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The Role of City Forest: Study of Malang Urban Forest Contribution in Sequestrating Carbondioxide Emition

Peran Hutan Kota : Studi Kontribusi Hutan Kota Malang Dalam Penyerapan Emisi Karbondioksida

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ABSTRACT

Malabar, as an urban forest has a potential in CO_2 sequestration which was not documented yet. This quantitative descriptive research aimed to describe the contribution of Malabar urban forest in CO_2 emission mitigation through calculating the amount of CO_2 absorbed by the forest. The data collection used was non-destructive in which the indicators measured were DBH and the height of the trees with DBH more than 20 cm. The data gained then were analyzed using Alometric Chave formula to obtain the amount of plant biomass, carbon values, and CO_2 values. The results showed that the potential of Malabar urban forest is not optimized yet as the low amount of carbon stored in this forest (37.004 ton/ha per year). Thus, it is suggested to enrich the forest with the trees which are able to sequestrate the great amount of CO_2 .

Kata kunci: Alometric Chave, CO₂ sequestration, Malabar urban forest.

INTRODUCTION

Urban forest is one of public services which is commonly found in most of big cities. Not only as the identity of the cities where they are placed, but forests also benefit the citizen's live in the cities. Some of the advantages possibly gained are the urban forest capacity in reducing noises (Samara & Tsitsoni, 2011; Uletika et al., 2016), the shading created from the trees grow in forests (Bowler et al., 2010; Livesley et al., 2016) and beautiful scenery (Dobbs et al., 2014; McPherson et al., 2017; Zhou & Rana, 2012). These have placed urban forest as one of alternatives to reduce citizen stress level. Furthermore, the ecological advantage such as birds habitat (Lerman et al., 2014; Sulaiman et al., 2013), water conservation (Livesley et al., 2016), and germ plasm conservation (de Oliveira

et al., 2011) are also presented by the existence of urban forests.

As the positive effects brought by urban forest, its presence has been considered as a must in providing green city area to decrease disadvantage gasses in the air. This has not only been popular alternative in reducing pollutant (Remina *et al.*, 2019; Velasco *et al.*, 2016) in a certain area, but this is also expected to minimize the harmful compound produced from urban citizen activities (Kanniah *et al.*, 2014). Moreover, a health structure of urban forest has significant role in creating a more livable city as considerable as more capable to adapt with uncertain climate changes phenomena (Livesley *et al.*, 2016). The presence of trees in city has been the enhancer of carbon dioxide (CO₂) absorption rapidity through photosynthetic process (Febriani *et al.*, 2018; Marchi *et al.*, 2017).

Even though CO₂ is categorized as a middle-toxic level compound, in some certain conditions, it can be altered to be strongly hazardous material (McIntush et al., 2011). As the increase of transportation uses as well as industrial activities, the higher level of CO₂ content in the atmosphere occurs (Andrlík, 2014; Elosta et al., 2013). Yet, CO_2 has been addressed as the main gas causing greenhouse effect which leads to the nowadays global warming phenomena (Khan, 2017). This, in turn, gives negative impacts to living organism and the environment in the same time such as health issue (Ioan & Amelitta, 2015), the sea level rise (Kaintura & Gusain, 2016), and global climate changes (Ansarizadeh et al., 2015; Nwankwoala, 2015). Due to its significant role in climate changes, the upsurge of CO₂ amount in the atmosphere has been an interesting topic in various scientific discussions and investigations (Ansarizadeh et al., 2015).

In general, one of promising method in reducing CO_2 emission in the atmosphere is by saving the carbon in the non-atmosphere possible mediums (Toochi, 2018). Almost of green plants possess the ability in storing CO₂ (Kristiyanti, 2021) through photosynthetic process (Hopkins & Huner, 2009; Toochi, 2018). For approximately a half of carbon assimilated in photosynthesis are released to the air through respiration (Mackey, 2014). Therefore, the higher number of trees in urban forests the greater amount of CO₂ to be adsorbed. This also promote daytime urban heat mitigation and improve residents' well-being (Ziter et al., 2019). However, somehow, it is important to be noted that not all species of plants are able to sequestrate pollutants optimally (Livesley et al., 2016; Mercy et al., 2018; Rane et al., 2017; Vogt et al., 2017). Some of them, even, can contribute in increasing the amount of pollutant (Livesley et al., 2016). Thus, the studies which address the ability of urban forest in adsorbing CO₂ is crucial to be conducted in various cities and countries.

The analysis of urban forest ability in adsorbing carbon has been done in many countries such as China (Liu & Li, 2012), United State (Nowak *et al.*, 2013), and Spain (Baró *et al.*,

2014). The similar studies were also conducted in various cities in Indonesia such as Semarang (Febriani et al., 2018), Surabaya (Sukmawati et al., 2015), and Palangka Raya (Fidayanti & Palangkaraya, 2016). Likewise, some urban forests are found in Malang in which Malabar is the largest one (Subandi & Prastiwi, 2017). It was also reported that Malabar Forest produce the greater oxygen amount compared to the other forests in Malang (Sesanti et al., 2011). Furthermore, the plant species in this forest are more divers (Isnaini et al., 2015). The characteristic of this forest is the absent of vegetation plantation pattern. The vegetation spread in the whole forest area as well as the random pattern of plant space (Alfian & Kurniawan, 2010).

There were some previous researches done in Malabar Forest. These research focuses were also divers such as insect diversity (Kartikasari *et al.*, 2015), type and vegetation pattern (Alfian & Kurniawan, 2010; Isnaini *et al.*, 2015), and oxygen production of Malabar Forest (Sesanti *et al.*, 2011). Thus, this study was focused on the capability of Malabar Forest in absorbing carbon in Malang. Through this research, it is expected to gain the description of Malabar contribution in dealing with CO₂ emission mitigation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This quantitative descriptive research aimed to calculate the amount of CO_2 absorbed in Malang urban forest, Malabar (Figure 1), and was conducted on April 2017. The population were the all tree types found in Malabar Forest in which the sample were the trees with trunk diameter more than 20 cm and the diameter at breast height (DBH) more than 1.3 m.



Figure 1. The location of Malabar Forest in Malang (source: GoogleMap)

Data Collection

Non-destructive method was chosen in this research. The data were collected in seven plots with 0.3 Ha for each. It was constructed two-layer subplot in each plot, namely subplot A (10 \times 10 m) and subplot B (5 \times 5 m) (Figure 2). In subplot A, the measurements of DBH and height of the trees with DBH more than 20 cm were done. Meanwhile, in subplot B, the same procedure was done to the DBH of the trees as well as the height of the trees with DBH between five and 20 cm.

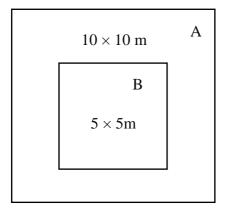


Figure 2. Plot design which comprised of twolayer subplot

Data Analysis

The measurement of plant biomass

The DBH value obtained from subplots A and B were then calculated by using Alometric Chave et al. within rahardjanto (2015) (see formula (1)).

 $Y = 0.059 X \rho X DBH^2 X T....(1)$

where Y is total of biomass (kg); DBH is the Diamater at Breast Height (m); T is plant height; and ρ is specific weight of wood, 0.68 g/cm³ for natural forest and 0.61 g/cm³ for plantation forest (Rahardjanto, 2015)

The Measurement of Carbon Value

Carbon value was calculated using Formula (2) with the conversion factor of 0.5.

$$C = B + 0.5$$
(2)

where C is the amount of carbon stock (ton/ha); B is the total biomass of calculated tree stand (ton/ha).

The Measurement of CO₂ Value

The CO_2 value was obtained by using Brown formula (3).

CO ₂ Sequestration (ton/ha)	=	$\left(\frac{bmrCO_2}{bmrC}\right)$	Х	С
Value(3)				

where bmr CO_2 is the relative molecular weight of CO_2 (i.e. 44); and bmr C is the relative molecular weight of C (i.e.12)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The calculation summary of biomass, carbon value, and CO_2 value resulted are served in Table 1. It can be seen from the table that the total amount of biomass in Malabar Forest as high as 3.544 ton/ha per year, while carbon value was 37.004 ton/ha per year, and CO_2 sequestration was 135.77 ton/ha per year.

 Table 1. The summary of biomass, carbon value, and CO₂ sequestration by trees in Malabar Forest,

 Malang city

N	Location	Dlot	Biomass	C Value	CO ₂ Seques- tration
No	Location	Plot	Biomass (ton/ha per year)	Value (ton/ha per year)	-

А	А	0.94	6.44	23.67
	В	0.02	2.52	9.24
В	А	0.37	2.84	10.4
	В	0.014	5.01	18.39
С	А	0.96	3.46	12.67
	В	0.011	3.01	11.04
D	А	0.37	1.87	6.86
	В	0.004	0.504	1.85
Е	А	0.35	2.85	10.46
	В	0.012	2.01	7.38
F	А	0.26	2.76	10.12
	В	0.013	1.51	5.55
G	А	0.2	0.7	2.57
	В	0.02	1.52	5.57
TOTAL		3.544	37.004	135.77
	B C D E F G	B A B C A B C A D A B B C A B F A B G A B	B A 0.02 B A 0.37 B 0.014 C A 0.96 B 0.011 D A 0.37 B 0.004 E A 0.35 B 0.012 F A 0.26 B 0.013 G A 0.2 B 0.02	B 0.02 2.52 B A 0.37 2.84 B 0.014 5.01 C A 0.96 3.46 B 0.011 3.01 D A 0.37 1.87 B 0.004 0.504 E A 0.35 2.85 B 0.012 2.01 F A 0.26 2.76 B 0.013 1.51 G A 0.2 0.7 B 0.02 1.52

Urban forest has the ability in reducing CO_2 emission in urban area. This ability related to the capability of forest trees which naturally need CO_2 in their life survival. The atmospheric CO_2 will be assimilated by every tree as the way to produce their own food through photosynthetic process (Toochi, 2018). However, every urban forest possesses different CO_2 sequestration level, thus the contribution in reducing CO_2 emission is also various.

One of the main factors determine the sequestration level is tree types grow in urban forest (Livesley et al., 2016; Mercy et al., 2018; Rane et al., 2017; Vogt et al., 2017). The results of this research showed that Albizia chinensis was the highest number of the trees grow in Malabar Forest. There were 31 trees of A. chinensis found in the research sampling plots. This domination was followed by Polyalthia longifolia (14 trees). Pithecellobium dulce (5 trees). Gmelina arborea (5), *Chrysophyllum cainito* (4), Chamaedorea sp. (4), and the lowest number was possessed by Averrhoa belimbi, Elais guinensis, Ficus maclelandii, and Mimusoph elengi in which there only one tree found for each species.

Notwithstanding that *A. chinensis* was the highest number of trees dominate the forest,

however, this species is not categorized as the tree with the high CO_2 sequestration capability. The research done in Maros reported that *Samanea saman* dan *Cerbera odollam* were the species with the highest sequestration capability (Mercy *et al.*, 2018). The cultivation of *S. saman* was recommended in the other research due to its high capability in sequestrating CO_2 (Das & Mukherjee, 2015; Hafids *et al.*, 2018; Suwanmontri *et al.*, 2013). However, on the other hands, no report suggests *A. chinesis* as the species addressed to absorb CO_2 in urban area. This indicates that the existence of the plantations in Malabar Forest has not been optimized yet.

The findings of this research were in line with some previous researches. A research conducted in Barcelona reported that the carbon absorption by city forest was too low compared to the total emission of greenhouse gases resulted from those urban activities (Baró *et al.*, 2014). Likewise the research in Chuncheon, Korea, revealed that city forest cannot absorb the whole CO_2 emission produced in that city (Lee *et al.*, 2014). Therefore, these researches recommended the expansion of green area in the cities to diminish CO_2 .

The endeavors in reducing carbon emission have been becoming global challenge and addressed to be comprehended by scientists (Di Vita *et al.*, 2017). As the massive proliferation of the vehicle uses, industrial machinery, as considerable as the household activities have up surged the carbon emission in the atmosphere (Andrlík, 2014; Kanniah *et al.*, 2014; Zhao *et al.*, 2010). Thus, to minimize the activities which worsen the condition as well as enlarge green area are the main way enable human to cope with the nowadays global warming issue. Consequently, to construct a green area in the city is the most frequent alternative chosen to solve global warming issue (Kanniah *et al.*, 2014; Livesley *et al.*, 2016; Velasco *et al.*, 2016).

The results of this research indicate that Malabar Forest possesses the fair level of CO₂ sequestration. As the largest city forest in Malang, Malabar is expected to be the main carbon storage in Malang City. Besides holding the role as oxygen factory, Malabar Forest is projected to be able to deal with the rapid increase of carbon emission occurring these days. Nevertheless, if this effort does not meet the expectation, the other global warming mitigation methods are crucial to be arranged in Malang. Some of the methods are expansion of green area, reforestation effort by planting some certain plant species which have high ability in absorbing carbon, as considerable as legalizing policies related to the use of vehicles in Malang.

CONCLUSION

The potential of Malabar Forest in global warming mitigation is still low in which the total amount of biomass in Malabar Forest was 3.544 ton/ha per year, while carbon value was 37.004 ton/ha per year, and CO₂ sequestration was 135.77 ton/ha per year. Thus, the alternative optimation effort possibly done is by enriching the diversity of trees planted, mostly those which has the ability in absorbing a great amount of CO₂ in the environment.

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