

ABSTRACT

Phuspa Phuspita (24020121420014). Ethnobotany Medicinal Plants of the Malay Ethnic Group in Bunguran Timur District, Natuna Regency, Riau Islands. Supervised by Jumari and Yulita Nurchayati.

Indonesia The Malay ethnic group is one of the Malay subgroups in the Riau Islands, residing in the Natuna Regency and possessing unique traditions. The traditional Malay Natuna community relies on nature and its surrounding environment in their daily lives. They have local knowledge and customs in utilizing and applying plants as medicinal ingredients to treat diseases. This study aims to examine the diversity of medicinal plant species; analyze the categories of diseases/treatments, preparation methods, presentation, and composition of medicinal plant ingredients; assess the cultural importance index of medicinal plant utilization; and evaluate perceptions and knowledge levels regarding the concepts of health, illness, causes, and types of diseases within the Malay ethnic community. The research was conducted from October 2023 to April 2024 among the Malay ethnic community in Bunguran Timur District, Natuna Regency, Riau Islands. Data collection employed a participatory exploratory survey method with semi-structured interviews. Observations identified a total of 72 medicinal plant species belonging to 43 families, with the dominant families being Zingiberaceae (5 species) and Fabaceae (5 species). A total of 44 disease/treatment categories affecting the Malay ethnic community are treated using traditional medicinal formulations, with leaf-based ingredients being the most common, accounting for 35 species (46%). The most frequently used preparation method is boiling, with 39 herbal formulations (37%), while the majority of remedies are administered in the form of a drink, comprising 31 formulations (68%). The Index of Cultural Significance (ICS) for medicinal plants indicates that turmeric (*Curcuma domestica*) and ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) hold the highest ICS value of 90. The transmission of traditional healing practices within the Malay ethnic community is passed down orally from generation to generation. Knowledge is inherited from ancestors to key figures such as Malay customary leaders (*LAM – Lembaga Adat Melayu*), village shamans (*Dukon*), and traditional midwives (*Biden*).

Keywords: traditional medicine, traditional knowledge, medicinal plants, Malay ethnic group, Bunguran Timur