

Ethnomycological Studies on the Bugkalot Indigenous Community in Alfonso Castaneda, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines

Mark Louie S. Torres¹⁾, Delia C. Ontengco¹⁾, Edwin R. Tadosa²⁾, Renato G. Reyes³⁾

¹⁾The Graduate School, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

²⁾Philippine National Herbarium, Botany Division, National Museum of the Philippines, Philippines

³⁾Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, Central Luzon State University, Philippines

Purpose: Bugkalots, a well-known ethnic group in the Northern Luzon, Philippines are believed to use various species of mushrooms as part of their daily lives. However, there are no available in-depth studies on the knowledge and culture of the Bugkalots when it comes to utilizing mushrooms. Hence, this study was conducted to provide an initial data on the ethnomycological knowledge of the Bugkalots.

Methods: In order to document the knowledge, belief, practices and utilization of macrofungi by the Bugkalots in Alfonso Castaneda, Nueva Vizcaya, a survey and interview approach were used. The collected specimens were preserved and identified based on their morphological features with comparison to relevant literatures.

Results: A total of 38 species of macrofungi has been reported by the Bugkalots. However, only 30 species were collected and identified during the sampling period. Out of these macrofungi, only 10 species were used as food (*Auricularia auricula-judae*, *Coprinellus sp.*, 2 species of *Lentinus tigrinus*, *Lentinus sp. 1*, *Lentinus sp. 2*, *Pleurotus dryinus*, *Polyporus sp. 1*, *Polyporus sp. 2* and *Schizophyllum commune*) and 5 species were used as medicine (*Ganoderma applanatum*, 2 species of *Ganoderma lucidum*, *Polyporus picipes* and *Polyporus sp. 4*). Their specific use, mode of preparation and administration is documented in this paper. This is the first ethnomycological study conducted on the Bugkalot community in the Philippines.

Conclusion: A total of 38 local species of macrofungi has been reported by the Bugkalots wherein 30 species of which were collected and identified morphologically. Of these macrofungi, only 15 species were either utilized as food or medicine. Bugkalots possessed a great knowledge on many different macrofungal species as these become part of their daily lives. However, these mushrooms including the inedible ones must be given attention in future studies for possible utilization by the tribal community.