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### MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY KADAYAN COMMUNITY IN SARAWAK

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#### ABSTRACT

A total of 53 plant species used by Kadayan community in Lawas/Limbang have been collected and their uses recorded. Some of the plants commonly used include *Cinnamomum iners* (for cough, asthma, lumbago and tonic); *Brucea javanica* (for malaria, stomach ache); *Eurycoma longifolia* (for malaria, tonic); *Eugenia kinabalu-ensis* (for tonic, postparturation aids) and *Macaranga triloba* (for skin diseases). Phytochemical studies on 39 samples showed that 4 species (10.2%) contain alkaloid; 24 species (61.5%) contain saponin; 36 species (92.3%) contain steroid and triterpenoid and 2 species (5.1 %) contain cardiac glycosides. Antibacterial screening on 39 species showed that 35 species (89.7%) possess antibacterial properties.

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## INTRODUCTION

The relationship between man and the sources of traditional medicine either from terrestrial and marine is very close. Every society has its own ways in utilizing plants to cure diseases, especially by community in the rural area. The use of plants of medicinal value by Sarawak's native has been practiced for many centuries. Chai (1975, 1978) has reported the uses of some medicinal plants by native of Sarawak. No details publication is available on the uses of medicinal plants by native of Sarawak and their phytochemical and pharmacological studies. This publication will give some information on medicinal plant used by Kadayan community, phytochemical and antibacterial screening of the plants collected.

The total population of Kadayan in Sarawak is very small compared to other indigenous groups. They are mainly concentrated in Sibuti Subdistrict in the Fourth Division and Lawas/Limbang in the Fifth Division (Figure 1).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The information on medicinal plants used by Kadayan community in Lawas/Limbang presented here is based on field interviews. A total of 5 herbalists were interviewed from villages in Lawas/Limbang. The plants mentioned by the herbalists were collected for taxonomic identification and laboratory analyses. Local names of the plants, uses and methods of preparation have been recorded. The plants samples have been identified by staff of UKMS Herbarium and Department of Forestry, Sandakan Herbarium.

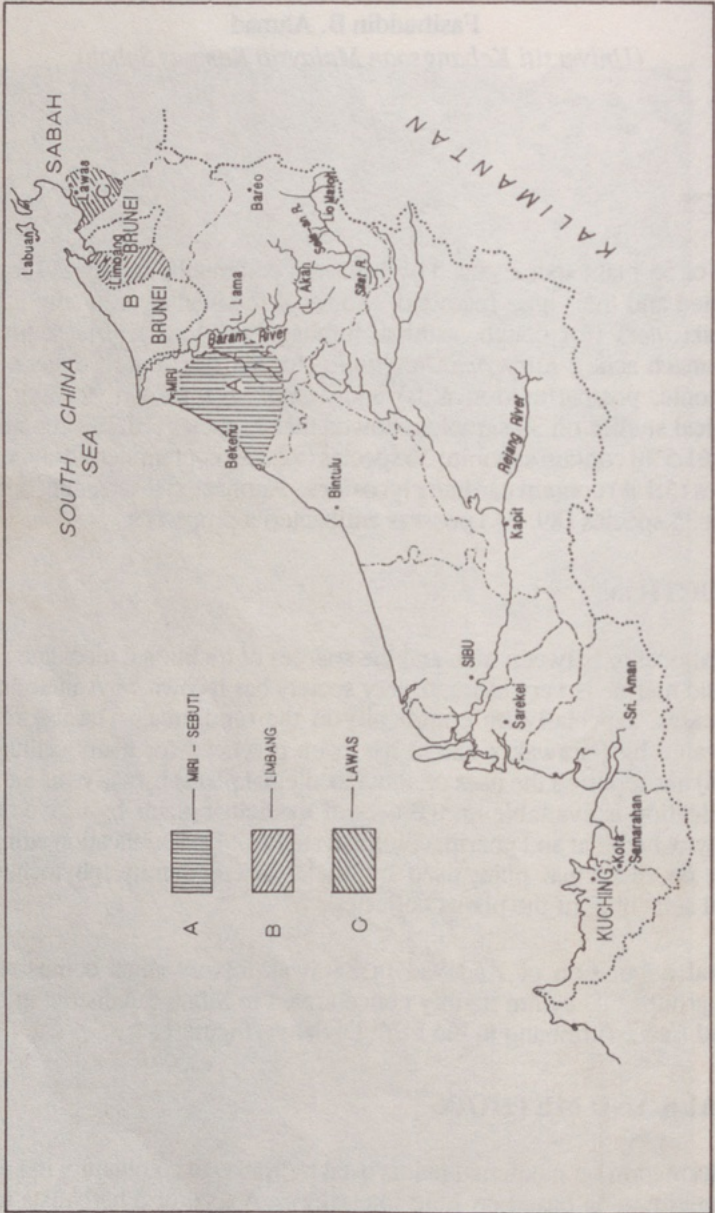


FIGURE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF KADAYAN COMMUNITY IN SARAWAK.