

ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY TRADITIONAL HEALERS IN BAROBO, SURIGAO DEL SUR, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT

The uses of medicinal plants have a long history and become important sources of the healthcare in the Philippines. However, comprehensive study conducted on the knowledge and practices of traditional healers' medicine in Province of Surigao del Sur are few and not well documented. Thus, a comprehensive study with the aim of identifying and documenting the medicinal plants used by traditional healers in Barobo, Surigao del Sur was carried out. Purposive sampling method was used to select traditional medicinal practitioners of the study area. Semistructured questionnaire, interview and focused group discussion were conducted to gather first hand ethnobotanical information on medicinal plants used by the traditional healers to treat different kinds of diseases and ailments. Fifteen (15) informants were involved in providing information on A total of 45 species belonging to 43 genera in 32 families were recorded to treat several ailments such as cough, stomach ache, wound, urinary infections diarrhea, headache, and fever. Leaves were the most commonly used plant part and decoction was the most widely used method of preparation which was mostly administered internally. The documentation of this rich traditional ethno medicinal knowledge could provide avenues for pharmacological investigations to improve healthcare for a range of ailments.

Keywords: Diseases, ethnomedicinal plants, traditional healers.