



### ABSTRACT

The knowledge and use of medicinal plant species by the locals of Pastrana and Dagami both located in Southern Leyte was investigated from May 2007 to February 2008. Respondents were selected randomly and interviewed with the help of questionnaire. Oral interview was also employed to gather information on the knowledge and use of medicinal plants to cure human ailments. In the current study, it was reported that 65 plant species belonging to 56 genera and 37 families were commonly used to treat various human ailments. The most cited medicinal plant species is *Vitex negundo* locally called as lagundi and is prepared as decoction to treat cough and fever. Plant parts such as leaves, flower and fruit are used in the preparation. The common ailments/diseases cured by the medicinal plants mentioned by the respondent are diarrhea, skin problems, cough and fever. It was also observed that one plant can cure several diseases and the preparations common are decoction and infusion. Based on the survey, the locals of Dagami is more knowledgeable on the use of medicinal plants compared to the residents of Pastrana.

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