

## CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Batu Busuk is one of the villages in Lambung Bukit Village, Pauh District, Padang City. Batu Busuk is a rural region with a natural environment, where a significant portion of the land is converted to agricultural and plantation purposes. The population is relatively small, with a mere 250 individuals. Public services, including healthcare, schools, and retail centers, are scarce, and access to roads is restricted. Rural regions are distinguished by pastoral landscapes, extractive economies, unique social contexts, structured and small population (Hart et al., 2005). The potential of Batu Busuk's natural wealth is quite high. This is evidenced by the results of its natural durian garden which makes Batu Busuk village being the main durian producer in Padang city (Hayati et al., 2021).

Ethnobotany provides insights into the relationship between humans and plants, illustrating how local wisdom arises in communities that use plants in their daily lives (Ritonga et al., 2023). Traditional communities classify plants into useful and non-useful categories (Rahayu & Royyani, 2019). Useful plants are further categorized based on their functions, such as their use in medicine. Traditional healers often possess extensive knowledge about the use of plants to treat specific ailments, such as those used for postpartum recovery, bone fractures, and other conditions. According to information from village leaders in Batu Busuk village, the local community, known as the "Padusi Ethnobotany Community", continues to use plants as traditional medicine in their daily lives despite being situated in an urban area. Typically, urban residents prefer practical methods, particularly in healthcare, opting for hospital visits and chemical drugs from pharmacies. The current trend emphasizes the use of chemical drugs for treating illnesses, with traditional medicine often considered a last resort (Hutubessy et al., 2021). However, this community chooses to use traditional

medicine, prepared by themselves, based on knowledge passed down through generations. In Batu Busuk village, traditional medicine is not only used to treat illnesses but also to maintain health and stimulate appetite. Despite this, the traditional knowledge of using plants as medicine within this community has not been documented. Preserving this knowledge is crucial for the development of modern medicine and must be protected to ensure it is not lost, as valuable knowledge can be forgotten if not transmitted to future generations.

The local community in Batu Busuk village continues to use medicinal plants for traditional healing for several reasons. One reason is the lack of healthcare facilities around the village. It is known that the only healthcare facility in Kelurahan Lambung Bukit is a single auxiliary health center. Moreover, the community's location is hard to reach due to its considerable distance within the forest. Their residence is situated on Bukit Tabuk, with a small, slippery, and hilly road making it challenging for them to reach the nearest healthcare services. Another reason is economic; not all chemical drugs are affordable, so the community prefers to utilize the natural resources available in their surroundings, which they can obtain at no cost. Therefore, the Batu Busuk village community relies on the forest's natural resources around their residence, leading to the development of traditional plant medicine use in the village. However, there is currently insufficient information about the types of medicinal plants used by the local community in Batu Busuk village for traditional healing and how they are processed. Therefore, a study is needed to obtain comprehensive information about the types of medicinal plants used by the local community in Batu Busuk village and how they are utilized. This study is crucial to document the traditional knowledge of the local community in Batu Busuk village regarding the types of medicinal plants and their use in traditional healing, ensuring their traditional knowledge remains preserved and is not lost to future generations.

## 1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background described above, the problem formulations in this study are:

1. What are the medicinal plant species used by the Batu Busuk village community?
2. How is the utilization of medicinal plant species by the people of Batu Busuk village?

## 1.3 Research Objective

The objectives of this research are:

1. Inventorying the species of medicinal plants used by the Batu Busuk village community.
2. Analyzing how the utilization of medicinal plants by the Batu Busuk local community.

## 1.4 Research Benefits

The benefits to be achieved from this research are:

1. Useful as a reference for other researchers related to the diversity of medicinal plants and how they are used as medicine in Batu Busuk village.
2. Open insights for the wider community regarding the diversity of plant species that can be used as medicine and how they are utilized.

