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Ritual plants used by the Manobo tribe of Surigao del Sur, Philippines

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Abstract. *Jamera JKAM, Manting MME, Dapar MLG. 2020. Ritual plants used by the Manobo tribe of Surigao del Sur, Philippines. Asian J Ethnobiol 3: 41-50.* Manobo tribe is culturally rich in traditional practices, medicinal uses, diversity, and traditional knowledge based on their community plant resources. They dwell in hinterlands and mountainous regions in the southern part of the Philippines and live an intricate life dependent on agriculture and forest plants. Traditional ecological knowledge and beliefs of indigenous peoples play an essential role in biodiversity conservation. This study seeks to investigate the use of ritual plants of the Manobo tribe in Hinapuyan, Carmen and Cabangahan, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur, and to identify the availability of ritual plants being used. Plant information with the local name, plant parts used, methods of preparation, ritual uses, and the Cultural Importance Index (CI) were quantified. This study documented a total of 12 traditional rituals associated with ritual plants. The five identified plant species are used in tribal rituals belonging to four different families: Arecaceae, Piperaceae, Poaceae, and Solanaceae. Arecaceae includes two species, while one species represents each of the families. Ritual plants with the highest CI were *Areca catechu* L., *Piper betle* L., and *Nicotiana tabacum* L. Manobo ritual plants have a symbolic meaning and rational function. This study is the first documentation of ritual plants presenting traditional ecological knowledge and cultural beliefs that must be saved to maintain biological diversity. The tribe cultivated some ritual plants and their wild plant collection in the village yard. These ritual plants are conserved and protected by the Manobo community. More investigations are recommended on the ritual plants used among diverse ethnolinguistic groups in the Philippines and other countries.

Keywords: Beliefs and Practices, cultural importance index, ethnobotany, Manobo, ritual plants

INTRODUCTION

Plants are used in many ways by various cultural communities generally for healthcare practices and medicinal uses in the Philippines (Dapar and Demayo 2017; Dapar et al. 2018; Abdulaziz et al. 2019; Añides et al. 2019; Dela Peña et al. 2019; Nadayag et al. 2019; Uy et al. 2019). Apart from medicinal uses and therapy, plants are also utilized in rituals or magical purposes (Abbink 1995; Quiroz et al. 2016). Ritual serves as a traditional practice, which marks the cultural identity of a particular indigenous group through prayers and worship to their deities, gods, and goddesses for protection, thanksgiving, and betterment of human life. Rituals are part of worshipping gods and goddesses on various occasions, from birth to mourning death (Sharma and Pegu 2011). Ritual plants have symbolic meaning and rational functions in diverse ethnicity, religions, and beliefs of people and indigenous groups (Hariyadi and Ticktin 2012; Iskandar and Iskandar 2017; Erawan et al. 2018).

In the Philippines, the largest indigenous groups of the Manobo tribe practice rituals as an integral part of their culture. Ritual observations are the significant practice of Manobo culture in asking permission and approval from their deities in any activities in their ancestral lands and indigenous territories (Dapar et al. 2020b, 2020c). Agusan Manobo healers practice ritual prayers to increase the healing potential of their herbal medicines and some other

purposes (Dapar et al. 2020b). Agusan Manobo often passes their traditional system to the next generation through verbal communication (Dapar et al. 2020b; 2020c). Manobo tribe is one of the largest indigenous groups of people on the island of Mindanao, Philippines, including the tribe of Surigao Manobo in the province of Surigao. The word *Manobo* came from “mansuba,” meaning man, and “suba,” meaning river (Felix 2004), which means river people (Dapar et al. 2020a). Manobo settlers occupied Mindanao's mountain regions and hinterlands in the northernmost part along rivers, valleys, and swamps. Manobo people are concentrated in Agusan, Bukidnon, Cotabato, Davao, Misamis Oriental, and Surigao del Sur (De Jong 2010).

Most indigenous peoples (IPs) use plants for their culture, especially in performing rituals. Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) performing rituals typically use plants associated with their beliefs and practices. Various plant parts or whole plants can be used for rituals and ceremonies. Conservation strategies are efficient with the combined information in consideration and understanding of ritual practices of tribal communities (Geng et al., 2017). Ritual beliefs of the indigenous people are essential information in understanding the local community practices and conservation of biodiversity. Some of the problems that the indigenous people face nowadays are the biodiversity crisis and the possible loss of indigenous knowledge (Dapar et al.

2020d, 2020e). Unlike the numerous healers from previous generations, few plant experts (tribal healers) remained among the Manobo communities. Hence, this situation calls to save indigenous knowledge and traditional culture to increase awareness on the conservation of indigenous ritual plants.

With this realization, this study seeks information about ritual plants used by the Surigao Manobo for a specific cultural purpose and traditional rite of passage from childhood to adulthood, social preparations, and other occasions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The fieldwork was conducted in the selected barangays (villages), namely Hinapuyan in Carmen and Cabangahan in Cantilan of Surigao del Sur, as shown in Figure 1. Carmen is a fifth-class municipality in the province of Surigao del Sur with coordinates 9° 12'6.48" N, 125° 58'50.16" E. It is politically subdivided into nine barangays which include barangay Hinapuyan. Cantilan is another municipality of Surigao del Sur, considered the "Cradle of

Towns" in the province located in the coordinates 9° 16'58.08" N, 125° 56'31.92" E.

Field survey

This study was initiated by securing free prior informed consent of the Manobo community before conducting a field survey. Key informants were interviewed together with the Manobo healers and tribal chieftain. Data were collected through a questionnaire using Bradacs (2008) from Hinapuyan, Carmen, and Cabangahan, Cantilan in Surigao del Sur. The obtained information was compared and cross-linked to ascertain their validity and integrity. Photographs of plants were taken for identification with taxonomic keys and verified using the updated Co's Digital Flora of the Philippines (Pelser et al. 2011 onwards).

Data analysis

Cultural Importance Index (CI) was applied to determine the cultural significance of plant species in each locality. It is calculated using this formula $CI = (\sum UR)/N$, as the summation of the use report (UR) in every use category mentioned for a species in the locality divided by the number of participants (N) in that locality (Tardío and Pardo-de-Santayana 2008).

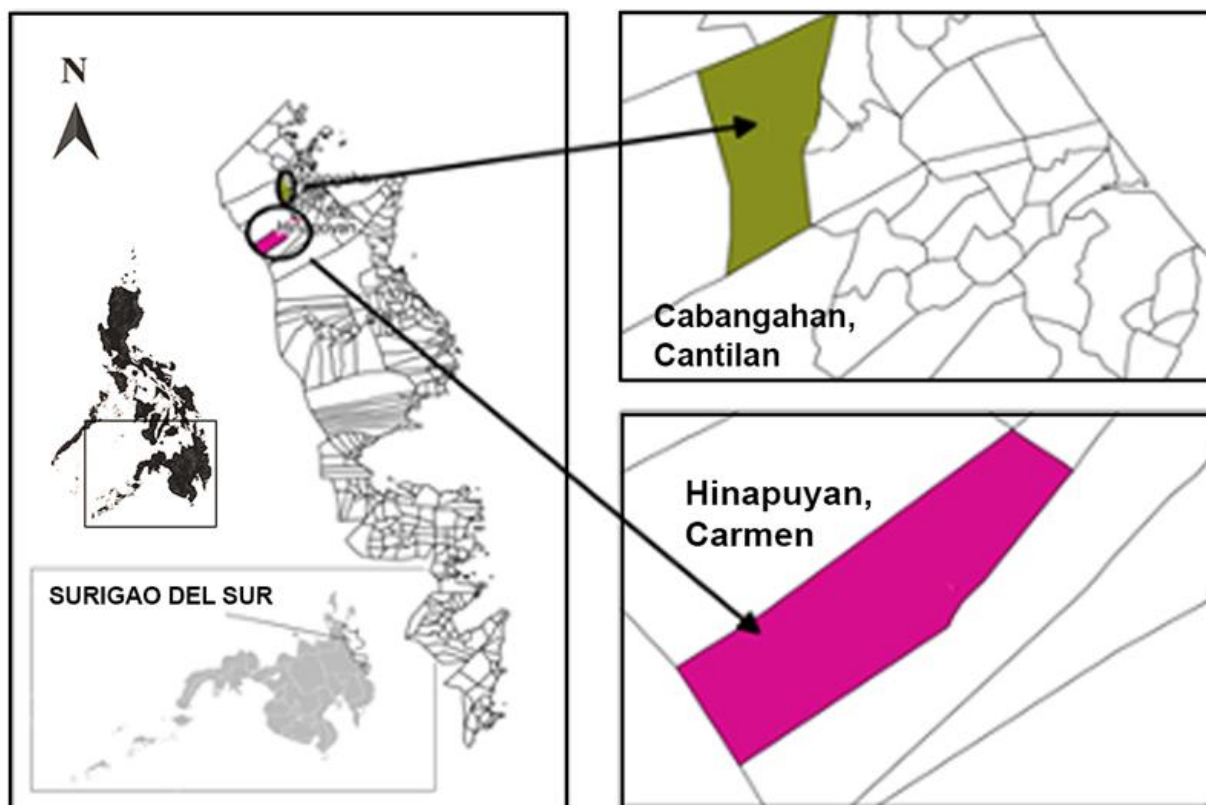


Figure 1. Location map of Bayugan City (middle and right, outlined in red), Agusan del Sur (left, outlined in black), Philippines

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Manobo rituals plants

A total of five plant species were used in 12 Manobo rituals belonging to four different families, namely Arecaceae, Piperaceae, Poaceae, and Solanaceae (Table 1). Results showed that three species have the highest CI values of 1.0, namely *Areca catechu* L., *Piper betle* L., and *Nicotiana tabacum* L.; and followed by *Cocos nucifera* L. (0.92) and *Oryza sativa* L. (0.50). Plant information with its local name, plant part used, preparation method, ritual uses, and Cultural Importance Index (CI) were presented. Manobo terms and rituals are summarized in Table 2.

Table 3 presents the different rituals corresponding to the plant families and the number of ritual plants. Ritual for the sick “Binuyahan” depending on how critically ill the person is together with three other rituals known as “Panawagtawag” ritual for harvest, “Pagmaan” ritual for building a house, and “Tagun-un” ritual for baptism. These rituals need three plant families: Arecaceae, Piperaceae, and Solanaceae. The ritual for repentance “Tampoda,” the ritual for the wedding “Kumbiti,” the ritual for forgiveness “Boneh,” the ritual for the full-moon festival “Kahimonan,” the ritual for birth “Limpasan,” and ritual practice for burial “Uyagdok” utilize of four plant families, namely Arecaceae, Piperaceae, Poaceae, and Solanaceae.

Table 1. Ritual plants used by Manobo tribe in Hinapuyan, Carmen and Cabangahan, Cantilan Surigao del Sur, Philippines

Family and scientific name	Common name	Manobo name	Plant part used	Method of preparation	Habit of growth	Availability of the plant	Source of collection	Cultural importance value
Arecaceae								
<i>Areca catechu</i> L.	Nut Palm; Bujo	Mama/ Bunga	Fruit	Wrapped together with “bujo” leaves	Palm	Rare	Wild	1.00
<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.	Coconut	Lubi	Young Leaves	Obtained directly	Palm	Common	Cultivated or Wild	0.92
Piperaceae								
<i>Piper betle</i> L.	Betel	Bujo	Leaves	Wrapped together with “mama” fruit	Vine	Rare	Wild	1.00
Poaceae								
<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	Rice	Bugas	Fruit or Seed	Cooked or uncooked	Grass	Common	Cultivated	0.50
Solanaceae								
<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.	Tobacco	Tabako	Leaves	Dried	Herb	Rare	Wild	1.00

Table 2. Definition of local terms

Manobo terms and rituals	Meaning of terms and rituals
Baylan	Manobo tribe healer
Boneh	Ritual for forgiveness
Gilamat	Deceived by the illusion or charmed by the spirits
Kahimonan	Manobo term for their full-moon festival
Kumbiti	Ritual term for wedding
Lala	Extremely severe sickness
Limpasan	Ritual term for birth
Mahal	Severe sickness
Mamaid	Ritual for asking permission to enter the forest
Pagmaan	Ritual term for house building
Pamebag	Ritual for barrier
Panawagtawag	Ritual term for thanksgiving for the harvest
Tagun-un	Ritual for baptism
Tampoda	Ritual term for repentance
Uyagdok	Ritual term for burial

Table 3. Different rituals and ritual plants used

Ritual description	Local ritual name	Family	Scientific name
Ritual for healing	<i>Binuyahan</i>	Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
		Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
		Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
Ritual for repentance	<i>Tampoda</i>	Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
		Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
		Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
Ritual for wedding	<i>Kumbiti</i>	Poaceae	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.
		Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
		Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
Asking permission to enter the forest	<i>Mamaid</i>	Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
		Poaceae	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.
		Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
Thanksgiving for the harvest	<i>Panawagtawag</i>	Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
		Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
		Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
House building	<i>Pagmaan</i>	Poaceae	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.
		Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
		Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
Ritual for barrier	<i>Pamebag</i>	Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L.
		Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
		Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
Ritual for baptism	<i>Tagun-un</i>	Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
		Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
		Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
Ritual for forgiveness	<i>Boneh</i>	Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
		Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
		Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
Full moon festival	<i>Kahimunan</i>	Poaceae	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.
		Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
		Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
Ritual for birth	<i>Limpasan</i>	Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.
		Poaceae	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.
		Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
Ritual for burial	<i>Uyagdok</i>	Piperaceae	<i>Piper betle</i> L.
		Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i> L., <i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.
		Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.

12 Manobo tribe rituals in Surigao del Sur, Philippines

Based on ritual observation among the Manobo tribe in the province, this cultural practice is strongly associated with their traditional knowledge and beliefs of their god, deities, and spirits. All foods prepared during rituals are cooked, shared, and eaten by members of the tribe. Ritual foods will be separated like a part of a chicken and a bowl of *Oryza sativa*, including the ritual plants *A. catechu* and *P. betle* to be taken home. These cultural practices and tribal activities are based on supernaturalism (Figure 2 A-O). These rituals are often practiced on specific occasions and purposes as follows:

Ritual for healing Binuyahan

Binuyahan is culturally practiced for a sick person (Figure 2A–D). This ritual is categorized on how critically ill a person is into the following categories:

If the illness is mild “barato,” the tribal healer will prepare the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and a bottle of local wine placed on a small platform. Then it will be followed by the shedding of blood from a red native chicken “sunoy.” Then, the healer begins to pray.

If the illness is severe, they will do the “mahal,” the ritual outside the sick person’s house. The Manobo healer “baylan” will prepare the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* “mama” wrapped together with *P. betle* “bujo” leaves, dried leaves of *N. tabacum* “tabako,” and with a bottle of local wine “vino kulafu.” These are all placed on a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera* L. “lubi.” Then, the prayer of the healer begins.

If the illness is such severe “lala,” the tribal healer will prepare the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and a bottle of local wine placed on a small platform. The healer begins the prayer of the ritual, and while doing so, he will prepare a bowl that contains the *A. catechu* and *P. betle* then to be shed by the blood of a pig “baboy” (any color) placed above the head of the sick person. The ill person will be observed on the following day if they become better; therefore, it is an effect of enchantment. Otherwise, there is none.

If the illness is really severe, the “mawala sa kalibutan” or “gilamat” ritual is held inside the sick person’s house. The healer will prepare the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves and dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, placed on a small platform. When the ritual begins, the healer lays down beside the sick person and sings a Manobo ritual song, “tud-om,” until the ill person falls asleep. The healer will sleep with the ill person and bring back the spirit or body parts through dreams or vision. The healing process will be successful if the healer can get around any parts of the ill person’s body; otherwise, the sick person will die.

Ritual for repentance Tampoda

This ritual for repentance is being held outside the victim’s house (Figure 2E). The healer will prepare the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves and dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and uncooked rice *Oryza sativa* L. “bugas.” This preparation is placed on a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera* and a minimum of 100 kg of the white pig as provided by the one who committed the crime. If a white pig is unavailable, the perpetrator will still search for a wild boar “baboy halas” or a wild chicken “katihan” instead. When all these are prepared, the plaintiff family of the member will stab the offered animal several times to forgive the perpetrator.

Ritual for wedding Kumbiti

Along with this ritual is the culture and tradition of the Manobo tribe in asking permission of a man to the parents of the woman he wants to marry, given that his courtship lasted for five years (Figure 2F). If the parents agree, they will prepare the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves and dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and a cooked rice *O. sativa*. These are placed on a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera*. The ethnic communities will be invited, and they will prepare five pigs to be sacrificed as ritual offerings to their deities. At the end of the ritual, the couple will squeeze the rice with their hands and eat it.

Asking permission to enter the forest Mamaid

Mamaid is a ritual to ask permission to enter the forest (Figure 2G). This ritual is being held inside or within the house. The ritual starts by preparing a white plate containing the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, *N. tabacum*, uncooked rice *O. sativa*, and other offerings like money (coins) or candies. The healer starts praying, and the three ritual plants are being poured by the blood of a native chicken (any color). This ritual is performed to ensure the security of the person while entering the forest and to return home safely.

Thanksgiving for the harvest Panawagtawag

This ritual has three stages: before cleaning the area or field, before planting, and before harvesting (Figure 2H). The ceremony is held outside and starts by placing the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and a bottle of local wine on a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera*. This ritual is observed to safeguard the person or family while cleaning the area, to have bountiful crops before planting, and to give thanks for the good harvest and a successful season.

House building ritual Pagmaan

During the ritual, the healer will invoke prayers and offering to the mythical creatures and ask the gods to leave because people will reside in the area (Figure 2I). The healer prepared the ritual plants like the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and a bottle of local wine on a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera*. The ritual is performed as an offering to the mythical creatures to exchange the place and safety.

Ritual for barrier Pamebag

This ritual is performed to hinder any illness or lousy spirit from coming in for peoples’ safety (Figure 2J). It is believed that the offering serves as a wall or barrier for the community healthcare system. The healer, including the tribal community, prepares the ritual plants such as the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and uncooked *O. sativa* and with a bottle of local wine along with the food offerings across the road.

Ritual for baptism Tagun-un

Tagun-un is a ritual for the baptism of a child (Figure 2K). This ritual will be held inside the house. The healer prepared the ritual plants like the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and a bottle of local wine on a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera*. During the ritual, the healer starts praying that the child will live a healthy life, guided by their gods to do good and avoid evil.

Ritual for forgiveness Boneh

Boneh is a ritual for forgiveness (Figure 2L). This ritual will be held outside the house. The Manobo healer will

prepare the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, uncooked *O. sativa*, and dried leaves of *N. tabacum*. These are placed in a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera* and a minimum of 100 kilograms (white pig) given by the one who committed the crime. Also, the one who committed the crime will provide anything that the victim wants, and when all these are ready, the ritual starts, the family of the member will stab the offered animal many times. Through this, the one who committed the crime will be forgiven.

Ritual for full-moon festival Kahimonan

All tribal communities are invited to celebrate the full-moon festival (Figure 2M). The healer prepares the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves and dried leaves of *N. tabacum*, and uncooked *O. sativa* placed in a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera*. The healer starts praying, and the four ritual plants are to be shed with the blood of a pig (any color). After the ritual, the celebration begins with the music of drums “gembe” and the singing of their ritual song “tud-om.” Everybody will dance until morning. This ritual is done every month or during harvest time.

Ritual for birth Limpasan

Limpasan is a ritual for birth (Figure 2N). This ritual will be held inside the house. The healer prepared the ritual plants like the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* L. leaves and dried leaves of *N. tabacum* on a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera*. The healer starts the ritual with a chicken (any color) sacrificed, and blood will be shed near the mother’s stomach. It is believed that the violence committed by the parents will be cleansed.

Ritual for burial Uyagdok

Uyagdok is a ritual for burial that will be held outside the house (Figure 2O). The ritual plants are prepared by the healer like the ripe fruit of *A. catechu* wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves, dried leaves of *Nicotiana tabacum*, and with a bottle of local wine and candles (any color) on a small platform decorated with an arc form of young leaves of *C. nucifera*. The healer starts praying, and the four ritual plants are to be shed with the blood of a native chicken (red) and try to call out a mythical creature, “abyan,” to guide the spirit of the dead to their journey. The dead body will be buried at their burial ground within the ethnic community, and the healer will lead prayers.

Characteristics of ritual plants

Arecaceae family is represented with two species, while other families are composed of only one species. The CI index accounts for the number of informants and uses and the plant species’ worth (Tardio and Pardo-de-Santayana 2008), making it a proficient tool to show which plant

species have high-frequency usage. The plant families with high-frequency use were the Arecaceae, Piperaceae, and Solanaceae.

Figure 2 presents the habit of the ritual plants of the Manobo tribe. It shows that the tree and herb have the highest percentage (37%), followed by the vine (26%). According to Dapar et al. (2020a), the Manobo tribe depends mainly on plants because they believe that using plants in their rituals will strengthen their belief and aid their relationship with the environment. It becomes their way of giving back to nature by conserving their community plant resources.

The availability of the plants is categorized into two as common or rare depending on the commonality or abundance of species in the area (Figure 3). Two ritual plants were identified as ‘common’ (60%) in the area, such as *Cocos nucifera* and *Oryza sativa*. Identified rare plants (40%) were *Areca catechu*, *Piper betle*, and *Nicotiana tabacum*, as these plants can be obtained in the wild and mountain areas distant from their barangays (villages).

Figure 4 shows the percentage of plant parts used by the Manobo tribe in their rituals. Two fruits are being used (40%) from *A. catechu* and *O. sativa*, while three leaves (60%) are being used from *P. betle*, *N. tabacum*, and *C. nucifera* (young ones). Of all the plant parts used for rituals, the leaves are the most important and frequently utilized since leaves are easily accessible than other plant parts. The tribe believes that leaves are more valuable than any other part of the plant, essential for plant survival. Most of the Manobo ritual plants are obtained from the wild having three species (60%), followed by a cultivated species (20%), and a species obtained in both (20%), as shown in Figure 5. The source of Manobo ritual plants is primarily wild, just like their medicinal plants, as documented by Dapar et al. (2020a).

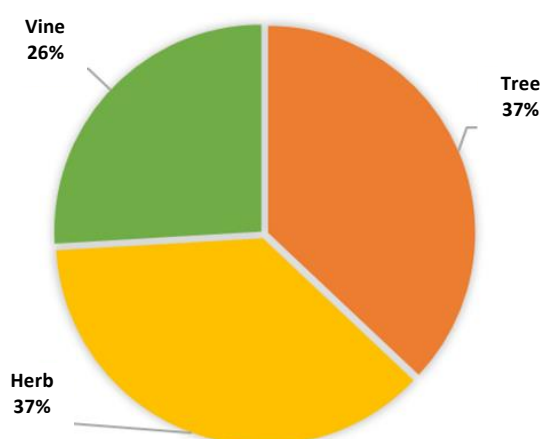


Figure 2. Percentage of the habit of the ritual plants

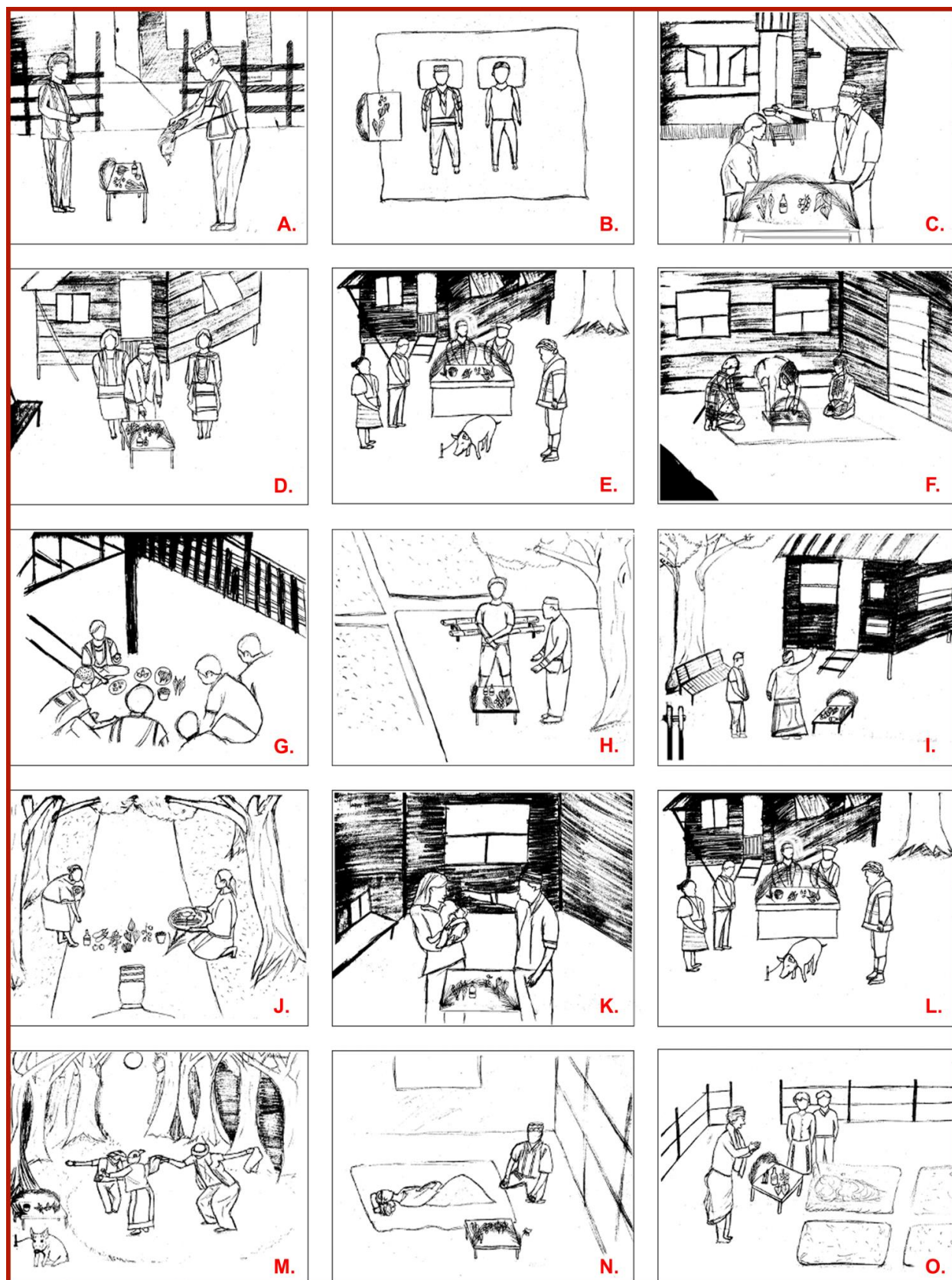


Figure 2. The 12 rituals of the Manobo tribe in Surigao del Sur, Philippines. “Binuyahan” ritual for healing: if the illness is mild “barato” (A); if the disease is highly severe “gilamat” (B); if the disease is severe “lala” (C) or “mahal” (D). Other rituals: for repentance “tampoda” (E); for the wedding “kumbiti” (F); for asking permission to enter the forest “mamaid” (G); for thanksgiving of harvest “panawagtawag” (H); for building house “pagmaan” (I); for barrier “pamebag” (J); for baptism “tagun-un” (K); for forgiveness “boneh” (L); for the full-moon festival “kahimonan” (M); for birth “limpasan” (N); and for burial “uyagdok” (O). Illustration by JKAM Jamera

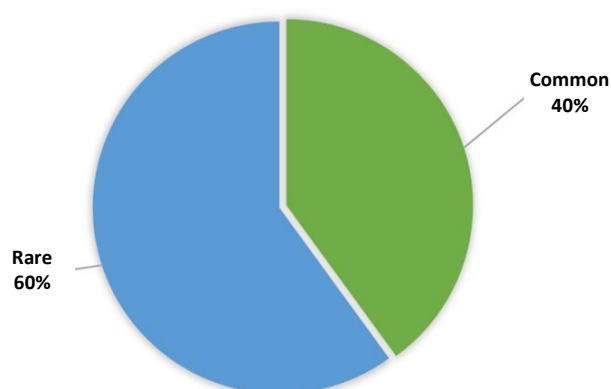


Figure 3. Percentage of the availability of the ritual plants

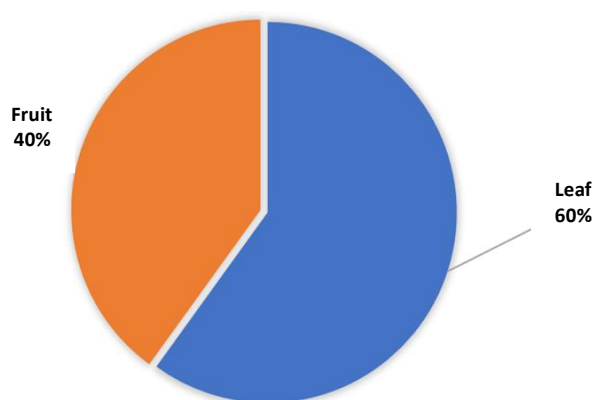


Figure 4. Percentage of plant part used in ritual

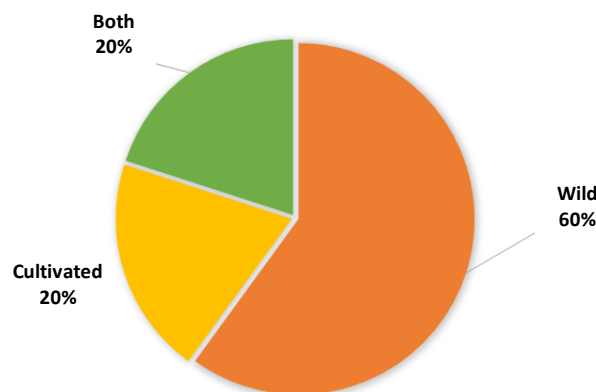


Figure 5. Percentage of plant part used in ritual

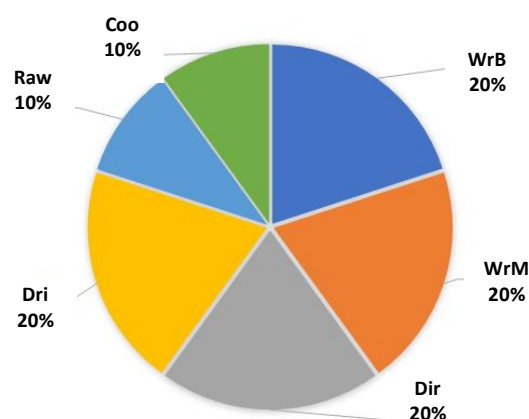


Figure 6. Percentage of the method of preparation practiced by the Manobo tribe in their rituals. Coo, cooked; Raw, uncooked; Dri, dried; Dir, directly obtained; WrB wrapped together with *bujo* leaves, and WrM wrapped together with "mama" fruit

Figure 6 presents the percentage of the method of preparation practiced by Manobo based on their documented 12 rituals using most of the same plant species. Frequency showed that modes of preparation are distributed equally in percentage (20%) such as dried, directly obtained, wrapped together with *P. betle* leaves and *A. catechu* fruit, while either cooked or raw encompass the remaining 20%.

Discussion

All ritual plants were surveyed equally among the Manobo healers tasked to perform their rituals. Ritual plants are essential elements to ritual practices of the Manobo culture. For instance, ritual plants commonly used in both localities were *Areca catechu* L. "mama," *Nicotiana tabacum* L. "tabako," and *Piper betle* L. "bujo." The *A. catechu* is usually wrapped with *P. betle* and mixed a small amount of a pulverized shell "apog," that is believed in strengthening their teeth when Areca nut is being chewed.

Traditionally, chewing of areca nut is conventional in the eastern part of the world. The trend is observed commonly in Madagascar, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and

the Solomon Islands (Irwanto and Irsyam 2020). *A. catechu* seed is traditionally chewed with betel leaf, *P. betle*, and lime. This cultural practice is evident in the study of Dapar et al. (2020b) in documenting the Manobo tribe of Agusan del Sur depicting the actual ritual of asking permission to enter the forest "Mamaid." In Central or Southern Mindanao, betel chewing is a ritualistic custom among the Maranao, Maguindanao, Bagobo, and Tausug groups (Valdez 2004). Indigenous rituals and cultural practices were often observed in remote and forested areas where the tribe is closely linked with their ancestral past (Molintas 2004).

Nowadays, traditional knowledge is gradually decreasing due to rapid urbanization, acculturation, and man's independence in the modern health care system (Dapar et al. 2020b, 2020c). However, the ritual and folk system still prevails in the rural communities. In their belief system, plants and humans have their spirit that should be taken good care of and value their presence in the environment.

Comparatively, the Surigao Manobo tribes from two villages, namely barangay Cabangahan and barangay Hinapuyan of Surigao del Sur, differ in their local ritual

terms used. For instance, the ritual term “Panawagtag” in Hinapuyan is different in Cabangahan as they use the term “Uyagdok.” However, “Uyagdok” is used as a burial ritual in Hinapuyan. The term “Binuyahan” is a ritual for healing in Hinapuyan but is called “Pasayloa” in Cabangahan. The processes and methods of their rituals are most likely the same but only differ in the applied local terms.

From the present study, it can be deduced that the Manobo tribe continues to rely on their traditional knowledge and ritual culture learned from their ancestors. However, modern society already highly influenced the Manobo tribes of surveyed barangays, including their educational system, healthcare system, and language used. Into the bargain, the Manobo pass their knowledge and culture to the next generation through oral tradition (Dapar et al. 2020c), like wearing their cultural costumes and even use of their native language in their territory. Documentation of ritual practices and benefits of plant species with biocultural importance among indigenous communities is essential for preserving culture and tradition. The indigenous knowledge, conservation practices, ecological understanding, and resource management are vital for future environmental management (UNESCO 2019). They serve critical roles in protecting their culture and indigenous territories (Dapar et al. 2020d, 2020e).

Manobo people believe that deities reside in their indigenous forests and live in their ancestral territories. This cultural belief is marked on the minds of the tribe with obedience and respect to avoid harm and destruction in their livelihoods and living. They continually conserve their plants for their regard for social, cultural, and religious purposes. The Manobo rituals, festivals, and other cultural practices are directly associated with their surroundings preserved religiously. The stigma of getting punished by their deities and forest spirits is instilled in their customs and tradition to obey and respect their gods and deities through prayers and making sacrifices and offerings.

Like other tribes, tribal folklore is directed in magico-religious beliefs and taboos (Sharma and Pegu 2011). The continuation of the ritual practices has significant potential for natural resources conservation (Geng et al., 2017). Ritual plants are exciting studies in Philippines ethnobotany, which are an integral part of the culture and relationship of the people and plants (Dapar and Alejandro 2020). Therefore, this study documented the ritual practices and ritual-plant uses among the Manobo tribe of Surigao del Sur and its importance in the cultural knowledge on traditional ritual practices. Further documentation on ritual plants and practices of indigenous peoples should be further conducted to understand ritual plant knowledge, particularly its distribution and comparison within and among ethnic groups in the Philippines and other countries.

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Review: A relation between ethnobotany and bioprospecting of edible flower Butterfly Pea (*Clitoria ternatea*) in Indonesia

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Abstract. Afrianto WF, Tamnge F, Hasanah LN. 2020. Review: A relation between ethnobotany and bioprospecting of edible flower Butterfly Pea (*Clitoria ternatea*) in Indonesia. *Asian J Ethnobiol* 3: 51-61. *Clitoria ternatea* L., known as “bunga telang” in Indonesia, is an important medicinal plant to Fabaceae, an ornamental perennial climber. It has widely distributed throughout Africa, Asia, Australia, North and South America, Pacific (Northwestern, South-Central, and Southwestern). This review aims to study the relation between ethnobotany and bioprospecting of *C. ternatea*. The literature study revealed that Indonesian communities use flowers as part of *C. ternatea* as an eye medicine, boils disease, an ornamental plant, and a symbol in traditional ceremonies. Leaf, flower, seed, and root of this species have bioprospecting for medicine, agriculture, and food and beverage. Ethnobiology exploration of *C. ternatea* in Indonesia is an initial step to observe the bioprospecting potential. Then, further research can continue to produce commercial products that will provide an economic impact and motivate communities to take part in conservation actions. The present study assesses the minor works on bioecology, ethnobotany, bioprospecting, and market potential. We hope that the study's output can spur further research and industry approach.

Keywords: Bioprospecting, *Clitoria ternatea*, ethnobotany, Fabaceae, medicinal plant

INTRODUCTION

Clitoria ternatea L. is known as “bunga telang” in Indonesia. This wild plant belongs to the plant of the Fabaceae family (Karel et al. 2018). The origin of *C. ternatea* is still debatable, but some studies mentioned that *C. ternatea* is a native plant of Ternate, Indonesia Archipelago (Jain et al. 2003; Gupta et al. 2010; Oguis et al. 2019). The etymology of this species is postulated to be from the Ternate Island in the Indonesian archipelago. It is based on the specific description of Linnaeus produced (Oguis et al., 2019). Furthermore, according to Staples (1992), *C. ternatea* originated from the Pacific Ocean or the South China Sea, but it is from around the Indian Ocean. Currently, *C. ternatea* has widely distributed throughout Africa, Asia, Australia, North and South America, Pacific (Northwestern, South-Central, and Southwestern) (Al-Snafi 2016).

Clitoria ternatea is an ornamental perennial climber in other plants or in-wall of home gardens, which lives in various types of soil and has a pH of 5.5-8.9 (Sutedi 2013; Chen et al. 2018). It can adapt to heavy cracking clay soil areas (Hall 1985). *C. ternatea* is a self-pollination plant, and it spreads through seed (Chen et al. 2018). *C. ternatea* occurs in plentiful sunlight and is partially shaded (Jamil et al., 2018). Dry stressing can inhibit population growth, fresh weight, germination, shoot, and root length (Bharti and Kumari 2017). This medicinal plant can be found in

high rainfall areas and prolonged dry season areas (Gomez and Kalamani 2003). The germination is 1-2 weeks, and the flowering is 3-4 weeks (Jamil et al. 2018).

The height of *C. ternatea* is up to 6 m with soft twigs. The description steam of *C. ternatea* is adpressed pubescent, glabrescent, and slender. *C. ternatea* has imparipinnate leaves consisting of 5-7 elliptic to lanceolate leaflets with a length of 1-6.7 cm and wide of 0.3-4 cm. The petiole length is 1-3 cm; the rachis is 1-6 cm, petiolules 1-3 mm, and leaflets 4-10 mm. The flower characteristics are axillary, paired, or solitary, with pedicels length of 6-9 mm, and striking blue and white color. The color of the seeds is black and brown, with a length of 4.5-7 mm, wide of 3-4 mm, and thick of 2-2.5 mm. The calyx is pubescent with tube 8-12 mm, under one-third of their length with the upper pair, acuminate or acute. The corolla is standard white, often margined with completely blue or blue. The pod is flat with a length of 6-12.5 cm and wide 0.7-1.2 cm; on each pod, there are 6-8 seeds. The color of the seeds is black and brown, with a length of 4.5-7 mm, wide of 3-4 mm, and thick of 2-2.5 mm (Gillett et al. 1971).

Leaves and flowers have flavonols compounds (Kazuma et al. 2003a,b). The other non-proteinaceous components were found in the roots of *C. ternatea*. For instance, taraxerol, novel norneolignans, and clitorienolactones A-C were found in the roots (Vasisht et al., 2016). *C. ternatea* has cyclotides (proteinaceous components) and is the only family member within the

Fabaceae (Gilding et al., 2015). The edible flowers had antioxidant activity and antimicrobial potential as a medicinal plant for several diseases (Petrova et al. 2016; Dhiman et al. 2017; Wang et al. 2017).

Ethnobotany of *C. ternatea* has been documented as the drug "Sankhupushpi" of Ayurveda (Mukherjee et al., 2008). Ayurveda means the science about life; it contains the traditional medicinal knowledge in India from between 2500 and 500 B.C (Mukherjee and Wahile 2006). The seeds and roots are used for alterative, laxative, and a 'tonic of the nerves' (Mukherjee et al., 2008). On the other hand, the data of ethnobotany in Indonesia is still limited. In Indonesia, *C. ternatea* is used as a medicinal plant or for traditional ceremonies and is known locally only.

Bioprospecting is an exploration of new natural resources of economic and social value. The pharmaceutical industry is one of the massive industries conducting it. However, other sectors, such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing, engineering, and others, also explore bioprospecting (Beattie et al., 2005). To find a novel of biological and chemical resources was conducted by exploration in nature or from traditional knowledge. Thus, the ethnobotany of species is crucial as foundation information for bioprospecting. Based on that, benefits from species can be used wider and optimal. This current literature review aims to study the relation between

ethnobotany and bioprospecting of *C. ternatea*. The data documented of ethnobotany and bioprospecting from *C. ternatea* is to develop conservation action and optimize utilization

ETHNOBOTANY OF *CLITORIA TERNATEA*

Numerous ethnobotany research of *C. ternatea* is preliminary and requires a more thorough investigation. In Indonesia, research areas are still limited, such as East Java, Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, West Kalimantan, and Central Sulawesi. In Java, for instance, the data was only found in Madura. Ethnobotany knowledge of *C. ternatea* was depicted in Table 1.

The exploration of the ethnobotany of *C. ternatea* in Tamao Village did not reveal clear information about the utilization (Haryanti et al., 2015). However, based on literature, Dayak Tamambaloh in Embaloh Hulu is still keeping their local wisdom (Sulistiyowati 2016). In general, the Dayak Tamambaloh Community finds beneficial plants from forests, house yards, gardens, river beaches, hills, and fields (Rike et al., 2018; Supiandi and Leliavia 2019).

Table 1. List of ethnobotany research of *Clitoria ternatea* in Indonesia

Location	Part	Utilization	References
Tamao Village, Embaloh Hulu District, West Kalimantan	Flowers	Medicine, traditional ceremony, and ornamental	Haryanti et al. (2015)
Five of <i>Pakraman</i> Villages, Bali (<i>Pakraman</i> Jatiluwih Tabanan, <i>Pakraman</i> Sukawati Gianyar, <i>Pakraman</i> Penglipuran Bangli, <i>Pakraman</i> Tenganan Karangasem, and <i>Pakraman</i> Banyuning Buleleng)	Flowers	Traditional ceremony (<i>Panca Yadnya</i>)	Surata et al. (2015)
Lenteng District, Guluk-Guluk District, and Bluto District in Sumenep Regency.	Flowers	Eye disease medicine	Destryana and Ismawati (2019)
The Hindu Community of Jagaraga Village, West Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara	Flowers	Eye disease medicine	Eni et al. (2019)
Togian Tribe, Tojo Una-Una, Central Sulawesi	Flowers and roots	Boils and fever medicine	Tabeo et al. (2019)
The Adjacent Area of Lake Buyan-Tamblingan, Bali	Flowers	Eye disease medicine	Oktavia et al. (2019)
Mincidan Village, Klungkung, Bali	Flowers	Eye disease medicine, 'nunas' tirta ceremony, and ornamental	Defiani and Kriswiyanti (2019)
Madura Sumenep Communities	Flowers	Clean and clear baby's eyes	Ismawati and Destryana (2019)

The ethnobotany from some areas in Indonesia used the flowers for many purposes. Flower of *C. ternatea* is utilized as the medicine for eye diseases by the Sumenep-Madura community (Ismawati and Destryana 2019), the adjacent area of Lake Buyan-Tamblingan, Bali (Oktavia et al. 2019), the community around the area model of KPH Kapuas Upstream (Haryanti et al. 2015), as well as the Hindu Community of Jagaraga Village, West Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara (Eni et al. 2019). Ethnobotany knowledge of *C. ternatea* for eyes medicine has been proven through research. The phenol 0.026% from the extracts of *C. ternatea* flower revealed inhibition of 0.87mm as an antibacterial of *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacterium that causes eyes diseases (Hutajulu et al. 2008). Through ultrafiltration (UF), the extracts of *C. ternatea* in water extract sterilization can be used to eye drops ingredients (Anthika et al., 2015). Furthermore, the extracts of *C. ternatea* can dissolve Calcium (Ca) and Natrium (Na) compiler cataract model in the concentration of 2.5% (Kusrini et al. 2017).

Togian tribal communities in Malenge Island, Talatoko District, Tojo Una-Una, Central Sulawesi used *C. ternatea* for boils medicine (Tabeo et al. 2019). Boils are also caused by *S. aureus*. The antibiotic of *S. aureus* can be produced from ultrasound-assisted aqueous leaf and petal extract, ethanolic leaf, and callus extract of *C. ternatea* (Shahid et al. 2009; Anthika et al. 2015). In addition, *C. ternatea* also has an antipyretic activity that can reduce fever (Devi et al., 2003).

The various ceremonies which belong to the *Panca Yadnya* ceremony need part of plants for the ceremony, and *C. ternatea* is one of them (Surata et al. 2015; Defiani and Kriswiyanti 2019). Hindu Bali's people use leaves, flowers, and fruits as a medium of offering (*sesajen*) and praying (*persembahyangan*) (Sardiana and Dinata 2010). Furthermore, they classified into several uses such as *canang* (offering to God), *kewangen* (scenting God's name), and *bhasma* (the symbol of Siwa's purity) (Surata et al., 2015).

C. ternatea is also used as an ornamental plant. Since *C. ternatea* has an attractive color for making aesthetic scenery to home and garden and ornamental crop adding value (Karel et al. 2018). For example, Mincidan Village in Bali uses plant floral diversity to promote ecotourism (Defiani and Kriswiyanti 2019).

BIOPROSPECTING

Bioprospecting includes cultural information, biodiversity information, and processing and handling technology. Bioprospecting is the effort to search genes and natural compounds of biodiversity for product development (Pushpangadan et al. 2018). The economic benefits from *C. ternatea* include food and beverage, forage, phytochemicals, biopesticides, bioinsecticides, colorants, and medicines. In this part, we reviewed the evidence, based on scientific and research, the difference with the ethnobotany that only focused on Indonesia's studies. In bioprospecting, we explored the current research

progress of *C. ternatea* from Indonesia. Thus, we can elaborate on evidence-based scientific and ethnobotany from Indonesia.

Phytochemicals

Leaf of *C. ternatea* contains compounds such as 3-rutinoside, beta-sitosterol, 3 monoglucoside, 3-o-rhamnosyl-glucoside, 3-neohesperidoside, kaempferol-3-o-rhamnosyl essential oils (Tiwari and Gupta 1959; Morita et al. 1977; Mukherjee et al. 2008; Manjula et al. 2013; Thakur et al. 2018). The seed contains oleic, linoleic, stearic, beta-sitosterol, polypeptide, linolenic acids, a water-soluble mucilage, delphinidin 3, 3', 5'-tri-o-glucoside, palmitic, finotin, oligosaccharides, p-hydroxycinnamic acid (4), anthoxanthin glucoside, flavonol-3-glycoside, ethyl α -d-galactopyranoside, adenosine, 3,5,7,4-tetrahydroxyflavone, 3-rhamnoglucoside, hexacosanol, -sitosterol (5), -sitosterol (Grindley et al. 1954; Kulshrestha and Khare 1967; Kulshrestha and Khare 1968; Joshi et al. 1981; Revilleza et al. 1990; Macedo and Xavier-Filho 1992; Husain and Devi 1998; Kelemu et al. 2004). Root has been reported containing alanine, aminobutyric acid, aspartic acid, arginine, flavonoids, glycine, histidine, leucine, methyleneglutamic acid, ornithine, saponins, phenols, taraxerone, taraxerol, valine (Banerjee and Chakravarti 1964; Rajagopalan 1964; Kumar et al. 2008; Swain et al. 2012; Manjula et al. 2013). The flower has ternatins, flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins, resins. (Kazuma et al. 2003 a,b; Kazuma et al. 2004; Manjula et al. 2013).

Food and beverage use

The flower of *C. ternatea* is used as a natural coloring for food and beverage. The bright blue color is the advantage characteristic of colors. The color is produced from anthocyanin in ternatins (Srivastava and Pande 1977; Zussiva et al. 2012). It is the pigment of the flavonoid group, which is soluble in water (Zussiva et al., 2012). For a natural dye of food and beverage, *C. ternatea* showed the best result in the anthocyanin with the treatment of the 10% addition maltodextrin concentration (Hariadi et al. 2018). The compound's content is stable and could withstand high temperatures (Azima et al., 2017; Angriani 2019). Coloring extracts flower was used to an ice lolly with the same quality with blue diamonds of CI 42090 (Hartono and Angelia 2013). It can also be coloring for several traditional foods such as *putu*, *onde-onde*, *bandang*, *barangko*, *getuk lindri*, *cendol*, candy, sticky rice *tapai*, and others (Saati et al. 2018; Angriani 2019; Febrianti 2019; Permana 2019; Palimbong and Pariama 2020; Shofi and Putri 2020). The flower extracts with 0.25% and 1% concentration were more stable when used in the paracetamol syrup preparations (Pratimasari and Lindawati 2018). Furthermore, *C. ternatea* was used for coloring goat milk yogurt, and it showed effects on the levels of pressure (color) (Dewi et al. 2019).

Blue tea from *C. ternatea* began to be known in Indonesia. It possesses antioxidant properties for healthy beverages because it reduces oxidative stress (Srichalkul 2018; Lakshan et al. 2019). Moreover, drinking *C. ternatea* can reduce postprandial glucose and insulin concentration

concomitant (Chusak et al. 2018a). Processing of *C. ternatea* is conducted through drying, either using sunlight or an oven. Drying is one of the most critical steps in processing *C. ternatea* tea. The aims are to prolong shelf life, prevent microorganism growth, reduce weight to press storage and transport costs, and minimize enzymatic degradation (Fernandes et al. 2018). Drying is conducted at 08.00-12.00; then, it is continued on the next day. By doing so, the beneficial compounds of *C. ternatea* are not damaged by sunlight (Mulangsari 2019). *C. ternatea* tea is made with five flower petals (1.0 g) dissolved in 250 ml boiling water. Consuming *C. ternatea* tea routinely is good for the thin phlegm in asthmatics (Kusuma 2019) and can improve human health due to its non-caffeinated contents (Panda 2018).

Starch digestibility of cooked rice with a rice cooker was reduced by the incorporation of 1.25% and 2.5% (w/v) of *C. ternatea* flower extracted and 2.5% (w/v) with a microwave oven (Chusak et al. 2019). Flower extracts of *C. ternatea* caused a reduction in hydrolysis index, predicted glycemic index of flour, and glucose released at 0.5%, 1%, and 2% (w/v). In comparison, 5%, 10%, and 20% (w/w) decreased the rate of starch digestion of the wheat bread. The pancreatic α -amylase activity can be inhibited by 1% and 2% (w/v) by using a substrate of all flours (Chusak et al. 2018b). In addition, flower extracts of *C. ternatea* inhibited the food damage and disease of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (the extracted ethanol flower concentration of 10% to 100%) and *Bacillus cereus* (the extracted ethanol flower concentration of 30% to 100%) (Riyanto et al. 2019). These bacteria have been reported as the food poisoning cases in several foods such as rice and noodles in Indonesia's market, particularly in food streets (Ruriani and Nurhayati 2010; Amanati 2014; Ekantini et al. 2017). This makes *C. ternatea* use a bioactive potential for food preservation (Kamila et al., 2009).

Agricultural applications

Anthelmintic

C. ternatea has Anthelmintic activity reported killing *Meloidogyne incognita* (Hasan and Jain 1985; Kumari and Devi 2013). The high effectivity to inhibition of hatching of the egg can be used to minimize the damage of *M. incognita* to fruits and leaves of mulberry. *M. incognita* has been reported decreasing in pepper production in Bangka and West Kalimantan (Sukanaya 2001). In soybean, *M. incognita* can make lost yield up to 30%-90% (Suryanti et al., 2017). *M. incognita* is also a critical plant disease on *kenaf* (*Hibiscus cannabinus*) production in the nursery and tomato development area (Budi et al. 2006; Pradana et al. 2016; Irmawatie et al. 2019).

Antibacterial and antifungal

The purification of *C. ternatea* seed produces a small protein called Finotin (Kelemu et al. 2004). Finotin has been reported to significantly kill the bacteria of *Xanthomonas axonopodis*, which attacks beans. *X. axonopodis* is a disease that causes severe damage in soybean crops and economic loss in citrus crops in

Indonesia (Das 2003; Khaeruni et al. 2007; Khaeruni et al. 2008).

As a fungicide, a protein that was designed as a Ct protein from the isolation of *C. ternatea* seed caused the death of some fungus, such as *Alternaria* sp., *Aspergillus flavus*, *Cladosporium* sp., *Curvularia* sp., *Rhizopus* sp., and *Sclerotium* sp. (Ajesh and Sreejith 2014). Finotin from *C. ternatea* seed could inhibit *Bipolaris oryzae*, *Pyricularia grisea* from rice, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, and *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* from *Stylosanthes* spp; *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum*, *Fusarium solani* from common bean, and *Rhizoctonia solani* from *Brachiaria* spp (Kelemu et al. 2004). Furthermore, *Fusarium oxysporum* that causes moler disease on Shallot from Indonesia can be killed by the crude aqueous leaf extracts of 50% (Das and Chatterjee 2014) and flower extracts at 5% concentration (Suganda and Adhi 2017). Research by Suganda and Adhi (2017) is preliminary for plant antifungals since the focus is mainly on human pathogens rather than plant pathogens.

Insecticidal

Cyclotide sequences have insecticidal activity against *Helicoverpa armigera*, the cotton budworm (Poth et al., 2011). *H. amigera* makes cotton fruit undeveloped and fallen because of broaching buds, flowers, and bolls, especially in central areas of cotton production in Indonesia such as Central Java, East Java, South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara, and Bali (Diyasti et al. 2016). 1-2% (vol/vol) of the oil-based formulation of the *C. ternatea* mixture was used for integrated pest management (IPM) to control *Helicoverpa* spp in Australian cotton. Furthermore, 1% w/w finotin application to *Zabrotes subfasciatus* and 5% w/w to *Acanthoscelides obtectus* resulted in a maximum level of 100% larva mortality (Mensah et al. 2015).

Forage for livestock

To obtain high quality and nutrition, *C. ternatea* is harvested at 45 days (Mahala et al., 2012). *C. ternatea* has high productivity up to 17-25 tons/ha (Abdelhamid and Gabr 1993). A high carotenoid content positively impacts bovine livestock fertility and egg yolk color (Barro and Ribeiro 1983). *C. ternatea* also has a better potential nutritive value than alfalfa and clover (Abreu et al., 2014).

Clitoria ternatea escalates diets and sound quality for ruminants due to its nutritional contents (Gomez and Kalamani 2003; Avalos et al. 2004; Juma et al. 2006; Shammad 2019). As a forage, *C. ternatea* increases the weight of beef cattle and cows, 0.7 and 0.36 kg/day, respectively (Sutedi 2013). In addition, the weight loss of cows during shipment from Timor to Java can be minimized up to 5-7% when generally it is 12-15% (Nunik 2009).

Barros et al. (1991) discovered a better dietary N of goats given *C. ternatea* as forage. Guinea Grass-*Clitoria* mixed hay can be a potential forage to sheep because it increases digestible dry matter intake up to 61% (Sandoval et al. 2009). Besides that, the use of *C. ternatea* to sheep also provides a positive effect on wool growth and live weight gain (Schlink 1998). The two cuts of *C. ternatea*

have better acid and neutral detergent fiber, acid detergent lignin cellulose, crude protein and fiber, hemicellulose than berseem hay (Abdelhamid and Gabr 1993).

A decrease of 10% of *C. ternatea* for boilers diet showed better growth (Marin et al., 2003). A comparison between *C. ternatea* and *Brachiaria humidicola* showed that *C. ternatea* has higher protein content and metabolizes energy, but the fiber content was lower than *B. Humidicola*. Nevertheless, 15% *C. ternatea* substitution decreased growth and consumption in chicken (Monforte et al. 2002).

Muir and Massaete (1996) found that the crude protein content of dietary components used during experiments in rabbits was 16 %. It is because *C. ternatea* has protein up to 18-25%, which complies with the nutritional needs of rabbits (Sutedi 2013). Nevertheless, Elamin et al. (2011) suggested that sweet potato is better used for rabbits than *C. ternatea* based on performance and blood constituents.

Soil fertility

The high nodule maintenance and the non-structural carbohydrate mobilization make *C. ternatea* adapt quickly to stress after the shoot removal (De Souza et al. 1996). *C. ternatea* increases Nitrogen, Phosphor, Potassium, and Magnesium and impacts soil acidification and nutrient solubilization (Njunie et al. 2004; Alderete-Chavez et al. 2011). Environmental conditions affect nodulation growth. The optimum nodulation growth is on moderate temperatures, such as at 06.00 (27-32°C), 14.00 (36-42°C) and 18.00 (27-30°C) and with the light intensity in summer (11.4-17.1 Wm⁻²) and winter (11.4 Wm⁻²), as well as the optimum duration of 11-14 hours (Habish and Mahdi 1979). On the other hand, an optimum soil pH was 6.3 in the four strains of *C. ternatea* (Zoroug and Munns 1980a). Phosphor is an essential nutrient for nodulation growth (Zoroug and Munns 1980b). Unfortunately, we currently do not find the *C. ternatea* to improve soil fertility in Indonesia. This can be an opportunity to discover the utilization of *C. ternatea* to improve soil fertility in Indonesia. It is because *C. ternatea* grows horizontally and makes tightly covered. This growth characteristic brings several benefits, such as preventing erosion, maintaining soil moisture, and improving soil fertility from leaves (Suarna 2005).

Medicinal properties

Antimicrobial

Cliotides T1-T2 in flower, seed, and root of *C. ternatea* can be used as an antimicrobial against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, and *Escherichia coli* (Nguyen et al. 2011). Fourth, novel cyclotide sequences have been identified, and noted that *C. ternatea* was one of the prosperous cyclotide-producing medicinal plants (Nguyen et al. 2016). Ethanolic and aqueous leaf and callus extracts can inhibit human diseases bacteria, such as *Bacillus cereus*, *B. subtilis*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, and *S. viridans* (Shahid et al. 2009); *Micrococcus luteus* (Ajesh and Sreejith 2014); *Salmonella typhi* and *Proteus Vulgaris* (Anand et al. 2011). Moreover, as an antifungal, 14.3 kDa seed protein inhibited

Aspergillus fumigatus, *A. niger*, *Candida albicans*, *C. parapsilosis*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *C. albidus*, and *C. laurentii* (Ajesh and Sreejith 2014). Leaf extracts successfully inhibited *Aspergillus niger* (Kamila et al. 2009). In ethnobotany, communities mostly use *C. ternatea* for diseases caused by microbes, such as eye disease and boils caused by *S. aureus*. There are numerous benefits from *C. ternatea* as an antimicrobial that Indonesian communities have not explored.

Antidiabetic

In Indonesia, it has 10,681,400 cases of diabetes in adults (International Diabetes Federation 2020). Currently, *C. ternatea* leaf extracts have shown potential for an antidiabetic medicine (Daisy and Rajathi 2009; Suganya et al. 2014; Talpae et al. 2014; Chusak et al. 2018b; Kavitha 2018). Leaf extracts of *C. ternatea* decrease blood glucose, HbA1c, other biochemical parameters and increase serum insulin level (Kavitha 2018). After five hours of oral administration, the mix of *Punica granatum* and the dried flower powder resulted in an antihyperglycemic effect. This is affected by flavonoids and alkaloids (Borikar et al., 2018). The root extract in experimental rat models, *C. ternatea*, prevented pancreatic tissue in juvenile diabetic and the possible complications related to brain hippocampal area CA3 (Mathada et al. 2012).

Anti-inflammatory activity, antipyretic activity, and analgesic

Leaf and flower extracts of *C. ternatea* have been identified as having an inflammatory activity (Devi et al., 2003; Bathia et al., 2013; Suganya et al., 2014; Singh et al., 2018). Petroleum ether extract and ethanol resulted in the analgesic activity that ethanol-treated extract showed up to 2 hours of long-lasting effect (Bathia et al. 2013). Flavonoids were important for anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antipyretic activities in *C. ternatea* (Devi et al., 2003). The methanol extract of *C. ternatea* root at 200, 300, and 400 mg/kg body weight doses. The yeast-provoked raised the temperature dose-dependent and decreased the temperature body to normal (Parimaladevi et al. 2004). Drugs (narcotics or non-narcotics) treat inflammatory and pain conditions, which are very costly and have adverse effects. Natural drugs, especially from *C. ternatea*, can be an option for providing cheaper and feasible drugs.

Antioxidant activity

The root extracts of *C. ternatea* have antioxidant activity based on some research both in white flowers and blue flowers (Patil and Patil 2011; Jadhav et al. 2013). Flower extracts of *C. ternatea* have been reported to have antioxidant activity (Kamkaen and Wilkinson 2009; Jayachitra and Padma 2012; Jadhav et al. 2013; Zingare et al. 2013; Azima et al. 2014; Iamsaard et al. 2014; Phruksanan et al. 2014; Azima et al. 2017; Havananda and Luengwilai 2019; Lakshan et al. 2019). Biological synthesized MgO-NPs of flower extracts of *C. ternatea* showed high antioxidant activity (Sushma et al. 2016). The white flower produces higher enzyme antioxidants than the blue flower (Jayachitra and Padma 2012). Antioxidant

activity in *C. ternatea* prevents lipid peroxidation in erythrocytes, protein oxidation, and free radical-induced hemolysis (Phrueksanan et al., 2014). *C. ternatea* has enzyme and non-enzyme antioxidants rather than the other plants, such as *Eclipta prostrata* (Rao et al. 2009), *Syzygium cumini*, and *Ardisia colorata* (Azima et al. 2017). In addition, Antioxidant activity in *C. ternatea* is potent to be cosmetic properties (Kamkaen and Wilkinson 2009). Currently, the need for natural anti-rising is rising since synthetic antioxidants bring side effects such as allergies, asthma, inflammation, headache, loss of consciousness, and disorders of the eyes and stomach (Sharmila et al., 2016). *C. ternatea* has the potential to be used as a natural antioxidant.

Nootropic activity

Nootropic activity, anxiolytic, anticonvulsant, antistress activity, and antidepressants have been found in the extracts of *C. ternatea* (Jain et al., 2003; Talpate et al. 2014). Root extracts of *C. ternatea* increase acetylcholine in the hippocampus to enhance memory and learning (Rai et al. 2001; Rai et al. 2002). An increase of rat brain acetylcholine and acetylcholinesterase activity was produced from the alcoholic extracts root of *C. ternatea* at 300 mg/kg doses (Taranalli and Cheeramkuzhy 2000). In addition, *C. ternatea* also raises episodic memory and cellularity and declines autophagy. However, several studies have reported only in experimental animals (rats). This progress is proved that *C. ternatea* has the potential for improvement in human cognitive performance.

AN RELATION BETWEEN ETHNOBOTANY AND BIOPROSPECTING

There are three critical stimuli to interfere with the community's attitudes, i.e. (i) natural stimulus, (ii) helpful stimulus, and (iii) religious stimulus (Zuhud et al. 2007). The stimuli are a powerful driver of the community's attitude and behavior for realizing conservation actions. Firstly, the natural stimulus is a sustainable resource that needs to be based on bioecology characters. This plant is a wildflower. Even though people also cultivate in the home garden (Eni et al. 2019). Farmers can increase their income and conserve agro-biodiversity through their home gardens (Mohri et al., 2013; Sutoro 2017).

Secondly, the valuable stimulus is the values of human-being needs for economic, medicine, biological/ecological, and the other benefits. It can be identified by biological/ecological utilization, medicinal uses, economic sectors, and social culture aspects (Deryanti et al., 2007; Zakiyyah et al., 2016). Exploration knowledge is an initial step to optimize the potential of *C. ternatea*. The study of ethnobotany can be used to analyze the bioprospecting of *C. ternatea*. Then, further research can continue to produce commercial products to increase income for the community. For example, the information from the ethnobotany of *C. ternatea* in Indonesia describes it as a medicinal plant, some processed products such as herbal tea (dried *C. ternatea*), coloring powder, and eye drops.

Species are endangered or rare because people use natural resources to utilize knowledge or exploit. So, when the valuable stimulus can be optimized, it will empower the community to be part of conservation action. Optimizing bioprospecting can generate income and support the conservation project (Skirycz et al., 2016).

Thirdly, a religious stimulus is noble values, especially the rewards from God, spiritual values, universal religious values, merit, happiness, cultural/traditional wisdom, inner satisfaction, and many more. For instance, a local concept of traditional medicine called "Usada Taru Pramana" in Bali. In the idea, *C. ternatea* is regarded as a medicinal plant for the eye (Cahyaningsih et al. 2019). Bali communities admit *Usada* or *Aushadhi* in Sanskrit as guidance for plant medicine (Sutomo and Iryadi 2019). It is related to the Hindu-Bali's belief, *Tri Hita Karana*. *Tri Hita Karana* is the philosophy of harmony relation between human beings and God (*parhyangan*), harmony with other people (*pawongan*), and connection with nature (*palemahan*) (Wirawan and Pendit 2017) (Figure 2). *Parhyangan* is a value/mindset element that can be described in the existence of the Hindu temple. According to Suarmini (2011), *Parhyangan* associated with social subsystems is realized by conducting ceremonies on certain days. In these ceremonies, *C. ternatea* is usually used as one of the elements. *Pawongan* is associated with a social subsystem, where the community has to maintain harmony and togetherness. *Palemahan* is related to the mindset/value realized in preserving, such as a village, village forest, and nature. Rather than exploiting nature, *Palemahan* intends to think that nature is an equitable partner.

Based on the three critical stimuli to the effect of community's attitudes, the relation between ethnobotany, bioprospecting, society, and conservation was shown in Figure 3. We modified the circle of regard by adding ethnobotany as a part of values. Since Indonesia is rich in ethnobotany knowledge that can be a source of natural products. In exploration (ethnobotany), species are still known locally and limited. Thus, comprehensive research by government research institutes or private industries is needed for scientifically proven. The result of the study is products that can be promoted to more comprehensive customers. The products can be used as commercial products. Finally, the study should provide an economic impact on the communities and motivate communities to conserve them.

FUTURE OUTLOOK OF MARKET OVERVIEW

According to the Indonesian Agriculture Ministry Decree Number 511/Kpts/PD.310/9/2020, *C. ternatea* on kinds of plant commodities fostered by Directorate General of Plantation, Directorate General of Food Crops, and the Directorate General of Horticulture (Indonesian Agriculture Ministry 2020) However, in the market overview, the production of *C. ternatea* products are still not optimal. However, herbal medicine is rising gradually with the "back to nature" trend worldwide (Fernandes et

al., 2019). In 2019, the traditional medicine industrial sector grew above 6% or above the national economic growth. Industries absorbed herbal medicine of 63% total market, then exports by 14%, and for household consumption 23% in 2007 (Indonesian Agriculture Ministry 2007). In Indonesia, most herbal medicine consumers are economically categorized as the low-middle class (Andriati and Wahjudi 2016).

A qualitative study with descriptive analysis was used to survey the three most significant marketplaces in Indonesia, e.g., Bukalapak (www.bukalapak.com), Tokopedia (www.tokopedia.com), and Shopee (www.shopee.co.id). It aimed to know the diversity of *C. ternatea* in the Indonesian marketplace. We observed the products sold from 100 procedures in each marketplace (Figure 4). Result explicate that *C. ternatea* was mostly sold as a dried flower tea (Tokopedia of 65%, Bukalapak of 53%, and Shopee of 74%) and a commercial seed/seedling (Tokopedia of 22%, Bukalapak 41%, and Shopee 22%). This result is identical with ethnobotany information which said that the flower of *C. ternatea* is used the most. Less than 10% of *C. ternatea* was used for beverages. Also, there was a product of eye drops (1%). The same percentage of 1% was used for fresh leaf, flower, and coloring powder. Thus, according to this data, the utilization of *C. ternatea* has still not developed optimally.

The current development of technology eliminates the gap between producers and consumers. Through e-commerce, for instance, it is easier for the farmers to enlarge their market access, increase the sale, and reduce transaction costs (Chang and Just 2009; Mishra et al. 2009; Zapata et al. 2016; Fecke et al. 2018). In January 2020, the total of internet users in Indonesia reached + 175.4 M, and this number increased by +17% between 2019 and 2020. That makes Indonesia the top five most significant internet

users, with people spending 7 hours 59 minutes longer than globally (Kemp 2020). This condition leads to a shift of consumers' behavior from conventional to digital in their daily activities.

Most producers are small-medium enterprises that use home gardens or limited land and partnership farmers with social enterprises to sell and process their products—for example, empowering farmers through the partnership that Agradaya dan Javara has done. Javara claims to have a partnership with more than 5000 farmers throughout Indonesia and is visioning “to preserve Indonesia’s biodiversity and brings community-based, organic products to broader markets” (Javara 2020). On the other hand, Agradaya has a partnership with more than 300 farmers in Yogyakarta and East Java and brings a mission of “collaboration for sustainable agriculture” (Agradaya 2019).

C. ternatea is also grown for urban farming since it can live in various habitat types. For instance, Konekroot is rooftop farming that has hydroponic, aquaponics, and organic agriculture (Konektoot 2019). They sell processing *C. ternatea* for dried tea or seed/seedling. They also use *C. ternatea* for garnish of food. Besides that, Kebun Kumara, a social enterprise located in Jakarta, grows *C. ternatea* in its urban space for agriculture. Like Konekroot, Kebun Kumar also sells seed/seedling of *C. ternatea* (Kebun Kumara 2019).

In conclusion, the ethnobotany of *C. ternatea* can be knowledge resources for bioprospecting in several utilizations, such as food and beverage, agriculture, and medicine. Through innovation, technology, and research, the potential of *C. ternatea* can be explored to provide high-quality products under tremendous opportunities. We hope that the study will impact communities' economics and escalate their motivation to conserve *C. ternatea*.

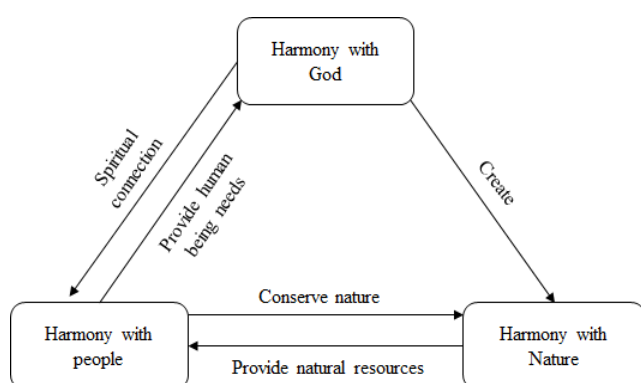


Figure 2. The ancient Balinese philosophy of Tri Hita Karana (Nias Press in Zen et al. 2019)

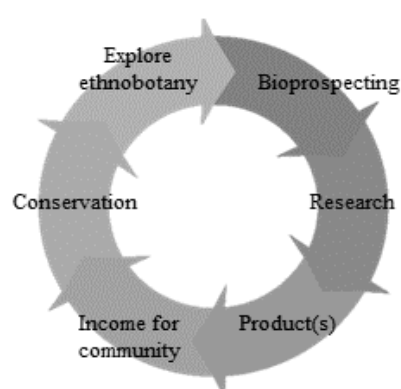


Figure 3. Ideal relation between ethnobotany, bioprospecting, community, and conservation

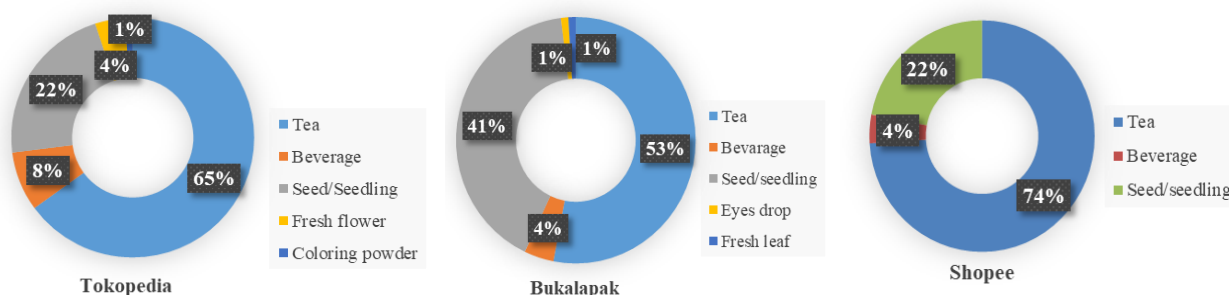


Figure 4. The diversity of products of *C. ternatea* in Indonesia's e-commerce; source: Tokopedia (www.tokopedia.com), Bukalapak (www.bukalapak.com), and Shopee (www.shopee.co.id)

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Students' perceptions on the snake in Northwestern Bangladesh

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Abstract. Jaman MF, Rabbe MF, Alam MM, Shome AR, Hossain MA, Sarker MAR. 2020. Students' perceptions on the snake in Northwestern Bangladesh. *Asian J Ethnobiol* 21: 62-69. Human-snake interaction has an ancestral history with different outcomes at different times. This study was done to assess the student's perceptions of snakes and current superstitions practiced in some areas of northwestern Bangladesh. We interviewed 348 students from 7 educational institutions under 3 districts from January 2019 to April 2019. We asked dichotomous (yes-no) question to know perceptions about snakes and variation among superstitions of the students. We found significant variation in responses concerning the demographic status of the respondents. Religion and education were the most influencing factors affecting the results of students' perceptions. Among the total respondents, 329 (94.5%) had seen snakes, 182 (52.3%) considered snakes as a notorious animal, 224 (64.4%) considered snakes as an economically harmful animal, 155 (44.5%) think killing snakes giving a good feeling, 313 (90%) believe that snakes attack humans, 321 (92.2%) students have seen others killing snakes, and 127 (36.5%) had killed snakes themselves. Of the five superstitions, "snake can drink milk" was the topmost statement believed by 293 (84.2%) students. Due to these negative attitudes and misconceptions, we assume that snakes are regularly killed, and there is a potential risk for the population to decline.

Keywords: Perceptions, northwestern Bangladesh, misconceptions, student, superstitions

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is a small country with diverse cultures and is rich in wildlife resources (Nishat et al., 2002). Reptiles occupy a significant position among them, and approximately 170 species of snakes are known to be present here (Khan 2008; Hasan et al. 2014; IUCN Bangladesh 2015; Khan 2015, 2018). Among them, in total, 100 species of snakes (67% species are non-venomous and 33% venomous) are assessed by the IUCN Red List Bangladesh (2015). Eight species are placed in the threatened categories.

The northwestern districts of Bangladesh are enriched with mainly agricultural and plain lands, rivers, canals, and some areas are covered with deciduous forests (Khan 2008; Khan 2015). A recent survey (Rabbe 2018) has shown that most snakes in this region face numerous anthropogenic threats. Among them, habitat destruction and fragmentation, road accidents, and killing by local people without any definite valid reason have posed severe threats to snakes leading to a drastic decline in their natural population (Hasan et al. 2014). In addition, human-snake conflicts due to snakebite incidences have placed them in a vulnerable position. Mondal et al.'s (2011) study in Rangpur medical college (a hospital in northwestern Bangladesh) showed that 5.71% of patients are killed due to snakebite.

People in various cultures are afraid of snakes, provoking a pronunciation and persecution that hampers conservation efforts for this group of reptiles (Babalola et al. 2020). Traditional practices to prevent snakebites and

treat snakebite probably kill snakes (Rahman et al., 2010), consequently leading to a decline in the natural population of snakes in the northwestern region. Snake phobia probably is the main reason for school children for killing snakes. Every year during the rainy season, snakebite incidences increase since the houses are made of homestead bush, making an ideal place for snakes (Rahman et al. 2010; Guidelines for the Management of Snakebite in Bangladesh 2018). Unfortunately, people in Bangladesh generally treat every snake as venomous, probably due to the lack of proper knowledge about snakes. The study of Rabbe (2018) showed that younger people of the northwestern region are intended to kill snakes just for fun, resulting in young individuals being more prone to snakebite. Faiz et al. (1999) also suggested that children in Bangladesh are at high risk of snakebite envenoming. Snakes and snakebite in Bangladesh have mythological fragrances leading to higher mortality (Global Snakebite Initiative 2020). Superstitions have dominated the mind of people; consequently, they go to *Ojha* (a person who traditionally treats snakebites and shows snakes for entertainment in markets and villages) for snakebite treatment (Alam et al., 2015). Among the superstitions, the jewel of the snakes' head, snakes dancing by whistle, and milk sucking of snake from cow are the most popular (Kabir 2018).

Snakes also bite humans and cattle when entering the home yard, leading to increased conflict with humans and risks to human life (Alves et al. 2012a, b). Moreover, traditional folk stories promote negative attitudes spreading fear and dislike among people in the community (Alves et

al., 2014). Negative perceptions are often dangerous for both people and snakes since it influences people to make irrational decisions that often cause snake deaths or an increased risk of snakebite, resulting in the low interest in the conservation of snakes (Alves et al. 2012b). The ethnobiological approach may be one way to investigate and establish relationships between the locals and provide scientific knowledge among the school children for conservation strategies of snakes (Baptista and El-Hani 2009).

Considering the above scenario and from an ethnozoological point of view, the present study is the first to investigate the perceptions and knowledge of students about snakes in the northwestern region of Bangladesh. This research examines students' perceptions and attitudes towards snakes and assesses superstitious practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Problems, strategy, and variable assignment

Before starting the survey, we assessed superstitions practiced by the local people and set up our questionnaire accordingly. We divided the questionnaire into two segments-perceptions and superstitions (Table 1). We sorted the information in a series of questions and all questions were bi-category variables expressed as v_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, 7$) and s_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, 5$) in table 1. For perceptions, we collected responses by asking simply complex questions, i.e., the first perception variable (v_1) is about seeing snakes, while the last variable (v_7) is about killing snakes. The demographic background of the respondents, such as age, gender, education, religion, and social media usage, was also collected.

Sampling protocol and data collection

We conducted this study from January 2019 to April 2019 in seven institutions of five Upazilas under the Rajshahi institutions of Bangladesh's Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Natore districts (Table 2). Before selecting the Upazilas, we discussed with university students (University of Dhaka) from these districts and gathered information about attitudes, superstitions, snakebites, snake mortality, and other related information. Later, we selected the areas of the Upazilas through personally communicating with deliberate snake rescuers, wildlife biologists, and news reporters who worked in those areas. We also considered social media (Facebook) information for selecting the survey areas. For example, a popular Facebook group of Bangladesh named 'Deep Ecology and Snake Rescue Organization' continuously updates information about snakebites, snake rescue, and snake killing incidences. We selected institutions where students come from the areas of interest to conduct the survey (Table 2). The questionnaire was entirely close-ended, and 348 students were randomly sampled in this study. We surveyed students aged 14 to 20 and from 9th grade to Higher Secondary level. Students were informed about the aims and objectives of the questionnaire survey to encourage them to participate in the research.

147 (42.2%) were males among all survey respondents, and 201 (57.8%) were females. As for the age proportions, 157 (45.1%) were low aged (14-16 years), and 191 (54.9%) were high aged (17-20 years). With regard to religion, 308 (88.5%) were Muslims, 37 (10.6%) were Sonatons, 3 (0.9%) were Christians. The education level of the interviewees varied; 128 (36.8%) were secondary level (SSC) students, and 220 (63.2%) were higher secondary level (HSC) students. Among the respondents, 97 (27.9%) had access to social media, whereas 251 (72.1%) had no access.

Table 1. Variables with their denotations and code used afterward in the article

Category	Information (variable denotation)	Code
Demography	Age	14-16years = 1, 17-20years = 2
	Sex	Female = 1, Male = 2
	Religion	Islam = 1, Sonaton = 2, Christian = 3
	Education	9 th grade to Secondary School (SSC)= 1, Higher secondary (HSC)= 2
Perceptions	Internet	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Snake seen by the respondent (v_1)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Snake is considered a notorious animal by the respondent (v_2)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Snake harm their eco condition by preying on their domestic animals and by snakebite incidence (v_3)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Respondent thinks killing snake gives a good feeling (v_4)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Respondent thinks snakes attack humans (v_5)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Respondent has seen the killing of a snake by other people (v_6)	No = 1, Yes = 2
Superstitions	Respondent killed a snake themselves (v_7)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Snake bear snakestone (<i>Moni</i>) on the head (s_1)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Snake can dance hearing the sound of flute played by snake charmer <i>Ojha</i> (s_2)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Snake can drink milk (s_3)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Snake takes revenge (if humans hurt one snake, another individual of the pair takes revenge) (s_4)	No = 1, Yes = 2
	Snakes have hair (<i>Dari</i>) on their skin (s_5)	No = 1, Yes = 2

Table 2. Institutions and locations where the survey was conducted

District	Upazila	Institution's name	Sample size
Rajshahi	Tanore	Koel High School	60
	Godagari	Premtoli Degree College	57
Natore	Singra	Satpukuria Dimukhi High School	52
		Kalam Degree College	38
Rangpur	Kaunia	Kaunia College	60
		Vayarhat Piaria Fajil Madrasah	40
	Mithapukur	Shukurur Hat High School	41

Data evaluation and analysis

The main focus of this survey will result in two significant findings; i) the killing of snakes is dependent on demographic and perception-related variables; ii) demographic responses are about superstitions and believing superstitions are correlated with each other. All demographic and perceptions responses (v1 to v6) are independent variables except v7, a dependent variable. We used multiple regression models to calculate the impact of independent variables on the dependent variable. The relations of perceptions, superstitions, and demography of the respondents were analyzed in a bivariate logistic model. Mutual correlation of superstitions and their impacts were analyzed using Kendall's tau-b coefficient.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Perceptions towards snakes

Following the dichotomous method, we asked questions from simple to complex. Almost all the respondents (n= 329, 94.5%) have seen snakes in their areas. This response significantly varied in sex, religion, and education (Table 3). The percentage of seeing snakes was higher for female students (97%), Sonaton followers (97.3%), and higher educated students (97.3%). The second question was whether the respondent considers a snake a notorious animal. This question was asked to know their primary attitudes towards the snake. Among the respondents, 182 (52.3%) were positive and considered snakes a notorious animal, and the response varied significantly only for religion (Table 3). Most of the students who follow the Sonaton religion do not consider snakes notorious animals. Instead, they are regarded as animals of religious importance. Sonaton followers believe the markings on the hood of cobras hailed from the god Vishnu (Wake 1873). We interviewed local Sonaton people and found that serpents are imagined as heavenly animals with the capacity to bless and curse. Snakes are also associated with women's fertility, healing, and familial prosperity; hence they are widely worshipped to obtain these blessings. The work of Alves et al. (2012a; 2014) showed that students have a widespread perception considering most snake species as being tarnished and poisonous, regardless of whether or not the particular snake possesses this characteristic. This is the same perception of a considerable part of the students interviewed, who affirmed they did not distinguish between venomous and non-venomous species.

Considering snakes as aggressive and dangerous animals is a serious fact to consider when implementing conservation plans since it stimulates snake killing, regardless of whether or not they are poisonous (Alves et al., 2014).

The next question was about the impact of snakes on their daily life. We asked respondents if snakes do economic damage, like eating their domestic animals (especially chicken), snakebites to human and domestic animals, etc. We found that 224 (64.4%) respondents considered snakes an economically harmful animal and experienced some damage from it. This response varied significantly by the respondent's religion (p= 0.003).

We wanted to know the psychological perception of snake killing or seeing the killing of snakes. Snake killing by themselves or seeing them killed by others may give psychological pleasure, and we asked about it to the students. In total, 155 (44.5%) respondents responded positively, but their responses varied significantly in age, religion, and education (Table 3). Muslims believe snake killing is religiously good, and the respondents practice this belief. Our result reflects that Muslim students who are low aged and educated at lower levels were more favorable to this response (v4) (Table 3).

'Snakes attack humans' is a widespread belief to all people, and we asked students to record their responses about it. We received almost 90% positive responses corresponding to this question, and this response was significant considering age, religion, education, and internet use (Table 3). The next question pair was 'respondents have seen the killing of the snake' and 'respondent killed by themselves.' Among the respondents, 321 (92.2%) students had seen others had killed snakes, and 127 (36.5%) killed themselves. The first response varied significantly with age and educational status, while the second response varied substantially with sex, religion, and internet use (Table 3). Pandey et al. (2020) suggested that people kill snakes when they encounter them. The study also reported that school students' snake-killing attitudes are acute when they face snakes indoors or outdoors, such as in the yard or backyard and on roads. Ethnozoological research revealed that this perception contributes to negative behavior regarding these animals (Alves et al., 2014). The study showed that students assuming eventual encounters with snakes, almost half of the students (n= 53, 49%) responded in such a way that indicates that they would kill the animal. The study also found that female students were more prone to kill snakes than males, which does not match our results (15.4%

female killed snakes). This was probably due to their fear of snakes. Usually, females are more fearful of snakes than males (Prokop et al., 2009). However, Alves et al. (2014) and Pandey et al. (2020) researched students' attitudes toward snakes. They verified that many students showed positive attitudes about snakes' ecology and economy. This study also reported similar results from the students, such as 'students believed snakes are useful to the ecosystem' and 'snakes are necessary for producing antivenom.' This study mostly received these positive responses from highly educated Sonaton followers and internet users. Indeed, more fantastic core excellent knowledge and awareness about snakes and their ecological and utilitarian roles decrease the fear and negative attitudes toward snakes (Pandey et al. 2020). Frequent exposure of people with scientific and environmental educational activities about venomous snakes and their ecological roles seems to have been influential for the higher tolerance to snakes (Gramza and Temple 2010; Pandey et al. 2020).

Impact of factors on killing snakes by the respondents

Different demographic statuses had other effects on students' perceptions of snakes, as seen in Table 4. To better understand the effects of all factors on a particular variable (dependent), such as demographic variables, other related independent variables need to be considered

The regression analysis showed that sex, religion, v1, v4, and v6 significantly impacted the dependent variable (Table 4). The odds ratio for the dependent variable is

(1.684-1) = 0.684 times higher for male students, (0.788-1) = -0.269 times higher for Sonaton students (1.349-1) = 0.349 times higher for students who had seen snakes (v1), (1.216-1) = 0.216 times higher for students who think killing snake gives a good feeling (v4), and (1.197-1) = 0.197 times higher for students who had seen killing snake by others (v6), keeping all other predictors at a fixed level (Table 4). This result suggested that male respondents and followers of Islam and the Christian religion are more likely to kill snakes. Besides, students who had positive responses towards some independent variables, for example, v1, v4, and v6, are proportionally positive in their attitude toward killing snakes. Generally, animal phobia is higher among females and younger individuals (Fredrikson et al. 1996). Previous research by Prokop et al. (2009) also showed that most respondents (n= 66; 61.1%) were fearful of snakes, and fear of snakes was higher in females than in male students. A similar result was reported for female respondents for other animals such as spiders and bats (Prokop and Tunnicliffe 2008). Being less fearful, male students are more interested in killing snakes that match this study also. Different cultures and religions consider snakes deadly venomous, resulting in fear of snakes (Molander et al., 2012). Our study also found that students other than the Sonaton religion intended to kill a snake. Sonaton people believe that snakes (especially Cobra) are a deity. Hence, they usually do not kill any snakes. People following other religions possess false ideas about snakes and think killing them is religiously good.

Table 3. Student's perceptions towards snakes about the different demographic status of the respondents

Perceptions variables	Yes percentage, χ^2 , and p-value	Demographic variables										
		Age		Sex		Religion			Education		Internet	
		14-16	17-20	Male	Female	Islam	Sonaton	Christian	SSC	HSC	Yes	No
v1	Yes	93.6	95.3	91.2	97.0	94.8	97.3	33.3	89.8	97.3	96.9	93.6
	χ^2	0.459		5.646		22.360			8.652		1.46	
	p	0.498		0.017		0.000			0.003		0.227	
v2	Yes	50.3	53.9	47.6	55.7	54.5	29.7	100	53.1	51.8	48.5	53.8
	χ^2	0.450		2.234		10.914			0.055		0.797	
	p	0.502		0.135		0.004			0.814		0.372	
v3	Yes	65.6	63.4	60.5	67.2	66.9	40.5	100	65.6	63.6	57.7	66.9
	χ^2	0.191		1.622		11.669			0.140		2.582	
	p	0.662		0.203		0.003			0.709		0.108	
v4	Yes	50.3	39.8	49	41.3	47.1	18.9	100	55.5	38.2	40.2	46.2
	χ^2	3.866		2.031		14.371			9.789		1.023	
	p	0.049		0.154		0.001			0.002		0.312	
v5	Yes	93.0	85.3	89.1	88.6	90.6	73	100	93.8	85.9	83.5	90.8
	χ^2	5.072		0.027		10.678			4.999		3.779	
	p	0.024		0.870		0.005			0.025		0.052	
v6	Yes	88.5	95.3	90.5	93.5	92.5	89.2	100	87.5	95	91.8	92.4
	χ^2	5.491		1.108		0.770			6.360		0.045	
	p	0.019		0.292		0.680			0.012		0.832	
v7	Yes	33.1	39.3	65.3	15.4	39.3	13.5	33.3	38.3	35.5	57.7	28.3
	χ^2	1.404		91.160		9.480			0.279		26.173	
	p	0.236		0.000		0.009			0.597		0.000	

Table 4. Estimates of regression parameters with standard error (SE), p-value, and odds ratio (OR) were obtained from the logistic regression model

Variables	Category	Estimates	SE	P-value	OR
Age	(Intercept)	0.520	0.132	<0.001	1.683
	14-16	-	-	-	-
	17-20	0.051	0.056	0.369	1.052
Sex	Female	-	-	-	-
	Male	0.521	0.055	<0.001	1.684
Religion	Islam	-	-	-	-
	Sonaton	-0.238	0.070	<0.001	0.788
Education	Christian	0.043	0.235	0.854	1.044
	SSC	-	-	-	-
	HSC	-0.020	0.059	0.741	0.981
Internet	No	-	-	-	-
	Yes	-0.018	0.061	0.772	0.982
v1	No	-	-	-	-
	Yes	0.299	0.098	0.003	1.349
v2	No	-	-	-	-
	Yes	0.011	0.046	0.805	1.012
v3	No	-	-	-	-
	Yes	0.022	0.048	0.641	1.023
v4	No	-	-	-	-
	Yes	0.195	0.047	<0.001	1.216
v5	No	-	-	-	-
	Yes	0.093	0.070	0.184	1.098
v6	No	-	-	-	-
	Yes	0.180	0.079	0.024	1.197

Table 5. Kendall's tau-b coefficient results of superstitions about snakes with a p-value in the first parenthesis

Superstitions	s2	s3	s4	s5
s1	0.494 (<0.001)	0.304 (<0.001)	0.246 (<0.001)	0.122 (0.024)
s2		0.272 (<0.001)	0.332 (<0.001)	0.076 (0.156)
s3			0.280 (<0.001)	-0.007 (0.902)
s4				0.085 (0.115)

Superstitions about snakes

The student possesses many superstitions about snakes traditionally and a belief in one superstitious related to believing others. These traditional misbeliefs or misconceptions towards snakes are likely to cause snakebites (Pandey et al. 2020). Alves et al. (2012b) showed that myths and tales unrelated to religion contribute to the persecution of snakes in the Brazilian semi-arid region. Besides, cinemas showing traditional snakebite treatments through magic potions, snakestones, or alcohol influence believing firmly in superstitions (Henderson and Dujon 1973).

Table 5 shows the correlation of superstitions variables that have 10 variable pairs. The dual-trail verification at the

significance level $p < 0.001$, the correlativity between s1 and s2 demonstrates the maximum of 0.494, indicating a reasonably considerable overlap in believing the two superstitions. This means students consider 'snake bear snake stone' (s1) is significantly correlated with 'snake can dance hearing the sound of the flute played by snake charmer *Ojha*' (s2). The second maximum is 0.332 between s2 and s4, implying that the higher belief of s2, the higher the chance of believing s4. All superstitions variables are significantly correlated with other superstitions variables at $p < 0.001$, except for s5 (Table 5).

Snake bear snakestone (*Moni*) on the head (s1)

About half ($n = 179$, 52%) of the respondents believe snake bears snakestone (s1). The response for this superstition significantly varied among sex and internet usage of the students (Table 6). The result showed that female students believed s1 more than males, and respondents who do not use the internet are inclined to believe s1.

People believe snakes make snakestone with magical properties, and snakes can bear it on their heads. People also believe that snakestones can heal snake bites and act as anti-venom. However, experimental studies showed that snakestones are unreliable for snakebite treatment (Chippaux et al., 2007). This indigenous first-aid treatment has been practiced in Asia, Africa, and Latin America (Baldwin 1995). This stone is considered valuable as a diamond, and getting it in one's lifetime is deemed good fortune. All these misconceptions are provided by *Ojha*, as well as the influence of mythical cinemas telecasted on different TV channels.

Snake can dance hearing the sound of flute played by *Ojha* (s2)

More than half ($n = 191$, 55%) of the respondents believed snakes could hear the flute's sound and, consequently, dance with the tune. Responses to this superstition varied significantly with all demographic variables except religion (Table 6). The result showed that low-aged, female respondents, less educated, and do not use the internet are prone to believe s2. This is one of the prevalent superstitions about snakes in Bangladesh (Kabir 2018). When the *Ojha* plays the flute showing his particular movements, the snake follows those signals, observing the flute or other activities to sense a threat. Sometimes snakes pretend to bite for protection, but actually, these are dry bites.

Snake can drink milk (s3)

Of the 348 respondents, 293 (84.2%) believed that snakes could drink milk as their food. This is the highest believed superstition among students, and the response significantly varied among sexes and internet usage of the students (Table 6). Female respondents (88.6%) believed this superstition more than males, and 87.3% of the respondents who do not use the internet believed this superstition.

Table 6. Superstitions practiced by respondents about snakes about the different demographic status

Superstitions variables	Yes, percentage, χ^2 , and p-value	Demographic variables										
		Age		Sex		Religion			Education		Internet	
		14-16	17-20	Male	Female	Islam	Sonaton	Christian	SSC	HSC	Yes	No
s1	Yes	56.1	47.6	40.1	59.7	51.3	54.1	33.3	56.3	48.6	35.1	57.8
	χ^2	2.438		13.012		0.497			1.878		14.454	
	P	0.118		0.000		0.780			0.171		0.000	
s2	Yes	63.1	48.2	44.9	62.2	55.5	51.4	33.3	65.6	48.6	32	63.7
	χ^2	7.715		10.252		0.799			9.432		28.548	
	P	0.005		0.001		0.671			0.002		0.000	
s3	Yes	82.8	85.3	78.2	88.6	84.4	83.8	66.7	89.1	81.4	76.3	87.3
	χ^2	0.417		6.803		0.709			3.604		6.318	
	P	0.518		0.009		0.702			0.058		0.012	
s4	Yes	54.1	57.1	51.7	58.7	55.8	59.5	0.0	57.8	54.5	47.4	59
	χ^2	0.299		1.689		3.987			0.350		3.778	
	P	0.584		0.194		0.136			0.554		0.052	
s5	Yes	10.8	19.9	19	13.4	16.6	10.8	0.0	12.5	17.7	21.6	13.5
	χ^2	5.324		2.012		1.388			1.662		3.453	
	P	0.021		0.156		0.500			0.197		0.063	

Respondents shared this traditional belief. People claim that snakes come to barns at night to drink milk from the cows. But, the myth is false and can easily be explained. Barns often attract rats, which are the primary food source of many snakes. Snakes come to predate rats, and if a farmer sees snakes around the barn on a day when milk production is low, he may believe this myth. Additionally, *Ojha* propagates the belief that snakes drink milk. Drinking milk is a religious belief established by the Hindus (Sonaton) as they use milk to shower *Shibmurti* (incarnate) during *Nagpuja* (a religious ritual). The myth of the *Naga* refers to heavenly snakes with numerous heads believed in both Hinduism and Buddhism (Wake 1873). However, when the snake is quite thirsty, it can be seen drinking any readily easily available liquid food, including milk. Pathak and Metgud (2017) study found that 76.25% (n= 305) of respondents offer milk to snakes brought by local snake charmers on the *Nag Panchami* festival.

Snake can take revenge if hurt (s4)

Among 348 respondents, 194 (55.7%) answered “yes” to the question that snakes can take revenge if hurt by anyone. The response was higher for tall, aged, female, Sonaton, less educated, and not using the internet but not significant with any demographic status (Table 6). People believe that snakes live in pairs, and if a man wounds one, the other can go for the same man and take revenge. These mottoes are practiced by people, especially in Bengali and Hindi mythical cinemas. Snakes cannot identify the same person; it is more likely to see snakes in pairs during the breeding season or if the habitat is suitable enough to support many snakes (Stanley 2008).

Snake has hair (*Dari*) on its skin (s5)

Only 55 students believe snakes have hair (*Dari*) on their skin (s5). This response varied significantly between the two age groups; 19.9% of high-aged students thought that snake has hair on its skin, whereas only 10.8% low

aged students believed this superstition. Snakes molt for growth, and some parts of the skin may be attached to the skin while molting. People of the study areas considered it hair (*Dari*), and *Ojha* keeps the molted skins to show people when they entertain them.

In conclusion, people usually think all snakes are venomous and fatal. Furthermore, they bear and practice many preconceptions, misconceptions, and misbeliefs about snakes. As a consequence, many people are frequently involved in killing snakes as well as destroying their habitats. Our study proves that many students perceive snakes as harmful and dangerous animals, and most students show antipathy. These perceptions encourage negative attitudes, especially related to the attempts to kill snakes whenever one is found. These negative attitudes can be a potential threat to snakes. This might be due to the lack of knowledge about these animals and conservation awareness. We found many unaware people who do not know about the role of snakes in the ecosystem, and we consider this one of the main reasons for killing snakes. The same situations occur in Bangladesh and different locations worldwide, making snakes among the most disliked animals (Opler 1945; Molander et al. 2012; Alves et al. 2014). Meanwhile, many students responded to positive aspects of snakes, highlighting their ecological and economic importance. This positive perception, in turn, may help for the conservation of snakes. Therefore, students, teachers, and local people should be encouraged to come forward to conserve snakes. Makashvili et al. (2014) showed that effective teaching and education with other approaches help reduce snake fear.

The severe increase in human population pressure and agricultural development in the northwestern Bangladesh region. As a result, further research and investigation of people's perceptions of snakes are needed to ensure that a threat category is not triggered in the future for the decline of the snake population. The benefit of wildlife, especially snakes, is increasingly recognized worldwide (Babalola et

al. 2020). Therefore, dissemination of public information and education about snakes, their value, and the consequences of human activities on local biodiversity are required (Alves et al. 2012b; Trombulak et al. 2004). This is because education can play a crucial role in informing people about organisms and the environment, which can help to develop more responsible attitudes towards animals (Kellert 1996). Snakes naturally prey on large amounts of insects and rodents, thus controlling their population and thus translating into economic benefits for the national economy (Zug 1993; Adeola 1992). All these facts suggest that conservation strategies for snakes should consider the interactions and perceptions of the local population towards this animal group. We addressed the respondents' major misbeliefs, misconceptions, preconceptions, and traditional beliefs. Therefore, our study has undoubtedly increased awareness among the respondents that may help develop responsible attitudes and behaviors, thus promoting the cessation of snake killing.

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Evaluation of ethnobotanical knowledge in Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape of Eastern Himalayan Region of India

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Abstract. Taram M, Borah D, Mipun P, Taram V, Das A.P. 2020. Evaluation of ethnobotanical knowledge in Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape of Eastern Himalayan Region of India. *Biodiversitas* 21: 70-87. The present study was aimed to document the traditional ethnobotanical knowledge in Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape of Upper Siang District in Arunachal Pradesh (Eastern Himalaya), India. Data was collected from three villages of Geku circle, Upper Siang District, between 2016-2019, covering more than 50% of the households using semi-structured questionnaires, personal interviews, focused group discussions, and transect walk with the core respondents. A total of 301 taxa falling in 203 genera and 85 families are recorded from the Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape (KABL), invariably used as food, medicine, and cultural material are directly and indirectly linked with livelihood security, community survival, protection, and preservation of the traditional culture and nature. Use value (UV) of all the reported species ranges between 0.017 and 0.051. 48 ethnomedicinal plant species were recorded, including herbs, shrubs, and trees, to cure 35 different ailments. Comparison of three other indices CI, RFC, and RI, indicating species ranking based on each index and the three fundamental values of the study, viz. FC, UR, and NU for each species were also calculated. *Urtica dioica*, *Solanum spirale*, *Paris polyphylla*, *Curcuma longa*, *Clerodendrum colebrookianum*, and *Begonia silletensis* are essential for treating different ailments by the community.

Keywords: Conservation ethics, ethnobotany, Komkar-Adi, quantitative approach, traditional knowledge

INTRODUCTION

The Himalayas, also referred to as 'the abode of snow,' is the youngest and the tallest mountain ranges in the world, running over 2400 km from Afghanistan to India (Arunachal Pradesh-Myanmar border), covering Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet Autonomous Region of China, providing shelter to diverse human cultures, floras, and faunas in its different parts (Das and Bera 2018). Due to a wide range of variations in altitude, aspect, and elements of overall climate, a widely diverse niche of vegetation is developed in its eastern part (E. Nepal to Arunachal Pradesh) and has become one of the essential biodiversity-rich areas in the world. These parts of the Indian Himalayas constitute many particular vegetation types depending upon the diverse combination of climatic and edaphic factors. The area covers the Northeastern states of India, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling part of West Bengal, and Sikkim. In terms of biodiversity, Arunachal Pradesh is the most diverse and most affluent in India, harboring about 50% of the country's flora, of which 4% are endemics (Borah et al. 2019).

Arunachal Pradesh hosts as many as 26 major tribes and 110 sub-tribes (Taram et al., 2018). Of them, the Adi, resident of the Siang valley, is one of the numerically more significant tribes comprising 26.9% of the total tribal

population of the state (Krithika et al., 2008). They have several sub-groups, living in different restricted small pockets of the Siang belt and are recognized as Ashing, Bokar, Bori, Karko, Komkar, Milang, Minyong, Simong, Padam, Pang, and Pasi (Boko and Narsimhan 2015). These sub-groups share similarities in almost every aspect; the only difference is their dialect.

People of the Komkar sub-group reside in a small group of villages at Rasing, Sijer, and Buksang of Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape under the Geku Circle in upper Siang District of the state. The major festivals of the Komkar people are *Solung*, *Aran (Unying)*, and *Etor*, which are similar to other sub-groups. 'Etor' is celebrated in May, related to community fencing of the village boundaries. A special war dance, 'Taapu,' is also performed, re-enacting the action of war, its glory details, and the triumphant cries of the warriors. The headgear worn for dancing is 'leb-ro' made of black fibers from the leaf-sheath of *Arenga obtusifolia (Tasat)*, a white coma of *Beaumontia grandiflora* dried stem pith of *Brassaiopsis glomerular* by the Komkar. Other sub-groups use different plant species for this purpose too. Hence, it is linked to the locally available species where a particular group lives long. However, apart from these, their customs remain the same, and all of them have inextricable links to the forest

resources for their regular sustenance and to meet their day-to-day needs.

Most of the available ethnobotanical publications have recorded primarily qualitative information/data, and such data were not verified through statistical analysis. Recently, many workers have applied quantitative methods in ethnobotany to assess the reliability of the information (Mipun et al., 2019). The concept of quantitative ethnobotany is relatively new, and the term itself was coined only in 1987 by Prance and his co-workers (Prance 1991). The technique is to directly analyze contemporary plants using data and understand how important these plants are to ethnic and indigenous cultures (Phillips and Gentry 1993). Such studies could advance the traditional approach by incorporating appropriate quantitative research methods in ethnobotanical data collection, processing, and interpretation (Hoft et al. 1999; Ong & Kim 2014; Teklehaymanot and Giday 2010). Quantitative ethnobotanical studies so far have been able to measure the various uses of the plants as food, veterinary medicine, remedies for human disease, and other economic values (Pieroni 2001; Upadhyay et al. 2011; Kim and Song 2013).

The ethnobotanical information is gathered by conducting surveys among the Adi-Komkar community; an appropriate quantitative method is applied to analyze the data that will help understand the importance of such data in the life/society of the people and will assist in framing appropriate strategies to manage the scientific base properly. It also attempts to document the traditional ethnobotanical knowledge of the Komkar people, a subgroup of the Adi community, which, it is expected, will record some new uses of known useful plants or the plants that were not recorded earlier ethnobotanically

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The study was conducted from 2016 to 2019 in Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape (three villages Rasing, Sijer, and Buksang) falling under the Geku Circle of Upper Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh. These villages are inhabited by the Komkar sub-group of the Adi tribe. The Adi's are known for their rich traditional knowledge in the whole state, as this tribe is widespread throughout a long belt of this Himalayan state. Each sub-group has adapted to their environment differently, using different plants for their requirements. Hence, it is urgent to document their traditional knowledge to safeguard their tribal heritage. Only three villages were selected because the population of Komkar people is not that high. Even today, they strictly adhere to their traditional cultures and customs, thereby offering the most harmonious society to study their traditional knowledge. The area is bounded east by Simong and Maryang, west by Karko and Pangkang, north by Yingkong, and in the south by Geku and Dite-dime villages.

The central coordinates of Komkar's inhabiting area are 28.464334° N and 95.091789° E with an elevation of c. 298 m a.m.s.l. The region enjoys a humid subtropical climate with wet summer and mild winter seasons, and the temperature ranges between 29.5°C and 17.7°C. The average annual rainfall is 2,972.7 mm. The vegetation type of the area is chiefly Subtropical; the dominant trees of the site are *Ostodes paniculata*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Rhus chinensis*, *Toxicodendron hookeri*, *Pterospermum acerifolium*, *Castanopsis indica*, *Erythrina stricta*, etc. Adi-Komkar people are primarily dependent on forests for most of their requirements (nutritional, cultural, and medicinal), whereas their primary occupation is agriculture (both humid and wetland cultivation). They mostly follow the old traditional faith and belief system often referred to as 'Donyi Polo.'

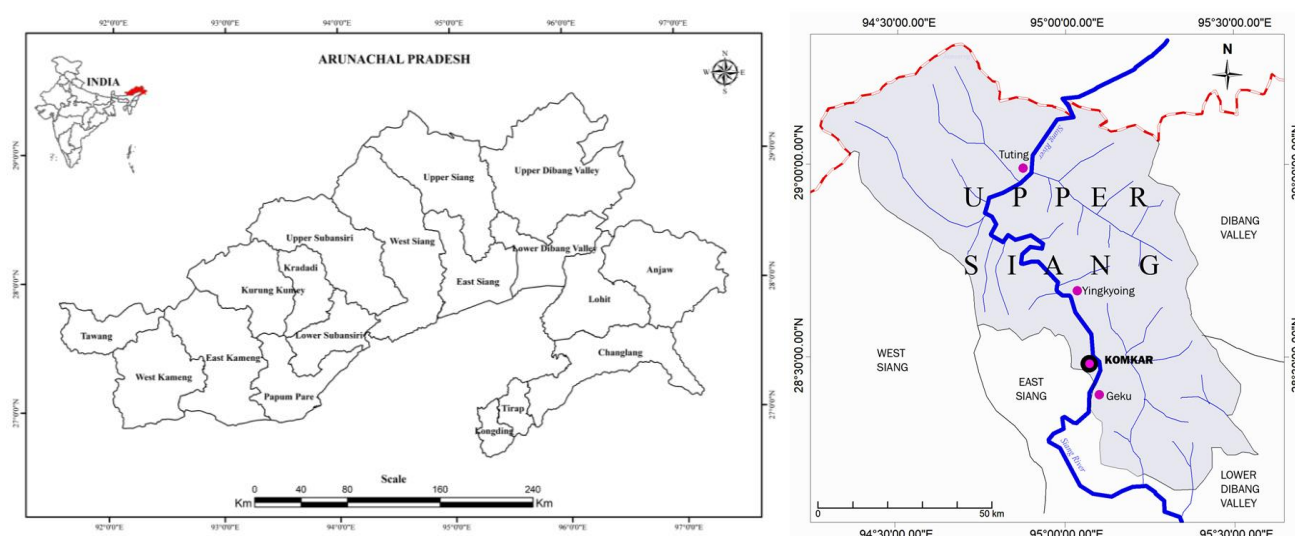


Figure 1. Location of Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape, Upper Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh, India

Data collection

A total of 41 respondents were interviewed from different households, falling into both the gender and different age-class categories [15-35 years, 35-60 years, and above 60 years]. The respondents were selected on their livelihood pattern and those who frequently access the forests, village heads, traditional healers, and aged people. Data was collected from the sample households through interviews using various participatory rural appraisal tools like semi-structured questionnaires, personal interviews, group discussions, and transect walks with the core respondents for field validation. The mandatory Prior Information Consents (PIC) were taken from the village/community heads. Voucher specimens were later identified using different literature (Kanjilal et al. 1934-1940; Hooker 1872-1897; Hajra et al. 1996; Giri et al. 2008; Chowdhery et al. 2009) and matched at ARUN and ASSAM Herbaria. The specimens will be deposited in the Herbarium of Arunachal University (HAU), Department of Botany, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh for future references.

Data analysis

Data collected was analyzed using three quantitative indices following Sharma et al. (2012) and Pardo-desantayana (2003) and are (i) Use value (UV), (ii) Relative Frequency of Citation (RFC), (iii) Relative Importance Index (RI) and (iv) Cultural Importance Index (CI).

UV is calculated using the following formula:

$$UV = U/n$$

Where U is the number of use reports cited by every respondent for a given species and n is the total number of respondents interviewed. The UV is high when there are many valuable reports for a given species, which implies that the taxa are essential. When there are few reports related to its use, the UV decreases.

Relative Frequency of Citation (RFC) is calculated using the following formula:

$$RFC = FCs/N$$

Where FC is the Frequency of Citation and N is the number of informants participating in the survey. This index ranges from 0-1; when the RFC index is 0, nobody refers to the plant as necessary, and 1 indicates that all informants in the survey refer to the plant as required.

Relative Importance Index (RI) is calculated using the following formula:

$$RI = [RFCs(max) + RNUs(max)]/2$$

Where RFCs is the relative frequency of citation over the maximum and RNUs is the close number of use categories over the top, viz., it is obtained by dividing the number of uses of the species (NUs) by the maximum value in all the species of the species, $[RNUs(max) = NUs/Max(NU)]$. The value ranges from 0-1; when the RI

index is 0, nobody mentions any use of the value. When the RI index is 1, the plant was the most frequently mentioned as useful in the maximum number of use categories.

Cultural Importance Index (CI) is calculated using the following formula:

$$CI = \sum_{u=1}^{U_{NC}} \sum_{i=1}^{iN} UR_{Ui/N}$$

For example, in the case of *Artemisia indica*, 25 informants out of 50 reported this species as useful in the general category, and there is no other use category. Hence, $CI_{A. indica} = 25/50 = 0.5$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

A total of 301 taxa falling in 203 genera and 85 families are used by the people of Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape (Table S1). Of which 93.36% (281) are angiosperms, pteridophytes 3.98% (12) and Fungi 2.66% (8). 235 taxa were native to the region, whereas 57 are exotics (POWO 2019).

Among the plant-parts used, fruits showed the highest frequency of uses (23.75 %), followed by leaves (19.35 %), tender shoots (11.43 %), whole plants (7.91 %), seeds (6.15 %), flowers (3.51 %), rhizome (3.22 %), fronds (2.93 %), stem (2.93 %), sporocarp (2.34 %), bark (2.05 %), culms (1.75 %), inflorescence (1.46 %), petiole (1.46 %), rootstocks (1.46 %), twigs (1.46 %), stem pith (1.17 %), tubers (1.17 %), endosperm (0.87 %), mid veins (0.87 %), corms (0.58 %), bulbils (0.29 %), calyx (0.29 %), leaf sheath (0.29 %), lignotuber (0.29 %), resin (0.29 %), roots (0.29 %) and sap (0.29 %).

Dividing into use categories, it was found that the majority of the plants fall under food (54.13%) followed by medicine (15.94%), rituals beliefs and customs (11.11%), household materials (4.84%), fishing (2.56%), hunting (2.56%), masticatory (2.56%), construction (2.27%), fodder (1.7%) and fencing (0.85%).

Considering the habit groups, the tree was the most dominant with 72 spp. (23.92 %), followed by annual herbs (58 spp., 19.26%), shrubs (45 taxa, 14.95%), perennial herb (40 spp., 13.28%), Geophytic herbs (17 spp., 5.64%), a shrubby climber (12 spp., 3.98%), liana (11 spp., 3.65%), an herbaceous climber (10 spp., 3.32%), fungal fruit body (8 spp., 2.65%), bamboo (7 spp., 2.32%), epiphytes (7 spp., 2.32%), suffrutescents (5 spp., 1.66%), palm (4 spp., 1.32%), geophytic climbers (3 spp., 0.99%), root parasite and stem parasite with one species each (0.33%). The surrounding vegetation was forest-dominated, which might have provided facilities to test more tree species. However, in open areas, along the forest margins, besides marshlands, around the settlements, etc., herbaceous plants are dominant, so, are coming easily into view and contact people and are mostly used.

Use value (UV) of all the reported species ranges between 0.017 and 0.051 (Table S1). The plants with the highest UV indicate species considered most important by

the Adi people for their repeated treatment use. And those species are conserved locally by following cultivation practices in their respective home gardens and community lands due to their high harvesting pressure. A total of 48 ethnomedicinal plant species, including herbs, shrubs, and trees, are used to cure 35 different ailments. *Solanum*

spirale is considered the most important as it predominates in the landscape and is mentioned by a higher number of informants (FC=52). Table 1 shows a comparison between three different indices CI, RFC, and RI, indicating species ranking based on each index and the three fundamental values of the study, viz. FC, UR, and NU for each species.

Table 1. Evaluation of plant species used in medicinal practices of the analyzed areas using CI, RFC, and RI quantitative indices

Botanical name	Basic values			Indices		
	FC	UR	NU	CI	RFC	RI
<i>Agapetes macrantha</i> var. <i>grandiflora</i>	15	15	1	0.26	0.26	0.27
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	30	50	3	0.86	0.52	0.66
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	15	22	2	0.38	0.26	0.39
<i>Arenga obtusifolia</i>	16	25	2	0.43	0.28	0.40
<i>Artemesia indica</i>	23	30	2	0.52	0.40	0.47
<i>Bambusa tulda</i>	33	48	4	0.83	0.57	0.82
<i>Begonia aborensis</i>	17	31	2	0.53	0.29	0.41
<i>Begonia griffithiana</i>	17	27	2	0.47	0.29	0.41
<i>Begonia silletensis</i>	36	55	2	0.95	0.62	0.60
<i>Blumea balsimifera</i>	28	32	2	0.55	0.48	0.52
<i>Brachystemma calycinum</i>	22	22	1	0.38	0.38	0.34
<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i>	25	40	2	0.69	0.43	0.49
<i>Centella Asiatica</i>	32	51	3	0.88	0.55	0.68
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	22	30	2	0.51	0.37	0.46
<i>Clerodendron colebrookeanum</i>	51	55	2	0.95	0.88	0.74
<i>Curcuma caesia</i>	20	33	2	0.57	0.34	0.44
<i>Curcuma longa</i>	45	55	2	0.95	0.78	0.68
<i>Cyclosorus parasiticus</i>	25	25	1	0.43	0.43	0.37
<i>Dendrocalamus hamiltonii</i>	36	52	3	0.90	0.62	0.72
<i>Dendrocnide sinuata</i>	37	51	2	0.88	0.64	0.61
<i>Euphorbia royleana</i>	34	49	2	0.84	0.59	0.58
<i>Garcinia pedunculata</i>	32	49	2	0.84	0.55	0.56
<i>Hedyotis scandens</i>	30	47	2	0.81	0.52	0.54
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	41	55	3	0.95	0.71	0.77
<i>Kaempferia galanga</i>	18	18	1	0.31	0.31	0.30
<i>Melotheria heterophylla</i>	28	45	3	0.78	0.48	0.64
<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	19	33	2	0.57	0.33	0.43
<i>Morus macroura</i>	22	30	2	0.52	0.38	0.46
<i>Neprolepsis cordifolia</i>	17	17	1	0.29	0.29	0.29
<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	40	45	2	0.78	0.69	0.63
<i>Oryza sativa</i>	26	37	2	0.64	0.45	0.50
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	20	20	1	0.34	0.34	0.32
<i>Paederia foetida</i>	36	54	2	0.93	0.62	0.60
<i>Paris polyphylla</i>	50	55	3	0.95	0.86	0.86
<i>Photos scandens</i>	31	33	2	0.57	0.53	0.55
<i>Phrynium pubinerve</i>	27	38	2	0.66	0.47	0.51
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	19	27	2	0.47	0.33	0.43
<i>Pueraria Montana</i>	13	21	2	0.36	0.22	0.38
<i>Rhus chinensis</i>	49	50	2	0.86	0.84	0.72
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	40	53	3	0.91	0.69	0.76
<i>Setaria italica</i>	10	16	2	0.28	0.17	0.35
<i>Solanum spirale</i>	52	53	2	0.91	0.90	0.75
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	35	52	2	0.90	0.60	0.59
<i>Solanum violaceum</i>	39	43	2	0.74	0.67	0.63
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	49	57	4	0.98	0.84	0.97
<i>Urtica parviflora</i>	15	15	1	0.26	0.26	0.27
<i>Zanthoxylum armatum</i>	36	46	2	0.79	0.62	0.60
<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	29	39	2	0.67	0.50	0.53
<i>Zingiber sianginensis</i>	28	35	3	0.60	0.48	0.64

According to the CI index, *Urtica dioica* is the most culturally significant, with a value of 0.98. Along with 49 citations (FC) and 57 use reports (UR). It is followed by *Paris polyphylla* with the CI of 0.94 (FC=50 and UR=55), *Houttuynia cordata* (CI=0.94, FC=51 and UR=55), *Curcuma longa* (CI=0.94, FC=45 and UR=55), *Clerodendrum colebrookeanum* (CI=0.94, FC=51 and UR=55) and *Begonia silletensis* (CI=0.94, FC=36 and UR=55). The highest RI value (0.97) of *Urtica dioica* signifies greater importance to its multiple uses, and the species was mentioned in a higher number of use categories (NU=4). The result found that *Urtica dioica*, *Solanum spirale*, *Paris polyphylla*, *Curcuma longa*, *Clerodendrum colebrookeanum*, and *Begonia silletensis* are largely used by the community in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

Discussion

The plants reported in this study is far more than the earlier studies conducted on the Adi tribe, residing in different regions of the Arunachal Pradesh by Tag et al. (2008); Srivastava and Adi community (2009); Yumnam et al. (2011); Boko et al. (2014); Kumar et al. (2015); Murtem and Chaudhry (2016); Bhuyan et al. (2017); Ayam et al. (2017); Jeyaprakash et al. (2017).

The dependence of these people on ethnobotanical resources may be due to their well-known health benefits or feeling the mere pleasure of gathering, recreation, and enjoying exquisite natural flavors (Pardo-de-Santayana et al., 2007). Their vast traditional knowledge of wild edible plants used by the community is time-tested, eco-friendly, and supportive of livelihood. Traditional knowledge of their ancestors regarding the food habits and the location of their settlements in biodiversity-rich remote Himalayan corners always provided natural resources for their survival. Also, the scarcity of cultivable land forced them to lead a lifestyle where they partially practiced agriculture and depended on available bioresources in their surroundings. It has been observed that among the 301 plants, more than half were used as different types. Some plants are commonly consumed by every household and have one or more types of uses, such as *Asystasiella neesiana*, *Deeringia amaranthoides*, *Dioscorea alata*, *Fagopyrum esculentum*, *Piper pedicellatum*, *Zanthoxylum oxyphyllum*, *Clerodendrum glandulosum*, *Arenga obtusifolia*, *Calamus Erectus*, and *Houttuynia cordata*. These essential plants represent the core of wild food plants for the people of Komkar-Adi Biocultural Landscape. This is because of the frequent distribution and easy availability in the region. The use of such fantastic resources for providing additional needs has also paved its way into the semi-domestication of some plants in their backyards and kitchen gardens. It includes *Fagopyrum esculentum*, *Piper pedicellatum*, *Clerodendrum colebrookeanum*, *Asystasiella neesiana*, *Deeringia amaranthoides*, *Arenga obtusifolia*, and *Houttuynia cordata*.

Ethno-medicines also play a vital role in the rugged terrains, where advanced medical facilities are not yet to be available. Their ethnomedicinal knowledge speaks of their medical history and common ailments. In the present study,

32% of the medicinal plants are reported to treat gastrointestinal disorders, nearly one-fourth of the total plants used by the whole of the Adi tribe (Kagyung et al., 2010). A total of 31 plant species has been recorded to treat a variety of disorders which is higher than the plants used by the Minyong sub-tribe as reported by Baruah et al. (2013) and far more than the total species recorded by Danggen et al. (2018), Gibji et al. (2012) for the Adi tribe of Eastern Himalaya. This study also recorded 9 species of ethnoveterinary knowledge used by the local healers.

A comparison with all the available literature related to the ethnobotanical resources of the Adi tribe (Mibang et al. 2003, Singh et al. 2007a, Singh et al. 2007b, Rethy et al. 2010, Khongsai et al. 2011, Nimasow et al. 2012, Payum et al. 2014, Chetry et al. 2018, Nanda et al. 2018) revealed that 19 plants (*Agapetes macrantha* var. *Grandiflora*, *Arenga obtusifolia*, *Begonia aborensis*, *Begonia acetosella*, *Begonia silletensis*, *Blumea balsamifera*, *Brachystemma calycinum*, *Dendrocnide sinuata*, *Kaempferia galanga*, *Morus macroura*, *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, *Oryza sativa*, *Phrynium pubinerve*, *Rhus Chinensis*, *Setaria italica*, *Solanum violaceum*, *Solena heterophylla*, *Urtica ardens*, and *Urtica dioica*) are a new record for ethnomedicinal uses by the tribe. Four species (*Ageratum conyzoides*, *Ageratum houstonianum*, *Bryophyllum pinnatum*, and *Solanum spirale*) are new records for medicinal uses against different ailments. Another two species (*Euphorbia royleana* and *Nicotiana tabacum*) are reported as new for ethnoveterinary user benefits. Calculating the quantitative indices found *Urtica dioica*, *Solanum spirale*, *Paris polyphylla*, *Curcuma longa*, *Clerodendrum colebrookeanum*, and *Begonia silletensis* are the most important plant species used by the Komkar Adi in the treatment of various ailments. More work needs to be done on those particular plants with higher values to validate their traditional medicinal uses and check their bioactive constituents for further drug development. This type of study could open a new path for future pharmacological research, serving as a reference for dealing with the rich ethnobotanical knowledge of diverse ethnolinguistic indigenous groups.

It is also observed that exotic elements such as *Bidens pilosa*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Nasturtium microphyllum*, *Erigeron Canadensis*, etc. have gradually entered into the traditional knowledge livelihood system of the Komkar-Adi, as food and medicine.

Hunting and fishing have played a vital role in the lifestyle of tribal people. Apart from their protein needs, it has always been a favorite pastime for youths. Since time memorial, they have been using innovative techniques and traps. A total of 18 plants is recorded here used in their traditional ways of fishing and hunting, either as baits, as poison, adhesive, etc., which is half the number of species reported by Yumnam and Tripathi (2013) for the entire Adi community.

Some plants or groups are sometimes given particular importance due to their long history of extensive use. Bamboos are part and parcel of the life of Adi people and are used in innumerable ways. Sharma and Borthakur (2008) reported different benefits of 15 species of bamboos by the whole Adi community, twice the number (8 spp.)

reported in the present study. Similarly, for the wild or local species of *Allium*, as many as 9 species are known to occur in the region (Devi et al. 2014), and the Adi-Komkar community is using only 2 of them.

Traditional knowledge also became important in their art of living. Different phenophases of some plants are found to use as biological indicators. For example, flowering and fruiting of many plants embark seasons, acting as biological indicators. The Adi people are primarily agricultural. *Capparis multiflora* and *Melastoma malabathricum* blooms in April, and that flag-off the time to broadcast paddy seeds. Similarly, the blooming of *Erythrina stricta* indicates the time for cultivating different types of beans in the region. The shift in the phenology of such plants primarily due to climatic imbalance causes damage to their livelihood crops.

The Adi people are primarily followers of Donyi-Polo (the Sun and Moon), where they keep faith in Nature like God. Hence, Nature and its associated myths play a vital part in their rural lifestyle. Since time immemorial, the Komkar-Adi have lived in complete harmony with plants while harvesting their daily minimum requirements from the forest for their survival. The example of the erection of gates along the village boundary with the long and spreading fronds of *Cyathea gigantea* for controlling the spread of infectious diseases is one such example. They firmly believe that the tree fern possesses divine power that ensures the community's security, health, and prosperity. Such plants are not frequently harvested except for ritual purposes. This idea underlies the conservation ethics of the communities associated with many plant species, including the tree-ferns, due to their close association with nature.

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Table S1. List of ethnobotanicals used by the Adi-Komkar tribe in Arunachal Pradesh, India

[Abbreviations used: **Habit:** B: Bamboo; HA: Annual Herb; HG: Geophytic Herb; HP: Perennial Herb; CG: Geophytic Climber; CH: Herbaceous Climber; CS: Shrubby Climber; E: Epiphyte; FB: Fungal fruit-body; L: Liana; P: Palm; PR: Root Parasite; PS: Stem Parasite; Sf: Suffrutescent; S: Shrub; T: Tree. **Uses** F: Food; M: Medicine; H: Hunting; Fh: Fishing; RBC: Rituals, beliefs, and Customs; O: Others; C: Construction; HHM: House Hold Materials; Fd: Fodder; Mst: Masticatory; Fn: Fence. **Plant Parts used:** Br: Bark; Bu: Bulbil; Cm: Culm; Cr: Corm; Cy: Calyx; En: Endosperm; Fl: Flower; Fn: Frond; Fr: Fruit; In: Inflorescence; Lf: Leaf; Lsp: Leaf-sheath powder; Lt: Lignotuber; Lx: Latex; Pt: Petiole; Re: Resin; Rh: Rhizome; Rs: Tuberous Root Stock; Rt: Root; Sa: Sap; Sd: Seed; Sp: Stem pith; St: Stem; Ts: Tender Shoot; Tu: Tuber; Tw: Twig; Vn: Vein; Wh: Whole plant. **Distribution:** E: Exotic; N: Native; -: not known.]

Botanical name [Family]; Voucher specimen	Adi-Komkar name	Habit	Part used	Used and application	Distribution	Use value (UV)
<i>Acacia rugata</i> (Lam.) Fawc. & Rendle [Fabaceae]; MT-1501	<i>Ramgir taang</i>	L	Br	Fh: Paste mixed in water to stupefy fishes	N	0.017
<i>Acmella oleracea</i> (L.) R.K. Jansen [Asteraceae]; MT-1507	<i>Marshang</i>	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Acmella paniculata</i> (Wall.ex DC.) R.K. Jansen [Asteraceae]; MT-1528	<i>Marshang-haali</i>	HA	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Aconitum ferox</i> Wall. ex Ser. [Ranunculaceae]; MT-1506	<i>Eemo</i>	HP	Rh	H: Poisoning arrowheads for hunting	N	0.017
<i>Actephila excelsa</i> (Dalzell) Mull.Arg [Phyllanthaceae]; MT-1508	<i>Kamtar-oying</i>	S	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Aeschynanthus parasiticus</i> C.B. Clarke [Gesneriaceae]; MT-1503	<i>Epom marsi</i>	E	Fl	RBC: believed to be of Jungle spirit's property	N	0.017
<i>Aeschynanthus micranthus</i> C.B. Clarke [Gesneriaceae]; MT-1504	<i>Epom marsi</i>	E	Fl	RBC: believed to be of Jungle spirit's property	N	0.017
<i>Aeschynanthus monetarius</i> Dunn [Gesneriaceae]; MT-1811	<i>Epom marsi</i>	E	Fl	RBC: It is believed to be of Jungle spirits property	N	0.017
<i>Aeschynanthus novogracilis</i> W.T.Wang	<i>Epom marsi</i>	E	Fl	RBC: believed to be Jungle spirit's property [spirit's use red flowers as their chili. 'Epom' means jungle spirit; 'Marsi' means chili]	N	0.017
[<i>A. gracilis</i> C.S.P.Paris ex C.B Clarke] [Gesneriaceae]; MT-1505						
<i>Agapetes macrantha</i> var. <i>grandiflora</i> (Hook.f.) D.Banik & Sanjappa [Ericaceae]; MT-1502	<i>Asi ponying</i>	CS	Fl, Lt	F: Flowers edible; M: Paste of lignotuber given topically to treat snake bite	N	0.034
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> (L.) L. [Asteraceae]; MT-1509	<i>Namsing eeing/ Migom Dumpu</i>	HA	Lf	M: Paste applied topically for cuts and wounds; juice gave orally in malaria	E	0.017
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> Mill. [Asteraceae]; MT-1734	<i>Namsing eeing/ Migom Dumpu</i>	HA	Lf	Paste applied topically on cuts and wounds to clot blood	E	0.017
<i>Albizia odoratissima</i> (L.f.) Benth. [Fabaceae]; MT-1550	<i>Tatkung</i>	T	St	C: Trunk to make mortar for traditional paddy de-husking (<i>Kii-par</i>)	N	0.017
<i>Allium chinense</i> G.Don [Amaryllidaceae]; MT-1573	<i>Talab/ dilab</i>	HA	Wh	F: Whole plants edible; RBC: crushed bulb applied on body as protection from snakes and wandering soul	E	0.034
<i>Allium hookeri</i> Thwaites [Amaryllidaceae]; MT-1634	<i>Disa talab/ byakung</i>	HP	Lf, Rt	F: Leaves edible; RBC: roots taken as a necklace during a local festival, believes that will protect them from infectious diseases	N	0.034
<i>Alocasia macrorrhizos</i> (L.) G.Don [Araceae]; MT-1605	<i>Ruksin</i>	HP	Wh	Fd: Cooked with paddy husk for pigs	E	0.017
<i>Alpinia nigra</i> (Gaertn.) Burt [Zingiberaceae]; MT3110	<i>Gumba-bera</i>	HG	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Alpinia roxburghii</i> Sweet [Zingiberaceae]; MT-1683	<i>Gumba-bera</i>	HG	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Altingia excelsa</i> Noronha [Altingiaceae]; MT-1692	<i>Hiri/siri</i>	T	Tw	RBC: With belief, twigs are tied to pillars to strengthen the roof	N	0.017
<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L. [Amaranthaceae]; MT-1565	<i>Tapi-pilee</i>	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L. [Amaranthaceae]; MT-1564	<i>Tapi-pilee</i>	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017

<i>Amomum pterocarpum</i> Thwaites [Zingiberaceae]; MT-1578	<i>Taje</i> (plant), <i>Jepo</i> (Inflorescences)	HG	In	F: Cooked as vegetable and in salad	N	0.017
<i>Amomum subulatum</i> Roxb. [Zingiberaceae]; MT-1592	<i>Taaling liite</i>	HG	Ts, Sd	F: Tender shoot and aromatic seeds edible	N	0.017
<i>Amorphophallus kachinensis</i> Engl. & Gehrm. [Araceae]; MT-1587	<i>Tabi eeging</i>	HG	Cr	H: Preparation of bait for rodents and birds	E	0.017
<i>Aralia armata</i> (Wall. ex G. Don) Seem. [Araliaceae]; MT-1552	<i>Tataterang</i>	T	Ts	F: Edible	N	0.017
<i>Ardisia solanacea</i> (Poir.) Roxb. [Primulaceae]; MT-1680	<i>Go-yakpin</i>	S	Lf	F: Young ones edible	N	0.017
<i>Arenga obtusifolia</i> Mart. [Arecaceae]; MT-1557	<i>Tasat</i>	P	Sp, Vn, LSP	Fd: Stem pith and leaves as fodder for pigs and cattle; HHM: Prepare broom with mid-vein of leaf pinnae; black fibers from leaf-sheath used to prepare local hats (<i>Leb-ro</i>), backpack (<i>Tali</i>) cover and broom; M: brown powder of leaf sheath applied topically on cuts and wounds for quick healing	E	0.051
<i>Artemisia indica</i> Willd. [Asteraceae]; MT-1646	<i>Eetki-daali</i>	Sf	Lf, Tw	M: Leaf-paste took orally in stomach disorder; RBC: twigs used in rituals performing on funeral	N	0.034
<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam. [Moraceae]; MT-1625	<i>Belang</i>	T	St	C: Trunk suitable for house-poles, big mortar (<i>Kipar</i>), and pestles (<i>Eeging</i>) for paddy dehusking	N	0.051
<i>Artocarpus lacucha</i> Buch.Ham. [Moraceae]; MT-1779	<i>Raami</i>	T	Fr	F: Taken raw when ripe, sour	N	0.017
<i>Asystasiella neesiana</i> (Wall.) Lindau [Acanthaceae]; MT-1742	<i>Obul</i>	HP	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i> (Bull.) J.Schrot [Auriculariaceae]; MT-1717	<i>Koko-nyorung</i>	FB	FB	F: Cooked and eaten	-	0.017
<i>Auricularia polytricha</i> (Mont.) Sacc. [Auriculariaceae]; MT-1718	<i>Koko-nyorung</i>	FB	FB	F: Cooked and eaten	-	0.017
<i>Baccaurea ramiflora</i> Lour. [Phyllanthaceae]; MT-1629	<i>Bureng</i>	T	Sd	F: Aril on seeds edible	N	0.017
<i>Balanophora dioica</i> R.Br. ex Royle [Balanophoraceae]; MT-1558	<i>Taruk-langkaer</i>	PR	Rh	Mst: Chewed as chewing gum	N	0.017
<i>Bambusa tulda</i> Roxb. [Poaceae]; MT-1631	<i>Dibang</i>	HP	Ts, Cm	F: Young shoots edible; M: fermented shoot used topically in inflammation, burns, and insect bites; HHM: culms for handicraft and construction	N	0.051
<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> L. [Fabaceae]; MT-3100	<i>Ogok</i>	T	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L. [Fabaceae]; MT-1745	<i>Ogok</i>	T	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Beaumontia grandiflora</i> Wall. [Apocynaceae]; MT-1636	<i>Dongko-riyo</i>	L	Sd	RBC: To decorate traditional hats “ <i>Leebro</i> ”-worn during war dance (<i>Taapu</i>)	N	0.017
<i>Begonia aborensis</i> Dunn [Begoniaceae]; MT-1595	<i>Sisibaying</i>	HP	Pt	F: Eaten raw; M: Dizziness, headache: eaten raw	N	0.034
<i>Begonia acetosella</i> Craib [Begoniaceae]; MT-1638	<i>Dumbo-leepang</i>	HP	Pt	F: Eaten raw, sour; M: Eaten raw against dizziness and headache	N	0.034
<i>Begonia palmata</i> D.Don [Begoniaceae]; MT-1639	<i>Dumbo-lepang</i>	HP	Pt	F: Eaten, sour	N	0.017
<i>Begonia roxburghii</i> A.DC. [Begoniaceae]; MT-1594	<i>Sisibaying</i>	HP		do-	N	0.017
<i>Begonia silhetensis</i> (A.DC.) C.B. Clarke [Begoniaceae]; MT-3101	<i>Sisibaying</i>	HP	Pt	F: Eaten raw, sour; M: Also eaten raw against dizziness and headache	N	0.034
<i>Benincasa hispida</i> (Thunb.) Cogn. [Cucurbitaceae]; MT-1765	<i>Pau/ paar</i>	CH	Fr	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Bidens pilosa</i> L. [Asteraceae]; MT-1553	<i>Tasso-lepyo</i>	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Blumea balsamifera</i> (L.) DC. [Asteraceae]; MT-1655	<i>Eyok aain</i>	HA	Lf	M: crushed paste mixed with fresh dung of <i>Bos frontalis</i> and clean water from natural spring is applied on the forehead to treat malaria	N	0.017
<i>Boehmeria penduliflora</i> Wedd. ex D.G.Long [Urticaceae]; MT-1740	<i>Nyot-kyang</i>	S	Lf	Fd: Fodder for <i>Bos frontalis</i>	N	0.017

<i>Boehmeria pilosiuscula</i> (Blume) Hassk. [Urticaceae]; MT-1739	<i>Nyot-kyang</i>	S	Lf	Fd: Fodder for <i>Bos frontalis</i>	N	0.017
<i>Boeica fulva</i> C.B. Clarke [Gesneriaceae]; MT-1704	<i>Jongkot</i>	S	Lf	Mst: Chewed raw as a substitute for betel leaves	N	0.017
<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L. [Malvaceae]; MT-1699	<i>Hingyo gyomur</i>	T	Fr	HHM: Seed floss as stuffing material for pillows	N	0.017
<i>Brachystemma calycinum</i> D. Don [Caryophyllaceae]; MT-1746	<i>Okin-parin</i>	HA	Lf	Packed in <i>Phrynium pubinerve</i> leaves, warmed and locally applied cure cracked sole	N	0.017
<i>Brassaiopsis glomerulata</i> (Blume) Regel [Araliaceae]; MT-1579	<i>Tagor</i>	T	Sp	RBC: Dried pith cut into small square blocks to decorate traditional hat “ <i>Leebro</i> ”, -worn during war dance (<i>Taapu</i>)	N	0.017
<i>Brassica juncea</i> (L.) Czern [Brassicaceae]; MT-1791	<i>Pettu</i>	HA	Sd	RBC: Burnt to protect the home from evil forces	E	0.017
<i>Brassica nigra</i> (L.) K.Koch [Brassicaceae]; MT-1771	<i>Pettu tulang</i>	HA	Sd	RBC: Burnt to protect the home from evil forces	E	0.017
<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i> (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) Sweet [Solanaceae]; MT-1546	<i>Toti</i>	S	Wh	Fc: To barricade against trespassing of animals through paddy field [plants poisonous, so animals so avoid going near it]	E	0.017
<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i> (Lam.) Oken [<i>Kalanchoe pinnata</i> (Lam.) Pers.] [Crassulaceae]; MT-1650	<i>Eme kusureng</i>	HP	Lf	M: Sap applied on burns and inflammation	E	0.017
<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (L.) Millsp. [Fabaceae]; MT-1769	<i>Peradh</i>	S	Sd	F: Cooked as pulse	N	0.017
<i>Calamus erectus</i> Roxb. [Arecaceae]; MT-1562	<i>Tara</i>	L	Ts, Fr, Lf, St	F: Raw as well as roasted tender shoots edible; fruits sour; C: Leaves for thatching; HHM: Stem to prepare local handicrafts	N	0.051
<i>Calamus flagellum</i> Griff. ex Mart. [Arecaceae]; MT-1541	<i>Yoyi</i>	L	Ts, Fr, St	F: Tender shoots and ripe fruits edible; HHM: Prickly smoked stem used as a grinder	N	0.034
<i>Callicarpa arborea</i> Roxb. [Lamiaceae]; MT-3102	<i>Lalu</i>	T	Br	Mst: Bark has chewed with <i>Rubus moluccanus</i> leaves as a substitute for betel nut	N	0.017
<i>Canarium strictum</i> Roxb. [Burseraceae]; MT-1687	<i>Hilum</i>	T	Fr, Re	F: Fruits edible; O (MR): dry resin as fragrant incense or as mosquito repellent	N	0.034
<i>Canna indica</i> L. [<i>C. edulis</i> Ker Gawl.], [Cannaceae]; MT-1707	<i>Kampir eengin</i>	HP	Rh	F: Cooked and eaten	N	0.017
<i>Capparis multiflora</i> Hook. f. & Thomson [Capparaceae]; MT-1776	<i>Remsap</i>	CS	Fl	RBC: Its blooming indicate the time for paddy transplantation	N	0.017
<i>Capsicum frutescens</i> L. [Solanaceae]; MT-1767	<i>Peepit marsi</i>	HP	Fr	F: As spice in different food preparations	E	0.017
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> L. [Brassicaceae]; MT-1751	<i>Oram-petsik</i>	HA	Wh	F: Cooked as a green vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Carex baccans</i> Nees [Cyperaceae]; MT-1677	<i>Gemin-taabeng/tapok</i>	HP	Wh	RBC: Believed that <i>Carexbaccans</i> and <i>Saccharum aruninaceum</i> came from the same ancestor, so they use whole plants together in funeral rituals	N	0.017
<i>Caryota urens</i> L. [Arecaceae]; MT-1570	<i>Tamak</i>	P	St	HHM: Split stem used for making traditional weaving sword shape material (<i>Sumpa</i>) and hunting equipment	N	0.017
<i>Casearia vareca</i> Roxb. [Salicaceae]; MT-1597	<i>Sipe-siile</i>	S	Fr	H: Ripe ones used as bait in the traditional trap (<i>Etku</i>) to hunt birds and rodents	N	0.017
<i>Castanopsis indica</i> (Roxb. ex Lindl.) A.DC. [Fagaceae]; MT-1602	<i>Siirang</i>	T	En	F: Endosperm eaten raw or roasted	N	0.017
<i>Castanopsis purpurella</i> (Miq.) N.P.Balakr. [Fagaceae]; MT-1618	<i>Angke</i>	T	En	F: Endosperm eaten raw or roasted	N	0.017
<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urb. [Apiaceae]; MT-1711	<i>Kiiling kiipum</i>	HA	Wh	M: Plant paste is taken orally to treat gastrointestinal disorder	N	0.017
<i>Chassalia curviflora</i> var. <i>ophioxylodes</i> (Wall) Deb & B.Krishna [Rubiaceae]; MT-1724	<i>Longkin/ sityung oying</i>	S	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L. [Amaranthaceae]; MT-1700	<i>Jili-mili</i>	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Chenopodium giganteum</i> D.Don [Amaranthaceae]; MT-1616	<i>Amateng</i>	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017

<i>Choerospondias axillaris</i> (Roxb.) B.L.Burt & A.W.Hill [Anacardiaceae]; MT-1529	<i>Belam</i>	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones sweet and edible; H: Also used as bait for hunting deer	N	0.034
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (L.) R.M.King & H.Rob. [Asteraceae]; MT-1695	<i>Inگیر</i>	Sf	Lf	Paste applied on cuts as a hemostat	E	0.017
<i>Cinnamomum bejolghota</i> (Buch.-Ham.) Sweet [Lauraceae]; MT-1690	<i>Hipir ayin</i>	T	Fr	F: Young ones steamed as chutney	N	0.017
<i>Cinnamomum verum</i> J.Presl [Lauraceae]; MT-1596	<i>Siri pori</i>	T	Br	F: Aromatic bark as a spice	E	0.017
<i>Citrus × aurantium</i> L. [Rutaceae]; MT-1715	<i>Kintirang</i>	T	Fr, Sd	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, sweet; H: Seeds as bait in traditional hunting trap (<i>Eetku</i>) for rodents	E	0.034
<i>Citrus indica</i> Yu. Tanaka [Rutaceae]; MT-1681	<i>Goyeng-hingkiin</i>	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones sour, taken raw	N	0.017
<i>Citrus latipes</i> (Swingle) Yu.Tanaka [Rutaceae]; MT-1809	<i>Hinnong/hingkom</i>	T	Fr	F: Taken raw, sour,	N	0.017
<i>Citrus maxima</i> (Burm.) Merr. [Rutaceae]; MT-1714	<i>Kintee</i>	T	Fr, Tw	F: Ripe ones eaten raw; RBC: Twigs used in rituals done for health and prosperity and to restrict negative forces	N	0.034
<i>Citrus medica</i> L. [Rutaceae]; MT-1688	<i>Hingkom</i>	S	Fr	F: Taken raw, sour	N	0.017
<i>Clathrus ruber</i> P.Micheli ex pers. [Phallaceae]; MT-1518	<i>Memut-taput</i>	F	FB	Their bizarre looks signify an evil nature	-	0.017
<i>Clerodendrum colebrookeanum</i> Walp [Lamiaceae]; MT-1517	<i>Ongin</i>	S	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable; M: In hypotension and cough: cooked and eaten	N	0.034
<i>Coix lacryma-jobi</i> L. [Poaceae]; MT-1805	<i>Ayak</i>	HA	Sd	F: Fermented <i>Nokyin</i> is prepared from self-made yeast 'siye.	N	0.017
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott [Araceae]; MT-1651	<i>Enge</i> (corm); <i>Ngerek/ ngekong</i> (tender leaf)	HP	Cr, Lf	F: Corm and young leaves cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Corchorus capsularis</i> L. [Malvaceae]; MT-1516	<i>Olab</i>	HA	Lf	F: Taken cooked as vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Cordia dichotoma</i> G.Forst [Boraginaceae]; MT-1514	<i>Jongge</i>	T	Fr	O: Sticky mesocarp as glue for light materials like paper	N	0.017
<i>Crassocephalum crepidioides</i> (Benth.) S.Moore [Asteraceae]; MT-1515	<i>Eeli</i>	HA	Ts	F: Taken cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Cucumis melo</i> L. [Cucurbitaceae]; MT-1513	<i>Mari</i>	CH	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duchesne [Cucurbitaceae]; MT-1512	<i>Tapa</i> (fruit); <i>Payin</i> (tender shoot)	CH	Fr, Ts	F: Cooked and served as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Curcuma caesia</i> Roxb. [Zingiberaceae]; MT-1510	<i>Kala haaldi</i>	HP	Rh	M: Raw paste in water taken internally in empty stomach to cure acidity and gastritis	N	0.017
<i>Curcuma longa</i> L. [Zingiberaceae]; MT-1511	<i>Haaldi</i>	HP	Rh	M: Paste of rhizome is applied on the incision during vasectomy and tubectomy of cattle and even for bone fracture	N	0.017
<i>Cyathea gigantea</i> (Wall. ex Hook.) Holttum [Alsophila gigantea Wall. ex Hook.] [Cyatheaceae]; MT-1519	<i>Ngepi</i>	T	Fn	RBC: Believe that gates prepared with these fronds prevent the spread of infectious diseases inside the boundary	N	0.017
<i>Cyathea spinulosa</i> Wall. ex Hook. [Alsophila spinulosa (Wall. ex Hook.) R.M.Tryon [Cyatheaceae]; MT-1554	<i>Tasse</i>	T	Sp	F: Taken as a famine food	N	0.017
<i>Debregeasia longifolia</i> (Burm.f.) Wedd. [Urticaceae]; MT-1741	<i>Nyot-kyang</i>	S	Lf	Fd: Fodder for <i>Bos frontalis</i>	N	0.017
<i>Deeringia amaranthoides</i> (Lam.) Merr. [Amaranthaceae]; MT-1747	<i>Oko-libo</i>	CS	Ts	F: Cooked and served as a vegetable	N	0.017

<i>Dendrocalamus giganteus</i> Munro [Poaceae]; MT-1653	<i>Epo</i>	B	Cm, Ts	HHM: Making traditional utensils: jug (<i>Pekak</i>), plate (<i>Ekung</i>), spoon (<i>Penyo</i>), filtering local beverages <i>Kaksur</i> and <i>Apong</i> ; C: making house-floor (<i>Tasut</i>); F: Tender shoot cooked as a vegetable or preserved as fermented food items like ' <i>Ikung</i> ' and ' <i>Eyub</i> .'	N	0.051
<i>Dendrocalamus hamiltonii</i> Nees & Arn. ex Munro [Poaceae]; MT-1643	<i>Eemo</i> (plant), <i>Etiing</i> (young shoot); <i>Ekung</i> (fermented shoot)	B	Ts, Cm	F: Young shoots edible, fermented bamboo-shoot (<i>Ekung</i>), dried fermented-shoot (<i>Eyub</i>); M: fermented shoots applied on burns and insect bites; HHM: culms used for handicraft and construction	N	0.051
<i>Dendrocnide sinuata</i> (Blume) Chew [Urticaceae]; MT-1762	<i>Pantu tarung</i>	S	Lf	M: Infected wounds of <i>Bos frontalis</i> is beaten with its leaves (covered with stinging hairs) to kill infecting organisms	N	0.017
<i>Dicranopteris linearis</i> (Burm.f.) Underw. [Gleicheniaceae]; MT-1559	<i>Tarong</i>	HP	Pl	RBC: Long petioles decomposed under mud, fibrous pith will turn dark blue and used as a belt (<i>Beying</i>), anklets, and bangles (<i>Kongge</i>) in earlier times	N	0.017
<i>Dillenia indica</i> L. [Dilleniaceae]; MT-1593	<i>Sompa</i>	T	Cy	F: Acrescent calyx eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Dimetia scandens</i> (Roxb.) R.J.Wang [Rubiaceae]; MT-1697	<i>Inkip-inkop</i>	CH	Ts, Tu	F: Cooked as a vegetable; M: Tubers used for curing gastrointestinal disorders	N	0.034
<i>Dinochloa maclellandii</i> (Munro) Kurz [Poaceae]; MT-1581	<i>Tagir</i>	B	Cm	C: Culm used as a rope to tie roofing leaves (<i>Ekap</i>) with the supporting pillars (<i>Papir</i>); HHM: Household articles; RBC: Rituals in ceremonies related to health issues	N	0.051
<i>Dioscorea alata</i> L. [Dioscoreaceae]; MT-1778	<i>Ramet</i>	CG	Rs	F: Tuberous and served cooked as a vegetable or roasted	N	0.017
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> L. [Dioscoreaceae]; MT-1652	<i>Engin</i>	CG	Rs	F: Tuberous and served cooked as a vegetable or roasted	N	0.017
<i>Dioscorea esculenta</i> (Lour.) Burkill [Dioscoreaceae]; MT-1832	<i>Ramet</i>	CH	Rs	F: Tuberous and served cooked as a vegetable or roasted	N	0.017
<i>Dioscorea pentaphylla</i> L. [Dioscoreaceae]; MT-1544	<i>Uli</i>	CG	Bu	F: Roasted to eat	N	0.017
<i>Diplazium esculentum</i> (Retz.) Sw. [Athyriaceae]; MT-1577	<i>Takang</i>	HP	Fn	F: Young ones cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Duabanga grandiflora</i> (DC.) Walp. [Lythraceae]; MT-1716	<i>Kobo</i>	T	St	C: Used as poles	N	0.017
<i>Duchesnea indica</i> (Jacks.) Focke [Rosaceae]; MT-1648	<i>Eki-tangkin</i>	HA	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, watery	N	0.017
<i>Elatostema dissectum</i> Wedd. [Urticaceae]; MT-1825	<i>Onu</i>	HA	Ts	F: Eaten as salad or cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Eleusine coracana</i> (L.) Gaertn. [Poaceae]; MT-1730	<i>Mirung</i>	HA	Sd	RBC: Burnt in fire or spread on the floor to scare the evil spirits	E	0.017
<i>Entada parvifolia</i> Merr. [Fabaceae]; MT-1774	<i>Riilok</i>	L	Br	O: Paste worked as a soap	E	0.017
<i>Entada phaseoloides</i> (L.) Merr. [Fabaceae]; MT-1773	<i>Ripik</i>	L	Br	Fh: Root-bark used for stupefying fishes	N	0.017
<i>Equisetum diffusum</i> D.Don [Equisetaceae]; MT-1603	<i>Sedum tapum/sisi dangki</i>	HP	Wh	RBC: In rituals related to health and prosperity	N	0.017
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i> L. [Asteraceae]; MT-1696	<i>Ingko-bodong</i>	HA	Ts	F: Cooked and served as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Eryngium foetidum</i> L. [Apiaceae]; MT-1614	<i>Ritak /Migom ori</i>	HP	Lf	F: Added to prepared food and salad for flavoring	E	0.017
<i>Erythrina stricta</i> Roxb. [Fabaceae]; MT-1582	<i>Tagat</i> (Nonflowering state), <i>Galling Appun</i> (Blomming state)	T	Wh	RBC: Beliefs, plant forms a boundary between human beings and souls; mostly planted near graveyards so that the departed soul leave the village and move forward for the spiritual world and its blooming of the flower indicates the time for broadcasting bean seeds	N	0.017

<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> Willd. Ex Klotzsch [Euphorbiaceae]; MT-1838 -		S	Wh	Fc: Used as barricades for trespassing animals in the paddy field, animals avoid it for its poisonous nature. Also, its showy bracts add to the beauty	E	0.017
<i>Euphorbia royleana</i> Boiss. [Euphorbiaceae]; MT-1630	Byakok	S	Lx	M: Latex is pasted with <i>Nicotiana tabaccum</i> leaves to apply on infected wounds of cattle	N	0.017
<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> Moench [Polygonaceae]; MT-1723	Lompuk	HA	Lf	F: Young leaves as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Ficus auriculata</i> Lour. [Moraceae]; MT-1756	Paapop	T	Fr	F: Ripe hypanthodia and tender shoots edible	N	0.017
<i>Ficus crassiramea</i> (Miq.) Miq. [Moraceae]; MT-1601	Sirot	T	Wh	RBC: Beliefs, jungle spirit live on this tree, so people do not cut the tree, if they cut it then jungle spirit will get angry and harm the villagers	E	0.017
<i>Ficus geocarpa</i> Teijsm. Ex. Miq. [Moraceae]; MT-1641	Ee berii	T	Fr	F: Ripe hypanthodia edible, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Ficus heteropleura</i> Blume [Moraceae]; MT-1790	-	T	Fr	H: Ripe hypanthodia used as bait for birds	N	0.017
<i>Ficus hispida</i> L.f. [Moraceae]; MT-1764	Pasuk-payuk/eki tapang	T	Lf	F: Cooked and mixed with soya beans for quick fermentation	N	0.017
<i>Ficus oligodon</i> Miq. [Moraceae]; MT-1761	Pameng	T	Fr	F: Ripe hypanthodia edible, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L. [Moraceae]; MT-1600	Sirot	T	Wh	RBC: Beliefs, jungle spirit live on this tree, so people do not cut it, if they cut it then jungle spirit will get angry and harm the villagers	N	0.017
<i>Ficus semicordata</i> Buch. Ham. ex Sm.[Moraceae]; MT-1574	Takuk	T	Fr	F: Ripe hypanthodia edible, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Ficus simplicissima</i> Lour. [Moraceae]; MT-1575	Takpi	T	Lf	F: Mixed with soybeans for fermentation	N	0.017
<i>Ficus tinctoria</i> G.Forst. [Moraceae]; MT-1599	Sirot	T	Wh	RBC: As in <i>Ficus religiosa</i>	E	0.017
<i>Ficus variegata</i> Blume [Moraceae]; MT-1588	Taasik	T	Fr	F: Ripe hypanthodia edible, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Ficus virens</i> Aiton [Moraceae]; MT-1833	-	S	Ts	F: Cooked and served as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Fissistigma bicolor</i> (Roxb.) Merr. [Annonaceae]; MT-1816	Rika-riya	L	Fr	F: Ripe fruits sweet, taken raw	N	0.017
<i>Fissistigma polyanthum</i> (Hook. f. & Thomson) Merr. [Annonaceae]; MT-1772	Rika-riya	S	Fr	F: Eaten ripe one raw, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Garcinia anomala</i> Planch. & Triana [Clusiaceae]; MT-1561	Taraak	T	Fr	F: Edible, sour	N	0.017
<i>Garcinia lanceifolia</i> Roxb. [Clusiaceae]; MT-1560	Taraak	T	Fr	F: Edible, sour	N	0.017
<i>Garcinia pedunculata</i> Roxb. ex Buch. Ham. [Clusiaceae]; MT-1586	Tabing	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, sweet; M: Smoked fruit wall taken orally to treat gastrointestinal problems	N	0.034
<i>Glycine max</i> (L.) Merr. [Fabaceae]; MT-1770	Peron-rontung	HA	Sd	F: Local recipe naming <i>Peron/ Ronyang</i> (fermented soya bean) is made of its seeds	E	0.017
<i>Gnaphalium polycaulon</i> Pers. [Asteraceae]; MT-1758	Paaput	HA	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Gonostegia hirta</i> (Blume ex Hassk.) Miq. [Urticaceae]; MT-1755	Oyik	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Gynocardia odorata</i> R.Br. [Achariaceae]; MT-1731	Mondo-tulpi	T	Fr	Fh: Paste mixed in water for stupefying fishes	N	0.017
<i>Gynura cusimbua</i> (D.Don) S.Moore [Asteraceae]; MT-1743	Ogen	HA	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Helixanthera parasitica</i> Lour. [Loranthaceae]; MT-1555	Tasik	PS	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Helminthostachys zeylanica</i> (L.) Hook.[Ophioglossaceae]; MT-1620	Asi-bisi	HG	Fn	F: Young ones cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Heteropanax fragrans</i> (Roxb.) Seem. [Araliaceae]; MT-1656	Gaatum-bopang	T	Fr	H: As bait to trap rodents and birds	N	0.017
<i>Hodgsonia macrocarpa</i> (Blume) Cong. [Cucurbitaceae]; MT-1552	Tatar-api	L	Sd	F: Embryo edible after cooking	E	0.017
<i>Hornstedtia arunachalensis</i> S. Tripathi & V.Prakash [Zingiberaceae]; MT-1627	Bele-belaak	HG	Fl, Fr	F: Flower buds and fruits eaten raw	N	0.017

<i>Houttuynia cordata</i> Thumb. [Saururaceae]; MT-1610	Roram	HG	Wh, Lf	F: Whole plants edible; M: leaves taken raw orally in gastrointestinal disorders	N	0.034
<i>Hydrocotyle himalaica</i> P.K.Mukh. [Araliaceae]; MT-1830		HA	Wh	Fh: Paste mixed in water for stupefying fish	N	0.017
<i>Hydrocotyle javanica</i> Thunb. [Araliaceae]; MT-1712	Kiling-kiipum	HA	Wh	Fh: Paste mixed in water for stupefying fish	N	0.017
<i>Impatiens bracteolata</i> Hook.f. [Balsaminaceae]; MT-1735	Nanor-tangkor	HA	Sh	F: Tender shoots serve as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> (L.) Lam. [Convolvulaceae]; MT-1644	Eengin-taari	HG	Sh, Tu	F: Both served as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Kaempferia galanga</i> L. [Zingiberaceae]; MT-3111	Pangkang takeng	HP	Rh	M: Paste applied on skin to cure itching	N	0.017
<i>Lablab purpureus</i> (L.) Sweet [Fabaceae]; MT-1611	Ronjab	CH	Fr	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Molina) Standl. [Cucurbitaceae]; MT-1645	Eepum / eejuk/ giri	CH	Fr	F: Cooked as a vegetable; HHM: Shell of matured dried fruits used as vessels: names and uses of vessels depend on the shape and are named as <i>AsiGiri</i> (water bottle): <i>Eejuk</i> for spoon-shaped and <i>Eepum</i> for urn shape meant for different purposes	E	0.034
<i>Laphangium affine</i> (D.) Tzvelev [Asteraceae]; MT-1757	Paaput	HA	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Lentinula edodes</i> (Berk.) Pegler [Marasmiaceae]; MT-1721	Lolum	FB	FB	F: Cooked and eaten	-	0.017
<i>Leucoscepttrum canum</i> Sm. [Lamiaceae]; MT-1545	Toti	S	St	RBC: Believes, when the soul moves out from the human body by accident, in such cases, they perform rituals (<i>Leyo Goknam</i>) in which the twig of the plant is used that acts as a pathway for the soul to come back to the sufferer	N	0.017
<i>Lindenbergia hookeri</i> C.B.Clarke ex Hook.f. [Plantaginaceae]; MT-1522	-	S	Fl	F: Edible, sour	N	0.017
<i>Litsea cubeba</i> (Lour.) Pers. [Lauraceae]; MT-1777	Rayil, tayir	T	Fr	F: As a condiment, strongly aromatic	N	0.017
<i>Livistona jenkinsiana</i> Griff. [Arecaceae]; MT-1520	Taek	T	Lf, Fr	F: Tender leaves and fermented fruits edible;	N	0.034
<i>Macaranga cuspidata</i> Boivin ex Baill. [Euphorbiaceae]; MT-1521	Lagar	T	Fr	C: Leaves widely used for thatching houses H: As bait for birds and rodents	E	0.017
<i>Maclura cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) Corner [Moraceae]; MT-1808	Tanyum-tang	S	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Maesa indica</i> (Roxb.) A.DC. [Primulaceae]; MT-1654	Etjun-jayun	S	Fr, Ts	F: Ripe fruits and tender shoots eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Mangifera sylvatica</i> Roxb. [Anacardiaceae]; MT-1686	Hidum-tagung	T	Fr	F: Ripeones edible, sour	N	0.017
<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz. [Euphorbiaceae]; MT-1598	Singyo engiin/ Situng eengin	S	Ts, Rs	F: Tender shoot as vegetable and tuberous root used for local wine (<i>Nokyin</i>)	E	0.017
<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> L. [Melastomataceae]; MT-1709	Kasii rai	Sf	Fr, Fl	F: Fruits ate raw; RBC: blooming initiation indicates the time for broadcasting of paddy seeds	N	0.034
<i>Melothria trilobata</i> Cogn. [Cucurbitaceae]; MT-1635	Dongkong kayong	CH	Fr, Tu	F: Ripe fruits eaten raw; M: tuber ate raw in gastrointestinal disorders	E	0.034
<i>Microtropis discolor</i> (Wall.) Arn. [Celastraceae]; MT-1827	-	T	Sd	H: Red seed used as bait for rodents	E	0.017
<i>Mikania micrantha</i> Kunth [Asteraceae]; MT-1642	Eeli	CS	Lf	M: Taken orally to cure stomachache and dysentery	E	0.017
<i>Molineria capitulata</i> (Lour.) Herb. [Curculigo capitulata (Lour.) Kuntze], [Hypoxidaceae]; MT-1548	Tayek	HP	Vn	O: Leaf veins used as thread to stitch the scrotum of piglets after castration	N	0.017
<i>Molineria prainiana</i> Deb [Curculigo prainiana (Deb) Bennet & Raizada] [Hypoxidaceae]; MT-1815	Tayek	PH	Vn	O: Leaf veins used as thread to stitch the scrotum of piglets after castration	N	0.017
<i>Morus alba</i> L. [Moraceae]; MT-1789	Nini-guti	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones sweet, edible	E	0.017
<i>Morus macroura</i> Miq. [Moraceae]; MT-1647	Eeyum	T	Lx	M: Applied on burns and inflammation of the skin	N	0.017

<i>Murdannia nudiflora</i> (L.) Brenan [Commelinaceae]; MT-1693	<i>Hodog/golgi</i>	HA	Fl	RBC: Initiation of its flowering signifies the time for broadcasting paddy seeds. Plants growing along the field borders for demarcation	N	0.017
<i>Musa aurantiaca</i> G.Mann ex Baker [Musaceae]; MT-1640	<i>Dumji</i>	HP	Wh	RBC: Believed that if a woman roams near or cuts the plant, their stomach will ache	N	0.017
<i>Musa balbisiana</i> Colla [Musaceae]; MT-1726	<i>Ludum/kolung</i> (for group of <i>Musa</i> sp.)	HP	In, Lf	F: Spadix cooked as a vegetable; HHM: Leaf sheaths split narrowly and dried to prepare mats; O: powdery substance collected from the abaxial surface of the lamina is used to reduce friction in a traditional loom	N	0.034
<i>Musa sanguinea</i> Hook.f. [Musaceae]; MT-1760	<i>Paksum</i>	HP	In	F: Young spadix cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Mussaenda glabra</i> Vahl [Rubiaceae]; MT-1547	<i>Tekdeng</i>	S	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Mussaenda roxburghii</i> Hook. f. [Rubiaceae]; MT-1615	<i>Akshap</i>	S	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Myrica esculenta</i> Buch.Ham. ex D.Don [Myricaceae]; MT-1551	<i>Tatir</i>	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i> R.Br. [Brassicaceae]; MT-1752	<i>Orgyam</i>	HA	Tw	F: Leafy twigs cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Neohouzeaua helferi</i> (Munro) Gamble [Poaceae]; MT-1834	<i>Tatpin</i>	B	Lf	Fd: As fodder for <i>Bos frontalis</i>	N	0.017
<i>Nephelium lappaceum</i> L. [Sapindaceae]; MT-1583	<i>Tadar</i>	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, sour and sweet	N	0.017
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i> (L.) C.Presl [Nephrolepidaceae]; MT-1685	<i>Hidum huli</i>	HP	Tu	M: Potato under-ground tubers taken orally for urinary tract infection	N	0.017
<i>Nicotiana rustica</i> L. [Solanaceae]; MT-1684	<i>Haali</i>	HP	Lf	O: Ground leaf is mixed with salt and then used to kill leeches	E	0.017
<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L. [Solanaceae]; MT-1720	<i>Kuser</i>	HA	Lf	Mst: Dried leaves produce tobacco; M: salt is added on leaf paste and then applied on infected wounds of cattle	E	0.034
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L. [Lamiaceae]; MT-1576	<i>Take-mare</i>	HA	Lf	F: Aromatic, used as a spice	N	0.017
<i>Oenanthe javanica</i> (Blume) DC. [Apiaceae]; MT-1821	-	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Ophioglossum reticulatum</i> L. [Ophioglossaceae]; MT-1623	<i>Ayo-borkok</i>	HG	Fn	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> L. [Ophioglossaceae]; MT-1622	<i>Ayo-borkok</i>	HG	Fn	F: Cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Oryza sativa</i> L. [Poaceae]; MT-1617	<i>Ammo</i>	HA	Sd	F: Fermented rice (<i>Nokyin</i>) and country liquor (<i>Yaka Apong</i>) are prepared using a self-made starter (<i>siye</i>); M: applied on burn and inflammation of the skin	E	0.034
<i>Ostodes paniculata</i> Blume [Euphorbiaceae]; MT-1556	<i>Tasi-gumbi</i>	T	Wh	Fc: Planted for fencing	N	0.017
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L. [Oxalidaceae]; MT-1781	<i>Piyag-hiyub</i>	HA	Fr	M: Sap of fruit dropped in eyes to cure the infection	E	0.017
<i>Oxalis debilis</i> Kunth [Oxalidaceae]; MT-1783	<i>Ptiag-hiyub</i>	HG	Fl,Bu	F: Sour flower and watery bulbs eaten raw	E	0.017
<i>Pachyrhizus erosus</i> (L.) Urb. [Fabaceae]; MT-1807	<i>Lodol, lodor</i>	CS	Tu	F: Eaten raw, sweet	E	0.017
<i>Paederia foetida</i> L. [Rubiaceae]; MT-1543	<i>Yape taari/ riki ringkom</i>	CS	Lf	M: Taken orally to cure gastritis.	N	0.017
<i>Pandanus furcatus</i> Roxb. [Pandanaceae]; MT-1788	<i>Tako</i>	T	Sd, Lf	F: Dried seed edible; HHM: Local mat <i>Kurpyak</i> is made of dried leaves	N	0.034
<i>Paris polyphylla</i> Sm. [Melanthiaceae]; MT-1737	<i>Nyomrang takeng</i> (rhizome)/ <i>Kangkom oying</i> (leaves)	HG	Lf, Rh	F: Leaves served as a vegetable; M: Smoked or raw rhizome taken orally in gastrointestinal disorders	N	0.034
<i>Perilla frutescens</i> (L.) Britton [Lamiaceae]; MT-1733	<i>Namdung</i>	HA	Sd	F: Eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Persicaria barbata</i> (L.) H.Hara [Polygonaceae]; MT-1632	<i>Diko-taamu</i>	HA	Wh	Fh: Crushed and mixed in water to stupefy fishes	N	0.017
<i>Persicaria capitata</i> (Buch. Ham. ex D.Don) H.Gross [Polygonaceae]; MT-1624	<i>Babing-kaling</i>	HA	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Persicaria chinensis</i> (L.) H.Gross [Polygonaceae]; MT-1787	<i>Babing-kaling</i>	Sf	Wh	O: Crushed to use as hand wash	N	0.017

<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i> (L.) Delarbre [Polygonaceae]; MT-1633	<i>Diko-taamu</i>	HA	Wh	Fh: Crushed and mixed in water to stupefy fishes	N	0.017
<i>Persicaria nepalensis</i> (Meisn.) Miyabe [Polygonaceae]; MT-1623	<i>Babing-kaaling</i>	HA	Wh	O: Crushed to use as hand wash	N	0.017
<i>Phallusindusiatus</i> Vent. [Phallaceae]; MT-1736	<i>Nyipong-tipur</i>	FB	FB	RBC: Its odor signifies a woman's evil spirit (<i>Nyipong</i>)	-	0.017
<i>Phoebe cooperiana</i> P.C. Kanjilal & Das [Lauraceae]; MT-1563	<i>Tapir</i>	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Phrynium pubinerve</i> Blume [Marantaceae]; MT-1649	<i>Ekkam</i>	HP	Sd, Lf	F: Seeds eaten raw; M: warmed leaves applied on muscle pain and sprain; O: leaves used for packing, especially for local rice cake 'Etting.'	N	0.051
<i>Phyllostachys mannii</i> Gamble [Poaceae]; MT-1585	<i>Tabo</i>	B	Cm	HHM: Making walking sticks (<i>Banggen</i>): traditional too <i>leech</i> , used for weeding in crop-fields	N	0.017
<i>Physalis lagascae</i> Roem. & Schult. [Solanaceae]; MT-1702	<i>Jojing belang</i>	HA	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	E	0.017
<i>Pilea insolens</i> Wedd. [Urticaceae]; MT 1568	<i>Tango-lisak</i>	HA	Lf	F: Cooked leaves of <i>Pilea insolens</i> mixed with seeds of <i>Perillaocymoides</i> for fermentation	N	0.017
<i>Pilea umbrosa</i> Blume [Urticaceae]; MT-1749	<i>Oko-robo</i>	HA	Ts	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Piper betleoides</i> C.DC. [Piperaceae]; MT-1780	<i>Popteng</i>	CS	Lf	Mst: Chewed as a masticator	N	0.017
<i>Piper pedicellatum</i> C.DC. [Piperaceae]; MT-1609	<i>Rori</i>	CS	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Plantago asiatica</i> subsp. <i>Erosa</i> (Wall.) Z. Yu Li [Plantaginaceae]; MT-1637	<i>Donyi-borkor</i>	HA	Lf	F: Cooked as vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Pleurotus eous</i> (Berk.) Sacc [Polyporaceae]; MT-1698	<i>Inyik</i>	FB	FB	F: Cooked to eat	-	0.017
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> (Jacq.) P. Kumm [Polyporaceae]; MT-1699	<i>Inyik</i>	FB	FB	F: Cooked to eat	-	0.017
<i>Pleurotus sajor-caju</i> (Fr.) Fr. [Polyporaceae]; MT-1784	<i>Lengot</i>	FB	FB	F: Cooked to eat	-	0.017
<i>Poikilospermum suaveolens</i> (Blume) Merr. [Urticaceae]; MT-1744	<i>Ogik</i>	S	Ts	F: Cooked as vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Polygonum molle</i> D. Don [Polygonaceae]; MT-1710	<i>Kiibu-nanung</i>	S	Ts	F: Eaten raw, sour	N	0.017
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L. [Portulacaceae]; MT-1682	<i>Gubor-oying</i>	HA	Wh	F: Cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Pothos scandens</i> L. [Araceae]; MT-1722	<i>Lomang looset</i>	E	Lf	M: Paste applied to treat bone fractures; RBC: if the patient dreams it, then the fracture will heal quickly	N	0.034
<i>Pouzolzia sanguinea</i> (Blume) Merr. [Urticaceae]; MT-1754	<i>Osik</i>	Sf	Ts	F: Edible as vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Prunus persica</i> (L.) Batsch [Rosaceae]; MT-1719	<i>Kombong</i>	T	Fl	RBC: Its blooming indicates the arrival of <i>Kombong Poolo</i> month when the <i>Uying/ Aran</i> festival is celebrated	E	0.017
<i>Psidium guajava</i> L. [Myrtaceae]; MT-1732	<i>Mudurang</i>	T	Fr, Ts	F: Ripe fruits edible; M: Tender shoots eaten raw to cure gastrointestinal disorders	E	0.034
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (L.) Kuhn [Pteridaceae]; MT-1725	<i>Losup</i>	HP	Fn	F: Young fronds cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Pteris quadriaurita</i> Retz. [Pteridaceae]; MT-1607	<i>Rukji</i>	HP	Fn	RBC: Beliefs, if a newly hatched chick's basket (<i>Petir</i>) is covered with its fronds, then chicks will grow into red cocks	N	0.017
<i>Pteris tripartita</i> Sw. [Pteridaceae]; MT-1606	<i>Rukji</i>	HP	Fn	F: Young fronds as vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Pterospermum acerifolium</i> (L.) Willd. [Malvaceae]; MT-1691	<i>Hipop</i>	T	Lf, Br	O: For packing finger millets; bark for dyeing cotton threads	N	0.017
<i>Pueraria montana</i> (Lour.) Merr. [Fabaceae]; MT-1775	<i>Riidin</i>	L	Rs, St	F: Root-tuber (Watery) eaten raw; M: fibers from stem-bark applied on cuts and wounds; RBC: this fiber is used in almost every ritual of the <i>Tani</i> clan and are tied on their hand (on the right hand for the married and left hand for unmarried) which is believed to be protective	N	0.051
<i>Rhaphidophora decursiva</i> (Roxb.) Schott [Araceae]; MT-1571	<i>Talo</i>	E	Lf	RBC: Leaf twig is used to perform rituals after the bear hunt for the departed soul to leave peacefully	N	0.017
<i>Rhaphidophora hookeri</i> Schott [Araceae]; MT-1572	<i>Talo</i>	E	Lf	RBC: Used to perform rituals after the bear hunt for departed souls to leave peacefully.	N	0.017

<i>Rhus chinensis</i> Mill. [Anacardiaceae]; MT-1580	Tagmo	T	Fr	M: Cooked with wild mushroom to avoid food poisoning	N	0.017
<i>Rhynchoetechum ellipticum</i> (Wall. ex D.Dietr.) A.DC. [Gesneriaceae]; MT-1705	Jongkot	S	Lf	Mst: Young leaves chewed as a substitute for betel leaves	N	0.017
<i>Rhynchoetechum parviflorum</i> Blume [Gesneriaceae]; MT-1814	Jongkot	S	Lf	Mst: Young leaves chewed as a substitute for betel leaves	N	0.017
<i>Rhynchoetechum vestitum</i> Wall. ex C.B. Clarke [Gesneriaceae]; MT-1706	Jongkot	S	Fr	F: Fruits watery, eaten raw; leaves fermented with soya bean and both are eaten	N	0.017
<i>Ricinus communis</i> L. [Euphorbiaceae]; MT-1678	Gopo-golo	S	Lf	M: Leaf is warmed on fire and placed on paining joint, muscle, and sprain: bark of petiole also used as a bandage to cure fractured bone of chick	E	0.017
<i>Ronabea emetica</i> (L.f) A.Rich. [Rubiaceae]; MT-1728	Margihop	S	Fr	F: Ripe ones edible, sweet	E	0.017
<i>Rorippa dubia</i> (Pers.) H.Hara [Brassicaceae]; MT-1753	Orgyam	HA	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Rubus alceifolius</i> Poir. [Rosaceae]; MT-1763	Pasi-payi	S	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, sweet	E	0.017
<i>Rubus ellipticus</i> Sm. [Rosaceae]; MT-1759	Pakkom-tayin	S	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Rubus niveus</i> Thumb. [Rosaceae]; MT-1542	Yokpo-pongkung	CS	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Rubus paniculatus</i> Sm. [Rosaceae]; MT-1569	Tangkin	CS	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Rubus rosifolius</i> Sm. [Rosaceae]; MT-1831	Tangkin	S	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Rubus sieboldii</i> Blume [R. <i>moluccanus</i> L.], [Rosaceae]; MT-1567	Tapa-tara	S	Fr, Lf	F: Ripe fruits eaten raw, sweet: leaves as a substitute for <i>Piperbetel</i> leaves	N	0.017
<i>Rubus sumatranus</i> Miq. [Rosaceae]; MT-1713	Kinbu-Beru	CS	Fr	F: Ripe ones edible, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Rumex maritimus</i> L. [Polygonaceae]; MT-1750	Okung	HA	Lf	F: Young leaves as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Saccharum arundinaceum</i> Retz. [Poaceae]; MT-1566	Tapii	HP	Wh	RBC: Believed that it is the elder brother of <i>Carex</i> sp. and the whole plant of both species are used in rituals performing during the funeral	N	0.017
<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> L. [Poaceae]; MT-1782	Piko-pimur/ aasi-pimur	HP	In	F: Roasted young inflorescence edible	N	0.017
<i>Saurauia armata</i> Kurtz [Actinidiaceae]; MT-1619	Anpum	T	Fr	F: Eaten raw, sweet	E	0.017
<i>Saurauia griffithii</i> Dyer [Actinidiaceae]; MT-1829	Taan	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Saurauia napaulensis</i> DC. [Actinidiaceae]; MT-1590	Taan	T	Fr, Tw	F: Ripe fruits eaten raw, sweet; RBC: Twigs are used in auspicious occasions, animal sacrifices, and rituals related to prosperity	N	0.034
<i>Saurauia punduana</i> Wall. [Actinidiaceae]; MT-1589	Taan	T	Fr, Tw	F: Ripe fruits eaten raw, sweet; RBC: Twigs are used in auspicious occasions, animal sacrifices, and rituals related to prosperity	N	0.034
<i>Saurauia sinohirsuta</i> J.Q.Li & Soejarto [Actinidiaceae]; MT-1819	Anpum	S	Fr	F: Ripe ones, sweet, taken raw	N	0.017
<i>Sauropus androgynus</i> (L.) Merr. [Phyllanthaceae]; MT-1676	Gam-oying	S	Lf	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Schizostachyum pergracile</i> (Munro) R.B.Majumdar [Poaceae]; MT-1835	Madang	B	Cm	HHM: Small fiber (<i>Epang</i>) made from the stem used for house roofing to tie thatching materials	N	0.017
<i>Setaria italica</i> (L.) P.Beauv. [Poaceae]; MT-1621	Ayak	HA	Sd	F: Used with the fermentation of rice (<i>Nokyin</i>) and for country liquor (<i>Yaka Apong</i>); M: Fermented grains directly applied on burnt skin	E	0.034
<i>Solanum aethiopicum</i> L. [Solanaceae]; MT-1727	Lutsaying	HA	Fr	F: Young fruits as vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Solanum erianthum</i> D.Don [Solanaceae]; MT-1768	Pepu sensu	S	Lf	O: Leaves used for packing bananas for quick ripening and protection from damage	E	0.017

<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. [Solanaceae]; MT-1748	<i>Okomamang</i>	HA	Ts	F: Tender shoots as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Solanum spirale</i> Roxb. [Solanaceae]; MT-1527	<i>Bangko</i>	S	Lf, Sd	F: Leaves as a vegetable; M: cooked leaves for gastrointestinal disorder and hypertension; dried fruits are taken orally in helminthiasis; warmed leaves applied on bruises	N	0.034
<i>Solanum torvum</i> Sw. [Solanaceae]; MT-1526	<i>Kodu/migom kopi/kopi piite</i>	S	Fr	F: Young ones, bitter, cooked as chutney	E	0.017
<i>Solanum viarum</i> Dunal [Solanaceae]; MT-1525	<i>Peeli-taang</i>	HA	Fr	M: Warmed on fire and then applied on infected teeth	E	0.017
<i>Solanum villosum</i> (L.) Willd. [Solanaceae]; MT-1524	<i>Okomamang</i>	HA	Ts	F: Tender shoots as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Solanum violaceum</i> Ortega [Solanaceae]; MT-1523	<i>Kopi piimik</i>	S	Fr	F: Young fruits cooked as chutney; M: raw fruits taken orally to remove intestinal worms	N	0.034
<i>Spondias pinnata</i> (L.f.) Kurz [Anacardiaceae]; MT-1530	<i>Dorgu-dorge</i>	T	Fr	F: Eaten raw, sour	N	0.017
<i>Stapletonia seshagiriana</i> (R.B.Majumdar) H.B.Naithani [Schizostachyum seshagiriana R.B. Majumdar], [Poaceae]; MT-1584	<i>Tabum</i>	B	Cm	HHM: Use as rope and in handicrafts	N	0.017
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.)Vill. [Caryophyllaceae]; MT-1694	<i>Hosir oying</i>	HA	Wh	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Stenochlaena palustris</i> (Burm.f.) Bedd. [Blechnaceae]; MT-1604	<i>Rukyo</i>	HP	Fn	RBC: Fronds inserted in the stomach of a sacrificed pig	N	0.017
<i>Sterculia lanceolata</i> var. <i>coccinea</i> (Jack) Phengklai [Malvaceae]; MT-1549	<i>Tayam</i>	T	Sd, Fr	F: Immature seeds eaten raw and mature ones roasted; RBC: open ripe fruit is hung on the door to scare the evil spirits	E	0.034
<i>Sterculia striatiflora</i> Mast. [Malvaceae]; MT-1786	<i>Tayam</i>	S	Sd, Fr	F: Immature seeds eaten raw and mature ones roasted; RBC: open ripe fruit is hung on the door to scare the evil spirits	N	0.034
<i>Stixis suaveolens</i> (Roxb.) Pierre [Capparaceae]; MT-1613	<i>Rokpo ketum-kelum</i>	L	Fr	F: Ripe ones taken raw, sweet	E	0.017
<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels [Myrtaceae]; MT-1703	<i>Jongkeng</i>	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones taken raw, sweet	N	0.017
<i>Syzygium formosum</i> (Wall.) Masam [Myrtaceae]; MT-1826	<i>Ponkan</i>	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Syzygium fruticosum</i> DC. [Myrtaceae]; MT-1828	<i>Jongkeng</i>	T	Fr	F: Ripe ones eaten raw	N	0.017
<i>Thelypteris parasitica</i> (L.) Tardieu [Thelypteridaceae]; MT-1608	<i>Rukji</i>	HP	Fn	O: During broody nesting, the basket is covered with its dried fronds to kill poultry lice	N	0.017
<i>Themeda villosa</i> (Lam.) A.Camas [Poaceae] ; MT-1820	<i>Tase</i>	HP	Lf	C: Used in thatching	N	0.017
<i>Thladiantha cordifolia</i> (Blume) Cong. [Cucurbitaceae]; MT-1738	<i>Nyomrang-payin</i>	CH	Ts	F: Consumed as vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Thysanolaena latifolia</i> (Roxb. ex Hornem.) Honda [Poaceae]; MT-1708	<i>Kanggam</i>	HG	In	HHM: Matured ones used as a soft broom	N	0.017
<i>Toddalia asiatica</i> (L.) Lam. [Rutaceae]; MT-1675	<i>Gaming tatken</i>	CS	Tw	RBC: Used in rituals after hunting to deliver peace to the soul of the hunted	N	0.017
<i>Toxicodendron hookeri</i> (K.C. Sahni & Bahadur) C.Y. Wu & T.L. Ming [Anacardiaceae]; MT-1626	<i>Bemo</i>	T	Wh	RBC: Beliefs, if any harm is done to the plant, then it will curse them with bad health and skin infection	N	0.017
<i>Trema Orientalis</i> (L.) Blume [Cannabaceae]; MT-1628	<i>Bumlo</i>	T	Ts	F: Served as vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Trevesia palmata</i> (Roxb. ex Lindl.) Vis.[Araliaceae]; MT-1679	<i>Gorpak</i>	T	Fr	F: Young ones bitter and cooked as chutney	N	0.017
<i>Urtica ardens</i> Link [Urticaceae]; MT-1701	<i>Jimang</i>	S	Lf	M: Half burnt leaves are taken orally in allergy	N	0.017
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L. [Urticaceae]; MT-1729	<i>Matpe pereng</i>	S	Lf	M: Infected wounds of <i>Bos frontalis</i> is beaten with nettle leaf to kill the infectious organisms	N	0.017
<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> (L.) Walp.[Fabaceae]; MT-1612	<i>Rondong</i>	CH	Fr	F: Cooked as a vegetable	E	0.017
<i>Viola betonicifolia</i> Sm. [Violaceae]; MT-1540	<i>Jortung/japjor</i>	HP	Wh	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017
<i>Viola pilosa</i> Blume [Violaceae]; MT-1539	<i>Jorsing/japjor</i>	HP	Wh	F: Cooked as a vegetable	N	0.017

<i>Wallichia oblongifolia</i> Griff. [Arecaceae]; MT-1538	<i>Lepa</i>	P	Lf	RBC: The hunted deer (<i>Hidum</i>) is packed with its leaves in the local bag (<i>Tali</i>) so that deer's departed soul can't harm the hunter	N	0.017
<i>Wallichia triandra</i> (J. Joseph) S.K. Basu [Arecaceae]; MT-1537	<i>Taleng</i>	P	Lf	RBC: Same as for <i>Wallichia oblongifolia</i>	N	0.017
<i>Youngia japonica</i> (L.) DC. [Asteraceae]; MT-1536	<i>Rungdum</i>	HA	Lf	Mst: Dried leaves as a substitute for tobacco	N	0.017
<i>Zanthoxylum armatum</i> DC. [Rutaceae]; MT-1535	<i>Ombeng</i>	S	Fr, Lf, St	F: Fruits and leaves as a spice; M: twigs as toothbrush during toothache	N	0.034
<i>Zanthoxylum oxyphyllum</i> Edgew. [Rutaceae]; MT-1534	<i>Onger</i>	L	Lf, Br	F: Leaves as a condiment; Fh: Bark paste for fish stupefaction	N	0.034
<i>Zanthoxylum rhetsa</i> (Roxb.) DC. [Rutaceae]; MT-1533	<i>Onger</i>	T	Lf, Br	F: Leaves as a condiment; Fh: Bark paste for fish stupefaction	N	0.034
<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe [Zingiberaceae]; MT-1532	<i>Takeng</i>	HG	Rh	F: Most common condiment; M: warmed rhizome paste applied on infected wounds for fast healing	N	0.034
<i>Zingiber sianginensis</i> Tatum & A.K. Das [Zingiberaceae]; MT-1531	<i>Ke-kiir</i>	HG	Rh	F: Common condiment; M: In cough, stomachache, and vomiting raw rhizome orally; RBC: rhizome paste applied on the body to keep away the evil spirits and snakes by its aroma while in the jungle	N	0.051

Short communication: Differences in local perceptions of *Osteochilus spilurus* (Cyprinidae: Labeoninae) from several islands in Indonesia

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Abstract. Kurniawan A, Pramono DY, Indrayati A, Hermanto, Triswiyana I. 2020. Short communication: Differences in local perceptions of *Osteochilus spilurus* (Cyprinidae: Labeoninae) from several islands in Indonesia. *Asian J Ethnobiol* 3: 79-84. *Osteochilus spilurus* is native freshwater fish on the islands of Sundaland, Indonesia. No study has reported this fish utilization other than in the Belitung Islands, so another local perception of the Indonesian island needs to be investigated. Local recreational fishing in Palangkaraya, Pontianak, and Pekanbaru and fishers in Palangkaraya, Eastern and western of Belitung, Southern and Central Bangka, and North Lampung were the sources of local knowledge. We obtained data using a Facebook app survey to see local recreational fishers' awareness, interviews with one fisherman in each region, and a literature review for Belitung public perception. There is a different awareness of people from East Belitung to the other areas. In East Belitung, knowledge of *O. spilurus* links to the local culture. Fishers have the most relevant fishing gear expertise for the catch of *O. spilurus*, based on environmental factors and fish behavior. Large-scale fishing, consumption, and trade only take place in East Belitung. It is impacted by non-environmentally sustainable mesh size nets that threaten their natural survival.

Keywords: Local knowledge, native fish, *Osteochilus spilurus*, Sundaland

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is rich in ichthyofauna species in inland waters as a mega biodiversity country. The freshwater fish species were identified as 1,243 species, with 16% Cyprinidae (Fishbase 2020). As a part of Southeast Asia, the diversity of Cyprinidae in Indonesia is due to the Pleistocene Period (Dott and Prothero 1994). This period, which is often referred to as the ice age, has resulted in changes in river flow, the emergence of millions of lakes, sea-level changes, and the appearance of pluvial lakes. Sea level declined to 150 m in the last glaciation process connected to the lands now separated by oceans (Gradstein et al., 2004). The rise of seawater forms Indonesia's territory in the archipelago formation and has become one of the world's most ethnically diverse nations. More than 600 ethnic groups with over 400 languages in Indonesia (Nababan 1985). These differences have led to various naming fish species in the local language.

Osteochilus spilurus is a member of the Cyprinidae, widely distributed in Southeast Asia. This fish was identified in the Malay Peninsula and Sabah in Malaysia, South Sumatra, Lampung, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, and South Kalimantan in Indonesia (GBIF 2019). This species is not yet widespread in Indonesia like

other *Osteochilus* such as *O. vittatus*, *O. hasselti*, and *O. waandersii* developed as a fishery cultivation commodity. This fish does not even have an Indonesian name, so its naming depending on the local name and allows the perception of different fish. That has happened in the Eastern of Belitung Island, where the people think this fish is endemic because it is not found in other areas (Saad 2012). This perception can be caused by economic value and large consumption in East Belitung (Kurniawan et al. 2016).

Many publications only position this fish as one of the fish listed in the freshwater river. Understanding the distribution on average comes from reports on river biodiversity, so that community response to this species has not been recorded. It raises the possibility of the conventional use of this fish in other regions that have never been reported before. Information on fish utilization is essential for its development and conservation. For this reason, a study of community perceptions on *O. spilurus* was carried out in several islands that are part of its distribution area in Indonesia. It is hoped that new material may be available that will supplement the socio-ethno knowledge of *O. spilurus*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Observation location

The observations were conducted on local recreational fishing and fishers. Information from local recreational fishing was used online discussion in three locations, i.e., Palangkaraya and Pontianak regions of Borneo Island and Pekanbaru areas of Sumatra Island. Six places in the western part of Indonesia were interviewed by *O. spilurus* fisherman, namely Palangkaraya on Borneo Island, Eastern and Western of Belitung Islands, South Bangka and Bangka on Bangka Island, and North Lampung on Sumatra Island. We observed eight regions in four Sundaland islands (Figure 1). The survey was completed between July and September 2020.

Methods

This research utilizes a stationary camera, mobile, Facebook application, and questionnaire. Survey methodology and literature review were used to obtain data. The survey was undertaken to collect locals information and to question fishers about the opinion of

O. spilurus. The survey was performed using the Facebook app to see local recreational fishers' awareness carried out on *O. spilurus*. For locals, questions about recreational fishing are limited to their familiarization with the fish's photo (Figure 2). Informants are group members who respond to questions. Responses are presented in graphical form to show the local awareness towards *O. spilurus*.

We used secondary public perception data from the Gantung sub-districts, East Belitung (Kurniawan and Triswiyana 2019), and the Membalong sub-districts in the West Belitung (Kurniawan et al. 2020) for Belitung residents views. Both data are compared on introduction, consumption, how to get the fish, and to catch season knowledge. The comparison results are shown in graphical form.

Meanwhile, interviews with one fisherman in each region were undertaken to learn more about fish use and catch knowledge. Utilization, trading, economic value, and other fishing-related things become references for discussion with fishers. Observational data have been descriptively represented and illustrated in tables and images.

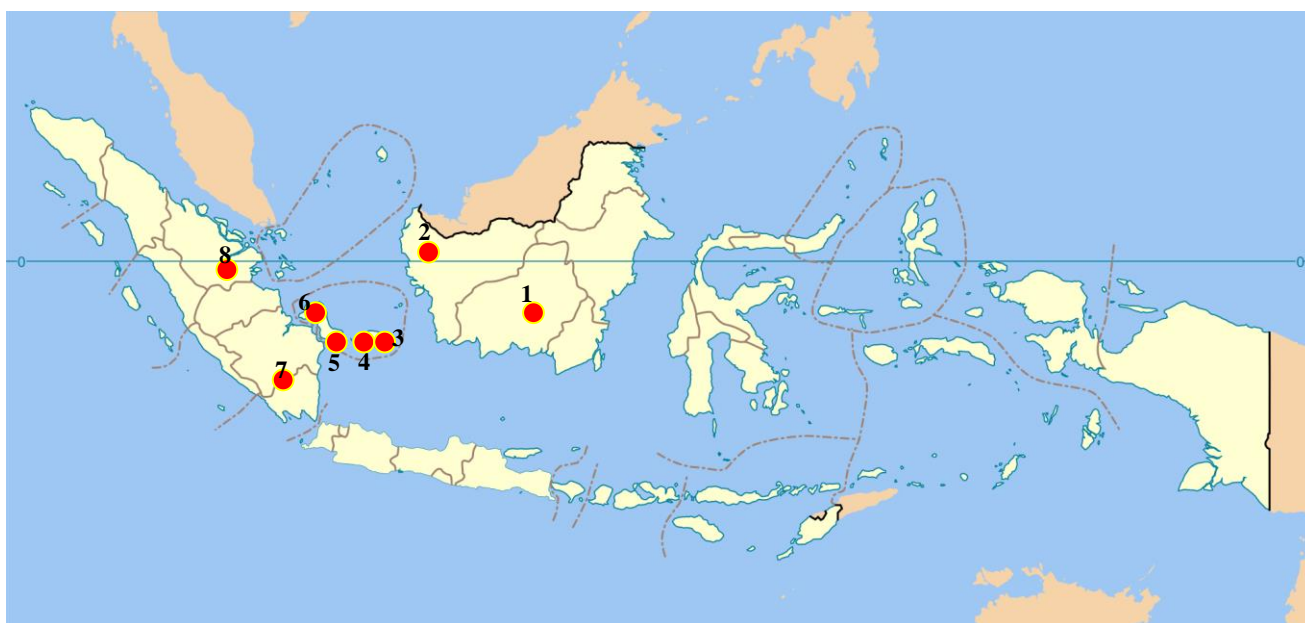


Figure 1. Maps of observation locations in this study. 1. Palangkaraya, 2. Pontianak, 3. East Belitung, 4. Western of Belitung, 5. South Bangka, 6. Central Bangka, 7. North Lampung, 8. Pekanbaru



Figure 2. *Osteochilus spilurus* photographs for awareness survey of local recreational fishers

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Residents perception

There is a gap in people's understanding of *O. spilurus*, where more people talk about it on Belitung Island instead of Palangkaraya, Pontianak, and Pekanbaru. Belitung's people name this fish as *Cempedik* fish stands for "*macem empedu di aik*," meaning water-like bile. It is called *Kepait* on Bangka Island, which means bitter. Residents of Palangkaraya call *Seluang Licin*. Some citizens know it in Pontianak as *Seluang Batu*, and in Pekanbaru as *Siburuk* or *Sibuok*. Pulungan (2009) says that *Siburuk* fish is a local name of *O. spilurus* in Riau. The definition of *Siburuk* refers to the state of the fish that quickly rots and splits its intestine. The local name of *O. spilurus* in another region was verified using the fishermen's interview information. In areas beyond Belitung Island, *O. spilurus* is limited, with most respondents not understanding or mentioning various fish (Figure 3).

The graph shows that although local respondents from Palangkaraya, Pontianak, and Pekanbaru are recreational anglers, often associated with rivers and fish, they are less familiar with *O. spilurus* than the general public Belitung Island. This fish is also the same as other small fish outside Belitung Island. *Wader* (*Barbodes binotatus*), *Bantak* (*Osteochilus wandersii*), *Puyau* (*Osteochilus hasselti*), *Lelan* (*Diplocheilichthys pleurotaenia*), and *Seluang* (*Rasbora* sp) is considered to be the same as *O. spilurus* because they have the same several characters, especially in size. These fish are often caught together because they swim in the same schooling (Fakhrurrozi et al., 2016). This reaction explains that *O. spilurus* has little relationship with humans in regions outside of Belitung Island. Meanwhile, the high identification in Belitung is due to the increased strength of *O. spilurus* and humans' interaction.

There are two reasons for the familiarization of the Belitung community with *O. spilurus*. The first is the practice of eating it. People want to consume this fish (Kurniawan and Triswiyana 2019). Fish are processed with special handling to remove the bitter taste (Kurniawan et al. 2019). They use a stick of coconut leaf to empty the stomach contents from the anus hole of the fish. The use of a knife is not ideal because of the small size of the fish. The

second reason is that this fish is considered close to the culture of the Belitung people. This local wisdom is demonstrated by the presence of a traditional song with the title "*Ke Pice*" (Fakhrurrozi 2015) depicting *Cempedik* fishing in the Pice dam and its flavor description and a modern Belitung batik with a *Cempedik* fish motif (Detiktravel 2015). In other regions, symptoms related to such a culture are not seen.

Belitung residents perception

The residents' reaction to *O. spilurus* in East Belitung and West Belitung shows a distinct perception based on analyzed data from the Kurniawan and Triswiyana (2019) and Kurniawan et al. (2020) surveys. This fish's consumption and trade are higher in East Belitung, while the people of West Belitung prefer individual catches. After his capture, there are also differences between the two regions, where individuals in East Belitung feel more comfortable being captured in the rainy season. By contrast, it is the dry season that the inhabitants of West Belitung say (Figure 4).

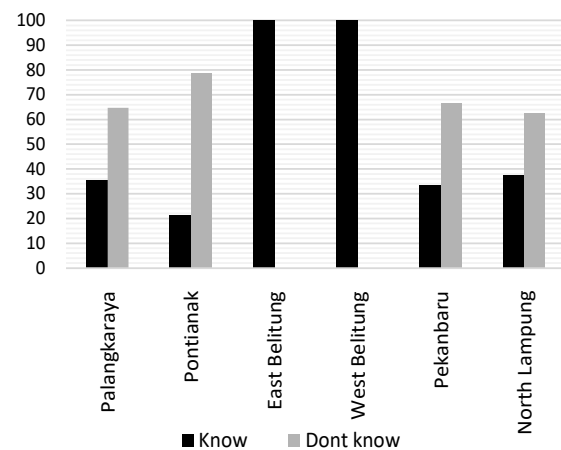


Figure 3. Percentage of respondents in multiple regions who know about *Osteochilus spilurus*

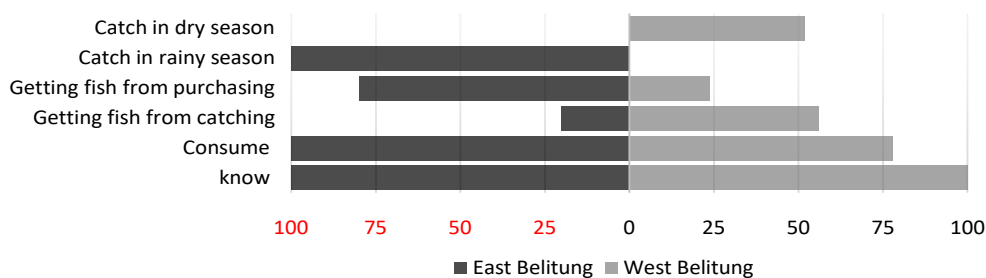


Figure 4. Belitung resident's response of *Osteochilus spilurus*

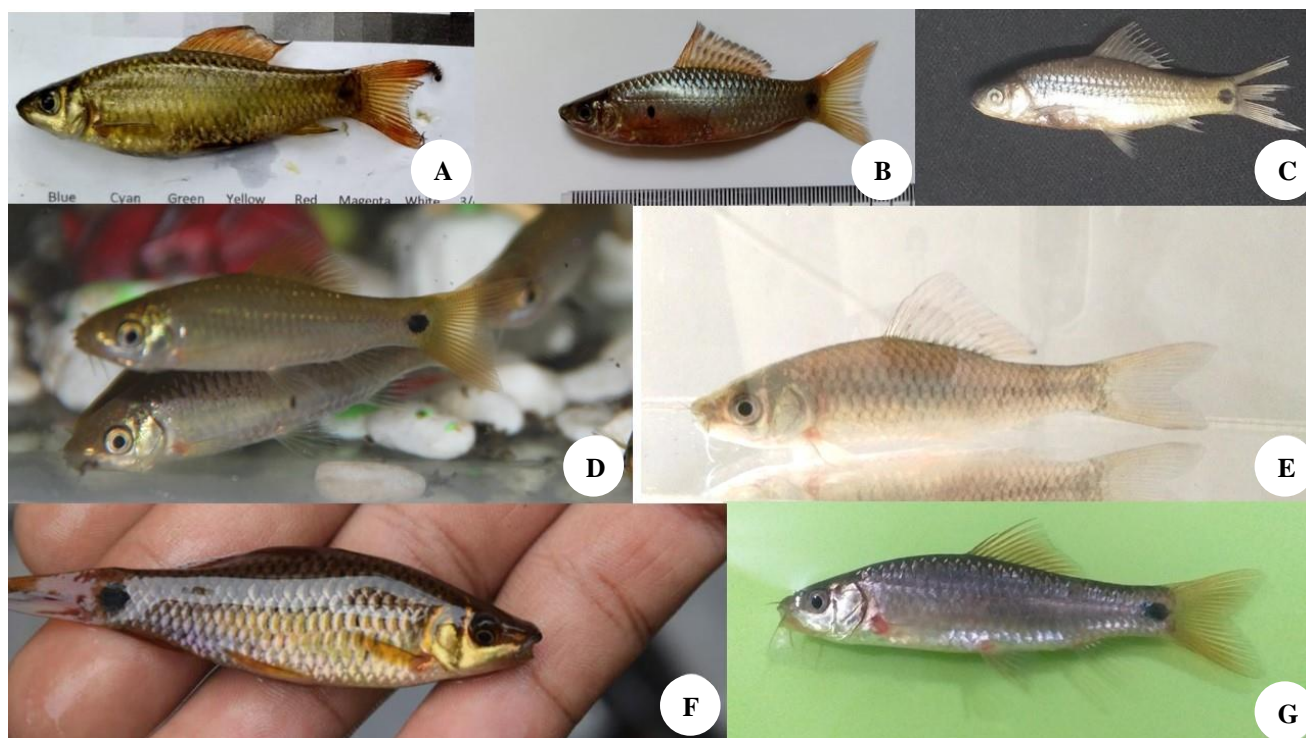


Figure 5. Photograph of *Osteochilus spilurus* from fishermen from six regions. A. South of Bangka, B. Western of Belitung, C. Palangkaraya, Borneo, D and F. East Belitung, E. North Lampung, Sumatra, G. Central Bangka

The fishing season variation is due to a community guide's local awareness of fishing activities in the river setting. The significant fish sources in Belitung are the Lenggang and Kembiri rivers, large rivers with different conditions. In East Belitung, the Lenggang River has a dam that has the capacity in the rainy season to trigger currents and does not dry out in the dry season. Meanwhile, the Kembiri River dries out in the dry season, giving rise to water pools in the deeper portion of the river. Through their respective ethnic technology, fish catchers adapt to the habits of *O. spilurus*. Fisherman East Belitung uses fish traps to capture fish on the river bank against the current (Fakhrurrozi et al., 2016). People from Western Belitung wait for low deep water to make it possible for successful fishing gear to catch fish. Fishing gear ethnic technology is a breakthrough in fishing productivity for local

communities (Nurdin and Ng 2013). Fishers' adaptation to the environment is their effort to get the best catch (Musinguzi et al., 2016).

Fisherman knowledge

The Fishermen recognize *O. spilurus* even though they only know its local name. The fisherman showed a similar fish to *O. spilurus*, as in Figure 5. These fish have the same morphological character of *O. spilurus* described by Weber and de Beaufort (1916), i.e., tight body, snout cone, dorsal height gradually increasing in size before dorsal fin, lateral line with 28-30 scales, dorsal fin with 12-13 rays, the emarginate shape of the caudal fin, long maxillary barbels, and a large black blotch on the caudal peduncle.

Table 1. Resume of the interview with fishers in six regions in Indonesia

Region	Local name	Utilization	Trade	Economical	Fishing gear	Capture season
Palangkaraya	Seluang licin	Consume	Yes	Yes	Lift net	Dry season
East Belitung	Cempedik	Consume	Yes	Yes	Fish trap, nets	Rainy season
West Belitung	Cempedik	Consume	No	No	Nets, fish trap	Dry season
South Bangka	Kepaet	No	No	No	Fish trap	Dry season
Bangka	Kepaet	Consume	No	No	Nets, fish trap	Dry season
North Lampung	Seluang sungai	Fish feed	No	No	Lift net	All season



Figure 6. Fishing gear that using for *Osteochilus spilurus* catching. A. Scoop nets in Air Tering River, West Belitung, B. Scoop nets in Pice Dam, East Belitung, C-D. Fish trap called “Sero” in Lenggang River, East Belitung, E. Jala, F. Bamboo fish trap, G. Lift nets in Palangkaraya

Its use, which has economic importance, can only be seen in the region of East Belitung, while other areas in Belitung island are not traded (Tabel 1). Trade is only in East Belitung and Palangkaraya, but there is an imbalance from the price point of view, even though the sale and purchase system is in the same device, namely the non-standardized cup. In East Belitung, this fish's price is Rp. 10,000 per cup of an average one kilogram consisting of five cups, while the price in Palangkaraya is Rp. 3000 to Rp. 5000 in a bowl. The informant of Lampung fishers usually uses *O.spilurus* to feed his predatory fish cultivation. However, when the catch of small fish is abundant, *O.spilurus* trades in the mix with other fish with a small bowls trading unit.

The fishing gear used by fishermen varies according to the environmental conditions of the river as well. The Palangkaraya and North Lampung capture have the same tool, namely the lift net, while others use the fish traps and nets to get these fish. Passive fishing gear is more often used for capturing this fish (Figure 6).

In West Belitung, fish in small rivers are collected using scoop nets constructed from a small mesh-size net (Figure 6a). When the water level is lowest, or the fish are trapped in river pools during the dry season, this fish is more comfortable to capture. Tangguk (Figure 6b), a long stick scoop net, was also found in the Pice dam portion of the Lenggang River, East Belitung. The fish that fell from the dam stream attempt to return by jumping on the

riverbank. This moment makes it possible for fishers to capture it (Kurniawan et al., 2016).

Bubu, made of bamboo or rattan, are typically the fish traps used by fishermen in each area (Figure 6f). This tool is used in limited numbers to capture fish, but its compact size allows it to be mounted in several places. Bubu is popularly used in rivers, swamps, and lakes as a tool to trap fish (Koeshendrajana & Cacho 2001). When the placement process does not harm the environment, Bubu is not a destructive fishing gear (Pet-Soede & Erdmann 1998).

Many catches are expected by the high demand for fish in East Belitung, so fishers make a large fish trap made of set nets called Sero (6c). Set nets are put in a schooling fish environment on the riverbank with the mouth opposite the river flow direction. They understand the behavior of *O. spilurus* swimming in groups against the current on the riverbank when the river is inflow (6d). Set net is generally used as fishing gear in marine waters (Madduppa et al. 2014) and used in Nujiang River, China (Pan et al. 2017). It is considered environmentally friendly fishing gear (Bubun et al. 2015; Salim et al. 2019). Nevertheless, the set nets forms applied in the Lenggang River also resemble aerial traps, categorized as fishing tools that are disturbing and damaging to the minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia No. 71 2016 (KKP, 2016). The use of 5 mm mesh size nets as material fishing gear endangers fish's natural sustainability because of their low selectivity (Muthmainnah et al., 2014).

The use of nets is carried out in throwing nets and lift nets. In the Lebak river, Bangka Regency, throwing nets is usually used to capture fish with the primary target other than *O. spilurus*. The lift net in North Lampung is equipped with lights as an attractor at night. Early in the morning, the fisher raised the lift nets only to pick the fish once one night. Meanwhile, in Palangkaraya, lift nets are carried out during the day when fish are trapped in the fishing gear. Lift nets are fishing gear commonly used in rivers (Sugeng et al., 2019). If the attractor in the form of lights is neglected, catching fish using lift nets during the day is more effective than at night (Kirana et al., 2015). The selection of nets with a mesh size that allows the fish to grow up is necessary for sustainability in their natural habitat (Takar & Gurjar 2020).

This study finds that the individual's knowledge about *O. spilurus* in Belitung Island compared to other regions varies. In East Belitung, in particular, the ability has a connection with the local culture. All fishermen know of the most appropriate fishing gear for *O. spilurus* depending on environmental conditions and fish behavior. Large-scale fishing, eating, and trading takes place in East Belitung. It impacts the use of mesh scale nets that are non-environmentally friendly and endanger their natural existence.

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