




Mangrove Fruit Bioprospecting: Nutritional and Antioxidant Potential as a Food Source for Coastal Communities in the Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to identify the nutritional and antioxidant potential of mangrove fruits of *Xylocarpus granatum*, *Sonneratia alba*, and *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* growing in Rawa Aopa Watumohai National (RAWN) Park. The protein content of *X. granatum* fruits (4.50 mg/g) was recorded to be higher than that *S. alba* (0.93 mg/g) and *B. gymnorrhiza* (1.09 mg/g), while the fat content in fruits of *X. granatum* (4.88%), *S. alba* (4.42%), and *B. gymnorrhiza* (4.74%) was similar. The total sugar content in fruits of *X. granatum* (14.8 mg/100 g), *S. alba* (14.9 mg/100 g), and *B. gymnorrhiza* (13.52 mg/100 g) was also similar. The ascorbic acid content in *X. granatum* fruit (65 mg/100 g) was higher than that in *S. alba* (40 mg/100 g) and *B. gymnorrhiza* (41.87 mg/100 g). However, the fruits of *S. alba* contained much higher micronutrients of Mn (0.063 mg/g), Zn (0.72 mg/g), and Fe (0.51 mg/g) than those of in *X. granatum* (0.052, 0.52, and 0.38 mg/g, respectively), and *B. gymnorrhiza* (0.012, 0.11, and 0.34 mg/g, respectively). Moreover, the fruits of *X. granatum* contained much higher macronutrients of K and Na compared to fruits of other mangroves. Thus, the findings of this study showed the promising values of all studied mangrove fruits as bio-nutrition and antioxidant sources, and high potentiality to use as renewable food sources for the coastal communities in RAWN Park.

KEYWORDS

Mangrove fruits potential; nutritional content; antioxidant; renewable food; coastal community; RAWN Park

Introduction

Mangroves are well known to play many important roles, such as providing carbon and nutrients in coastal areas that support primary and secondary

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