

VIII. THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS HERBARIUM, CEBU CITY, THE PHILIPPINES

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The University of San Carlos, Cebu City, ('USC') holds a botanical collection which is the fourth largest in size within the Philippines. The three leading herbaria of the Philippines are situated in or close to Manila. The 36 year old USC Herbarium is the only major collection in the Philippines outside Luzon.

A project recently started and financially supported by the University's Department of Research has provided the opportunity for reinforcement and further research on the collections. The names have been revised, records completed, and the taxa rearranged. The data on the labels have been computerized and stored in dBase III.

The Herbarium was started in 1953 as a teaching aid by Dr. Paulina D. Pages with specimens collected by her in Los Baños and she steadily increased the holdings until her departure in 1972. At present they are maintained in five taxonomic sections (fungi, lichens, mosses, ferns, seed plants), and special forest, marine, wood, and seed collections. In December 1988 there were more than 14,790 specimens of plants, ranging from algae to flowering plants, cared for by J.P. Bongo (Thallophytes), N.C. Arche (vascular plants), and D. Largo (marine algae).

The marine collection is the largest section with more than 6,000 specimens.

Most of the terrestrial collections result from expeditions to the volcanos of the southern Philippines and special forest remnants (Kantipla, Sohoton) and so especially cover the mountain forests of the various islands in the Visayas and Mindanao. Other material was obtained through exchange with institutes in the Philippines and abroad.

Important collectors after Dr. Pages were (alphabetically): A. Almase, P. Apao, A. Colina, P. Geonzon, E.A. Hamoy, J.A. Jumalon, M.T. Kao, Lucagbo & Hoffman, D.A. Madulid, K. Militz, F. Raustero, S. Sasa, and F.M. Villamor. Collections from urban areas were made by numerous students as part of their requirements for botany courses.

Most specimens in the forest collection were gathered by Fr. H. Schönig (S.V.D), and his two assistants Colina and Jumalon. In 1971 Fr. E. Schmutz (S.V.D), well-known for his Flores collections, assisted in a survey near Kantipla, Central Cebu, and probably collected the new species *Cinnamomum cebuense* Kostermans (iso in 'USC').

The current goal of the USC - Botany Research Group is to complete identifications, extend the collecting activity to the different ecological areas of the Visayas, and to prepare a first 'Flora of the Visayas Region' whereby the extremely neglected flora of the area can be studied better.

An active collecting team has been formed and students are being trained in fieldwork. Various ecological zones on Cebu Island have been surveyed, e.g. in the Kawasan River valley, and the forest remnants in the mountainous interior. Especially the latter is urgently needed as the remnants are rapidly dwindling.

For a better aid in comparison specimens from in- and outside the Philippines would be most welcome.

Inquiries for exchange programs can be addressed to the author.

RELEVANT LITERATURE

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