

Ethnobotany: The Use and Management of *Diospyros kurzii* Hiern (k'nalum) and *Morinda citrifolia* var. *bracteata* (Roxb.)Hook.f. (loco) as Sources of Dyes

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ABSTRACT

The utilization and management of *k'nalum* (*D. kurzii*) and *loco* (*M. citrifolia* var. *bracteata*) as sources of dyes for the t'nalak weaving of the tribal T'bolis was investigated from May 2006-May 2008.

Using a Visayan guided questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion (FGD), the research study identified the problems and challenges associated with t'nalak weaving of T'boli tribe. Forty-two t'nalak weavers equally distributed in three barangays namely Lamcade, Lamdalag and Klubi were interviewed. A multiple regression model showed that age of the weaver and the number of children affect their productivity at 5% level of significance. The age when they started to weave is significant at 10% level. Moreover, insufficient money to buy abaca fibers and food during weeks of weaving was identified as a common problem. In spite of difficulty, findings show that they will continue to weave because it comprises their identity and this is the only work that t'nalak weavers know.

Loco thrives in elevation from 704-1,067 masl while *k'nalum* is widely adapted from 706-1,070 masl in Lake Sebu. Both species occupy varied habitat types including forest patches, homegarden, wastepaces, farmland, and forest edge occurring mostly as understory plants. Thirty-four families, 53 genera and 58 species were found to be associated with *loco* and 32 families, 56 genera and 63 species were found to be associated with *k'nalum*.

Glycosides were detected in the root bark of *loco* and the leaves of *k'nalum* and are presumed to be responsible for their coloring matters.

Keywords: *Diospyros kurzii*, *Morinda citrifolia* var. *bracteata*, plant dye, sustainability, t'nalak

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	Page
Title Page	1
Approval Sheet	2
Certificate of Originality	3
Acknowledgements	4
Dedication	6
Abstract	7
Table of Contents	8
List of Tables	11
List of Figures	12
CHAPTER 1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	13
1.2 Objectives of the Study	17
1.3 Scope and limitations of the Study	18
1.4 Significance of the Study	19
1.5 References	23
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 T'boli people and their culture	25
2.2 Productivity of women	27

2.3	Weaving	29
2.4	Genus <i>Diospyros</i> Linnaeus, Sp.Pl.2:1057.(1753); Gen pl. (Ed. 5):478 (1754) EBENACEAE	30
2.5	Genus <i>Morinda</i> Linnaeus, Sp.Pl.2:176.1753 RUBIACEAE	34
2.6	Dyes	40
2.7	References	47
CHAPTER 3 :T'NALAK WEAVING: PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES		
3.1	Abstract	53
3.2	Introduction	54
3.3	Materials and Methods	56
3.4	Results and Discussion	59
3.5	References	71
CHAPTER 4 :DISTRIBUTION, UTILIZATION & MANAGEMENT OF MORINDA CITRIFOLIA VAR. BRACTEATA (ROXB.) HOOK. F. IN LAKE SEBU		
4.1	Abstract	74
4.2	Introduction	75
4.3	Materials and methods	76
4.4	Results and Discussion	81
4.5	References	100
CHAPTER 5 :DISTRIBUTION, UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DIOSPYROS KURZII HIERN IN LAKE SEBU		
5.1	Abstract	103
5.2	Introduction	104

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS GRADUATE SCHOOL		PAGE	10
5.3	Materials and methods	105	
5.4	Results and Discussion	111	
5.5	References	133	
CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS			
6.1	Conclusion	136	
6.2	Recommendations	138	
APPENDICES			
A.	Management Plan for Conservation of T'boli Culture	141	
B.	List of 19 Barangays in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Mindanao & their Area	145	
C.	Lake Sebu Indigenous women Weavers Association, Inc. (LASIWWAI)	147	
D.	Cooperative of Women in Health and Development (COWHEAD)	148	
E.	Members of COWHEAD who are t'nalak weavers	149	
F.	Klowil Abaca Enterprise (KAE)	150	
G.1	English Questionnaire	152	
G.2	Visayan Questionnaire	154	
H.	SPSS Test Results	156	
I.	Permission Letters	158	
J.	Drawings/pictures of Plants Associated to <i>loco</i> and <i>k'nalum</i>	161	
K.	Photodocumentation	200	
L.	<i>Morinda citrifolia</i> var. <i>bracteata</i> Report of Analysis	209	
M.	<i>D. kurzii</i> Report of Analysis	210	
N.	Research Publication (Journal of Nature Studies)	211	
O.	Curriculum Vitae	219	

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
Table 3.1	Demographic Profile of T'nalak Weavers	63
Table 3.2	Multiple Regression Result for Productivity	65
Table 3.3	Common Problems they encounter in t'nalak weaving	66
Table 3.4	Reasons of Weaving	67
Table 3.5	Other Plants Species Locally Utilized for Dyeing Purposes	71
Table 4.1	Phenological Studies	78
Table 4.2	Study Sites in Lake Sebu and Estimated Minimum Areas of <i>M. citrifolia</i> var. <i>bracteata</i> stands	85
Table 4.3	<i>M. citrifolia</i> var. <i>bracteata</i> Structure	86
Table 4.4	Habitat Description of 17 Sites of Study	89
Table 4.5	Associated Plant Families with <i>Loco</i> in Lake Sebu	92
Table 4.6	List of <i>loco</i> Associated Plants in 17 Sites	93
Table 4.7	Representation of Changes in <i>M. citrifolia</i> var. <i>bracteata</i> through Phenogram	96
Table 5.1	Phenological Studies	108
Table 5.2	Study Sites in Lake Sebu and Estimated Minimum Areas of <i>D. kurzii</i> stands	115
Table 5.3	<i>D. kurzii</i> Structure	117
Table 5.4	Habitat Description of 17 Sites of Study	120
Table 5.5	List of <i>k'nalum</i> Associated Plants in 17 Sites	124
Table 5.6	Representation of Changes in <i>D. kurzii</i> through Phenogram	127
Table 5.7	Average concentration of <i>k'nalum logi</i> (non-fruit bearing) <i>D. kurzii</i> in a series of dilution	130
Table 5.8	Average concentration of <i>k'nalum libon</i> (fruit bearing) <i>D. kurzii</i> in a series of dilution	131
Table 5.9	One-way ANOVA Result as to Concentration (mg/ml) between <i>k'nalum libon</i> (fruit-bearing) and <i>k'nalum logi</i> (non- fruit bearing) <i>D. kurzii</i>	131
Table 6.1	Schedule of Release and Payment of Soft Loans	141

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
Figure 1.1	Map of the Philippines	22
Figure 2.1	Structure of quinone and an example of a naphthoquinone pigment and an anthraquinone pigment	42
Figure 4.1	Phenological Events Represented by Phenograms	79
Figure 4.2	Location of 17 Sites in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Mindanao	82
Figure 4.3	<i>M. citrifolia</i> var. <i>bracteata</i>	84
Figure 4.4	<i>M. citrifolia</i> var. <i>bracteata</i> propagation procedure	99
Figure 5.1	Phenological Events Represented by Phenograms	108
Figure 5.2	Location of 17 Sites in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Mindanao	112
Figure 5.3	<i>D. kurzii</i>	114
Figure 5.4	<i>D. kurzii</i> propagation procedure	132
Figure 6.1	Map of South Cotabato	139
Figure 6.2	Different Stakeholders in Preserving and Promoting T'boli Culture	140