



UPM
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**KAMPUS
BINTULU
SARAWAK**



**MINISTRY OF
MODERNISATION
OF AGRICULTURE AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SARAWAK**

COSAFS2022

CONGRESS ON **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SECURITY**



INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC
CONFERENCE ON
INDIGENOUS CROPS



INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**FISHERIES AND
ANIMAL SCIENCES**



INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**FOOD AND
INDUSTRIAL CROPS**

PROGRAMME & ABSTRACT BOOK

'People, Planet, and Profit'



Supported by:



21st-24th September 2022
The Waterfront Hotel Kuching,
Sarawak, MALAYSIA



<http://cosafs2022.upm.edu.my>

Abstracts of Poster Presentations (ISCIC2022)

WILD EDIBLE PLANTS USED AS FOOD SOURCE BY THE MELANAU COMMUNITY IN BALINGIAN, MUKAH

Zahora Ismail^{a,*}, Mugunthan Perumal^a, Patricia King Jie Hung^{a,b}, Fauziah Abu Bakar^b, Adam Harris Gerten Ritay Abdullah^c, and Maznah Muning^d

^a*Institute of Ecosystem Science Borneo (IEB), Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Sarawak Campus, P.O. Box 396, Nyabau Road, 97008 Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia*

^b*Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Sarawak Campus, Jalan Nyabau, 97008 Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia*

^c*Malaysia Agriculture Research Development Institute (MARDI) Bintulu, KM55, Jalan Bintulu-Miri, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak*

^d*Faculty of Tropical Forestry, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Jalan UMS, 84000 Kota Kinabalu Sabah, Malaysia*

*E-mail: zahora_i@upm.edu.my

Food is a basic need that can be met by a variety of sources, one of which is plant-based. Most tribal communities meet their food needs by using various plant parts that are nutritious in nature. Plant resources gathered from the wild are important sources of livelihood. This study was conducted to study the wild edible plants consumed by the Melanau community in Balingian district as a source of food for daily living. A face-to-face interview involving 40 respondents was conducted to acquire information on demographics, plants used as food, and part of use. Other uses of plants were also recorded. 20 wild plants had been found to be used for food consumption. Ten species were chosen for this study that is widely or often used by the Melanau community as a food source (*Premna serratifolia*, *Etlingera coccinea*, *Nypa fruticans*, *Nephrolepis bisserata*, *Eleiodoxa conferta*, *Sonneratia* sp., *Stenochlaena palustris*, *Pentaspadon motleyi*, *Shorea macrophylla*, and *Pangium edule*). The social values held by the community have a significant bearing on the manner in which wild edible plants are consumed and conserved by the community for food needs. This study highlighted the significance of wild plant species as a food source for the Melanau community in Balingian. Yet, due to the growing population, over-exploitation and depletion, and the threat of extinction to biodiversity by natural and artificial hazards, there is a need to collect and conserve those species. Multiplication of its population through advanced techniques can be tried and introduced in ecologically rich areas and botanical gardens to increase the accessibility of the species.

Keywords: biodiversity; botanical gardens; conservation; food source; Melanau; wild edible plants



Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Sarawak Campus
Nyabau Road, 97008 Bintulu Sarawak, MALAYSIA
Tel : +6 086 855 200 Fax : +6 086 338 948
www.btu.upm.edu.my

