

**XIII. THE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
HERBARIUM (PBDH),  
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS**

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INTRODUCTION

With the founding of the Museum of Natural History (MNH) at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) the former Department of Botany Herbarium (CAHUP) has been transferred to this. This required the establishment of another herbarium to cater to the increasing need by courses in systematics of the undergraduate and graduate programs of the Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS), UPLB. Thus, in 1999, the birth of the IBS Herbarium (PBDH). It is used for six more or less advanced courses in biodiversity, botany, ecology, and systematics.

It is also the repository of documentation on the flora of Mt Makiling and vicinity. Mount Makiling is the best scientifically studied mountain of the country, materials dating back to the time of the Malaspina Expedition in 1789. Prominent collectors were W.H. Brown, E.B. Copeland, H. Cuming, A.D.E. Elmer, A. Loher, C.G. Matthews, E.D. Merrill, C. Pickering, and many others. Those after WW II are listed below.

With the founding of UPLB in 1909 Mt Makiling was intensively studied being a living laboratory for biology, chemistry, forestry, and related disciplines of the University. The Flora of Mt Makiling (Pancho, 1983) is the only recent Flora of an area in the Philippines. Only the first volume was published, but there are hopes that it will be continued in the not too far future.

The two aforementioned purposes of the IBS Herbarium dictate that it should have representatives of the different biogeographic zones of the Philippines to expose the systematics students to the richness of the biodiversity of the country on the one hand and an intensive documentation and special collections of the Mt Makiling flora on the other.

COLLECTIONS

To date there are around 3000 accessions of spermatophytes and pteridophytes. These were collected by students, instructors, and professors in systematics, or obtained through exchange. The majority of the specimens are flowering plants gathered in various localities throughout the Philippine archipelago.

Dominant families are: Caesalpiniaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Mimosaceae, Orchidaceae, and Papilionaceae.

Some interesting localities are: Cagayan, Caranglan grasslands (Central Luzon), Isabela, Mindoro, Mountain Province, Mt Banahaw, Mt Data, Mt Halcon, Mt Isarog, Mt Pulog, Mt St. Tomas, Palawan, Quezon National Park, Romblon, and of course Mt Makiling.

Moreover, there are representatives from the scattered Islands of the Visayas and some mountains of Mindanao.

Admittedly, because of proximity, around 90% of the total accessions are from Luzon. However, the intention is to collect more from the Visayas and Mindanao in the future.

Aside from those collected by the authors (I.E. Buot Jr., B.F. Hernaez, D.N. Tandang) major collectors for PBDH are: N.O. Aguilar, B.S. Belonias, M.A.O. Cajano, L.B. Cardenas, L.S. de Padua, R.P. Escobin, W.Sm. Gruezo, M. Ishibashi, G.C. Lugod, E.H. Mandia, N.O. Orlido, J.V. Pancho, M.G. Price, E.G. Quintana, J.C. Regalado Jr., A.C. Soligam, J.R. Velasco, and P.M. Zamora.

At the moment the Herbarium houses around 300 endemic species of the Philippines, many of which due to continuous deforestation activities have an endangered status according to IUCN standards, e.g. *Aglaomorpha pilosa* (J. Sm. ex Hook. & Bauer) Copel., *Castanopsis philipensis* (Blanco) Vidal (usually misspelled as '*philippensis*'), *Clausena anisum-olens* (Blanco) Merr., *Cyathea callosa* H. Christ, *Trichomanes (Microgonium) craspedoneurum* Copel., etc.

#### PLANS

We at the IBS Herbarium and Systematics Laboratory envision to construct user-friendly keys to the plant species of particular habitats in hard and electronic versions to serve the students and Faculty of Systematics better. Also, users in and out of the UPLB community will so be aided in identification with as little difficulty as possible. Such projects should be exciting especially on the part of the students.

The PBDH and Systematics Laboratory envision to construct user-friendly keys to plants of particular habitats, both in a hard and an electronic version to serve all interested parties in and outside the UPLB community better in identifying their specimens.

Moreover, we also hope to serve interested laymen in nearby communities by offering them an easy access to a wealth of information on medicinal, economic, endangered, and other plants, especially those of Mt Makiling and vicinity.

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#### *Staff of PBDH:*

- Dr. I.E. Buot Jr., Curator (Dicotyledonae, Apocynaceae s.l.)
- Dr. D.B. Tolentino, Curator (Pteridophytes)
- Mr. D.N. Tandang, Herbarium technician
- Mr. B.F. Hernaez (retired) (Pteridophytes, Spermatophytes)

#### *Consultants:*

- Dr. N.O. Aguilar (Gramineae, Leguminosae)
- Dr. M.F.M. Sangalang (Bryophytes, Pteridophytes)
- Dr. A.C. Soligam (Monocotyledonae, Orchidaceae)