphid species	Colony location
<i>Aster alpinus</i>	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Leaves, young twig, flower
<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	Leaves, flower
	<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Leaves
	<i>Myzus persicae</i>	Leaves, flower
<i>Caladium</i> sp.	<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	Leaves,
<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Leaves, flower
<i>Canna indica</i>	<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	Leaf
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Aphis spiraecola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, flower
<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
	<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	Young leaves
<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flower
<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	Shoot, twig
<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	<i>Sinemogoura citricola</i>	Flower
<i>Duranta</i> sp.	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoot, flower
<i>Helianthus giganteus</i> .	<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Flower
<i>Hibiscus rosinensis</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> ,	Flower
	<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Shoot, young leaves

<i>Ixora</i> sp.	<i>Aphis spiraeicola</i>	Flower
	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower
	<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Shoot, flower
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Young Twig
	<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	Shoot, flower
<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	<i>Aphis spiraeicola</i>	Shoot, flower
	<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	Shoot, flower
<i>Rosa indica</i>	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	Flower
<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	<i>Aphis spiraeicola</i>	Flower

Table 2. Aphid species recorded in ornamental plants and the presence of the ants in the plant parts colonized

Aphid species	Ornamental plants	Aphids life color	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance	Total individual of ant
<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	Black	Flowers	+	3
	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Black	Flowers	+	2
<i>Aphis spiraeicola</i>	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Greenish yellow	Flowers	+	2
	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	greenish yellow	Flowers	+	3
	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	greenish yellow	Shoots, flowers	+	7
	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	greenish yellow	Flowers	+	8
<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	Greenish yellow	Flowers	+	3
<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	Green	Shoots, flowers	+	4
	<i>Cananga odoratum</i>	Light green	Shoots, flowers	+	1
	<i>Dahlia</i> sp.	Green dark	Flowers	+	2
	<i>Duranta</i> sp.	Light green	Shoots, flowers	+	5
	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	Dark green	Flowers	+	6
	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	Light green	Flowers	+	2
	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	Light green	Flowers	+	7
<i>Aulacorthum solani</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	Greenish yellow	Leaves, flowers	-	0
<i>Macrosiphoniella sanborni</i>	<i>Aster alpinus</i>	Brown black	Leaves, twigs, flowers	+	5
	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	Reddish brown	Leaves, twigs	+	5
<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i>	<i>Rosa indica</i>	Green	Flowers	-	0
<i>Myzus persicae</i>	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	Greenish yellow	Leaves, flowers	-	0
<i>Neomyzus circumflexus</i>	<i>Cestrum</i> sp.	Light green	Young leaves, flowers	-	0
	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	Light green	Flowers	-	0
<i>Pentalonia caladii</i>	<i>Caladium</i> sp.	Brown-black	Leaves	+	7
<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i>	<i>Canna indica</i>	Green black	Leaves	+	1
<i>Sinemegoura citricola</i>	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	Brown	Flowers	-	0
<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	<i>Ixora paludosa</i>	Brown black	Flowers	+	5
	<i>Ixora</i> sp.	Brown black	Flowers	+	4
<i>Toxoptera citricidus</i>	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Black	Stems	+	6
<i>Toxoptera odinae</i>	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i>	Reddish-brown	Flowers	+	4

Notes: (+) = present; (-) = absent

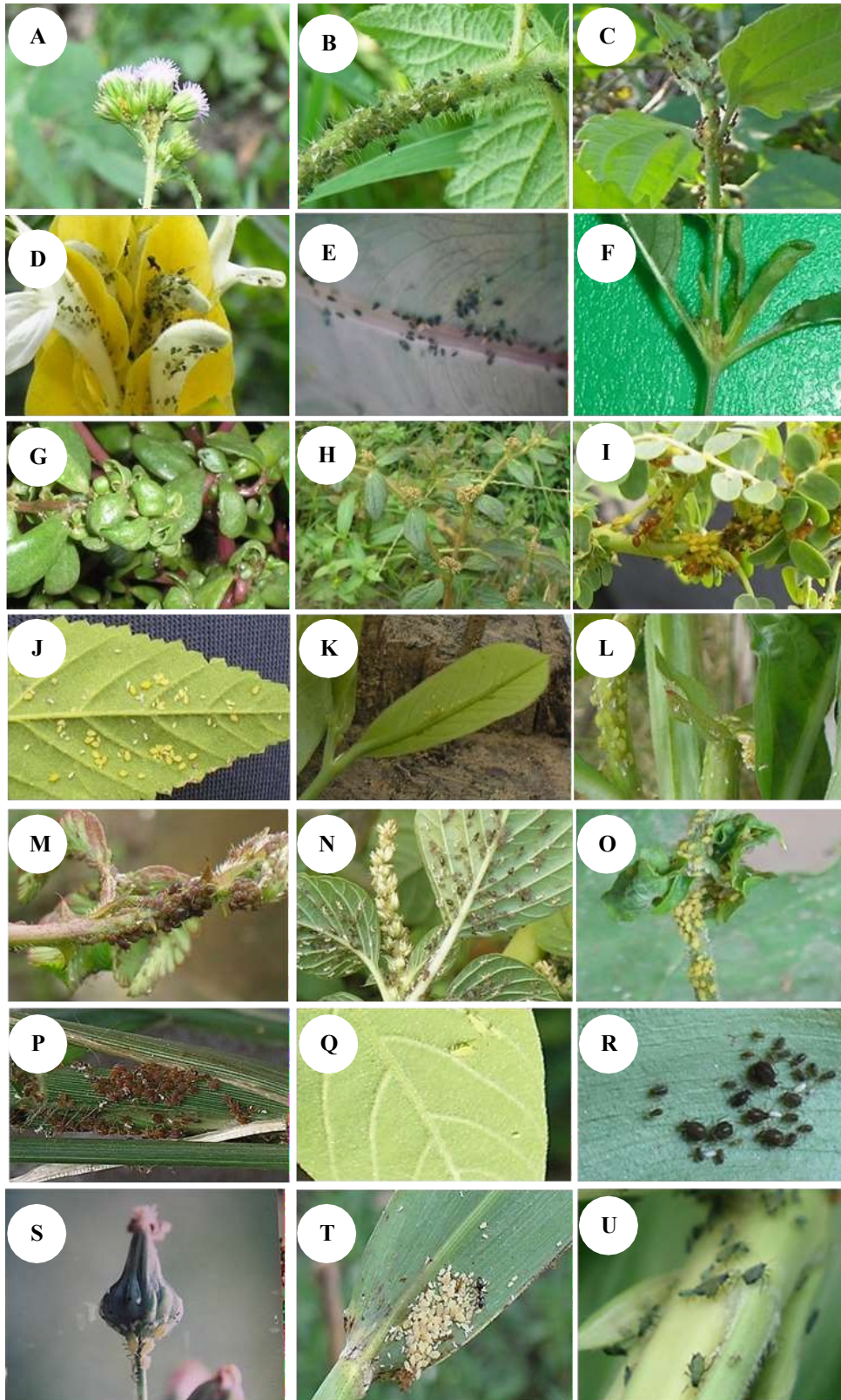


Figure 2. Aphids found infesting wild plants A. *Aphis gossypii* in *Ageratum conyzoides*; B. *Aphis gossypii* in *Croton hirtus*; C. *Aphis gossypii* in *Eupatorium odoratum*; D. *Aphis gossypii* in *Pachystochys* sp.; E. *Pentalonia caladii* in *Caladium* sp.; F. *Aphis gossypii* in *Alternanthera sessilis*; G. *Aphis gossypii* in *Portulaca oleraceae*; H. *Aphis gossypii* in *Euphorbia hirta*; I. *Aphis spiraeicola* in *Phyllanthus nerruri*; J. *Aphis spiraeicola* in *Sida rhombifolia*; K. *Aphis spiraeicola* in *Bridelia tomentosa*; L. *Aphis spiraeicola* in *Ludwigia peruviana*; M. *A. craccivora* in *Mimosa pudica*; N. *Aphis craccivora* in *Amaranthus viridis*; O. *Aphis glycine* in *Mikania micrantha*; P. *Hysteneura* sp. in *Eleusin* sp.; Q. *Greenidae* sp. in *Bridelia tomentosa*; R. *Hyperomyzus* sp. in *Echinochloa crusgali*; S. *Lipaphis erysimi* in *sonchus arventris*; T. *Rhopalosiphum padi* in *Oryza rufipogon*; U. *Rhopalosiphum maidis* in *Oryza rufipogon*. All the photos were captured by Chandra Irsan.

Table 3. Species of aphids found in wild (weed or non-weed) plants and their colony locations

Host plant	Weeds or non-weed plants	Aphid species	Colony location
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, buds
<i>Amaranthus viridis</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves
<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, shoots, and buds
<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	Non-weed	<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	Young leaves
		<i>Aphis spiraeicola</i>	Shoot, young leaves
<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf
axils <i>Cyperus compressus</i>	Weed	<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf
<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	Weed	<i>Hystroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks
<i>Echinocloa crussgali</i>	Weed	<i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	Young leaves, old leaves
<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
<i>Eleusin indica</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
		<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils
<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Flower, flower stalks, shoots
<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flower, flower stalks, seeds
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves
<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Young leaves, old leaves,
		<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Shoot, young twigs
<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
		<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils
<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves
<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
		<i>Aphis glycines</i>	Shoot, young twig
<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods, flowers
<i>Mimosa vigra</i>	Non-weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, pods
<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Weed	<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> ,	Old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
		<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	Old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils
<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils
<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	Weed	<i>Hysteroneura setariae</i>	Flowers, flower stalks, seeds
<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis spiraeicola</i>	Shoot, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs, petioles
<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, flowers
<i>Physalis angulata</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
		<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves
<i>Rorippa indica</i>	Weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Flowers, fruits, shoots, young leaves
<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Weed	<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Weed	<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruits

Table 4. Aphid species were recorded in wild plants, and the presence of ants in the plant parts colonized

Aphid species	Wild plants	Aphids life color	Plant parts colonized	Ant attendance	Total individual of ant	
<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Light green	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, flowers	+	5	
	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Light green	Shoots, buds	+	3	
	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Light green	Shoots, buds	-	0	
	<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Dark green	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	7	
	<i>Ecliptica prostrata</i>	Green	Shoots, young leaves	+	5	
	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	Green	Flower, flower stalks, shoots	+	6	
	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Light green	Young leaves, old leaves	+	7	
	<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	Light green	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	8	
	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Light green	Shoots, young leaves	+	8	
	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Light green	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	9	
	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	Yellowish green	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves, fruit/seeds	+	10	
	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Yellowish green	Flowers, shoots, young leaves, old leaves	-	0	
	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i>	Black	Shoots, pods	+	3
		<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	Black	Shoots, pods, flowers	+	2
<i>Mimosa pudica</i>		Black	Shoots, pods	+	3	
<i>Mimosa vigra</i>		Black	Shoots, pods	+	4	
<i>Portulaca oleraceae</i>		Black	Shoots, young leaves, flowers	+	7	
<i>Physalis angulata</i>		Black	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	4	

<i>Aphis glycines</i>	<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>				
	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>				
<i>Aphis spiraeicola</i>	<i>Phyllanthus neruri</i>	Greenish yellow	Young leaves, old leaves, young twigs	+	6
	<i>Bridelia</i>	Light green	Shoots, young leaves, old leaves	+	4
	<i>Tomentosa</i>	Greenish yellow	Shoot, young leaves, young twigs, petioles	+	5
		Greenish yellow	Shoot, young leaves	+	2
<i>Greenidea</i> sp.	<i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i>	Greenish yellow	Young leaves	-	0
<i>Hystroneura setariae</i>	<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalks	+	3
	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4
	<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalks, seeds	+	4
	<i>Hymenochera acutigluma</i>	Reddish-brown	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	3
	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Reddish-brown	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	6
	<i>Oxonopus compressus</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalk, leaf axils	+	3
	<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	Reddish-brown	Flower, flower stalk, seeds	+	6
<i>Hyperomyzus</i> sp.	<i>Echinochloa crusgali</i>	Black	Young leaves, old leaves	-	0
<i>Lipaphis erysimi</i>	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Whitish green	Flowers, shoots, and buds	+	4
	<i>Rorippa indica</i>	Whitish green	Flower, fruit, shoots, young leaves	+	4
	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Whitish green	Young leaves, fruit stalks, flowers, fruit	+	5
<i>Rhopalosiphum maidis</i>	<i>Eleusin indica</i>	Green	Flower, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	3
	<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Green	Young leaves, old leaves, leaf axils	+	4
	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Green	Old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	-	0
<i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i>	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	Whitish green	Old leaves, young leaves (shoot), leaf axils	+	4
<i>Schizaphis rotundiventris</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Green	Flowers, flower stalks	+	6
	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	Green	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4
	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Green	Flowers, flower stalks, leaf axils	+	4

Notes: (+): present, (-): absent

Discussion

In the present study, some aphid species were found on several ornamental plants in Pagar Alam, the location of aphid colonization on the plants varied. On *Aster alpinus* L., aphids were found to form colonies on the stems or young leaf shoots, and the colonies were relatively large. The color of the aphids was dark brown to black. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms of stunting. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Macrosiphoniella sanborni* Gillette, 1908 associated with ants. On the *Brugmansia suaveolens* (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) Bercht. & J.Presl, *Myzus persicae* Sulzer, 1776 were found on the undersides of old leaves or leaves that have turned yellow. The colonies were relatively small. The aphids found were green and large bodies. The colonized plant parts did not show any signs of disease. On *Caladium* sp. was found one species of aphids: *Pentalonia caladii* van der Goot, 1917. *P. caladii* was known and found in taro plants; the aphids formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves (Bhadra and Agarwala 2014). This study found that the occupied leaf areas did not display severe symptoms; the aphids were yellow-green to dark green. The wingless adult aphids often had a white, flour-like appearance on their bodies. On the *Cananga odorata* (Lam.) Hook.f. & Thomson (ylang-ylang), colonies of *Toxoptera aurantii* Boyer de Fonscolombe, 1841 were found on the undersides of the leaves, the shoots, buds, and unopened flower petals. The *T. aurantii* colonies found were relatively large. Colonized parts, especially shoots, showed signs of stunting. The aphids found were brown to black. The colonies of *T. aurantii* were found to be associated with black ants. Aphids on *Canna indica* L. (Indian shot, African arrowroot) were found to form colonies in the leaf axils and under the leaf surface near the leaf base. The colonies were quite large. The aphids were dark brown to dark red coloring with a medium-sized body and the identification results showed that the aphids were *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* Linnaeus,

1761 (Ghosh and Singh 2004). The colonies of *R. nymphaeae* were found to be associated with ants. In the *Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G.Don (periwinkle), *Aphis spiraeicola* Patch, 1914 aphids were found. The aphids were yellow-green, sifunculi, and black cauda. The aphids formed colonies on flowers and shoots, and the colonized plant parts showed no disease symptoms. On *Cestrum* sp. (Bastard jasmine), aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts, especially between petals or stalks that had not fully bloomed; the colonies were quite large. The body color of aphids was green to dark green, with small to medium-sized bodies. The colonized plant parts, especially leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Aphis gossypii* Glover, 1877. The aphid colonies found were consistently associated with ants. Aphids on *Clitoria ternatea* L. were found to form colonies on flower parts, flower crowns, stems, and young leaves. The aphids were brown to black. Colonized plant parts, especially shoots and young leaves, showed stunting symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Aphis craccivora* Koch, 1854. These colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids on the *Dahlia* sp. formed colonies on unopened flower buds, with a significant population among the blooming petals. The body color was green to dark green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. According to this present study, *Sinemegoura citricola* van der Goot, 1917 colonies were found on the young leaves of *Dendrobium* sp., with the color body of the *S. citricola* aphids were yellow, green to dark green, and the colonized plants showing no disease symptoms, and were associated with ants. On *Duranta* sp., colonies of aphids on the undersides of young leaves, and the colonized plant parts showed stunting symptoms. The colonies were very large. The aphids were green. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were

consistently associated with ants. Furthermore,
on the

Helianthus annuus L., aphid colonies were found between the flower petals. The colonized flowers, especially the crowns, tended to fall off easily. The aphids were green and yellow in color. The colonies were small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were associated with ants. Aphid colonies on *Helianthus* sp. were found on the undersides of old leaves. These colonies were small in size. The aphids were green with a medium body size. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Aphis glycines* Matsumura, 1917. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. Within the colonies, mummified aphids that Aphidiidae parasitized were found. On the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L., aphids ranging from yellow to dark green were found. The aphids formed colonies on flower buds, unopened flower crowns, and the undersides of aging leaves. The colonies grew to be very large. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii*. The aphid colonies were consistently associated with ants. Two types of aphids were found on the flowering plant *Ixora paludosa* (Blume) Kurz. First, the aphids formed colonies on the undersides of young leaves that were still red or light green and sometimes on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed. The occupied plant parts showed symptoms such as stunted leaf growth, leaf shrinkage, necrotic spots on the leaf surface, and slightly downward-curved leaf edges. The upper leaf surface looked wet and sticky, like sugar. The aphids had yellow, green, or slightly dark green bodies, with some wingless adults having a powdery white upper surface. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. gossypii* almost always associated with ants. The second type of aphids on *Ixora paludosa* formed colonies under the surface of young and older leaves. The colonies could also be found on newly emerging flowers and leaves. The plant parts occupied by these aphids did not show obvious signs of illness. These aphids were dark red to black, with once-branched stigma and venation in their black wings. The identification results showed that the aphids were *T. aurantii*. These aphids were also associated with ants. Moreover, two forms of aphids were discovered in *Ixora* sp. flower plants. These aphids occupied the shoots, young leaves, and unopened flowers; the affected plant parts did not show obvious symptoms. The aphids exhibited colors ranging from yellow and green to a slightly darker green. Sometimes, the upper surface of the wingless imago's body appeared white, resembling flour. The identification results showed that these aphids were *A. gossypii*. These aphid colonies were almost always associated with ants. Another species of aphids formed colonies on flower stalks that had not yet bloomed and on newly emerging shoots or leaves. The presence of these aphids on the plant did not induce plant disease symptoms. The aphids were yellow or yellowish green, with black cauda and siphunculi. Their bodies were very small to small. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. The colonies of *A. citricola* were also frequently found in association with ants. Two types of aphids were found on *Mussaenda frondosa* L., each forming colonies in different locations. The first type

formed colonies on young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The plant parts they occupied showed no obvious disease symptoms. The identification results showed that the aphids were *Toxoptera odinae* van der Goot, 1917. The aphids were yellow, green, and dark green (Blackman et al. 2011). The second type of aphids formed colonies on the stems or young twigs, appearing densely clustered as if piled up. The aphid colonies could also be found on young leaves, shoots, and within flower parts. The plant parts they infested showed no signs of diseases. The aphids were yellow or yellow-green, with black cauda and siphunculi. They had tiny to small bodies. The identification results showed that the aphids were *A. citricola*. Many aphid species infest various ornamental plants because these insects are attracted to such plants due to the rich nutrient content in the plant sap (Braham et al. 2023).

The results showed that 34 species of wild plants, including weeds, were growing in the yard colonized by aphids. This indicated that multiple species of aphids colonized various host plants. The aphid species colonizing these plants were generally consistent within the same taxon. *Ageratum conyzoides* L. was infested by *A. gossypii*. These aphids formed colonies on the flower sections, shoots, lower surfaces of young leaves, or leaves turning yellow. The aphids were green, yellow-green to dark green, often forming large colonies. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (Mart.) Griseb., or alligator grass, was also colonized by *A. gossypii*. Small colonies were found on shoots or stems. These aphids had small bodies and were green, ranging from yellow-green to dark green. *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R.Br. ex DC. was colonized by *A. gossypii*, forming colonies on shoots, flowers, and fruit. The colonies were typically large, and often associated with tiny brown ants. *Amaranthus viridis* Linnaeus was infested by *A. craccivora*. These aphids established colonies on shoots, flowers, and young and old leaves. They were dark brown to black, with shiny black wingless imagoes. Colonies of these aphids were associated with both black and red ants. *Blumea lacera* (Burm.fil.) DC. was colonized by *Lipaphis erysimi* Kaltentbach, 1843. These aphids were bright green and of medium size. The colonies formed on flowers, flower stalks, and the undersides of the leaves at the top. The aphid colonies were not associated with ants. *Croton hirtus* L'Hér., or fire grass, was infested by *A. gossypii*; the aphids were yellow-green to dark green. The colonies were found on the stems, leaves, buds, and flowers, often forming large colonies. *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. or Bermuda grass was colonized by *Schizaphis rotundiventris* Signoret, 1860. The aphids colonized the flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes the plant leaf axils. Small colonies were formed. The aphids were brown to reddish brown. They were associated with ants. *Cyperus rotundus* L., or nut grass, was infested by *S. rotundiventris* aphids. The colonies were found on flower stalks, flowers, and leaf axils. The colonies were quite large and associated with both black and red ants. The aphids were dark brown in color. *Cyperus compressus* L., or grass puzzle, was colonized by *S. rotundiventris* aphids, forming colonies in the flowers, flower stalks, and sometimes in the axils and leaves of the shoots or buds. Small colonies were observed.

Digitaria ciliaris (Retz.) Koeler was infested by *Hysteroneura setariae* Thomas 1878 aphids, with small colonies scattered on the flowers and flower stalks. These aphids were light brown to brown in color. *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) P.Beauv., or water hyacinth plants, were colonized by *Hiperomyzus* sp. aphids. These aphids were dark brown to black and formed large colonies on the undersides of both young and old leaves. The aphid colonies were never found in association with ants. *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L., or urang-aring, was colonized by *A. gossypii*, forming small colonies on the shoots and flowers. The aphids were bright green to blackish green. The aphid colonies were also consistently associated with ants. *Eleusin indica* (L.) Gaertn. was colonized by two species of aphids: *Hysteroneura setariae* Thomas, 1878 and *Rhopalosiphum maidis* Fitch, 1856. *H. setariae* formed colonies in flower parts, flower stalks, and leaf axils, resulting in large colonies. *H. setariae*'s body color ranged from red-brown to dark brown. The colonies were consistently associated with ants. The aphids of *R. maidis* formed colonies in the leaf axils and undersides of leaves and leaf shoots that had not yet opened. The colonies were not densely packed. The leaf aphids of *R. maidis* were green in color, with distinct black siphunculi and cauda. These aphids had relatively large bodies with a slightly elongated shape. *R. maidis* colonies were always associated with ants. The plant *Emilia sonchifolia* (L.) DC. ex Wight, characterized by its purple flowers, was colonized by *A. gossypii*; the aphids were yellow to green in color. The colonies formed near flowers, flower stalks, and shoot leaves. *Eragrostis tenella* was infested by *H. setariae* aphids. The aphids were brown to red-brown. Small colonies formed on flowers near the seeds, with groups of aphids surrounding the plant's seeds. The aphids of *H. setariae* were consistently associated with ants. *Euphorbia hirta* L., or wart grass, was colonized by *A. gossypii*. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, resulting in stunted growth of the leaves. The aphids were yellow to dark green in color. *A. gossypii* colonies on *E. hirta* plants were consistently associated with ants. *Eupatorium odoratum* L. was colonized by *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola*. *A. gossypii* formed colonies in the buds, young leaves, old leaves, and young twigs. Young leaves colonized by *A. gossypii* became stunted with an irregular shape. *A. gossypii* found in this plant showed yellow-green to dark-green body color. The colonies of *A. citricola* formed on the young twigs near the shoots, with these aphids displaying yellow-green coloration and having black siphunculi and cauda. Aphid colonies of *A. gossypii* and *A. citricola* on *E. odoratum* plants were associated with either black or red ants. *Hymenachne acutigluma* (Steud.) Gilliland, or hair axis, was colonized by *H. setariae*, which formed colonies on the flower stalks and flowers. The colonized parts of the plants did not display any noticeable symptoms. *Lagerstromia* sp., or *kenidai*, was infested by *Greenidae* sp. These aphids had bright green bodies and distinctive elongated siphunculi with thorns. The aphids formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially on young leaves. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *Lophatherum gracile* Brongn. or

bamboo grass plants, were colonized by two species of aphids: *H. setariae* and *R. maidis*. The aphids of *H. setariae* formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, leaf shoots, and leaf axils. The colonized leaves did not show any disease symptoms. *H. setariae* aphids were brown to red-brown. *R. maidis* aphids also formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, but the colonies were small. *R. maidis* aphids were green to bright green, with black siphunculi and cauda. It was possible for colonies of the two species of aphids on *L. gracile* to mix. In addition, *Melastoma affine* D.Don was colonized by *A. gossypii*. The colonies formed on shoots, particularly near newly emerging shoots and newly emerging fruits and flowers. The body color of aphids ranged from yellow to green. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Mikania micrantha* Kunth was colonized by *A. gossypii* and *Aphis glycines* Matsumura, 1917. *A. gossypii* formed colonies on the shoots, especially on the undersides of the leaves, resulting in stunted and curled leaves. *A. glycine* formed colonies on the branches. The colonies were densely populated. *A. glycines* aphids were light green to green in color. The colonized plant parts became distorted. The two species of aphids could mix to form a single colony. *Mimosa invisa* Mart. ex Colla (cater-grass) was colonized by *A. craccivora*. The aphids of *A. craccivora* on *M. invisa* plants formed colonies only on the shoots with small colonies. The aphids appeared dark black with wingless imagoes. *Mimosa pudica* L. was observed to be colonized by *A. craccivora*. The aphids formed colonies on shoots, especially young shoots, and occasionally on flowers and pods. The aphids were black and of medium size, resulting in stunted growth of the colonized plant parts. The colonies were quite large. *Mimosa pigra* L. was colonized by *A. craccivora*. The colonies of aphids occupied the pods and shoots with small colonies. The nymphs of aphids were black, and wingless adults were shiny black. The colonized plant parts did not show any disease symptoms. *Oryza rufipogon* Griff. was colonized by two species of aphids: *Rhopalosiphum padi* and *R. maidis*. Both aphids colonized the same plant parts, namely the unopened leaves and the leaf axils with large colonies. The two species could be distinguished by their body color. *R. maidis* appeared green with black siphunculi and cauda, while *Rhopalosiphum padi* Linnaeus, 1758 appeared white. The colonies of *R. maidis* and *R. padi* in *O. rufipogon* plants were associated with the presence of red ants. *Axonopus compressus* (Sw.) P.Beauv., or *pait* grass, was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flowers, flower stalks, seeds, and sometimes the leaf axils. The aphids were brown to dark brown. Small colonies were formed, and they were also consistently associated with ants. *Paspalum conjugatum* was colonized by *H. setariae* aphids. The colonies occupied flower parts, especially the seeds and flower stalks. Aphids had brown to dark brown bodies. *Phyllanthus neruri* L. was colonized by *A. citricola*. The colonies formed on the shoots and the undersides of leaves and petioles. The colonized parts became distorted, stunted, and wrinkled. The aphids had yellow bodies with black siphunculi and cauda; the colonies formed were large. *Portulaca oleracea* L. plants were colonized by *A.*

craccivora. The aphids of *A. craccivora* in *P. oleraceae* plants formed colonies on the undersides of leaves, especially young leaves, shoots, and flowers. The colonized plant parts became stunted, and leaf edges curled downward. The aphids had dark brown to black bodies, with wingless imagoes that appeared glossy black. *Physalis angulata* plants were colonized by *Aphis craccivora*. The aphids had dark green to black bodies, with glossy black wingless imagoes. *A. craccivora* formed colonies on the shoots or near the leaf buds. The colonized plant parts did not show disease symptoms. *Rorippa indica* (L.) Hiern, or mustard land, was colonized by *L. erysimi*. The colonies formed on the flowers, fruits, flower stalks, and the lower leaf's surface. The colonized plant parts showed symptoms such as curling and stunting. *Sida rhombifolia* L., or cacabean, was colonized by *A. gossypii*. The aphids had green-yellow to green body colors. The colonies formed on the surface of lower leaves, stalks, and flower petals. The colonized plant parts, especially the shoots, showed curling, and the leaf edges curled downward. *Sonchus arvensis* L. plants were colonized by *L. erysimi*. The aphids had green to whitish green body colors, and the colonies formed on flower stalks, under petals, and on young shoots or leaves. The colonized plant parts became stunted over time.

In general, aphids observed on ornamental and wild plants formed colonies. The colonized plant parts typically displayed typical damage symptoms, but some did not show any symptoms at all. Generally, the plants' symptoms due to aphid colonies were relatively the same, such as stunted growth, abnormal shape, and stunted or curly leaves. These characteristic symptoms serve as indicators of aphid infestations. However, some plants or plant parts did not show symptoms when colonized by aphids. This condition occurred because the colonized parts had reached maximum growth or development. It indicated that the colonized part was not currently undergoing a growth phase. The colonies that did not induce symptoms typically occurred when the colonized leaves had reached their maximum growth or when the leaves and plant parts were old. Furthermore, the old leaves or twigs might not show the typical symptoms associated with aphid infestations. The plant parts exhibiting characteristic symptoms when colonized by aphids also often experienced a cessation in growth due to the piercing by the aphids. In contrast, the areas surrounding the puncture site continued growing, resulting in some parts developing ordinary while others became stunted (Pettersson et al. 2017). This condition could lead to bending shoots or young stems, curling leaves, downward curling of leaf edges, or stunted leaf growth. In this observation, monocot plants or groups of grasses with narrow leaves generally did not display any distinctive symptoms when colonized by aphids. This might be because the growth or development of their leaves differed from that of dicot plants. Therefore, the presence of aphids in monocot plants was often easier to recognize through the presence of ants. If a plant was found to have a significant number of ants, there was a possibility that aphids had colonized the plant (Tegelaar et al. 2012). Therefore, the presence of ants could serve as an indicator

of the aphid colonies. According to this study, ants were present in some aphid colonies from the subfamily Aphidinae, while the ants were absent in some aphid colonies from the macrosiphini subfamily. The bodies of aphids from the subfamily Aphidinae are relatively small and have short sifunculi. On the other hand, aphids, which have large bodies and relatively long sifunculi, are never visited by ants. This happens because long sifunculi are reported to disturb ants, so the ants don't like to come close. Additionally, large aphids and long sifunculi generally do not produce honeydew, so ants do not want to come close.

The absence of ants in aphid colonies could be because the colonies have just formed or the population is still low (Kummel et al. 2013). Aphids colonized flowers because they may offer an accessible and rich food source, sugary plant sap found in new growth or reproductive plant parts. Flowers contain a nutrient-rich nature and easy access to sap; therefore, aphids were attracted to flower saps. In addition, some aphid species were drawn to certain colors (Jakubczyk et al. 2022). Herbs served as an alternative host for aphids in this present study. Aphids consume sugar-rich liquid in plants, known as sap. Aphids considered herbs and other green vegetation as abundant food sources. Aphids utilize needle-like mouthparts to penetrate plant tissues and access this fluid (Brožek et al. 2015). Several aphids colonized herbs such as Indian mustards, *L. erysimi*, and *M. persicae*, the most devastating insects, infesting leaves, stems, and floral parts (Jayaswal et al. 2022). Due to a symbiotic relationship, the prevalence of aphids and ants was frequently correlated. Aphids produced a delicious substance known as honeydew as a waste product, which ants found highly attractive food sources (Nelson and Mooney 2022). The honeydew contained abundant sugars extracted by aphids from the plant juice (Zheng et al. 2022). Ants were drawn to this nutrient-rich food source and would often farm aphids for it. In exchange for honeydew, ants protected aphids from other insects and predators, such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae, and parasitic wasps (Karami-Jamour et al. 2018). Certain ant species would transport aphids to new host plants for improved foraging opportunities, ensuring that aphids had a continuous food source (Giannetti et al. 2021). Honeydew not only nourished the ant colony, but its high sugar content also supported the development of their fungus farms (in certain species) and provided energy for the growth of their progeny (Biedermann and Vega 2020). Ornamental plants, and also weeds are generally grown with simple maintenance and usually free pesticides. The ecological habitat of ornamental plants and weeds is assumed to be the same. Therefore, many species of aphids found on ornamental plants were also found on weeds.

In conclusion total of 15 species aphids found in ornamental plants, *A. craccivora*, *A. citricola*, *A. glycines*, *A. gossypii*, *A. solani*, *M. sanborni*, *M. rosae*, *M. persicae*, *N. circumflexus*, *P. caladii*, *R. nymphaeae*, *S. citricola*, *T. aurantii*, *T. citricidus*, *T. odinae*. The total of 11 species aphids found in weeds, *A. gossypii*, *A. craccivora*, *A. glycines*, *A. citricola*, *Greenidea* sp., *H. setariae*, *Hiperomyzus* sp., *L. erysimi*, *R. maidis*, *R. padi*, *S. rotundiventris*.

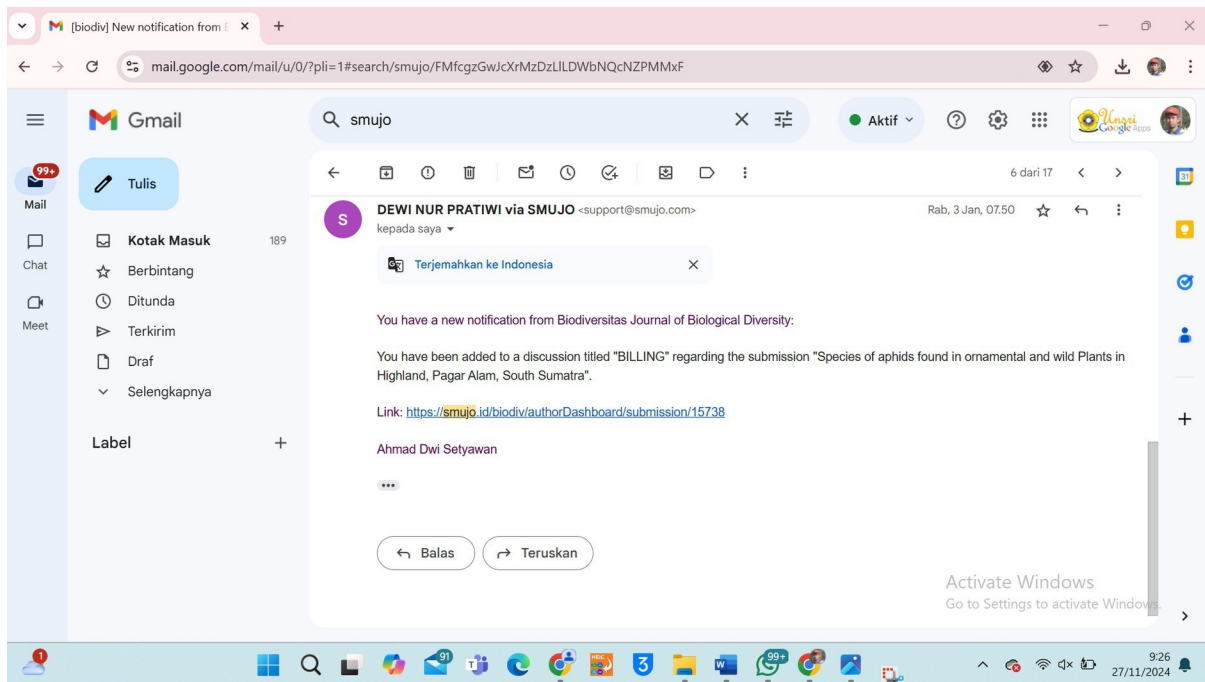
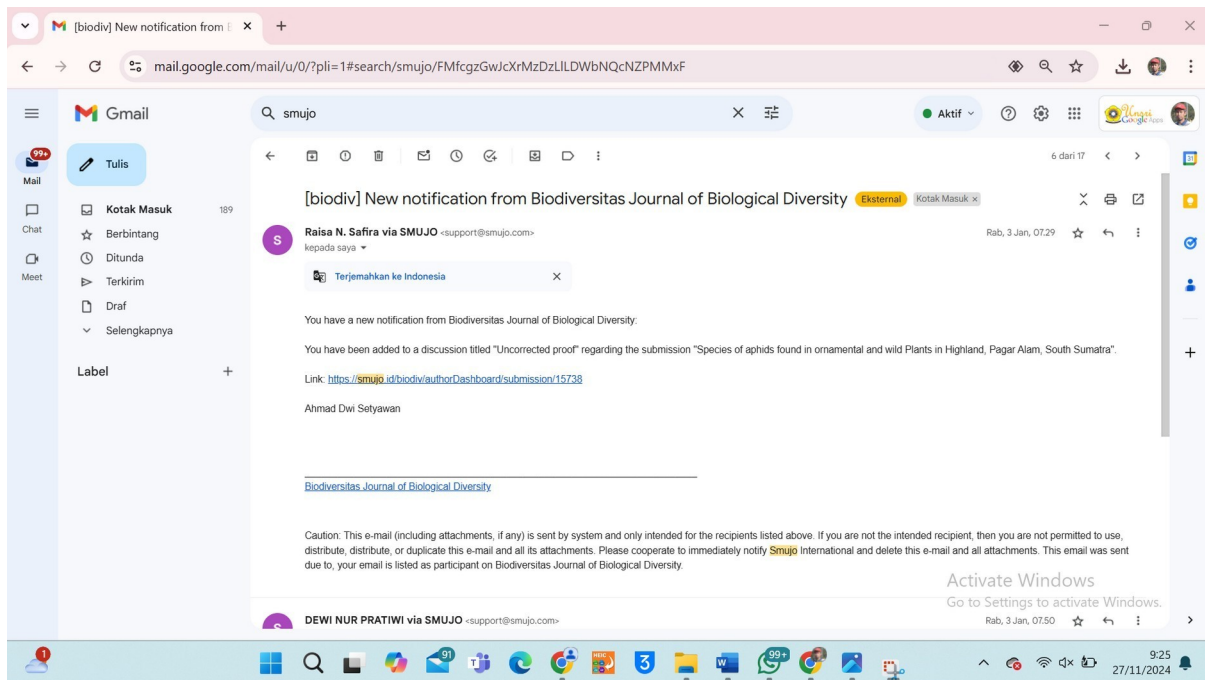
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


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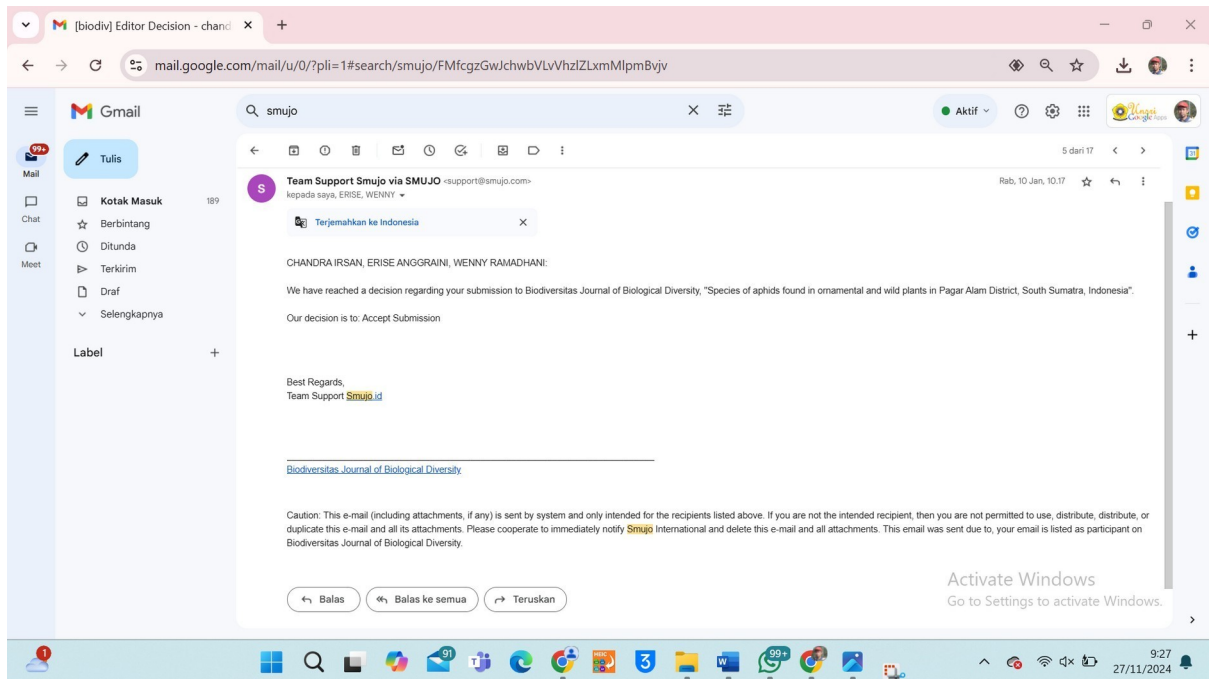


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