

Ethnobotanical Study of Plant Resources in Serangan Island, Bali

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(Accepted November 21, 2014)

ABSTRACT

Serangan is a small island located in the south of Bali. The community is made up of a mixed community of Hindus and Muslims, and has identity as a 'coastal community'. The island reclamation project has affected natural ecosystem of the island, and has led to socio-economic and cultural changes within the community. In this changing environment, local knowledge on the use of biological resources, particularly plant resources, still largely remains undocumented. Therefore, this study was carried out to collect information on the utilization of plant resources by the Serangan local community. Data were collected by conducting interview, direct observation, inventory, and focus group discussion (FGD) with pebble distribution method (PDM). A total of 132 useful plant species belonging to 51 families were identified and reported to be beneficial to the locals. The highest numbers of plants were used for ritual/ceremonial activities (70 species), followed by tourism/recreational and medicines (59 species each), food (36 species), local technology and art (29 species), firewood (20 species), livestock fodder (15 species), revenue (5 species), and natural colorants (4 species). In terms of plant utilization, food-plants ranked highest (9.25%) among all use categories, followed by revenue (8.625%), medicinal plants (6.94%), recreation/tourism (6.75%), ritual/tradition (6%), livestock fodder (5.31%), local technology and art (5.38%), firewood (4.31%), and natural colorants (3.5%). Considering the fact that plant resources play significant role for the local community, conservation activities based on indigenous knowledge need to be done to preserve the plants from local extinction.

Key words: ethnobotany, local community, useful plants, Serangan Island, Bali.