

# Potential of Legume Seeds from the Leguminosae Family as Material Source of Food and Medicine : A Literature Review

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## ABSTRACT

Leguminosae, also known as Fabaceae, is the third largest plant family after Orchidaceae and Asteraceae. This review aimed to explore the potential of several legume species indigenous to Indonesia, from the Leguminosae family, as sources of food and medicine. The data used for the analysis were collected from various online databases such as PubMed, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar. The results showed that there were 13 species of Leguminosae family plants found easily in Indonesia including *Cajanus cajan*, *Canavalia ensiformis*, *Mucuna pruriens*, *Arachis hypogaea*, *Vigna subterranea*, *Glycine max*, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, *Phaseolus lunatus*, *Vigna radiata*, *Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata*, *Vigna angularis*, *Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis*, and *Pisum sativum*. Among these species, several plants have been underutilized as food material, including *C. cajan*, *C. ensiformis*, *M. pruriens*, and *P. lunatus*. These 13 legume plants generally contain carbohydrates, proteins, starch, fats, and minerals, making them valuable as potential food sources. They also predominantly contain secondary metabolites, such as polyphenols and flavonoids (e.g., genistein, daidzein, cajanin), which have significant potential to be developed into pharmacologically active compounds.

**Keywords:** bioactive compound; fabaceae; leguminosae; legume seeds; potential medicine

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## INTRODUCTION

Leguminosae, also known as legumes, are the third largest plant family, consisting of 770 genera and 19,400 species distributed worldwide, including Indonesia (Sandeep, 2014). The province of West Java is rich in Leguminosae, serving as a source of food, building materials, ornamental plants, and medicinal resources (Rahmah & Setiawan, 2023). These plants are characterized by pod-shaped fruits originating from a single leaf or without false partitions (Sutjaritjai et al., 2019). Furthermore, legume seeds play a significant role in the human diet, ranking as the second-largest food source after cereals, and are widely used for various natural products, such as flavorings and colorings. These plants have also been used for treatment, particularly in the form of concoctions with other ingredients capable of providing safe and effective therapeutic effects (Ahmad et al., 2016). These benefits and bioactivities are mediated by the rich phytochemicals contained in legume seeds, including primary and secondary metabolites. Primary metabolites in seeds, such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, amino acids have a major contribution to their role as a nutritious diet. Phenolic compounds are known as the largest secondary metabolites found in

Legumes that are excellent as chemopreventive agents, mainly due to their antioxidant properties (Singh et al., 2017; Spanou et al., 2010). Phenolic compounds can act as antioxidants due to their chemical structure that has reducing properties (Zillich et al., 2015).

This review aimed to explore 13 plant species from the Leguminosae family, including *Cajanus cajan*, *Canavalia ensiformis*, *Mucuna pruriens*, *Arachis hypogaea*, *Vigna subterranea*, *Glycine max*, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, *Phaseolus lunatus*, *Vigna radiata*, *Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata*, *Vigna angularis*, *Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis*, and *Pisum sativum*. These thirteen legume species were selected because they are commonly consumed and cultivated in Indonesia and have been reported to possess promising nutritional and medicinal potential in previous studies. The analysis focuses on the study of the plant distribution, nutrient content, the uses as food ingredients, and phytochemicals and biological activities. This work involved more than 100 articles to complete this review article. This review was compiled through various literature databases. The results are expected to be used for further development of local Indonesian legume seeds as a source of food and potential medicine.

Table 1. Activity test results of 13 *Leguminosae* seeds extract

Seed material	Sample	Activity	Test Method	Result	Ref.
<i>C. cajan</i>	Methanol extract	Antioxidant	FRAP assay	IC <sub>50</sub> : 49.08 ± 55 g/mL	(Khanum et al., 2015)
	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	IC <sub>50</sub> : 22.96%	(Sharma et al., 2019)
	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant, anti-inflammatory	DPPH radical scavenging assay FRAP assay Albumin denaturation assay	IC <sub>50</sub> against DPPH: 478.285 ± 0.123 µg/mL IC <sub>50</sub> against FRAP: 0.219 ± 0.002 mM IC <sub>50</sub> as anti-inflammatory: 677.1 ± 0.331 µg/mL	(Shamsi et al., 2018)
<i>C. ensiformis</i>	Methanol extract	<i>In Vitro</i> , α-glucosidase inhibition	Antidiabetic	IC <sub>50</sub> : 24.91 ± 0.84 mg/mL	(Sutedja et al., 2020)
	Methanol extract	DPPH radical scavenging assay	Antioxidant	Scavenging: 38.04-68.51%	(Doss, Pugalenth, & Vadivel, 2011)
	Water extract and methanol extract	<i>In vitro</i> on earthworms	Anthelmintic	The anthelmintic activity of the sample is comparable to the standard medicine (piperazine citrate 1 mg/mL)	(Kotkar et al., 2020)
<i>M. pruriens</i>	Ethanol extract	Spermatozoa motility enhancer	<i>In vivo</i> using <i>Mus musculus</i> BALB/c (albino mice)	Increased motility and percentage of normal spermatozoa	(Winarni, Judiwati, Prajogo, & Hayati, 2011)
	Ethanol extract	Anti-inflammatory	<i>In vitro</i> using RAW 264.7 cells	Decreased iNOS by 78.73% and COX-2 by 75.05%	(Han, Bae, & An, 2022)
	Ethanol: water (1:1) extract	Anti-parkinsonian	<i>In vivo</i> with <i>Mus musculus</i> and treated by hanging at a height of 50 cm, both front legs holding the wire	A dose of 5 mg/kg BW significantly reduced symptoms of catalepsy (can hang longer than 20 seconds)	(Sardjono et al., 2018)
<i>A. hypogaea</i>	Methanol extract	Renal protective agent	<i>In vivo</i> using Swiss Albino mice induced with gentamycin	The samples significantly reduced serum creatinine, urea, and BUN levels	(Gul et al., 2023)
	Petroleum ether extract	Antibacterial	<i>In vitro</i> against bacteria <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>E. hirae</i> , <i>L. ivanovii</i> , <i>L. innocua</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> and <i>B. cereus</i>	Sterol content had inhibitory activity on most of the test bacteria	(Sebei, Gnouma, Herchi, Sakouhi, & Boukhchina, 2013)
	Water extract	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	At a concentration of 2 mg/mL, the sample had antioxidant activity with an inhibition of 57.43%	(Jiang, Ma, & Yan, 2014)

Table 1. Continued

Seed material	Sample	Activity	Test Method	Result	Ref.
<i>V. subterranean</i>	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay FRAP assay	DPPH IC <sub>50</sub> : 347 ± 4.2 µg/mL FRAP IC <sub>50</sub> : 6.00 ± 0.21 mmol Fe <sup>2+</sup> /100 g	(Nyau et al., 2015)
	N-hexane extract	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	Scavenging: 67-72%	(Arise et al., 2016)
	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant Anti-inflammatory	DPPH radical scavenging assay FRAP assay Lipoxygenase inhibition assay	DPPH IC <sub>50</sub> : 2.25 ± 0.14 µg/mL FRAP IC <sub>50</sub> : 253 ± 33 µg/mL Lipoxygenase IC <sub>50</sub> : 2.16 ± 0.14 µg/mL	(Chinnapun & Sakorn, 2022)
<i>G. max</i>	70% aqueous acetone extract	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	Inhibition: 46.71%	(Malenčić, Popović, & Miladinović, 2007)
	Methanol extract	Antiplasmodial and antimalarial	<i>In vivo</i> ( <i>Plasmodium berghei</i> ANKA strain-infected mice)	IC <sub>50</sub> against strain D6: 10.14 ± 9.04 µg/mL IC <sub>50</sub> against strain W2: 14.87 ± 3.43 µg/mL Parasite inhibition activity: 72.9% at a dose of 800 mg/kg	(Nyandwaro et al., 2020)
	Methanol extract	Antibacterial	<i>In vitro</i> against <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. alcaligenes</i> , <i>P. fluorescens</i>	200 µg/mL concentration had a zone of inhibition comparable to the standard (doxycycline)	(Arora et al., 2013)
	Ethanol extract of fermented seeds	Anticancer	MTT assay with T47D breast cancer cells	IC <sub>50</sub> : 196.07 ± 15.96 µg/mL	(Yuliani et al., 2016)
	Steamed soybean	Antioxidant Anticancer	DPPH radical scavenging assay Anticancer activity using breast adenocarcinoma (MCF-7 cells)	Scavenging: 28.77 ± 3.82% Cell growth inhibition: 17.92 ± 1.24% at the extract concentration of 250 µg/mL	(Somdee et al., 2017)
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	Fermentation	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	IC <sub>50</sub> : 434.51 ± 0.18 µg/mL	(Chalid et al., 2021)
	Methanol extract	Antiobesity	<i>In vitro</i>	Reduced intracellular triglyceride accumulation by 47.1% (1000 µg/mL) compared to controls	(Nassar et al., 2010)
	Ethanol extract	Antihypertensive	<i>In-vivo</i> using Male Wistar rats (180-200 g)	Reduced blood pressure significantly at an extract concentration of 100 mg/kg, intravenously	(Yuliani et al., 2016)

Table 1. Continued

Seed material	Sample	Activity	Test Method	Result	Ref.
<i>P. lunatus</i>	Water extract	Antioxidant Anti-inflammatory	TBARS <i>In-vitro</i> anti-inflammatory	Antioxidant activity: $33.19 \pm 0.024\%$ at an extract concentration of 1000 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ Anti-inflammatory activity: $21.53 \pm 0.39\%$ at an extract concentration of 1000 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	(Tamayo et al., 2018)
	Methanol extract	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	$\text{IC}_{50}$ : 1268.18 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	(Nugrahani et al., 2020)
	Ethanol extract	Antihypertensive	<i>In vitro</i> against ACE-I activity	Fraction >3 kDa had the highest ACE-I activity (60.15%, $\text{IC}_{50}$ : 172.62 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	(Ciau-Solís et al., 2018)
<i>V. radiata</i>	Methanol extract	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	$\text{IC}_{50}$ : 73.35 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	(Tang et al., 2014)
	Methanol extract	Antibacterial	<i>In vitro</i> with gram-negative bacteria	MIC: 75 mg/mL	(Camalxaman et al., 2013)
	Mung bean fermentation ( <i>Tempe</i> )	ACE inhibitor	<i>In vitro</i>	ACE-I: 75% with 18.68% hydrolysis degree (protein extract containing 351 mg/mL soluble protein)	(Muawanah et al., 2022)
<i>V. unguiculata</i> subsp. <i>unguiculata</i>	Sprout crude drugs after 12 hours of soaking	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	$\text{IC}_{50}$ : 5,928.39 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	(S. W. K. Putri et al., 2021)
	Water extract	Antibacterial	<i>In vitro</i> (agar diffusion method against <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> bacteria)	Inhibition diameter of 22 mm at a concentration of 300 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ extract, against gram-negative bacteria, namely <i>E. coli</i>	(Sandeep, 2014)
	Juice	Antihyperglycemia	<i>In vivo</i> with male Swiss Webster mice with alloxan induction	Juice at a dose of 12 g/kg BW has a significant antihyperglycemic effect compared to the positive control	(Cahyani et al., 2015)
<i>V. angularis</i>	Crude oil	Antimicrobial	Agar well technique against <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> , <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , <i>Proteus</i> , <i>S. typhi</i> , and <i>E. coli</i>	Diameter of inhibition of each bacteria: <i>E. coli</i> : $15 \pm 0.40$ cm <i>Proteus</i> : $1.00 \pm 0.00$ cm <i>K. pneumoniae</i> : $3.00 \pm 0.03$ cm <i>S. typhi</i> : $7 \pm 0.01$ cm <i>B. subtilis</i> : $5 \pm 0.02$ cm	(Olaseeni et al., 2023)
	Ethanol extract	ACE inhibitor	<i>In vitro</i>	ACE and angiotensin level II inhibitory activity at 500 mg/kg extract concentration	(Jeong et al., 2021)

Table 1. Continued

Seed material	Sample	Activity	Test Method	Result	Ref.
	Coat and seeds extract	Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor (Anti-Alzheimer)	<i>In vitro</i>	Inhibition at a concentration of 37,700 µg/mL: Seeds extract: 25.7% Seeds coat extract: 88.5%	(Johnson et al., 2023)
<i>V. unguiculata</i> subsp. <i>sesquipedalis</i>	Ethanol extract	Antihyperglycemia	<i>In vivo</i> using mice	There was a decrease in blood glucose levels of 167.00 mg/dL at a dose of 12 g/kg BW	(Harmayetty & Anisa, 2015)
	Water extract	Hair growth	<i>In silico</i> with molecular docking method	Flavonoid compounds have free energy bonds ranging from -8.44 to -5.07 kcal/mol	(Arifin et al., 2017)
	Ethanol extract	Antihyperglycemia	Oral glucose tolerance test in male Swiss Webster mice	Extract (13 g/kg BW) showed activity to reduce blood glucose in mice	(Sumarny, Musir, & Ningrum, 2013)
<i>P. sativum</i>	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant Antidiabetic	DPPH radical scavenging assay <i>In vivo</i> with mice fasted overnight (16 hours)	IC <sub>50</sub> DPPH: 158.52 µg/mL Blood glucose levels were reduced by 30.24% at 30 minutes	(Zilani et al., 2017)
	Water extract	Anthelmintic	<i>In vitro</i> with earthworms	Paralysis time: 14.33 ± 1.30 minutes Time to death: 19.00 ± 1.48 minutes	(Devade, Mehta, Lohare, Tawakale, & Jadhav, 2022)
	Methanol extract	Antioxidant	DPPH radical scavenging assay	IC <sub>50</sub> : 489.25 µg/mL	(Alam & Khatun, 2016)

Notes: FRAP – Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power, DPPH – 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl, TBARS – Thiobarbituric Acid Reactive Substances, ACE-I – Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor, iNOS – Inducible Nitric Oxide Synthase, COX-2 – Cyclooxygenase-2, MTT – 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide, MIC – Minimum Inhibitory Concentration, IC<sub>50</sub> – Half Maximal Inhibitory Concentration, BUN – Blood Urea Nitrogen, BW – Body Weight

## METHODS

In this study, established references and databases, including PubMed, Google Scholar, and ScienceDirect, were selected to conduct a comprehensive study of local Indonesian legume seeds. This study was focused on their distribution, utilization as food ingredients, phytochemical composition, and bioactive properties. The articles that met the criteria were included, such as relevance to the topic discussed (about distribution, phytochemical, and bioactivity of legume seeds); published in peer-reviewed journals between 2010 and 2024; and provided experimental or review data related to the topic. The selection of literature prioritized the latest research published in reputable journals to ensure data reliability, whereas the irrelevant articles or those published in

non-indexed journals were excluded. Literature searches were conducted using both single and combined keywords. In this study, the examples of keywords and Boolean operators used to assist literature searches include “Leguminosae AND Bioactivity,” “Leguminosae AND Medicinal Potential,” and “Potential Medicinal Activity of Legumes.”

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Cajanus cajan*

*Cajanus cajan* (Pigeon Pea) (Figure 1), locally called *Gude* in Indonesia, is widely distributed across tropical areas such as Asia, India, and Africa (Fuller et al., 2019).





**Figure 1. *Cajanus cajan* with plant parts: leaves (a), fruits with the flower (b), seeds (c), and whole plant (d) (Tungmunnithum & Hano, 2020)**

#### Nutrients and Uses

*C. cajan* contains high nutrients compared to other legumes, including protein (20-22%), carbohydrates (65%), and low fat (1.2%) (Utami et al., 2015). Its seeds can be processed into flour and used as an ingredient in various food products. Its seeds also can be processed into nutritious food products and sources of protein that have the potential to reduce malnutrition and protein deficiency in the body (Karri & Nalluri, 2017).

#### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

Traditionally, this plant seed is also used to cure various diseases, with the main biological activity such as antioxidant and anti-inflammatory (Tungmunnithum et al., 2021; Tungmunnithum & Hano, 2020). In the medical fields, *C. cajan* has properties as an antimalarial with the cajachalcone as an active compound with the  $IC_{50}$  value of  $2.0 \mu\text{g/mL}$  ( $7.4 \mu\text{M}$ ) (Ajaiyeoba et al., 2013; Suhaema & Widiada, 2023). It is also reported as anthelmintic (Adama et al., 2016).

Table 1 shows the potential of *C. cajan* seeds as an antioxidant product, which can causing chronic diseases (Tungmunnithum & Hano, 2020; Gargi et al., 2022). In a previous study, ethanolic extract of its seeds showed concentration-dependent antioxidant activity using the DPPH scavenging method (Shamsi et al., 2018; Sharma et al., 2019). In addition, the methanolic extract also showed the higher antioxidant activity using FRAP method than ethanolic extract (Khanum et al., 2015; Shamsi et al., 2018). According to the “like dissolves

like” principle, flavonoid compounds are more likely to be dissolved into polar solvents in the extraction process. Methanol has higher dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r$ ) value of 33.640 compared to ethanol, which has an  $\epsilon_r$  value of 25.16 (Putri et al., 2023).

Previous studies have assessed the ability of protease inhibition by *C. cajan* seed extract, considering protein denaturation as a primary cause of inflammation. The results showed that ethanol extract was effective in inhibiting thermally induced albumin denaturation, with an  $IC_{50}$  value of  $677.1 \pm 0.331 \mu\text{g/mL}$  and a maximum inhibition of  $65.52 \pm 0.43\%$  at the concentration of  $1000 \mu\text{g/mL}$  (Shamsi et al., 2018). The mechanism of anti-inflammatory action by the ethanol extract was through inhibition of neutrophil release from lysosomes at the inflammation site, which, if released extracellularly, would cause inflammation and tissue damage (Tušar et al., 2021). Due to this protein protease inhibitory (PPI) activity, thus forming a stable complex with the target proteinase by changing, blocking, or preventing access to the active site of the enzyme (Shamsi et al., 2018). The proteinase inhibitor from *C. cajan* mentioned in the previous study is a Kunitz-type proteinase inhibitor (Haq & Khan, 2003). These compounds work by reducing the proteolytic activity of proteases, then forming a stable complex with the target proteinase by changing, blocking, or preventing access to the active site of the enzyme (Shamsi et al., 2017). *C. cajan* seed has shown potential to be a promising source of medicinal compounds for further development.

#### *Canavalia ensiformis*

*Canavalia ensiformis* (Jack Bean) commonly known as *koro* in Indonesia (Figure 2), originated from Central and South America, which has historically been used as a source of protein (Sheahan, 2012).



**Figure 2. *Canavalia ensiformis* with plant parts: leaves (a), fruits with the leaves (b), seeds (c), and whole plant (d) (Ventosa, 2022)**

### Nutrients and Uses

As a type of large-seeded legume, *C. ensiformis* seeds have recently been used as a food source, with seeds rich in protein and amino acids (Puspitojati et al., 2023). *C. ensiformis* seeds contains protein of 30% to 36.40%, fat (5.85% - 9.23%), fiber (3.25% - 6.35%). *C. ensiformis* can be processed into food ingredients such as plant-based milk (Mahardhika et al., 2023). In addition, *C. ensiformis* seeds can be processed into several other food products such as flour and processed products such as bakery products and additional ingredients in the fermentation of various traditional foods (Widiantara & Cahyadi, 2018).

### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

This plant seed also contains bioactive compounds such as tannins, saponins, flavonoids, and cardiac glycosides. Four major flavonoid compounds have been detected and identified from *C. ensiformis* as kaempferol glycosides with three or four glycoside units (Sutedja et al., 2020). The bioactive compounds show the potential of *C. ensiformis* seeds for treating various diseases, including vomiting, obesity, stomach pain, and anthelmintic (Kotkar et al., 2020) and potential antioxidant (Yusuf et al., 2023).

Previous tests have shown that *C. ensiformis* seeds have antioxidant, antidiabetic, and anthelmintic activity (Table 1). The antioxidant test was conducted using the DPPH method, which produced an inhibition ranging from 38.04 to 68.51% (Tristantini et al., 2016). Furthermore, another test was conducted using the ABTS method, with results showing a very strong antioxidant activity, which produced an inhibition ranging from 36.31 to 86.63% and  $IC_{50}$  value is 32.62 ppm (Yusuf et al., 2023; Apriandini et al., 2023). *C. ensiformis* seeds also have  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity, which is caused by the presence of anisole groups. Among the bioactive compounds suspected of having anisole groups is the kaempferol glucoside, which possesses a similar ability to inhibit  $\alpha$ -glucosidase activity (Sutedja et al., 2020). Another study revealed that *C. ensiformis* seeds contain several metabolites, namely l-canavanine, xanthotoxin, cis-aconitic acid, trans-aconitic acid, malic acid, citric acid, palmitic acid and S-carboxymethylcysteine, all of which have been confirmed to have nematotoxic activity (Rocha et al., 2017).

### *Mucuna pruriens*

*Mucuna pruriens* (velvet beans) or *kacang bengkok* (Figure 3), is widely distributed worldwide in tropical and subtropical regions (Lampariello et al., 2012). In Indonesia, *M. pruriens* can be found in all regions with different regional names, including *kacang babi* or *kowas* (Sunda), *kekara juleh* (Maluku), and *bhengok* (Madura) (Mulyani et al., 2016).



**Figure 3.** *Mucuna pruriens* with plant parts: leaves (a), fruits with the plant (b), seeds (c), and whole plant (d) (Mulyani et al., 2016)

### Nutrients and Uses

This plant seed is rich in various nutrients, with every 100 g seeds comprising 28 mg protein, 689.45 mg calcium, 6.12 mg zinc, 341 mg magnesium, and other components (Baby et al., 2023). In Indonesia, *M. pruriens* seed is fermented into *tempe bengkok*, serving as an energy producer that can be boiled to obtain aphrodisiac properties (Mulyani et al., 2016).

### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

*M. pruriens* seed contains bioactive compounds such as L-DOPA, tannin, flavonoid, and phenolic compound (Chinapolaiah et al., 2019). Traditionally, this plant seed has been used in Indian Ayurvedic medicine for treating Parkinson's disease, nerve disorders, and arthritis (Murthy et al., 2016).

*In vitro* and *in vivo* studies of *M. pruriens* seeds extracts have shown significant application across various fields (Table 1), ranging from food to potential medicine sources, as anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective, antioxidant, and anti-parkinson (Lampariello et al., 2012). The activity of reducing cataleptic symptoms has been correlated with the content of L-Dopa compounds in the seeds (Pathania et al., 2020; Sardjono et al., 2018). This L-dopa serves as a dopamine precursor that can alleviate cataleptic symptoms, through the action of the enzyme DOPA decarboxylase, which occurs in the central nervous system and peripheral circulation (Liu et al., 2016). In addition, L-dopa compounds can also be used as an anti-inflammatory by inhibiting the inflammatory response and the release of mediators such as NO and COX-2 (Pathania et al., 2020). Furthermore,



*M. pruriens* also has antidiabetic activity due to the presence of cyclitol compounds which have an insulin mimetic effect from d-chiro-inositol which is a new signaling system for controlling glucose metabolism (Lampariello et al., 2012).

#### *Arachis hypogaea*

*Arachis hypogaea*, or peanut, is a legume that belongs to the Leguminosae family (Figure 4) (Chen et al., 2019). In Indonesia, *A. hypogaea* is found in Java, Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi, South Sumatra, and North Sumatra (Samosir et al., 2020).



**Figure 4.** *Arachis hypogaea* with plant parts: leaves (a), fruits (b), seeds (c), and whole plant (d) ((Prasad, Kakani, & Upadhyaya, 2010) and personal collection)

#### Nutrients and Uses

Generally, the seeds of *A. hypogaea* can be used as food, with the oil extract serving as cooking ingredients, in bakery products, and as jam. Additionally, the oil that came from the seeds is processed into margarine through discoloration and deodorization processes (Ahmad et al., 2019). Other identified components include unsaturated fatty acids that contribute to the maintenance of optimal metabolic control in diabetes patients, leading to the recommendation of food with high monounsaturated fatty acids (Park et al., 2017). Consumption of 100 g of *A. hypogaea* seeds can provide approximately 75% of the recommended dietary allowances (RDA) for niacin, 60% for folate, 53% for thiamine, 10% for riboflavin, 35% for pantothenic acid, 27% for pyridoxine, and 55.5% for vitamin E (Singh et al., 2021).

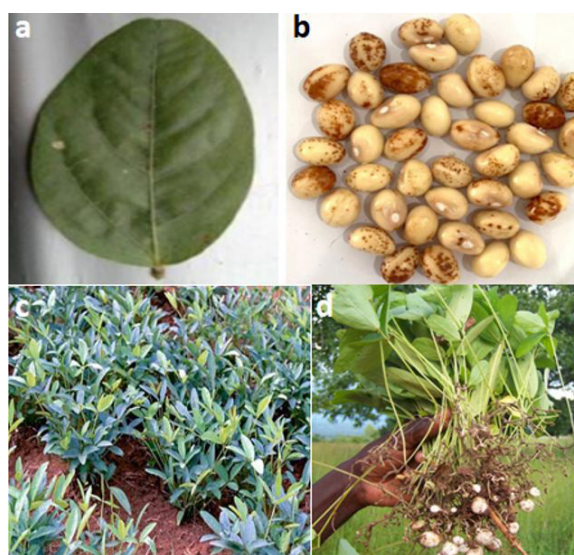
#### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

The seeds contain arginine, resveratrol, phytosterols, phenolic acids, and flavonoids. *In vivo* and *in vitro* analyses of *A. hypogaea* seeds showed antioxidant,

antibacterial, and renal protective agent effects (Table 1), where resveratrol had the most significant biological activity (Mingrou et al., 2022). These seeds serve as sources of resveratrol, with approximately 73 µg found in every 100 g seeds. Resveratrol belongs to the stilbene group, is synthesized by the enzyme resveratrol synthase, and has the potential for renal protection by inhibiting platelet aggregation (Hasan et al., 2013).

#### *Vigna subterranea*

*Vigna subterranea* (Figure 5), commonly referred to as Bambara groundnut originated from Africa and has adapted to various regions in Indonesia as Bogor Nut (Sasnia et al., 2021).



**Figure 5.** *Vigna subterranea* with plant parts: leaves (a), seeds (b), whole plant (c), and fruits with the plant (d) ((Heuzé, Tran, & Lebas, 2020; Surahman, 2023) and personal collection)

#### Nutrients and Uses

*V. subterranea* seeds contain 19.28-20.60% protein, 56.25-61.01% carbohydrates, 6.60-8.49% fat, 184.0 mg calcium, 4.40 mg iron, 45.7 mg potassium, and 9.14 mg sodium. Due to the abundant nutritional content, the seeds can be an alternative food source (Sasnia et al., 2021). Other compounds found in *V. subterranea* seed include 32.7% essential amino acids consisting of lysine, histidine, arginine, leucine, and isoleucine, as well as 66.1-70.8% non-essential amino acids comprising methionine, glycine, cysteine, tyrosine, and proline (Mohammed et al., 2016).

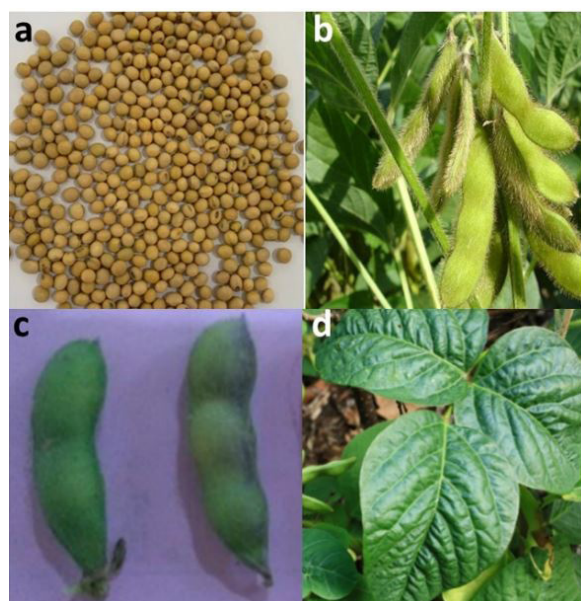
#### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

The seeds also contain various bioactive phenolic compounds such as quercetin, quercitrin, kaempferol, rutin, myricetin, and luteolin. Generally, polyphenols



are naturally occurring organic substances and are secondary metabolites that protect plants from reactive oxygen species, photosynthetic stress, or protein aggregation. With a wide range of bioactive compounds, the plant has a variety of pharmacological potentials, including antimicrobials, antioxidants, and anti-inflammation, as well as enzyme inhibition (Udeh et al., 2020).

Table 1 shows the potential of *V. subterranea* as a natural antioxidant (Chinnapun & Sakorn, 2022). Previous studies also stated that *V. subterranea* seeds have antioxidant activity, both of which also used the DPPH scavenging method as a testing method (Arise et al., 2016; Nyau et al., 2015). Previous study reported that the high content of phenolic compounds in the seeds is responsible for the antioxidant activity (Xu & Chang, 2008). Generally, phenolic compounds have health benefits by acting as free radical scavengers, reducing the potency of free radical compounds, chain-breaking agents, and altering signal transduction pathways (Ramatsetse et al., 2023).



**Figure 6. *Glycine max* with plant parts: seeds (a); fruits with the plant (b), fruits (c), and leaves (d) ((Ngawi, 2023) and personal documents)**

### ***Glycine max***

*Glycine max* or soybean (Figure 6) is a plant cultivated from 4000-5000 years ago, which is widely distributed in China, Japan, and Korea. The seeds are widely consumed as food in Indonesia, with an annual consumption rate of approximately 2.24-2.5 million tons (Ningsih et al., 2019).

### **Nutrients and Uses**

*G. max* is an important food source, particularly in the traditional cuisines of Southeast Asian communities.

In Indonesia, this legume is usually consumed in the form of *tempe*, tofu, and soybean juice, with high content of various nutrients, such as protein (40%) and oil (18%) per 100 grams of soybean seeds (Sefrila et al., 2023).

### **Phytochemical and Bioactivity**

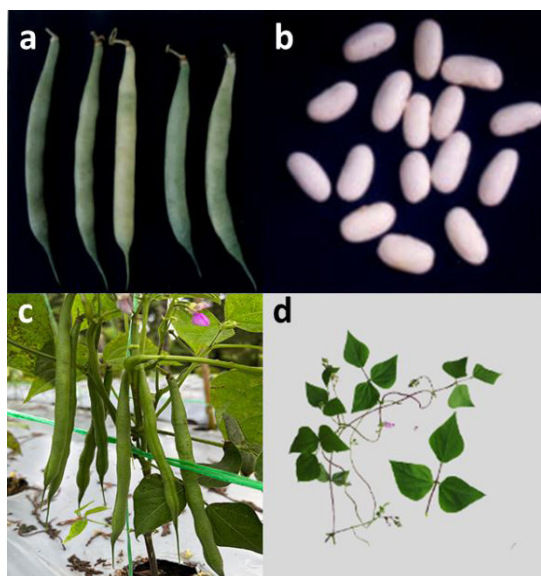
Additionally, soybean contains polysaccharides, phytosterols, lecithin, saponins, and flavonoids, particularly isoflavones. Soybean is claimed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a food that can reduce coronary heart disease. Soybean can also improve health and reduce the incidence of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, obesity, and inflammation (Modgil et al., 2021). Genistein, a flavonoid compound present in the seeds, can be used as a protein kinase inhibitor that inhibits the invasion of pathogenic bacteria in mammalian epithelial cells (Choi et al., 2018).

Genistein is an isoflavone compound with anticancer activity in several tissues, including the liver, breast, and colon, serving as a phytoestrogen (Yuliani et al., 2016). The mechanism of action of genistein as an anticarcinogenic is by inducing apoptosis and inhibiting cancer cell proliferation. Anticarcinogenic properties are also often shown through antioxidant effects by reducing oxidative stress. In a previous study, the levels of genistein in *G. max* products were found to vary between 3.43-32.02 µg/g (Somdee et al., 2017). The antiplasmodial activity of this legume by causing oxidation of red blood cells or inhibiting protein synthesis depends on the phytochemical content. Furthermore, flavonoids were found in the seeds, showing antiplasmodial activity by chelating nucleic acid base pairs from parasites (Nyandwaro et al., 2020). Dependent-dose antibacterial activity was also found in the seed extract against gram-positive and negative bacteria, showing several compounds such as coumaric, ferulic, and vanillic acid (Arora et al., 2013).

Another isoflavone from *G. max* (soybean) with potential antioxidant activity is daidzein. Daidzein is an aglycone isoflavone known for its strong ability to neutralize free radicals and is readily absorbed by the small intestine. This effective absorption is due to aglycone isoflavones, which are part of the flavonoid group and have optimal bioavailability (Jannah et al., 2020).

### ***Phaseolus vulgaris***

*Phaseolus vulgaris* (common bean) or green bean (Figure 7) is a legume widely used in traditional foods, particularly in Asian countries. Serving as an annual and perennial plant, mostly found in warm and tropical countries, this plant is used as a traditional food and for decoration purposes (Nassar et al., 2010). It is also a favored legume, characterized by sweet tastes and delicious, serving as a source of vegetable protein.



**Figure 7. *Phaseolus vulgaris* with plant parts: fruits (a); seeds (b), fruits with the plant (c), and whole plant (d) (Nassar et al., 2010)**

#### Nutrients and Uses

The numerous nutrients contained in the 100 gram seeds include starch (9.16-18.09%), protein (22.06-32.63%), lipid (1.05-2.83%), and sugar (1.55-9.07%). Therefore, it is widely used as a versatile food ingredient for bakery products, salads, and canned foods (Kan et al., 2017).

#### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

*P. vulgaris* seed also contains various phytochemical compounds that have potential in pharmacological fields such as cancer and diabetes (Saad et al., 2021). These compounds include phenolic acids (ferulic and coumaric), flavonoids (myricetin), flavanols (catechins), isoflavones (genistein), anthocyanins (delphinidin and cyanidin), and proanthocyanidins (Rodríguez et al., 2022).

*P. vulgaris* seed has been widely analyzed and reported to have a variety of potential including antioxidant, antiobesity, and antihypertensive, as shown in Table 1. The antioxidant activity is attributed to isoflavones content, the most abundant major subclass of flavonoids (Abu-Reidah et al., 2013). A previous study conducted DPPH radical scavenging tests, which obtained an  $IC_{50}$  value of 434.51  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (Chalid et al., 2021). The seeds have also shown a potential to be used as an antihypertensive candidate due to their action on the renin-angiotensin system. The ingredients that are responsible for this activity are flavonoids and saponins (Yuliani et al., 2016).

#### *Phaseolus lunatus*

*Phaseolus lunatus* or butter bean (Figure 8), commonly known as *kacang lima* in Indonesia, is indigenous



**Figure 8. *P. lunatus* with plant parts: leaves (a), fruits with the plant (b), seeds (c), and whole plant (d) ((Munip, 2009) and personal collection)**

to tropical America. This leguminous plant shows a vining growth pattern and is predominantly cultivated in temperate and subtropical regions of Africa and Southeast Asia (Palupi et al., 2022).

#### Nutrients and Uses

The seeds contain various nutrients including protein, carbohydrates, and minerals such as calcium, zinc, calcium, and iron, which are often consumed by the community both in pods and dried form (Bria, 2017). A crude protein level of 23.17 g/100 g, an actual protein value of 19.57 g/100 g, a sizable amount of total carbs (71.14 g/100 g), and minerals similar to regularly consumed staple meals were all revealed by analysis based on fresh weight. The overall sugar and starch contents were 4.48 and 67.72 g/100 g, respectively, while the crude fat level was 0.21 g/100 g (Ezeagu & Ibegbu, 2010). Peas can be used as green vegetables or processed in dry form as beans. They can be cooked before consumption or can be eaten fresh (Sood & Gupta, 2017).

#### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

Various bioactive compounds have also been identified, including alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, phenols, and triterpenoids (Nugrahani et al., 2020). Generally, the leaves and stems are used as green fertilizer and animal feed (Bria, 2017), while the seeds are applied in pharmacology as antimicrobials, antioxidants, and anti-inflammatories (Tamayo et al., 2018).

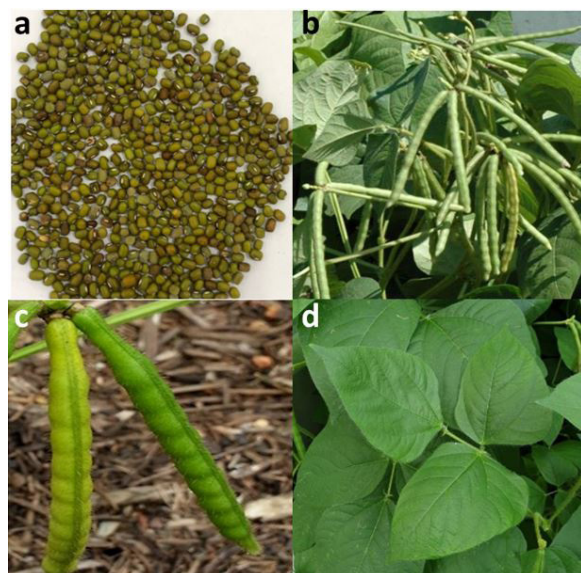
*P. lunatus* seeds extracts have been evaluated for pharmacological activity and have shown various potentials (Table 1). Phenolic compounds



in these extracts serve as anti-inflammatory agents by inhibiting COX-1 and COX-2. The antihypertensive activity is mediated by the inhibition of the angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) (Ciau-Solís et al., 2018), while flavonoids and saponins function as antihypertensives. The seed extract includes irreversible inhibitors of the enzyme nitric oxide synthase (NOS), capable of decreasing the production of nitric oxide, which plays a role in increasing blood pressure. This is due to endothelial dysfunction, a pathological condition associated with hypertension and oxidative stress. A significant decrease in nitric oxide activity in the vascular wall due to reduced NO production and high degradation can lead to an endothelium-dependent vasodilatory loss response. Therefore, one of the prevention of cardiovascular disease, particularly hypertension, is aimed at preventing endothelial dysfunction (Puzserova & Bernatova, 2016).

### *Vigna radiata*

*Vigna radiata* or mung bean (Figure 9), is a widely consumed legume in Asia. This plant is relatively resistant to drought and is widely cultivated in many countries in Asia including China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Indonesia. *V. radiata* also thrives in dry regions such as Southern Europe and warm regions in Canada and the United States (Hou et al., 2019).



**Figure 9.** *V. radiata* with plant parts: seeds (a), fruits with the plant (b), fruits (c), and leaves (d) ((Ganesan & Xu, 2018) and personal documentation)

### Nutrients and Uses

The seeds contain high protein (22-27%) and amino acids (76%) calculated based on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) guidelines (Yi-Shen et al., 2018). *V. radiata* can be processed into

various food products such as dhal, sweets, snacks, savory foods, cakes, bean sprouts, noodles, and soups (Dahiya et al., 2015).

### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

The biological activity contained in the seeds includes antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, antihypertensive, and antitumor (Table 1). Thus, it has shown good potential to be used as an alternative to conventional medicines for disease prevention. The bioactive compounds include amino acids, polyphenols, phytosterols, and polysaccharides. Some of the polyphenols contained are ferulic acid, gallic acid, and p-coumaric acid, while the flavonoid compounds include quercetin, apigenin, scopoletin, and delphinidin (Tang et al., 2014).

The potential of *V. radiata* seed for detoxification has been identified due to the presence of proteins, tannins, and polyphenols. The antioxidant activity has been shown through the DPPH free radical scavenging method, with seeds extract indicating high free radical scavenging ability ( $IC_{50}$ : 73.35  $\mu$ g/mL) due to the presence of vitexin and isovitexin compounds (Tang et al., 2014). Specifically, vitexin compounds can inhibit DPPH radicals by approximately 60% at a 100 g/mL, effectively fighting free radicals and preventing damage or cell death due to ultraviolet light exposure (Cao et al., 2011).

*V. radiata* seeds were also found to have inhibitory activity against ACE, resulting in a decrease in the conversion of plasma angiotensin-I to angiotensin-II, which contributes to an increase in blood pressure. The ACE inhibition value of fermented *V. radiata* seeds extract is 75% in protein containing soluble protein of 351 mg/mL with a degree of hydrolysis at 18.68% (Muawanah et al., 2022; Sonklin et al., 2020). Furthermore, inhibition of ACE leads to the control of systolic blood pressure, indicating potential use as an antihypertensive agent.

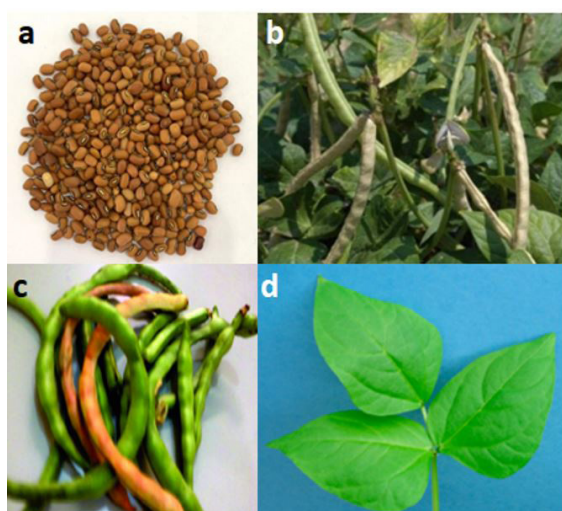
The antibacterial potential of *V. radiata* seeds methanol extract was evaluated against gram-negative bacteria including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Salmonella spp.* The MIC value of the extract was comparable to standard antimicrobials, showing potential application as a natural source of antibacterial agents (Camalxaman et al., 2013).

### *Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata*

*Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata* (black-eyed peas) or *kacang tunggak* (Figure 10) is a legume originating from West Africa, which is widely distributed across tropical and subtropical areas. This legume is classified as a food crop and industrial raw material (Sayekti & Prajitno, 2012).

### Nutrients and Uses

The seeds of *V. unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata* can be used as a food source, while the leaves are processed into functional vegetables that can be consumed and have various nutritional values. The seeds can be used as a cold remedy and coffee substitute (Siddhuraju & Becker, 2007), containing various nutrients such as protein (22-30%) and carbohydrates (33-59%) (Fadillah & Purnamawati, 2020). *V. unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata* can be processed into various food ingredients such as flour, *tempe* and even used as a substitute for soybeans as the main ingredient in making soy sauce (Miftahul & Sopandi, 2016).

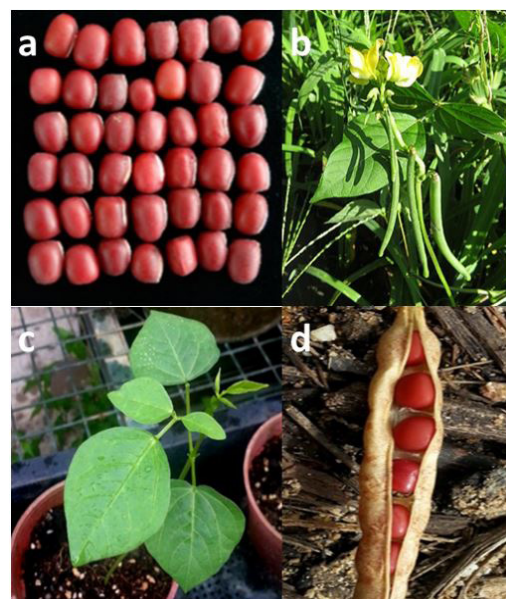


**Figure 10.** *V. unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata* with plant parts: seeds (a), fruits with the plant (b), fruits (c), and leaves (d) ((C. M. Sheahan, 2012) and personal documentation)

### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

Compared to soybeans, *V. unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata* seed has lower fat content, along with other essential compounds such as aspartic acid, lysine, and glutamate (Wulandari et al., 2020). Bioactive compounds contained in this legume are tannins (0.18-0.59%), phenolic acids such as p-hydroxybenzoic acid, protocatechuic acid, 2,4-dimethoxybenzoic acid, and cinnamic acid derivatives, including p-coumaric acid, caffeic acid, and ferulic acid (Siddhuraju & Becker, 2007). The seeds have various activities such as antioxidant, anticarcinogenic, and antimicrobial (Diniyah & Lee, 2020).

*V. unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata* seed extract showed concentration-dependent antibacterial activity against *E. coli* bacteria (Sandeep, 2014). Antihyperglycemic activity tests in mice showed that the seeds have significant activity, characterized by a decrease in blood glucose at 264 mg/dL (Cahyani et al., 2015).



**Figure 11.** *V. angularis* with plant parts: seeds (a), fruits with the plant (b), leaves (c), and fruits (d) (Wang et al., 2022)

### *Vigna angularis*

*Vigna angularis* (Figure 11) commonly called kidney bean, originates from China and is widely distributed across several regions including Africa, Europe, and the Americas (Wang et al., 2022). Furthermore, *V. angularis* is also known as adzuki beans, characterized by a uniform red color, and has been cultivated for centuries in the Eastern region and Northeast Asia (Pandiyan et al., 2021).

### Nutrients and Uses

*V. angularis* seed contains 310 calories per 100 grams of 24-35% protein, 48-53% carbohydrates, 0.6-2% fat, and 2.3-4.4% minerals (Simarmata, 2023). *V. angularis* seed is usually consumed as a complementary food ingredient for rice. In addition, *V. angularis* seed has been developed by mixing bean flour with cereal flour to make raw materials for gluten-free diet biscuits, bread, cookies and other nutritious foods (Wang et al., 2022).

### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

The seeds contain bioactive compounds such as quercetin, myricetin, procyanidin, rutin, catechin, gallic acid, ferulic acid, and kaempferol (Wang et al., 2022). In Northeast Asia, the seeds are used as traditional medicine to maintain health and control weight (Liu et al., 2017). Furthermore, the seeds have antioxidant, antibacterial, and protective effects against aging and neurodegenerative (Bak et al., 2023).



Various *in vitro* analyses have shown the pharmacological potential of *V. angularis* seed, containing biologically active phytochemical compounds such as the flavonoid quercetin, which has potential as an antioxidant, antihypertensive, and anti-alzheimer's agent (Jeong et al., 2021; Johnson et al., 2023; Olaseeni et al., 2023). Additionally, its seeds contain important bioactive compounds such as flavonoid, tannin, and alkaloid that have potential ACE inhibitor activity compared to drug standards. These compounds play a role in hydrogen bonding on the active site of ACE, with a competitive inhibitor mechanism of action, forming a chelate complex that can precipitate proteins (Jeong et al., 2021).

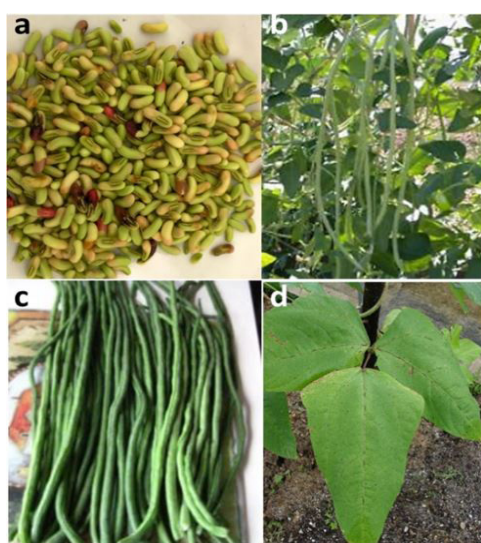


Figure 12. *Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis* with parts: seeds (a), fruits with the plant (b), fruits (c), and leaves (d) ((C. M. Sheahan, 2012) and personal documentation)

#### *Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis*

*Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis* is a very popular legume in Indonesia, known as *kacang panjang* or asparagus beans (Figure 12). This legume is also called *yardlong* beans, originating in India and China (Zaevi et al., 2014).

#### Nutrients and Uses

*V. unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis* seed is a source of vegetable protein. The protein content in long beans is quite high, namely 22.3% in dry bean seeds, 4.1% in leaves and 2.7% in young pods. In addition to being a source of protein, long beans also contain other nutritional compositions, namely thiamine, vitamin A, riboflavin, iron, phosphorus, potassium, ascorbic acid, folic acid, magnesium and manganese (Kaswinarni et al., 2014). In addition, long bean plants have an important role in fertilizing the soil due to their root nodules that can bind free nitrogen from the air (Umami et al., 2019).

#### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

The seeds contain various nutrients and phytochemical compounds, including tannins, alkaloids, saponins, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, and phlobatannin (Firdousi et al., 2021). Furthermore, the fresh seeds are very rich in folate, which important to pregnancy. Other essential contents include protein (23-32%), and tryptophan, with numerous vitamins and minerals (Quamruzzaman et al., 2022). The seeds have also been used to treat breast cancer, leukemia, and antivirals to prevent immune system disorders. Additionally, the high insoluble fiber content makes *V. unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis* applicable for treating diabetes mellitus (Ivantirta, 2019).

*V. unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis* seeds contain various bioactive compounds such as flavonoids, alkaloids, sterols, saponins, and tannins, which are responsible for antihyperglycemic (Harmayetty & Anisa, 2015) and hair growth (Arifin et al., 2017). Based on previous research, the phenolic content of *V. unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis* at 93.59 mg GAE/100 g, was found to be higher than that of mung beans at 43.91 mg GAE/100 g (Arinanti, 2018). The protective effect is also caused by flavonoids, which transfer hydrogen or electrons, and reduce alpha-tocopherol radicals to inhibit oxidase (Ivantirta, 2019). *V. unguiculata* subsp. *sesquipedalis* shows antibacterial effects in addition to antioxidant properties, particularly against gram-negative bacteria like *Escherichia coli* (Sandeep, 2014).

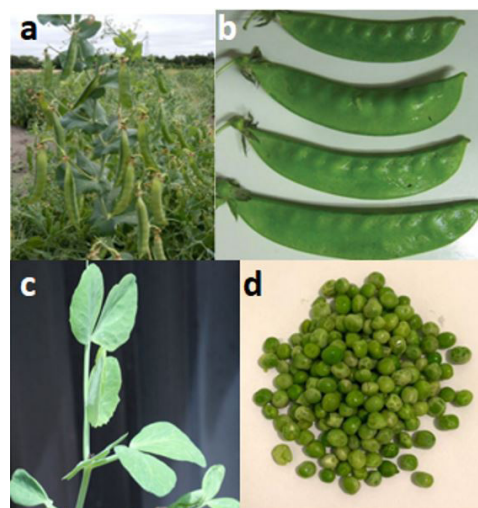


Figure 13. *P. sativum* with parts: fruits with the plant (a), fruits (b), leaves (c), and seeds (d) (Pavek, 2012; Rungruangmaitree & Jiraungkoorskul, 2017)

#### *Pisum sativum*

*Pisum sativum* (pea) or *kacang ercis* (Figure 13), is an annual herbaceous plant that is often cultivated in areas with altitudes 700 m above sea level in Indonesia,

thriving on the island of Java and Sumatra (Damara et al., 2020).

### Nutrients and Uses

The seeds of *P. sativum* are consumed as nutrition, appetizer, and astringent for their nutritional value, including protein (20-35%), fat (0.5-4%), starch (30-48%), fiber (it contributes positively to digestive health), and minerals (Castaldo et al., 2021). Due to its various nutritional contents, *P. sativum* can be processed into various food ingredients such as pea milk and plant-based or dairy-free yogurts (Wu et al., 2023).

### Phytochemical and Bioactivity

Its seeds have various bioactive compounds, such as phenolic compounds (cinnamic acid, benzoic acid, gallic acid, ferulic acid, catechins, and hesperidin), which have pharmacological applications (Zia-Ul-Haq et al., 2013). Several studies reported the pharmacological activity of *P. sativum* such as hypoglycemic and antioxidant activities (Castaldo et al., 2021; Zilani et al., 2017).

Various studies of bioactive compounds of *P. sativum* extract have been widely analyzed (Table 1).  $\beta$ -sitosterol is a compound with antidiabetic properties, which stimulates basal glucose uptake, thereby maintaining glucose homeostasis through liver kinase B1 mediated by AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK). The flavonoid compound, kaempferol, found in *P. sativum* seeds, can act as an antidiabetic by enhancing insulin-stimulated glucose uptake in adipose (fat) tissue. Since oxidative stress is a major cause of reduced glucose tolerance, antioxidants like kaempferol can serve as potential antihyperglycemic agents to improve this condition (Zilani et al., 2017). Additionally,  $\beta$ -sitosterol has antioxidant effects, serving as a hydrogen atom donor and breaking chain reactions due to free radicals (Alam & Khatun, 2016; Zilani et al., 2017).

In summary, the thirteen legume species reviewed in this study were found to have significant nutritional value as sources of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, and minerals. They also contain abundant phytochemicals, particularly phenolic and flavonoid compounds, which contribute to their diverse biological activities such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, antihypertensive, antimicrobial, and anticancer effects.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this review successfully explored 13 legume species from the Leguminosae family found in Indonesia. Plants generally contain carbohydrates, proteins, starch, fats, and minerals, making them valuable as potential food sources. They also predominantly contain secondary metabolites, such as polyphenols

and flavonoids (e.g., genistein, daidzein, cajanin), which have significant potential to be developed into pharmacologically active compounds.

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### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest declared by the authors.

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