

The Jungle Pharmacy: Exploring Mount Semeru's Medicinal Plant Species and Conservation Effort in Predator Territories

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Abstract

The rich biodiversity of Mount Semeru's surrounding predator territories in East Java harbors a valuable resource in the form of medicinal plants. Through our study, we identified 7 key species (*Euchresta horsfieldii* (Lesch.) Benn, *Castanopsis argentea*, *Cyathula prostrata*, *Vanda tricolor*, *Anaphalis longifolia*, *Usnea barbata*) renowned for their medicinal properties, drawing on both scientific data and local knowledge. However, the conservation of these plants must be approached holistically, considering not only their medicinal potential but also the delicate balance of predator populations within their habitats. Local communities play a crucial role in preserving both the flora and fauna of these regions, as they possess invaluable traditional knowledge regarding the uses and conservation of medicinal plants. Therefore, any conservation efforts must involve collaboration with local stakeholders to ensure the sustainable management of these resources. Furthermore, maintaining the equilibrium of predator populations is vital for ecosystem health and the continued existence of these medicinal plant species. Strategies for conservation should prioritize the protection of both plant and predator populations, promoting biodiversity while also safeguarding the cultural heritage and health traditions of local communities. In conclusion, our study highlights the importance of a balanced approach to conservation that integrates scientific research, local knowledge, and community engagement around Mount Semeru. By protecting both medicinal plants and their predator habitats, we can sustainably harness the therapeutic potential of nature while preserving the delicate ecosystems that support them.

Keyword: Medicinal plants, Pharmacy, Conservation, Semeru