

Biophytum (Oxalidaceae): kerabat belimbing yang pemalu dan manfaatnya

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Abstrak

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Biophytum is a member of Oxalidaceae family which has a unique ability to respond by closing its leaves. Two species of Biophytum known to have this ability in Malesia region, namely Biophytum sensitivum and Biophytum reinwardtii. There are seven species of Biophytum, which six of them can be found in Indonesia, namely: B. petersianum, B. dendroides, B. sensitivum, B. reinwardatii, B. microphyllum, B. fruiticosum and the other one which cannot be found in Indonesia, B. adiantoides. This plant has been used by Ayurvedice medicine and Siddha to treat several diseases for treating gonorrhea, lithiasis, amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhea, burns expectorants, asthma, diabetes mellitus, tuberculosis, and chest pain. Biophytum has many benefit comes from its bioactive ingredients that are potential to be developed and used as medicine.