



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN  
SABTU 8 JUN 2019**

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UKKMOA

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT  
 KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN & INDUSTRI ASAS TANI  
 (UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN MOA, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

Headline	Pig farmers need to strictly guard against the plague		
MediaTitle	Nanyang Siang Pau		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	National	Circulation	27,667
Page No	A2	Readership	83,000
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	306 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 3,849
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 11,547



## 沈志勤：我国虽没非洲猪瘟 猪农须严防瘟疫

(八打灵再也 7 日讯) 农业及农基工业部副部长沈志勤向国人保证，本地饲养的猪只不受非洲猪瘟 (ASF) 影响，惟他建议猪农采用严格生物安全及农业措施，以防任何病疫散播。

目前，非洲猪瘟在中国及数个东南亚国家肆虐。他表示，政府已采取各种预防措施，但本地农民是最后一道防线，他们必须在各自的农场做好防范措施，以免爆发瘟疫。

沈志勤昨日向“星报在线”说，泰国是大马的“缓冲区”，非洲猪瘟没在我国出现。

“目前，我国没进口太多猪肉制品，我们只是进口罐头肉类。”

根据《卫报》，尽管中国与越南已扑杀了上百万只生猪，但非洲猪瘟在当地仍持续蔓延，并指泰国如今已“亮红灯”，专家也担心缅甸、菲律宾及老挝会爆发非洲猪瘟。

沈志勤指出，自从非洲猪瘟爆发后，政府禁止从越南进口小猪，并警告会对从爆发猪瘟的国家走私猪肉产品到我国的人士，采取严厉行动。

“一旦我国受到非洲猪瘟入侵，我们必须耗费很多金钱



沈志勤：非洲猪瘟没在我国出现。

去扑杀生猪以及安排多名兽医解决问题，如有必要，也需对许多人作出赔偿。”

他说，若爆发非洲猪瘟，不但会影响猪肉价格，也会摧毁本地农夫的生计。

他提及，猪瘟病毒可残留在依物长达 7 天，建议人民勿拜访养猪场，或从受猪瘟入侵的国家将猪肉产品带进我国。

大马禽畜业联合总会总会长拿督黄俊仪向人民保证，本地猪肉制品很安全，农民也正采取行动预防非洲猪瘟。

“人类不会感染非洲猪瘟病毒，但受感染的动物很快会死亡。”

Headline	M` sian pigs still safe from African Swine Flu		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (KK)		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Black/white
Section	Home	Circulation	18,290
Page No	8	Readership	54,870
Language	English	ArticleSize	119 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 332
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 995



## M` sian pigs still safe from African Swine Flu

**IPOH:** Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister Sim Tze Tzin yesterday assured Malaysians that locally-bred pigs are free of the African Swine Flu (ASF) virus that has swept China and several neighbouring South-east Asian countries.

However, he advised local pig farmers to remain alert and adopt strict biosecurity measures and agricultural practices to avoid their herds becoming victims of the virus fatal to all swine, The Star Online reported.

"Farmers are the last defence.

If they don't take preventive measures, there could be an outbreak," he was quoted as saying.

No human has died from ASF, discovered 100 years ago in Kenya and which has since devastated pig livestock worldwide.

China, said to breed more than half the world's supply of pigs, has been forced to cull 1.2 million swine to date to curb the infection, according to media reports, raising future porcine stock prices worldwide.

Vietnam too has fallen prey to ASF and Thailand is on red

alert, British paper The Guardian reported, adding that experts fear outbreaks in Myanmar, the Philippines and Laos.

Sim said Thailand served as a buffer zone for Malaysia and he did not see the disease reaching Malaysia, as the country did not import a lot of pork products apart from canned meat.

He also added Malaysia had banned the import of piglets from Vietnam following the outbreak there and stressed that the smugglers who bring in pork products from affected countries will face stern action.

Headline	Kuantan Chinese Chamber of Commerce collaborates with agriculture department to launch		
MediaTitle	China Press (East Coast)		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	10,592
Page No	C4	Readership	31,776
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	425 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 5,821
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 17,463



# 丹中總與農部配合 推動城市農耕計劃



■佐哈里（右6）访问培植华小，左4起为颜文裕、麦锦祥及江稚帼。

（哥打峇魯7日讯）吉兰丹中华总商会密切与农业部配合，一起推动的“城市农耕”（Program Pertanian Bandar）计划。

除了成功将哥打峇魯培植小学纳入这项计划里，也将鼓励该校参加比赛，成为模范学校。

来自布城的农业部人力资源主任佐哈里阿都拉，在哥打峇魯农业局官员莫哈末努菲道斯陪同下，于日前到访培植小学，并捎来了这项好消息。

2名官员的到访由丹中总副秘书长江稚帼、青商团团长麦锦祥和秘书林明伟陪同，并获得培植小学校长蔡秀燕的接待。出席者尚有农耕计划的负责老师郑娱和家协理事颜文裕。

江稚帼说，农业部希望丹中总和青商团能够与他们密切推动农业部的各项活动，也希望受惠的培植小学继续进步，成为模范学校。

他说，农业部非常欢迎从事农业者随时可以找他们一起学习和研究，以发挥更大的力量。

“丹中总和青商团下一步，就是与莫哈末努菲道斯设立一个小组，从几所华校开始收集资料。”

## 組屋區也可推行

江稚帼也说，城市农耕计划不只在校园里推动，在公寓或组屋区里，如果有空地也可以投入这项计划。农业部也乐意与乡委会或睦邻小组合作，尤其是那些被荒废的土地，都可以用来务农。

农部赞赏种植成果培植小学将在城市农耕计划里获得价值5000令吉的技术和资源援助，并有50名师生的参与。

过去几个月来，农业局三度到访该校，并对该校的校园种植成果表示赞赏。

Headline	Import ban on pork products expanded		
MediaTitle	The Star Online(www.thestar.com.my)		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	4
Order Rank	4	Readership	7
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,800
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 5,400

## Import ban on pork products expanded

PETALING JAYA: Checks at pig farms in the country show no sign of African swine fever (ASF) thus far but the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) has imposed an import ban on pigs and pig products from China, Poland, Belgium, Thailand, Vietnam and Camb...

To read the rest of the article, click [View Full Article](#)

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
8/6/2019	BERITA HARIAN	ISU	7

## Malaysia masih bebas wabak African Swine Fever

**Putrajaya:** Malaysia masih bebas daripada penyakit African Swine Fever (ASF), berikutan langkah pencegahan diambil Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JPV) yang menghalang pengimportan serta produk babi dari beberapa negara.

Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Veterinar, Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam, berkata larangan import babi serta produk berkaitannya dari China yang dikeluarkan pada 12 November tahun lalu, manakala Poland serta Belgium (17 Januari), Thailand serta Vietnam (23 Januari) dan Kemboja (4 April).

Beliau berkata, pengawasan klinikal dijalankan terhadap ladang babi komersial membabitkan lapan negeri dan setakat ini semua yang diperiksa tidak menunjukkan tanda wabak ASF.

"Persampelan babi hutan dijalankan bersama Jabatan Perhilitan bagi mengesan virus ASF, membabitkan sampel 35 babi hutan di enam negeri di Semenanjung dan setakat ini tiada virus ASF di kesan daripada semua sampel yang diuji," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Dr Quaza berkata, pemantauan dan pemeriksaan ke atas kemasukan produk daging babi dari negara berisiko ASF dijalankan oleh Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan (MAQIS) di pintu masuk utama negara bermula 12 November tahun lalu.

### Uji 180 sampel produk daging babi

"Sehingga kini, 180 sampel produk daging babi dari negara berisiko ASF diambil dari Pelabuhan Klang Barat, Pelabuhan Pasir Gudang dan Bukit Kayu Hitam dan diuji di Institut Penyelidikan Haiwan serta makmal veterinar kawasan.

"Sehingga kini, tiada virus ASF dikesan dari semua sampel yang diuji," katanya.

Beliau berkata, MAQIS juga menjalankan pemeriksaan dan rampasan produk babi yang dibawa masuk penumpang dari negara berisiko ASF di pintu masuk KLIA serta KLIA2, dan menurutnya kempen kesedaran awam mengenai penyakit ASF dijalankan, membabitkan pengusaha industri babi untuk meningkatkan biosekuriti ladang.

BERNAMA



**Pemantauan dan pemeriksaan ke atas kemasukan**

**produk daging babi dari negara berisiko ASF dijalankan MAQIS di pintu masuk utama negara bermula 12 November tahun lalu"**

**Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam,**  
Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Veterinar

Headline	Malaysia still free of AFS disease		
MediaTitle	New Sarawak Tribune (www.newsarawaktribune.com.my)		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	3
Order Rank	10	Readership	
Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 450
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 1,350

## Malaysia still free of AFS disease

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia is still free of African Swine Fever (ASF) disease. Veterinary Services director-general Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam said it was due to the precautionary measures implemented by the Veterinary Services Department to prevent...

To read the rest of the article, click [View Full Article](#)

Headline	Researcher: Pitcher plant facing extinction, more studies needed		
Media Title	New Sarawak Tribune		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	46,471
Page No	6	Readership	164,773
Language	English	Article Size	504 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	ALI IMRAN MOHD NOORDIN	Ad Value	RM 2,945
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 8,834



## Researcher: Pitcher plant facing extinction, more studies needed

BY ALI IMRAN MOHD NOORDIN

The pitcher plant *Dipterocarpus* has of late been thrust into the limelight all because of the popularity of *lemang priuk ketat*.

Nature lovers and conservationists have expressed their concern over the use of these unique carnivorous plants to prepare the glutinous rice dish - one of the delicacies served during Hari Raya Aidilfitri - and they claim that the practice was causing the plants to become extinct.

Worldwide, there is an estimated 170 species of the pitcher plant, which belongs to the *Nepenthes* genus and is known for its characteristic "pitfall trap" consisting of a deep-cupped cavity or pitcher filled with a liquid that can digest small insects that fall into it.

The habitats for 35 of the species can be found in Sarawak and Sabah, and 11 in Peninsular Malaysia.

The largest pitcher plant species, known as *Nepenthes Rajah*, can only be found in Mount Kinabalu, Sabah. It can grow to a height of 41 centimetres and 20 cm wide, while each pitcher can hold up to 3.5 litres of liquid.

Other popular species found in Malaysia include *Appularia*, *Luwil*, *Albomarginata*, *Gracilis*, *Macfarlandi* and *Rafflesiana*.

**Nutrient-poor habitat**  
Not many people may know this but pitcher plants play an important role in forest formations and growth.

They have an edge over other plants as they can grow on soil depleted of nutrients, said Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute's (MARDI) Dr Rosliza Jalul.

Rosliza is director of the

Agrobiodiversity Resources Conservation and Sustainable Utilization Programme under MARDI's Biodiversity and Environmental Research Centre.

She said the pitcher plant does not require nutrients from the soil to survive as it can get the necessary nourishment by digesting

dried leaves or insects that got trapped in its cavity.

"This is why pitcher plants can be easily found on the fringes of forests where the soil is not fertile," she said.

**Nutrient-poor habitats**  
where pitcher plants grow will go to host other types of flora once the soil conditions improve over the decades.

Interestingly, in certain circumstances, the pitcher plant supports other animal species living in the same habitat. For example, the

Geosesarma, a species of small crab found in Malaysia, is dependent on the *Ampullaria* pitcher plant species for its source of water.

The *Kerivoula hardwickii* bat species, meanwhile, are known to roost in the pitchers of the *Rafflesiana* species.

Threatened Dr Mohd Norfahzal Ghuzali, a senior researcher under the same programme, said the pitcher plant was under threat of extinction as it was easier to find in several years ago compared to now.

Mohd Norfahzal, who has gone on several expeditions to study the state of the nation's forests, said on one such expedition to a forest

in the peninsula in March together with officials from the Forestry Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Department, they could not find any *Ampullaria* or *Gracilis* there

although these pitcher plant species were seen growing there in abundance five years ago when they visited the same area.

"Their disappearance is due to natural and human factors," he said, adding that bush fires during the dry season cause the destruction of pitcher plants as they grow mostly in low-lying areas.

The human factor, however, is more worrying as uncontrolled land-clearing activities, as well as the

harvesting of pitcher plants for culinary purposes and to meet the demand for exotic plants among avid gardeners, are taking a toll on the unique carnivorous plants.

It is understood that the *Ampullaria* species is usually harvested for culinary reasons and the *Macfarlandi* species for sale as ornamental plants.

On suggestions that certain pitcher plant species be planted on a commercial basis to meet the market demand, Rosliza said it was something that was not easy to implement.

"If we are serious about commercialising this plant, the government must give institutions like MARDI the opportunity to conduct more studies on various species that are in demand so that they don't become extinct," she said.

To date, no study has been carried out to commercialise the pitcher plant and come up with technologies to speed up its growth and improve yield. - Bernama

**Their disappearance is due to natural and human factors.**

**If we are serious about commercialising this plant, the government must give institutions like MARDI the opportunity to conduct more studies on various species that are in demand so that they don't become extinct.**



Headline	OVER HARVEST MAY SEE END OF PITCHER PLANT SPECIES		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	Local News	Circulation	36,278
Page No	10	Readership	108,834
Language	English	ArticleSize	495 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 16,998
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 50,994



UNDER THREAT

# OVERHARVEST MAY SEE END OF PITCHER PLANT SPECIES

Gazette 13 species and list them under conserved plants, says botany expert

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nsl.com.my

**T**HE overharvesting of pitcher plants in a particular habitat will be disastrous to the species, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) research fellow in ecology and biodiversity Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Mohamad said.

He said although no study had been conducted on pitcher plants population in the country, overharvesting might have already devastated the species.

"If the species is harvested for its pitchers only, the species may recover. (But) what if the collectors ripped off the entire plant to obtain the aerial and ground pitchers...?"

Latiff had previously expressed concern on the recent widespread harvest of tropical pitcher plants to make *lemang periuk kera* (pitcher plant glutinous rice) for Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

He called on the Forestry Department to gazette all 13 pitcher plant species that were available in Peninsular Malaysia and place them under the list of preserved



Pitcher plants are widely used to make 'lemang periuk kera' for Hari Raya Aidilfitri. FILE PIC

and conserved plants.

It was reported that a group of men in Segamat, Johor, who are members of Kumpulan Pencari Periuk Kera, spent their time during the fasting month inside forests searching for pitcher plants due to a high demand from customers.

It, however, has raised concern among nature lovers who are afraid that overharvesting might lead to the extinction of the plant species.

In Malaysia, there are more than 40 species of pitcher plants, with most of them found in East Malaysia.

Pitcher plants that are used to make *lemang* usually come from the *Nepenthes ampullaria* species.

It is said that the pitcher cup gives the *lemang* a soft creamy texture and a different taste com-

pared with those prepared in bamboo castings.

Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) Agrobiodiversity Resources, Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation Programme director and head of research programme Dr Rosliza Jajuli said pitcher plants were used widely for *lemang* now, but might end up being used for cupcakes and other delicacies, too.

She said it was best to stick to the traditional way of making *lemang* with bamboo.

It was reported that state Forestry directors were instructed to monitor and take action against those who trespassed on forest reserves to collect forestry products, including pitcher plants.

Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia director-general

Datuk Borhanudin Arshad said individuals must apply for a permit from the department before entering any state forest reserve.

Entering forest reserves without a permit falls under Section 47 of the National Forestry Act 1984, which carries a maximum three years' jail or a fine of up to RM10,000.

Commenting on calls to gazette pitcher plants species, he said the department had taken note of the suggestion and would bring the matter to the senior management level.

Recently, actress Maya Karin, who is the River of Life ambassador, had urged traders to stop selling *lemang periuk kera* to maintain the sustainability and the ecosystem of the forests.

Maya said pitcher plants were hard to come by and could only be found in forests.

Headline	Pitcher plants play vital role in forest growth		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	Local News	Circulation	36,278
Page No	10	Readership	108,834
Language	English	ArticleSize	361 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 12,444
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 37,332



## Pitcher plants play vital role in forest growth

**SERDANG:** The pitcher plant or *perluk kera* has of late been thrust into the limelight all because of the popularity of *lemang perluk kera*.

Nature lovers and conservationists have expressed concern over the use of these unique carnivorous plants to prepare the glutinous rice dish — one of the delicacies served during Hari Raya Aidilfitri — and they claim that the practice was causing the plant to become extinct.

Worldwide, there is an estimated 170 species of the pitcher plant, which belongs to the *Nepenthes* genus and is known for its characteristic “pitfall trap” consisting of a deep-cupped cavity or pitcher filled with a liquid that can digest small insects that fall into it.

The habitats for 35 of the species can be found in Sabah and Sarawak, and 11 in Peninsular Malaysia.

The largest pitcher plant species, known as *Nepenthes Rajah*, can only be found in Mount

Kinabalu, Sabah. It can grow to a height of 41cm and 20cm wide, while each pitcher can hold up to 3.5 litres of liquid.

Other popular species found in Malaysia include *Ampullaria*, *Lowii*, *Albomarginata*, *Gracilis*, *Macfarlanei* and *Rafflesiana*.

Not many people may know this, but pitcher plants play an important role in forest formations and growth.

Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute’s (MARDI) Dr Rosliza Jajuli said pitcher plants had an edge over other plants as they could grow on soil depleted of nutrients.

Rosliza is director of the Agrobiodiversity Resources, Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation Programme under MARDI’s Biodiversity and Environmental Research Centre.

She said the pitcher plant did not require nutrients from the soil to survive as it could get the necessary nourishment by digesting dried leaves or insects

that get trapped in its cavity.

“This is why pitcher plants can be easily found on the fringes of forests where the soil is not fertile.”

Nutrient-poor habitats where pitcher plants grow will get to host other types of flora once the soil conditions improve over decades.

Interestingly, in certain circumstances, the pitcher plant supports other animal species living in the same habitat. For example, the *Geosesarma*, a species of small crab found in Malaysia, is dependent on the *Ampullaria* pitcher plant species for water.

The *Kerivoula hardwickii* bat species, meanwhile, are known to roost in the pitchers of the *Rafflesiana* species.

Dr Mohd Norfaizal Ghazali, a senior researcher under the same programme, said the pitcher plant was under threat of extinction as it was easier to find it several years ago compared with now.

Norfaizal, who has gone on several expeditions to study the state of the nation’s forests, said during one such expedition to a forest in the peninsula in March together with officials from the Forestry Department and National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Department, they could not find any *Ampullaria* or *Gracilis* there although these pitcher plant species were seen growing in abundance five years ago when they visited the area.

“Their disappearance is due to natural and human factors,” he said, adding that bush fires during the dry season caused the destruction of pitcher plants as they grew mostly in low-lying areas.

The human factor, however, is more worrying as uncontrolled land-clearing activities, as well as the harvesting of pitcher plants for culinary purposes and to meet the demand for exotic plants among avid gardeners, are taking a toll on the unique carnivorous plants.

It is learnt that the *Ampullaria*



Dr Rosliza Jajuli

species is usually harvested for culinary reasons and the *Macfarlanei* species for sale as ornamental plants.

On suggestions that certain pitcher plant species be planted on a commercial basis to meet the market demand, Rosliza said it was something that was not easy to implement.

“If we are serious about commercialising this plant, the government must give institutions like MARDI the opportunity to conduct more studies on various species that are in demand so that they don’t become extinct.”

To date, no study has been carried out to commercialise the pitcher plant and come up with technologies to speed up its growth and improve its yield.

**Bernama**

Headline	Kenali periuk nera, tumbuhan penting kelestarian hutan		
MediaTitle	Sinar Harian(www.sinarharian.com.my)		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	3
Order Rank	7	Readership	4
Language	Malay	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 900
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 2,700

## Kenali periuk nera, tumbuhan penting kelestarian hutan

Ketua Pengarah Penyelidikan Program Konservasi dan Penggunaan Sumber Agrobiodiversiti, Pusat Penyelidikan Biodiversiti dan Persekitaran, Institut Penyelidikan dan Kemajuan Pertanian Malaysia (Mardi), Dr. Rosliza Jajuli. - FOTO BERNAMA  
SERDANG - Kebelakan...

To read the rest of the article, click [View Full Article](#)

Headline	Pitcher plant under threat in Malaysia		
MediaTitle	New Sabah Times English (KK)		
Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Black/white
Section	Home	Circulation	11,025
Page No	6	Readership	33,075
Language	English	ArticleSize	427 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 946
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 2,837



# Pitcher plant under threat in Malaysia



**PREPARING LEMANG ...** a claim that the practice is causing the pitcher plants to become extinct.

**SERDANG:** The pitcher plant (perluk kera in Malay) has a hot topic lately because of the popularity of lemang peruk kera.

Nature lovers and conservationists have expressed their concern over the use of these unique carnivorous plants to prepare lemang – a glutinous rice delicacy served during Hari Raya Aidilfitri – and they claim that the practice is causing the plants to become extinct.

There is an estimated 170 species of the pitcher plant worldwide, which belongs to the *Nepenthes* genus and is known for its characteristic "pitfall trap" – consisting of a deep-cupped cavity or pitcher filled with a liquid that can digest small insects that fall into it.

The habitats for 35 of the species can be found in Sabah and Sarawak, and 11 in peninsular Malaysia.

The largest pitcher plant species, known as *Nepenthes Rajah*, can only be found in Mount Kinabalu, Sabah. It can grow to a height of 41cm and 20cm wide, while each pitcher can hold up to 3.5l of liquid.

Other popular species found in Malaysia include *Ampullaria*, *Lowii*, *Albomarginata*, *Gracilis*, *Macfarlanei* and *Rafflesiana*.

## Can thrive in nutrient-poor habitats

Pitcher plants actually play an important role in forest formation and growth.

They have an edge over other plants as they can grow on soil depleted of nutrients, said Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute's (MARDI) Dr Rosliza Jajuli.

Dr Rosliza is director of the Agrobiodiversity Resources Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation Programme under MARDI's Biodiversity and Environmental Research Centre.

She said the pitcher plant does not require nutrients from the soil to survive as it can get the necessary nourishment by digesting dried leaves or insects that it traps.

"This is why pitcher plants can be easily found on the fringes of forests where the soil is not fertile," she said.

Nutrient-poor habitats where pitcher plants grow will get to host other types of flora once the soil conditions improve over the decades.

The pitcher plant can even support other animal species living in the same habitat. For example, the *Geosaruma*, a



**LARGEST PITCHER PLANT SPECIES ...** can only be found in Mount Kinabalu, Sabah. It can grow to a height of 41cm and 20cm wide, while each pitcher can hold up to 3.5l of liquid.

species of small crab found in Malaysia, is dependent on the *Ampullaria* pitcher plant species for its source of water.

The *Kerivoula hardwickii* bat species, meanwhile, are known to roost in the pitchers of the *Rafflesiana* species.

## Under threat

Dr Mohd Norfaizal Ghazali, a senior researcher under the same programme, said the pitcher plant was under threat of extinction and was much harder to find now compared to several years ago.

Mohd Norfaizal, who has gone on several expeditions to study the state of the nation's forests, said on one such expedition to a forest in the peninsula in March – together with officials from the Forestry Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Department – they could not find any *Ampullaria* or *Gracilis*.

He said these pitcher plant species were seen growing there in abundance five years ago when they visited the same area.

"Their disappearance is due to natural and human factors," he said, adding that bush fires

during the dry season cause the destruction of pitcher plants as they mostly grow in low-lying areas.

The human factor, however, is more worrying as uncontrolled land-clearing activities, as well as the harvesting of pitcher plants for culinary purposes and to meet the demand for exotic plants among avid gardeners, are taking a toll on the unique carnivorous plants.

It is understood that the *Amullaria* species is usually harvested for culinary reasons and the *Macfarlanei* species for sale as ornamental plants.

On suggestions that certain pitcher plant species be planted on a commercial basis to meet the market demand, Rosliza said it was something that was not easy to implement.

"If we are serious about commercialising this plant, the government must give institutions like MARDI the opportunity to conduct more studies on various species that are in demand so that they don't become extinct," she said.

To date, no study has been carried out to commercialise the pitcher plant and come up with technologies to speed up its growth and improve yield. – Bernama

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Date	08 Jun 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	3
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Language	English	ArticleSize	N/A
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 450
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## Industri ternakan ketam semula jadi berpotensi dibangunkan di Sabah

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## China's Alibaba will soon sell Malaysia's Musang King durians in its restaurants and

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