

**DIVERSITY ON A PLATE: SHORT NOTES ON MORPHOLOGICAL  
IDENTIFICATION OF SEAWEED 'JANGGUT DUYUNG' SOLD IN KUCHING  
WET MARKETS, SARAWAK.**

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**ABSTRACT**

This study focuses on the morphological identification of the edible seaweed 'Janggut Duyung' sold in Kuching wet markets, Sarawak. Through market surveys and detailed morphological analysis, three species were identified: *Gracilaria changii*, *Gracilaria coronopifolia*, and *Gracilaria edulis*. The identification was based on distinctive features such as thallus color, branching patterns, and structure, observed using compound light and dissecting microscope. These seaweeds are an integral part of the local diet in Sarawak, often prepared and consumed in various traditional dishes. Although this study did not delve into detailed nutritional analyses, it highlights the need for further research to explore the nutritional content and potential commercial applications of these seaweeds. This research sets the groundwork for future studies and projects in Sarawak that aim to maximize the benefits of seaweeds. The precise identification of seaweed species' morphology ensures that future research can rely on accurate taxonomic data, crucial for understanding the specific characteristics and potential uses of each species. By offering detailed information on the availability and distribution of 'Janggut Duyung' in local markets, this study helps identify market trends and demand, guiding strategies to optimize supply chains and promote sustainable harvesting practices.

**Keywords:** *Gracilaria*, marine, phaeophyta, seaweed, Kuching, Sarawak, morphological identification,