

NOR AZWADY ABD. AZIZ

Ph.D. (University of Wales)

ASSOC. PROF. DR.
Department of Biology
Faculty of Science
Tel-Office: 03 89466632
Fax: 03 86567454
azwady@upm.edu.my



EXPERTISE

Ecotoxicology/ Vermitechnology

His research interests are vermitechnology and ecotoxicology. Research on vermitechnology (earthworm) is focused on the diversity and ecology studies, utilization of agriculture wastes via vermicompost and vermiculture and utilizing earthworms in improving soil biological and physicochemical properties. Ecotoxicology research includes the distribution, toxicity and effect of heavy metals (Cd, Cu, Pb and Zn) especially on soil ecosystem, including identification of specific organism as a monitoring agent for heavy metals. Sponsors of Azwady's research include the Science Fund (Ministry of Science and Innovation of Malaysia (MOSTI), Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) and Knowledge Transfer Program (KTP).

CURRENT RESEARCH INTEREST:

- **Plant nutrient content and enzyme activities in vermicompost**

Earthworms are thought to have a profound influence on soil organic matter decomposition and nutrient transformations. Vermicompost (compost raised via earthworm activities) has excellent physicochemical and biological properties and acts as a good organic soil conditioner. This humus-like product has been shown to enhance the bioavailability of macro- and micronutrients, microbial and enzyme activities.

- **Endogeic worms as soil conditioner agent**

Endogeic earthworms are soil dwelling earthworms that feed on soil with organic matter and plant remains. They form extensive burrows in upper soil layers and produce casts on the soil surface. However, in Malaysia little effort is placed on the potential of the indigenous endogeic earthworms in various fields, especially in improving soil aeration, structure and soil microbes that may attribute to a more 'healthier' soil. Potential of the endogeics in enhancing plant defence is also studied.

LINK TO POSTGRADUATE FIELD OF STUDY:

Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources,

Ecology **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

<http://profile.upm.edu.my/azwady/en/profail.html>