

Ethnobotanical Significance from Bungo Range National Park, Sarawak

*Meekiong, K.¹, Yeo, F. K. S.¹, Teo, S. P.², Liam, J.², Shabdin, Z.¹, Wasli, M. E.¹,
Pungga, R. S.², Nur Safinas, J.³ and Ripen, J. E.⁴

¹Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak,
94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak.

²Forest Department Sarawak, Bangunan Baitulmakmur II, Medan Raya, Petra Jaya,
93050 Kuching, Sarawak.

³Forest Department Sarawak, Research Development and Innovative Division, 6th Mile,
93250 Kuching, Sarawak.

⁴Sarawak Biodiversity Centre, KM20, Borneo Heights Road, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak.

*corresponding author
aqmuzzammil@unimas.my

ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to document traditional knowledge on plants with economic and ethnobotanical significance used by the communities in the vicinity of the boundary of Bungo Range National Park (BRNP). Eight key villages were selected for this study, viz. Tringgus, Pedaun Bawah, Bijuray Mongag, Puruh Semadang, Bengoh Rais, Temurang, Abang Kiding and Rejoi. The surveys encompass interviews, field samplings with documentation and the preliminary results are presented. A total of 366 species from 261 genera and 102 families of plants with ethnobotanical uses were recorded. The family Zingiberaceae (9 genera, 22 species) is most utilised by the communities near the BRNP, followed by Euphorbiaceae (11 genera, 18 species) and Fabaceae with 16 species from 13 genera; whereas Asteraceae and Piperaceae were the two most popular plant families used by the Bidayuh communities for medicinal purposes whilst Zingiberaceae, Anacardiaceae, Cucurbitaceae and Poaceae were the four most popular plant families harvested for foods. More work still remains to be done as this documentation is still far from satisfactory.

Keywords: Bidayuh, documentation, ethno plants, Heart of Borneo Sarawak

INTRODUCTION

The tropical forests which are endowed with rich and diverse flora is a great storehouse for daily resources for many ethnic groups in Sarawak, either as traditional medicines, foods, ornamental plants, construction materials, perfumery and so forth. Bungo Range National Park (BRNP) is one of such important storehouses which contain rich flora resources that are unique and therefore warrant the need to call for its conservation. Traditional knowledge on the use of forest plants by the local communities has to be documented.

This ethnobotanical study is conducted on the communities near the boundary of BRNP. It is not only significant for forest conservation, but also for conservation of ethnobotanical knowledge of the indigenous people which is showing signs of extinction (Sayok and Teucher, 2018). The local communities near BRNP are mainly Bidayuh. There were ethnobotanical studies reported for Bidayuh in Bau. The study areas were conducted around Singai (Ripen and Noweg, 2017), Jagoi (Ripen and