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, wasteplaces, 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

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