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**Ethnobotanical Survey among Farmers  
in Leyte, Philippines, and Comparison with  
Indigenous Filipino Plant Lore**

**B.Sc. Thesis**  
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## 7 Summary

Presented are the results of ethnobotanical fieldwork among members of Cienda San Vicente Farmers' Association (CSVFA) who are involved in community-based forest management on the foothills of Mt. Pangasugan on the island of Leyte, Philippines. The farmers' knowledge on useful plants among these farmers is compared to that of four indigenous groups from the Philippines. Overall, 123 plant species belonging to 90 genera and 53 families are documented in this study to be used for 77 different purposes. Many species are used for more than one purpose: 80 plants have medicinal value, 34 provide food and 32 serve for other uses. For the indigenous people mainly plants species utilised as food and construction material are recorded. Perhaps as a consequence of different species compositions in the respective regions, less than 15 % of the plant species recorded for each of the indigenous groups are also used by farmers in Leyte. Some medicinal plants are used in the same way by the indigenous and non-indigenous groups in the Philippines indicating that their use is based on pharmacological activity. The majority of CSVFA medicinal plants are trees (50%) and herbs (25%) and they treat more than 40 human ailments. Leaves are the most frequently utilised plant part and most remedies are prepared as decoctions and are administered orally. More than 60% of the identified species are native to the Philippines. Due to properties such as shade-tolerance and sufficient adaptation to forest environments, many plants documented in this study seem to have potential for being integrated into alternative land rehabilitation systems such as Rainforestation Farming, and thus, in case of an existing market value, could serve as an additional source of income for farmers. In conclusion, CSVFA members use a diversity of plants and have acquired a high degree of knowledge on useful plants within their environment. Moreover, the findings of this study suggest that scientists should enhance their attention towards consideration of non-indigenous rural folks and forest dwellers as a source of ethnobotanical knowledge. This study provides a written record of folk medicine and of local useful plants for the people of Mt. Pangasugan vicinity and it contributes to the conservation of farmers' knowledge and local plant biodiversity.