

# Nematode diversity indices application to determine the soil health status of Lembo agroecosystem in West Kutai, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

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## Nematode diversity indices application to determine the soil health status of *Lembo* agroecosystem in West Kutai, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

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**Abstract.** *Suyadi, Sila S, Samuel J. 2021. Nematode diversity indices application to determine the soil health status of Lembo agroecosystem in West Kutai, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. Biodiversitas 22: 2861-2869. Lembo is a typical agroecosystem developed by the people of East Kalimantan, especially in the West Kutai District. Lembo agroecosystems (LA) are generally built on the former of sifting cultivation rice fields. The fertile condition of tropical rainforest land in East Kalimantan, if converted to a rice field agroecosystem, its fertility decreases drastically. However, Lembo is an agroecosystem similar to the forest, and its soil health status in this study was determined by using nematode diversity indices as the indicator. Nematode diversity indices are very useful as indicators because nematodes occupy all positions of the micro food web in the rhizosphere. They can support the increase in soil fertility or pose risks as a pest. This study was aimed to determine the health status of LA soil by using evaluation indicators: (i) nematode absolute abundance (ii) nematode diversity indices [Shannon-Wiener index ( $H'$ ), genera richness index (GR), and dominance index ( $\lambda$ )], and (iii) nematode maturity indices ( $\Sigma MI$ , MI,  $MI_{2-5}$ , PPI, and the PPI/MI-ratio), and using the oil palm plantation (OPP) as the comparison agroecosystem. Based on nematode maturity indices, LA soil health status was categorized as good with MI value  $> 2.6$ , the community abundance of nematode genera in the colonizers' group ( $c-p2$ )  $\leq 50\%$ , and community abundance of nematode genera in the persisters group ( $c-p4$ )  $> 10\%$ . Then based on the nematode diversity indices ( $H'$ , GR, and  $\lambda$ ), the LA soil health status was higher than the OPP soil health status, in LA the values of  $H'$ , GR, and  $\lambda$  were 30%-43%, 60%-91%, and 12%-88%, respectively higher than OPP. The pest status of plant-parasitic nematodes is relatively light because their presence is counterbalanced by predatory, carnivore, and omnivore nematodes.*

**Keywords:** Agroecosystem, diversity index, *Lembo*, maturity index, nematodes

**Abbreviations:** LA: *Lembo* agroecosystem; OPP: oil palm plantation; GR: genera richness index;  $\Sigma MI$ : total maturity index; MI: maturity index of non-plant parasitic nematodes; PPI: maturity index of plant-parasitic nematodes;  $MI_{2-5}$ : maturity index of nematodes genera group of  $c-p2-5$ ;  $MI_2$ : maturity index of nematodes genera group of  $c-p2$ ;  $MI_5$ : maturity index of nematodes genera group of  $c-p4$

### INTRODUCTION

*Lembo* is a typical agroecosystem developed by people in West Kutai District and East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia in general. The characteristics of the *Lembo* agroecosystem are (i) composing of the main crops, i.e., fruit trees (mainly genera of *Durio*, *Artocarpus*, *Mangifera*, *Nephelium*, and also sugar palm, candlenut, etc.) grown in a mixed and in an irregular manner, (ii) maintained traditionally and not intensively, (iii) relatively limited in using external inputs. Physically, the vegetation in the *Lembo* agroecosystem resembles the natural ecosystem because it has many and varied types of vegetation, consisting of a mixture of several types of fruit plants that grow together with various types of wild plants in the form of shrubs. *Lembo* agroecosystems are generally developed from former land for upland paddy fields, managed using a shifting cultivation system.

Soil fertility in East Kalimantan is relatively low for agroecosystem development (Bruenig 2017; Manurung et al. 2018). With the existence of a very fertile tropical rain

forest, if converted into an agroecosystem, the status of soil fertility will drop drastically. An example is a conversion of forest to upland rice land, in a slash and burn manner. Fertile tropical rainforest ecosystems result from a long-term succession of natural ecosystems with closed nutrient cycles, but their fertility will drop drastically if converted into upland rice agroecosystems (Funakawa et al. 2009).

The development process of the *Lembo* agroecosystem has resembled the natural succession process of tropical rainforest formation. Therefore, the *Lembo* agroecosystem is developed by planting mixed fruit crops on former upland paddy fields. Traditional maintenance in terms of mowing the scrub and wild vegetation, just carried out during the planting cycle of upland rice in the following planting season or if fruit trees are entering the flowering season until the fruit harvest. Then left untreated until the next fruiting season. Based on the development process of the *Lembo* agroecosystem, which resembles the natural succession of tropical rain forest ecosystem development, the soil health status in the *Lembo* agroecosystem tends to increase from year to year (Setyawan 2010; Yassir 2012).

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Soil health is the capacity of soil to function as a vital living system, within the ecosystem and land-use boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and promote plant and animal health (Doran and Zeiss 2000). Furthermore, Doran (2002) introduce three criteria for indicators of soil quality and health relate mainly to (i) their utility in defining ecosystem processes and in integrating physical, chemical, and biological properties; (ii) their sensitivity to management and climatic variations; and (iii) their accessibility and utility to agricultural specialists, producers, conservationists, and policymakers. Concerning agroecosystem management, Laishram et al. (2012) review soil quality and soil health deal with the adverse effects of plant input utility.

Soil health status, in general, could be determined based on the elements of physical fertility, chemical fertility, and biological fertility (Bulluck et al. 2002; Cardoso and Kuyper 2006; Chourasiya et al. 2017). The three elements that determine soil fertility have an interaction response with one another. Still, the element of biological fertility is an indicator of soil quality that can provide an active response in the form of soil micro-flora and fauna contained in the rhizosphere layer. Characteristics of natural ecosystems have very high soil biotic diversity as an element of biological fertility, and on the other hand, agroecosystems have relatively low soil biotic diversity (Yeates and Bird 1994; Swibawa and Aeny 2010; Maikhuri and Rao 2012).

Results of some studies showed that the level of soil biotic diversity could be used as an indicator of soil health status (Neher 2001), and poorly managed agroecosystems will cause a decrease in soil health status (Sanchez et al. 2003; Duoang et al. 2014). According to Yeates and Bongers (1999) and Devi (2020), nematodes as soil biotic elements can be used as a bioindicator to assess the soil health status, because nematodes have several trophic groups that occupy all positions in the micro food web in

the rhizosphere ecosystem. There is a small portion of the nematode community occupies the trophic group of the plant feeder and harms plant, but most of the nematode community occupies the trophic groups as fungivores, bacterivores, carnivores, and omnivores that maintain stability in the rhizosphere (Moura and Franzener 2017). Those trophic groups of most nematode communities could play a role in increasing soil health status by increasing certain plant nutrients according to the type of nematode food source of each trophic group member (Yeates et al. 2009).

Based on the background, this study aimed to determine the soil health status of the *Lembo* agroecosystem, using the diversity indices and maturity indices as the evaluation indicators. The results of this study can be used as a consideration to determine the soil health status of the *Lembo* agroecosystem, determine the pest status of plant-parasitic nematodes in the *Lembo* agroecosystem, and the alternative standard for the evaluation of soil health status in other agroecosystems by using nematodes diversity indices as the evaluation indicators.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study site

The *Lembo* agroecosystem (LA) used as the site of this research is located at Resak Village, Bongan Sub-district, West Kutai District, East Kalimantan Province (Figure 1). The site was determined based on the criteria that the *Lembo* agroecosystem as the main object of the study, located close to the oil palm plantation (OPP) which is used as the comparison agroecosystem.

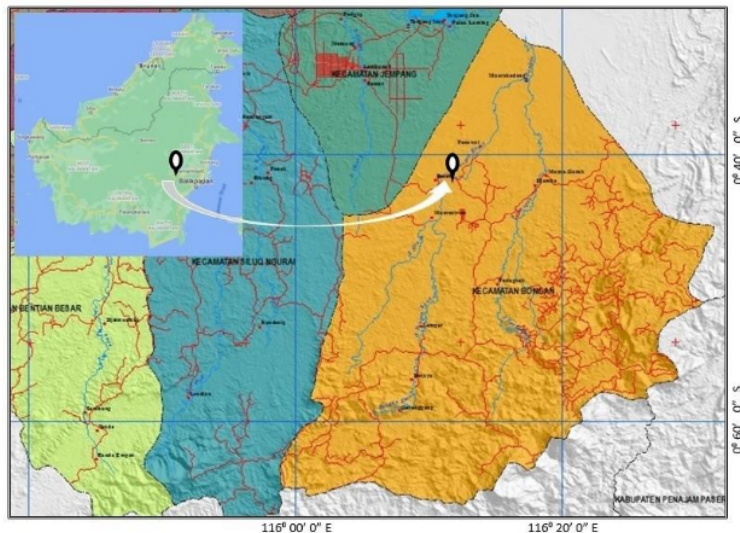


Figure 1. Map of study site in Resak Village, Bongan Sub-district, West Kutai District of East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia (Dinata 2021)

So that both agroecosystems have relatively no different environmental conditions, in terms of soil types, climatic conditions, altitudes, and latitude. *Lembo* is an agroecosystem managed traditionally and approaches natural ecosystems. On the other hand, OPP is an agroecosystem managed intensively and uses a lot of external input.

The environmental conditions of LA and OPP agroecosystem situated just 45' south of the equator and between 116°00'-116°20'E (Figure 1), about 100-150 m above sea level, soil type mostly silty-loam, average monthly precipitation 200 mm (91.80-282.00 mm), average air temperature 30°C (22.30-36.20°C), and average air humidity 75% (39-99%) (Dinata 2021).

Based on the agroecosystem management, farmers clean their *Lembo for* just about three months a year by means of mowing the scrub and wild vegetation without soil tillage activities and external production inputs. Whereas, OPP agroecosystem was managed intensively, starting with the heavy land clearing, regular planting arrangement of monoculture oil palm as the main crop, height external input in terms of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides, and intensive weed control using herbicide.

## Procedures

### Soil sampling

Soil sampling is following the vertical distribution of crop roots (from 0-90 cm), and divided into three layers of soil sample depth: layer 1 (L1) = 0-30 cm, layer 2 (L2) = 30-60 cm, and layer 3 (L3) = 60-90 cm. The sampling point in the experimental field was arranged in a zigzag pattern (Schomaker and Been 2006) and 9 sampling points were assigned for each sampling unit. There are six sampling units for both agroecosystems, three sampling units each for LA and OPP. Soil sampling was carried out using a drilling technique, at each drilling sampling point, soil samples were collected from three layers of depth (L1, L2, and L3) and 300 g of soil sample was obtained from each layer. So that from each sampling unit 8,100 g of soil sample were collected (300 g sample<sup>-1</sup> x 3 soil layers depth x 9 sampling points). So a total of almost 50,000 g soil samples were collected from all six sampling units of LA and OPP. Each soil sample was put in a plastic bag and equipped with description notes, then stored in a cool box and taken to the laboratory for nematode extraction.

### Nematode extraction and identification

Nematode extraction from soil samples used the modified Baermann funnel method (Eisenback 2003; Forge and Kimpinski 2008). To prepare the extraction of nematodes, soil samples were cleaned of garbage and organic matter, the hose and plastic funnel (4-inch diameter) are washed and clean up, so that the soil sample, which has a silty loam texture can be spread evenly over

the tissue paper supported by wire netting and put on the funnel. Soil samples from the same soil layer depth for each sampling unit were composited, then taken three samples (100 g each) for extraction processing using the Baermann funnel method and incubated for 3 x 24 hours. Nematodes in the extracted filtrate were gathered every 24 hours in three consecutive days. The nematodes in the extracted filtrate are then relaxing by gradual heating and fixed with a 4% formalin solution (Ryss 2017). Furthermore, observations were made to identify the nematode genera and count the nematode community of each genus found. Nematodes genera identification was done based on morphological characters by using pictorial keys (Eisenback 2002; Mekete et al. 2012; Mai and Lyon 1975; Panesar and Marshall 2003)

## Data analyses

The nematode diversity measurements were used to determine the soil health status in *Lembo* agroecosystem (LA) are the Shannon-Wiener index ( $H'$ ), evenness index ( $E_H$ ), genera richness index ( $GR$ ), dominance index ( $\lambda$ ), and supported by maturity indices ( $\Sigma MI$ , PPI, MI, MI<sub>2-5</sub>, PPI/MI) and absolute abundance of nematodes. As a comparison to assess the soil health status in the *Lembo* agroecosystem, oil palm plantations (OPP) that are located close to each other are used.

The data of nematodes genera and abundance of each genus data were analyzed using diversity measurements and supported by maturity indices and nematodes abundance. The nematode abundance was presented in the absolute abundance and genera abundance. The diversity measurements used (Neher and Darby 2009) are as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Shannon-Wiener index } (H') & H' = -\sum (p_i \cdot \ln p_i) \\ \text{Evenness index } (E_H) & E_H = H' / \ln S \\ \text{Genera richness index } (GR) & GR = S - 1 / \ln N \\ \text{Dominance index } (\lambda) & \lambda = \sum p_i^2 \end{aligned}$$

Where:

$p_i$  is the proportion of individuals in the  $i$ th taxon

$S$  is the number of taxa

$N$  is the number of individuals identified.

The nematode Maturity Indices used (Yeates and Bongers 1999) are as follows: (i) Total maturity index ( $\Sigma MI$ ) =  $\sum p_i \cdot c \cdot p_i$ ; for all nematodes genera. (ii) Plant parasitic maturity index (PPI) =  $\sum p_i \cdot c \cdot p_i$ ; for plant parasitic nematodes genera only. (iii) Non-plant parasitic maturity index (MI) =  $\sum p_i \cdot c \cdot p_i$ ; for non-plant parasitic nematodes genera only. (iv) Total maturity index of c-p2-5 ( $\Sigma MI_{2-5}$ ) =  $\sum p_i \cdot c \cdot p_i$ ; for nematodes genera group of c-p2-5 only. (v) PPI/MI ratio. Where:  $p_i$  is the proportion of the  $i$ th taxon;  $c \cdot p_i$  is the c-p value of the  $i$ th taxon.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Nematodes abundance

#### *Nematodes absolute abundance and vertical distribution.*

Nematode community abundance is a variable that describes absolute abundance. The results showed that the mean abundance of the nematode community in LA was two times higher than that of the nematode community in OPP. However, the vertical distribution of nematode communities in both agroecosystems has the same trend, which is decreasing from the topsoil layer (0-30 cm) to the soil layer below (30-60 cm and 60-90 cm). The ratio of nematode community abundance in LA at the topsoil (0-30 cm), middle soil layer (30-60 cm), and bottom soil layer (60-90 cm) reached 254%, 280%, and 389%, respectively compared to the abundance of the nematode community in OPP. The decrease in nematode community abundance from the topsoil to a depth of 60-90 cm reached 84% in LA and 90% in OPP (Figure 2).

#### *Genera abundance.*

Nematode genera abundance was arranged by the abundance of the nematode community for each genus. There are ten genera of nematodes found in LA, and only five genera of nematodes found in OPP. The community abundance of each nematode's genus in LA was always higher than the community abundance in OPP. The three highest abundance of nematode genera in both agroecosystems were *Dorylaimus*, *Pratylenchus*, and *Rhabditis*, respectively. Then, followed by *Paratylenchus* and *Cephalobus* in OPP, and followed by *Cephalobus*, *Aphelenchus*, and the rest five genera in LA (Figure 3). The ratio of nematode community abundance in LA was higher than the community abundance in OPP as shown by the genus of *Dorylaimus* (214%), *Pratylenchus* (208%), *Rhabditis* (186%), and *Cephalobus* (308%), respectively.

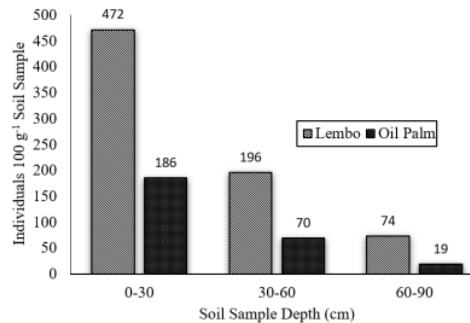
### Diversity measurements

The following four indices can simultaneously explain the condition of nematode genera diversity in LA with OPP as a comparison of the agroecosystem.

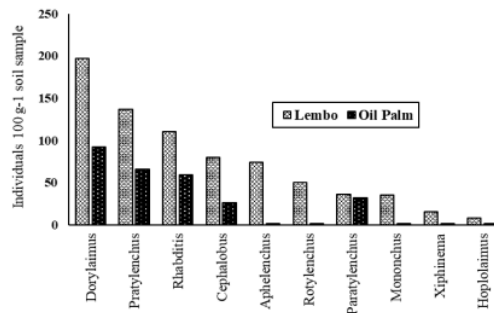
#### *Shannon-Wiener index ( $H'$ ).*

Based on the  $H'$  value, it is known that the diversity of nematode genera in LA is higher than the diversity of nematode genera in OPP (Figure 4). The determinants leading to this difference were the community abundance of each genus and the genera number in those agroecosystems. The nematodes community abundance AL/OPP ratio in each soil sample layer reached  $\geq 186\%$ , and the number of genera found in LA was twice as amount as that found in OPP (Figure 2). However, the  $H'$  value in both agroecosystems has the same trend: the highest was noted at the topsoil layer (0-30 cm) and decreasing in the soil layer below (30-60 cm and 60-90

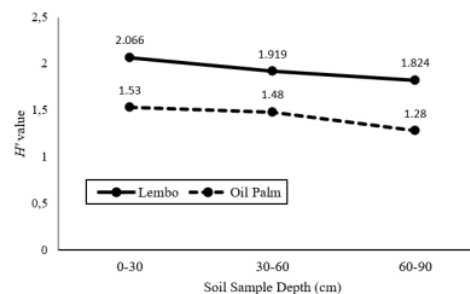
cm). The ratio of  $H'$  value in LA was 30% to 43% higher than the  $H'$  value in OPP.



**Figure 2.** The average of nematodes absolute abundance at the oil palm plantation and *Lembo* agroecosystem.



**Figure 3.** The nematodes genera abundance at the oil palm plantation and *Lembo* agroecosystem.



**Figure 4.** The Shannon-Wiener index ( $H'$ ) of nematodes at the oil palm plantation and *Lembo* agroecosystem

**Evenness index ( $E_H$ ).**

The evenness index ( $E_H$ ) of nematode genera in this study is a standardization of the diversity index ( $H'$ ) using the maximum diversity index ( $H'_{max}$ ) that can be achieved by all nematode genera, which is found in LA and OPP. Based on the  $E_H$  value, it is assumed that the distribution of nematode genera in OPP is more evenly distributed than that of the nematode genera in LA. This is due to the maximum diversity index value ( $H'_{max}$ ) as the divider of  $H'$  to determine the  $E_H$  value. The value of  $H'_{max}$  in LA is twice as large as the value of  $H'_{max}$  in OPP. However, the  $E_H$  value in both agroecosystems has the same trend, namely the high  $E_H$  value in the topsoil layer (0-30 cm) and tends to decrease in the deeper soil layers (30-60 cm and 60-90 cm) (Figure 5). This is because in the deeper soil layer the  $H'$  value decreases (Figure 4), while the number of genera found in both agroecosystems is relatively unchanged.

**Genera richness index (GR).**

Another diversity measurement is the nematode genera richness index (GR). This GR shows the number of genera in LA and OPP after being corrected by the total community abundance of nematode genera in each agroecosystem. According to the data obtained, the nematode genera found in LA were more than that found in OPP. This is because the GR value in LA is higher than that of GR in OPP (Figure 6). An interesting fact shown by GR is that the trend of GR value increases with increasing soil layer depth. This event is caused by a decrease in the abundance of the nematode community in the deeper soil layers, while the number of nematode genera found in all soil layers is relatively unchanged.

**Dominance index.**

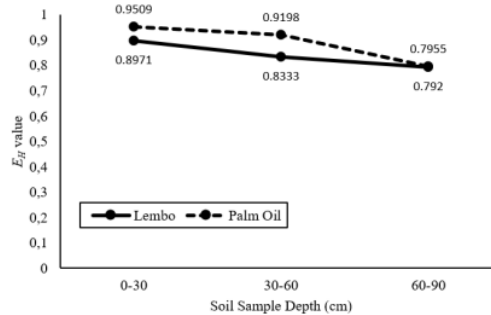
As well as the role of the GR index, the dominance index ( $\lambda$ ) explains the diversity status of the presence of nematodes in LA and OPP. Relevant to the values of  $H'$  and  $E_H$ , which are high in the topsoil layer (0-30 cm) and decrease in the deeper soil layers (30-60 cm and 60-90 cm) (Figs. 4 and 5). The decrease in the diversity index in LA and OPP in this study was triggered by an increase in the dominance of the genus *Dorylaimus*. The rate of increase in the value of  $\lambda$  in OPP tends to be higher than that in LA, but the value of  $\lambda$  in LA is still higher than the value of  $\lambda$  in OPP for all soil layers (Figure 7).

**Maturity index**

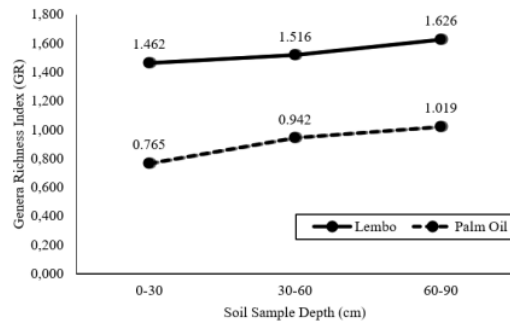
Nematodes maturity index is a measure of the biological function of nematodes diversity measurement in the soil ecosystem by involving the c-p value. Soil nematodes are categorized into a 1-5 colonizer-persister series, 'colonizer' nematodes at the lower end of the c-p scale are consider enrichment opportunist and therefore indicate resource availability, whereas 'persister' nematodes at the high end of the c-p scale indicate system stability, food web complexity, and connectance (Ferris and Bongers 2009).

The community abundance, c-p value, and feeding group of nematodes found in LA and OPP agroecosystems are presented in Table 1. Based on the c-p value, there are

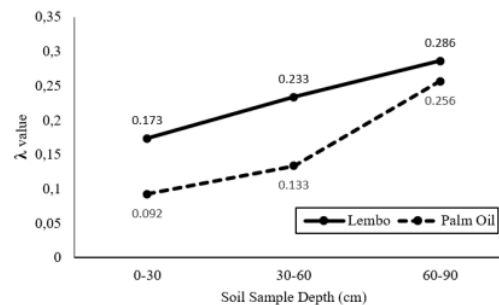
three nematodes genera under c-p 2 and c-p3 value, two genera under c-p4, and one genus each under c-p1 and c-p5. However, based on the nematodes feeding group, there five genera are considered as herbivore, two genera as bacterivorous, and one genus each under fungivore, predator, and omnivore feeding group. The community abundance based on feeding group of non-herbivore nematodes is omnivores, bacterivores, fungivores, and predators, consecutively.



**Figure 5.** The nematodes evenness index ( $E_H$ ) at the oil palm plantation and Lembo agroecosystem



**Figure 6.** The nematodes genera richness index (GR) at the oil palm plantation and Lembo agroecosystem



**Figure 7.** The nematodes dominance index ( $\lambda$ ) at the oil palm plantation and Lembo agroecosystem

**Table 1.** The nematodes community abundance at LA and OPP in West Kutai District of East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

Nematode genus	Feeding group	c-p value	Nematode abundance	
			LA	OPP
<i>Rhabditis</i>	Bacterivore	1	110	59
<i>Cephalobus</i>	Bacterivore	2	80	26
<i>Aphelenchus</i>	Fungivore	2	74	-
<i>Paratylenchus</i>	Herbivore	2	36	32
<i>Pratylenchus</i>	Herbivore	3	137	66
<i>Rotylenchus</i>	Herbivore	3	50	-
<i>Hoplolaimus</i>	Herbivore	3	8	-
<i>Mononchus</i>	Predator	4	35	-
<i>Dorylaimus</i>	Omnivore	4	197	92
<i>Xiphinema</i>	Herbivore	5	15	-

**Table 2.** The maturity indices values of soil nematodes at LA and OPP in West Kutai District of East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

Nematode c-p group	Nematode community abundance							
	0-30 cm	30-60 cm	60-90 cm	Total	0-30 cm	30-60 cm	60-90 cm	Total
	<i>Lembo Agroecosystem</i>				<i>Oil Palm Plantation</i>			
1	66	32	12	110	38	17	4	59
2	97	42	15	154	18	6	2	26
3	154	57	20	231	69	24	5	98
4	141	64	27	232	61	23	8	92
5	14	1	-	15	-	-	-	-
Total	472	196	74	742	186	70	19	275
	<b>Maturity Indices</b>							
ΣMI	2.873	2.796	2.838	2.849	2.823	2.757	2.895	2.811
PPI	3.167	3.034	3.000	3.122	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
MI	2.711	2.696	2.778	2.714	2.718	2.630	2.857	2.706
MI <sub>2-5</sub>	3.177	3.146	3.194	3.171	3.291	3.321	3.400	3.306
PPI/MI	1.17	1.13	1.08	1.15	1.10	1.14	1.05	1.11

The role of the nematode maturity indices (ΣMI, MI, PPI, MI<sub>2-5</sub>, and PPI/MI) are very important in explaining the relationship between diversity index and soil health status in LA and using OPP agroecosystem as a comparison. Therefore, based on several nematode maturity index values, the state of soil health can be seen, whether it is damaged, in the process of repairing, or in a stable state. In general, based on the maturity index values, both LA and OPP environments are relatively not so different. Based on the concept of maturity index, in condition *H'* reaches the maximum value and is evenly distributed, the value of ΣMI is close to 3.0, and the average value of ΣMI is 2.5. So it can be stated that the LA and POP environments in this study are in good condition, meaning that they have a stable condition with a value of ΣMI > 2.5 and close to 3.0 (Table 2). This shows that the nematode genera of the opportunist group (c-p1) have a lower community abundance than the nematodes of the c-p2-5 genera, representing the nematode genera of the predatory and omnivore groups.

The PPI/MI ratio is a derivative of nematode maturity indices which is interesting to note from the aspect of plant-parasitic nematode control. The high value of the PPI/MI ratio is due to the low MI value because the present a genus of opportunistic nematodes (c-p1) whose community reaches 15% in LA and 21% in OPP (Table 2).

However, if calculated based on the PPI/MI<sub>2-5</sub> ratio, the PPI/MI<sub>2-5</sub> ratio values will be obtained <1, so that the pest status of plant-parasitic nematode in both agroecosystems is relatively low. This fact is supported by the role of group members of c-p2-5 nematode genera (MI<sub>2-5</sub>) are predators and omnivores that play a role in controlling plant-parasitic nematodes.

## Discussion

The presence of nematodes in the soil ecosystem is an important element of soil biological fertility determinants. Nematodes have trophic groups that are present in all positions of the micro food web in the rhizosphere ecosystem. So that nematodes living in the rhizosphere are an ideal element to be used as an indicator of the soil health status (Ferris et al. 2001; Bileva et al. 2014; Moura and Franzener 2017). The implementation of the nematode as an indicator for determining soil health status could be done by using diversity indices and maturity indices of nematode genera or species (Ferris and Bongers 2009). Diversity indices determined changes or differences in nematode diversity at different places, while maturity indices are used to determine the direction of change or development status of nematodes community from a disturbance to a stable condition of an ecosystem (Yeates and Bongers 1999).



Nematodes maturity indices values of  $\Sigma MI$ ,  $MI$ ,  $MI_{2-5}$ ,  $PPI$ , and  $PPI/MI$ -ratio have relatively no difference in LA and OPP agroecosystems based on environmental health criteria propose by Ürkmez et al. (2014). So, it could consider that both agroecosystems relatively have the same soil health status (Table 2). Based on the concept of nematode maturity index, when the diversity index value ( $H'$ ) reaches a maximum, and the  $E_H$  value is close to 100%, the  $\Sigma MI$  value will be close to 3.0 (Ferris and Bongers 2009). This study indicates that the maturity indices values in LA and OPP are close to 3.0, even more than 3.0 for the index value of  $MI_{2-5}$ . Following the environmental health criteria established by Ürkmez et al. (2014), the environmental health criteria in terms of soil health status in LA and OPP are good because it has an  $MI$  value  $> 2.6$ . Even, there is the  $MI$  value  $> 2.8$  for the deepest soil layer (60-90 cm) of OPP, its means include in the high category. Due to the community of the nematode genera of c-p2 members in that layer, it has decreased drastically.

The soil health status in LA and OPP can be further explained by breaking down the parameter values of  $MI_{2-5}$  into  $MI_2$  and  $MI_4$ . The nematode genera including  $MI_2$  are the c-p2 member nematode genera, they can live in all environmental conditions, both in conditions of abundant and limited resources, and are very tolerant to pollutants and disturbances. They are mainly fungivores, bacterivores, and some are predators (Ferris and Bongers 2009). Meanwhile, the nematode genera including in  $MI_4$  is the c-p4 member nematode genera, they are very sensitive to pollutants, in general, they are predators, omnivores, and some are bacterivores (Ferris and Bongers 2009). The average community abundance of nematode genera including c-p2 members in LA reaches 21% and only 9% in OPP. Whereas, the average community abundance of nematode genera including c-p4 members in LA reaches 32% and reaches 33% in OPP. Based on community abundance data of nematode genera groups of c-p2 and c-p4 and environmental health criteria established by Ürkmez et al. (2014), the environmental health criteria in terms of soil health status in LA and OPP is high (c-p2  $\leq 50\%$  and c-p4  $> 10\%$ ).

Determination of soil health status in LA and OPP can use the maturity index  $MI_1$ , which consists of nematode genera group c-p1. The characteristics of the nematode genera members of the c-p1 group are nematodes that are tolerant of pollutants. Their community grows very rapidly as colonizers in food-enriched conditions or environments rich in organic matter decomposition products. They mainly serve as bacterial feeders (Ferris and Bongers 2009). The proportion of community abundance of the c-p1 group nematode genera in LA was lower (15%) than that in OPP (21%). However, the absolute community abundance of the c-p1 group nematode genera in LA was 86% higher than the community abundance in OPP (Table 2). The high percentage of community abundance of the c-p1 group nematode genera in OPP (21%) is related to food-enrichment (Pan et al. 2015; Ferris et al. 2001) through periodic fertilizer application, and the negative impact occurs on the nematode genera group c-p3-5 which is very

sensitive to pollutants (Duong et al. 2014) so that the community is low. In contrast to LA, the presence of the c-p1 group nematode genera uses food resources from the decomposition of organic matter from leaf litter and plant twigs that fall to the soil surface (Krashevskaya et al. 2019), but community development is controlled by predators, and omnivores from member nematode genera group c-p4-5 (Sholeha et al. 2017; Steel et al. 2018). Hence, the community abundance of nematode genera of c-p1 group in LA is relatively low or in a stable condition of the ecosystem.

Plant-parasitic nematodes ( $PPI$ ) are important to consider because this group can cause damage to plants. Based on several research results, it is known that the  $PPI/MI$  ratio is a very sensitive indicator influenced by enrichment (Bongers et al. 1997). The high  $PPI/MI$  ratio values in LA and OPP in this study indicate that the availability of nutrients in both agroecosystems is quite high, according to the statement of Ferris and Bongers (2009) that the  $PPI/MI$  ratio value will be higher on land with abundant nutrients compared to soil conditions that are deficient in nutrients. The statement stated above is supported by the results of studies on fertilizer treatment which increases the community of plant-parasitic nematodes (Neher 2001; Okae-Anti et al. 2013) because applying fertilizers to plants will increase plant vigor and support the availability of food sources for plant-parasitic nematodes. The pest status of plant-parasitic nematode on LA and OPP in this study, if evaluated based on the  $PPI/MI$  ratio, seemed high ( $> 1.0$ ), but the high  $PPI/MI$  ratio value was the effect of the inclusion of the c-p1 genera group in  $MI$  value. As is known, the c-p1 member nematodes are bacterial feeders and do not play a role in controlling plant-parasitic nematodes, while those that play a role in controlling plant-parasitic nematodes are predators and omnivores nematodes of c-p2-5 member. If evaluated based on the  $PPI/MI_{2-5}$  ratio, the value is low (Table 2), which means that the pest status of plant-parasitic nematodes in both agroecosystems is also low. It was also lower due to not all existing plant-parasitic nematodes prefer the available hosts as the main crop in the agroecosystem.

In contrast to the maturity indices parameter, based on the diversity indices parameter and abundance, all parameter values in LA are higher than the parameter values in OPP, except for the evenness parameter ( $E_H$ ) in LA, which has a relatively low value compared to OPP (Figure 5). Therefore, the formula used to obtain  $E_H$  is  $E_H = H'/\ln S$  (Yeates and Bongers 1999), and  $S$  is the number of genera. The genera number in LA is twice as much as that of OPP, while the  $H'$  values are not much different so that the  $E_H$  value in OPP is higher than LA.

The greater number of genera and the higher community abundance in LA than OPP were the main factors that influenced the high values of the indicators of diversity indices and abundance in LA. This condition is relevant to research results which show that the density of nematode community in the soil is higher in natural ecosystems than in ecosystems managed for various human



activities, including OPP agroecosystems (Yeates and Bird 1994; Swibawa and Aeny 2010; Krashevskaya 2019).

In conclusion, our study found that the *Lebma* agroecosystems (L<sub>2</sub>) had good soil health status according to the criteria for maturity indices (ΣMI, MI, MI<sub>2-5</sub>, PPI, and PPI/MI ratio), and the status was better than that of oil palm plantation (OPP) based on criteria for diversity indices ( $H'$ , GR, and  $\lambda$ ), absolute abundance and genera abundance of nematodes. So that the LA is an agroecosystem model that can be developed in East Kalimantan, and to increase its productivity it is necessary to apply better management and arrangement of fruit plants that are more reliable and more appropriate based on mix-cropping in agronomic principles. In terms of the pest status of plant-parasitic nematodes, LA is relatively safe because the presence of plant-parasitic nematodes is stabilized by the presence of predatory and omnivore nematode groups.

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