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The Three most Common Malaysian Kelulut Plants
Beautiful but Dangerous

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The Three Most Common Malaysian Kelulut Plants

By: Wan Noorli Razali

Malaysia's rich biodiversity provides an ideal habitat for kelulut (stingless bees), which play a crucial role in pollination. Among the various flora, three plants stand out as the most beneficial for kelulut: Gelam Tree, Belimbing Buluh, and Senduduk.

A staple in mangrove ecosystems, the Gelam Tree is known for its papery bark and aromatic leaves. Its small, nectar-rich flowers are a favorite of kelulut bees. Beyond its role in supporting bees, the Gelam Tree is also valued for its medicinal properties, particularly in treating respiratory ailments.



Gelam tree



Belimbing buluh



Often found in rural and urban areas, Belimbing Buluh is recognizable by its tangy, green fruits that grow in clusters on the tree's trunk and branches. Its flowers, which are small and reddish-purple, attract kelulut bees in droves, providing ample nectar for honey production. The plant is also widely used in cooking and traditional medicine.



Senduduk plant

With its striking purple flowers, Senduduk is a magnet for kelulut bees. This hardy shrub thrives in various environments, from roadsides to forest edges. Aside from supporting bees, Senduduk has significant medicinal value, particularly in treating wounds and skin conditions.

These plants are not just essential for sustaining kelulut colonies but also contribute to Malaysia's ecological balance and cultural heritage. Cultivating these species can enhance kelulut honey production while preserving local biodiversity.



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