



ABSTRACT

Detrimental health effects of heavy metals pose a risk to human health. Basic food sources become toxic when concentrations of heavy metals are found in them. In the study, *Colocasia esculenta*, which is a common staple root crop vegetable in the Philippines, was tested for its phytoremediation potential. The residential, agricultural, and industrial areas of San Pedro, Laguna, were used as study sites. The collected leaf, stem, root, corm, and soil samples were dried, ground, ashed, digested, and tested for the presence of Cd and Pb, using flame atomic absorption spectrometer. All the soil samples from the three sites resulted to a positive detection of cadmium and lead while only the root part of the *C. esculenta* from the agricultural site yielded to positive cadmium detection with an average of 0.0334 ppm.

Keywords: *Colocasia esculenta*, Heavy Metals, Laguna Lake, Atomic Absorption Spectrometer