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Ethnopharmacological study of the plants used as antimalaria in Sei Kepayang - Asahan

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Sei Kepayang is a malaria endemic area in Asahan Regency, North Sumatra. The problems of anti-malaria resistance in this area had made the society choose alternative medicine for malaria, namely, by using herbal plants that have been believed to cure malaria. The objective of the research is to find out the herbal plants used as antimalaria in Sei Kepayang. An ethnopharmacological study had been conducted in Sei Kepayang, Asahan Regency, North Sumatra through interviews with the members of surrounding society, herbal plant collection, identification, and phytochemical screening. The results of survey thorough interview and questionnaires revealed 16 types of herbal plants used as antimalaria in Sei Kepayang. They are meniran herbs, johar (*black-wood cassia*) leaves, sambiloto (*Andrographis paniculata*) herbs, pulai leaves, brotowali (*Tinospora crispa*) stem, mahogany fruit, red guava fruit, mangosteen fruit, oyong (*Luffa acutangula*) seeds, papaya leaves, insulin leaves, kumis kucing (*Orthosiphon aristatus*) leaves, asam gelugur (*Garcinia atroviridis*) leaves, sembung (*Blumea balsamifera*) leaves, and soursop leaves.

Conclusion: Local society in Sei Kepayang, Asahan Regency, North Sumatra, has had adequate knowledge on malaria and used herbal plants to cure malaria.

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