

The Status of Floristic Analysis of Mt. Pangasugan, Leyte, Philippines - a Conservation Priority Area Classified as “Extremely High Critical”

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ABSTRACT

The island of Leyte in the Eastern Visayas takes a central position between the Philippine main islands of Luzon and Mindanao. It is characterized by the Leyte Cordillera, which is part of the Philippine fault line. Within the Leyte Cordillera, Mt. Pangasugan takes an exceptional role since it provides a catena from lowland forest remnants on its foothills to mossy forest on its summit at 1158 m a.s.l.. Recently, Mt. Pangasugan has been identified as conservation priority area classified as of ‘extremely high critical’ level.

Mt. Pangasugan has been the focus of comprehensive botanical studies within the last few years. We present the current status of the floristic assessment of the mountain and introduce the Visayas State University Herbarium, located at the foot of Mt. Pangasugan, where the majority of collected specimens are deposited. At present, the Herbarium houses c. 6100 specimens, 3000 of them originating from the primary forest of Mt. Pangasugan. Based on the present status of specimen processing and identification they represent 115 families, and 418 genera of Angiosperms, 2 families, 2 genera, and 3 species of Gymnosperms, 27 families and 64 genera of Pteridophytes, and 3 classes, 38 genera and 51 species of Bryophytes. The number of vascular plant species represented in the VSU Herbarium can safely be estimated at c. 800-1000. Given the small overall sampling area intensively studied so far these figures can be assumed as representing just a fraction of the total floristic richness of the area.

Keywords: bryophytes, spermatophytes, pteridophytes, Leyte Cordillera, plant collections, vascular plant species

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INTRODUCTION

The Philippines has been acknowledged as important megadiversity hot spot in Southeast Asia (Myers *et al.*, 2000). It harbors c. 8120 angiosperm, 33 gymnosperm, and 1031 pteridophyte species (DENR and UNEP, 1997). The archipelago had been a center of comprehensive floristic studies at the beginning of the last century as has been documented by van Steenis (1950). Nevertheless, compared to the neighboring countries the flora of the Philippines is still little known as has been stressed by Kartawinata (1990), Soerianegara and Lemmens (1994), or Frodin (2001).

The Philippine archipelago is dominated by its two main islands which make up two thirds of the land surface, Luzon in the north and Mindanao in the south. The two islands are testimonies of the plant-geographic evolution in Southeast Asia. While the Philippines are basically characterized by Malaysian plant groups the vegetation of Luzon shows distinct floristic impacts from continental Asia as e.g. the two pine species *Pinus khesyia* and *Pinus merkusii* or representatives of the higher latitude family Gentianaceae. Mindanao, on the other hand, shows the impact of Australian floristic elements, like the northernmost occurrence of the genus *Eucalyptus* (*E. deglupta*) (Dickerson, 1928, Merrill, 1945). Leyte and Samar form the central island group between these two entries of plant invasions. A better knowledge of their vegetation will improve our understanding of plant geographic processes in the Philippine archipelago.

On the island of Leyte, Mt. Pangasugan has been the focus of several comprehensive plant biodiversity studies. It is a distinct mountain on the west coast of the island. At its foot the Visayas State University (VSU) is located. VSU usually acts as base camp for floristic studies and inventories on the mountain. During a nationwide biodiversity priority-setting workshop Mt. Pangasugan and its environs have been identified as a conservation priority area of an “extremely high critical” level (Ong *et al.*, 2002, p. 90). However, despite this declaration, Mt. Pangasugan’s biodiversity is continually threatened e.g. by mining activities.

Within this paper we present the floristic studies conducted on Mt. Pangasugan and give an overview of the plant taxa so far identified.

Additionally, we introduce the Visayas State University Herbarium, where most of the collections are deposited. The objective of this paper is to add to the knowledge of the Philippine flora as well as to focus the scientific as well as public view on this exceptional mountain.

The Island of Leyte and Mt. Pangasugan

The island of Leyte belongs to the biogeographic region of the Eastern Visayas (DENR and UNEP 1997). Together with the island of Samar it takes a central position between the Philippine main islands of Luzon and Mindanao (Figure 1).

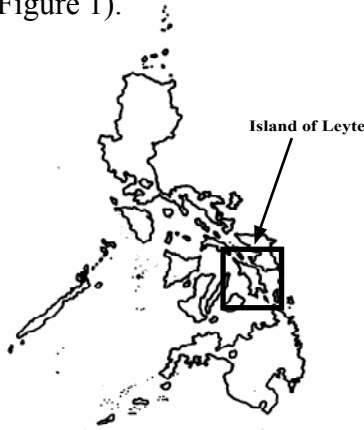


Figure 1. The location of Leyte

With 7448 km² Leyte is the eighth biggest island in the Philippine archipelago. It extends over a length of c. 214 km between 9°55' and 11°48' northern latitude, and between 124°17' and 125°18' eastern longitude. At its 'hip' it is only 25 km wide (Figure 2).

Leyte is a rugged and mountainous island. Its characteristic feature is the Leyte Cordillera, which belongs to the Philippine fault line and extends north to south over the whole length of the island. Due to its rugged relief and the resulting difficult accessibility pristine forests can still be found even in rather close vicinity to the densely populated coastal planes. A good example is Mt. Pangasugan (10°44' N, 124°48' E) on the western side of the island, which faces the Camotes Sea. It is located c. 8 km north of the provincial capital of Baybay and c. 34 km

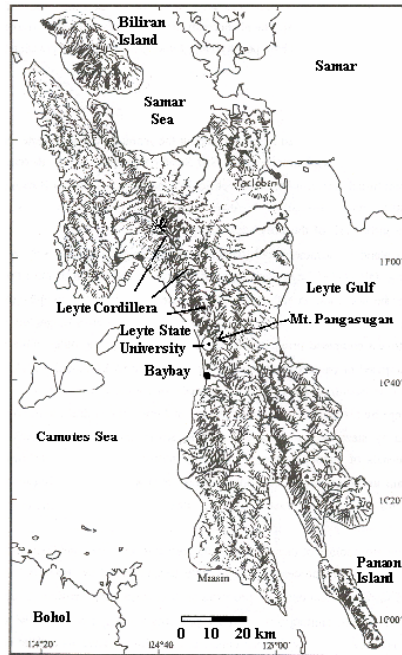


Figure 2. Leyte and the location of Mt. Pangasugan and the Visayas State University

south of Ormoc City. On the narrow coastal plane at its foot the Visayas State University (VSU) is located. Mt. Pangasugan is exceptional since it still provides a catena from lowland forest remnants on its foothills to mossy forest on its summit at c. 1158 m a.s.l.

Geologically, the bulk of Leyte consists of andesitic, basaltic and dacitic flows and breccia of Miocene age covered with lava flows and volcanoclastics (Asio, 1996). On the western foothills of Mt. Pangasugan at c. 400 - 500 m a.s.l. soil studies revealed dacitic and andesitic breccia as parent material and Haplic Andosols as the resulting soil (Zikeli, 1998).

Climatically, Leyte is characterized by a tropical monsoon climate, with no pronounced dry season (Kintanar, 1984). Calculations based on data from the PAGASA¹ Weather Station (7 m) on the Campus of the Visayas State University showed an annual average temperature of 27.4° C and an average annual precipitation of 2586 mm. Although, on

¹ Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

average, no dry season occurs, rainfall distribution is not homogenous, and March to May receive with monthly 95 mm to 133 mm much less precipitation than November to January with 284 mm to 296 mm. Nevertheless, the variability of precipitation is high, and severe drought periods can be observed during El Niño Southern Oscillation Years (Langenberger, 2003). The contribution of orographic rains and clouds to the precipitation on the mountain slopes and summit has never been studied. But both definitely play an important role for vegetation development. Another important feature of the area is the occurrence of typhoons and the often associated landslides.

The Visayas State University (VSU) Herbarium and its Collections

The Visayas State University (VSU) Herbarium is a small but growing university herbarium affiliated to the university's Department of Biological Sciences (DBS). It has been formally established in 1990 within the framework of a cooperation project between the Philippines and Germany². The project was launched to improve the ecological conditions on Leyte. The task of the Herbarium is to act as a repository of voucher specimens from plant biodiversity studies on Mt. Pangasugan.

The Herbarium consists of a storage room with steel and glass cabinets and built-in hanging cupboards for storing herbarium specimens. It also has a working room equipped with work tables, pressers, two drying boxes, and a stereoscope, as well as a small taxonomic library. The Herbarium has been managed by the staff of the Department of Biological Sciences and has been operating initially using research funds from the cooperation project. At present, a very small part of the department's annual budget allocation sustains the unit in terms of needed supplies. Occasional support from collaborative researches of VSU staff and visiting scientists also help to improve the facility. The absence of a full-time staff in the Herbarium and the lack of important equipment like air-conditioner, or a computer, hamper its further development.

² "Philippine-German Environmental Research and Development Program", PN 88.2122.5-01.100

Insufficient taxonomic references are also a major problem.

Based on the current status of specimen processing and identification, the Herbarium houses a total of c. 5500 mounted specimens collected from various parts of Leyte Island, about 3000 of which come from the primary forests of Mt. Pangasugan. Around 1000 specimens were collected from other parts of Leyte, like Lake Danao in Ormoc, Mt. Lobi in Dagami and other localities on the island.

A considerable number (c. 2000) are backlog specimens that are already mounted but still need to be catalogued and identified. Furthermore, there are still collections especially from Mt. Janagdan, Ormoc, awaiting processing and final identification. Table 1 provides a summary of the present collection of the VSU Herbarium.

Table 1. The VSU Herbarium and its Collections

Collection localities	Number of specimens*
Mt. Pangasugan	c. 3000
Mt. Janagdan, Ormoc (not yet processed)	c. 600
Other localities on Leyte	c.1000
Miscellaneous (students' collections, exotics, etc.)	c. 1500
Total no. of specimens	c. 6100

*A considerable number of specimens has not yet been included in the data base. Therefore no exact figures are given.

Floristic research conducted on Mt. Pangasugan

First plant collections on the island of Leyte are documented for the beginning of the 20th century, e.g. by Cuming, Warburg, or Jagor (van Steenis, 1950). Since then floristic activities on Leyte have been rare as can be seen from the overview by Madulid and Agoo (1992). Neither van Steenis (1950) nor Madulid and Agoo (1992) mention Mt. Pangasugan as research or collection site.

But since the early 1990's Mt. Pangasugan has been the focus of comprehensive plant biodiversity studies. Floristic inventories of bryophytes and vascular plants were done by graduate students, visiting scientists and faculty researchers of the university. Except for the studies by Po (2000), Belonias (2002), and Langenberger (2003),

which were done primarily in the primary forests of Mt. Pangasugan, all other inventories included native, introduced as well as cultivated species. Since their results do not provide information relevant for an ecological evaluation of Mt. Pangasugan's flora, they are not considered here. In 1992, there was also a floristic trip by the Philippine National Herbarium within the framework of the Flora of the Philippines Project. 30 specimens of that exploration are deposited at the VSU Herbarium. In Tables 4-6 we list all families and genera of spermatophytes (Table 4), pteridophytes (Table 5), and musci (Table 6) identified in the studies cited in table 2. We did not go down to species level. Due to the lack

Table 2. Floristic Studies Conducted on Mt. Pangasugan, Leyte, Philippines

Researcher & Year	Plant groups studied	No. of taxa identified
Langenberger 2003	Vascular plants	111 families, 289 genera, 685 species
Belonias 2002	Dicotyledons	75 families, 212 genera, 314 species
Po 2000	Monocotyledons	14 families, 51 genera, 77 species
Belonias & Bañoc 1994	Pteridophytes	24 families, 55 genera, 93 species
Quimio 1994	Bryophytes	3 classes, 38 genera, 51 species

of an updated taxonomic reference of Philippine vascular plants the problem of the application of synonyms and outdated names is abundant. A sound combination of the results of different studies would require a comprehensive check to avoid the use of such synonyms and to apply the same taxonomic classification system. Given the available resources this was not possible for all plant groups so far encountered. We therefore decided to stick to the family and generic level to avoid the impression of an accuracy which cannot be guaranteed at present. Additionally, this avoids the problem of how to tread morpho-species. Family and genus delimitation for spermatophytes follows the compilation by Gunn *et al.* (1992). For the Pteridophytes the classification scheme applied by Salgado (1990) in his checklist has been used to standardize the use of

family and genera names. In Table 3 the results for the vascular plants are given. So far 144 families and 484 genera of vascular plants have been identified for Mt. Pangasugan. In Figure 3 we present the 35 most common spermatophyte families concerning the number of genera. With 33 genera the Rubiaceae are by far the most genus-rich family. They are

Table 3. No. of Vascular Plants so far documented for Mt. Pangasugan*

	Spermatophytes	Pteridophytes	Total
Families:	117	27	144
Genera:	420	64	484

* The figures for the spermatophytes and pteridophytes are the result of a synthesis of the studies by Belonias & Bañoc (1994), Po (2000), Belonias 2002, and Langenberger (2003); the figures for the musci are from Quimio (1994)

followed by the mostly epiphytic orchids with 27 genera. Concerning terrestrial plants the Euphorbiaceae are second. Both terrestrial families rarely represent dominant trees. Mostly, their representatives are medium to small trees or shrubs. This stresses the importance of the undergrowth for the overall species richness in the area.

CONCLUSIONS

The importance of detailed local botanical studies has been stressed by Prance *et al.* (2000). Concerning the vascular plant taxa represented in this paper (Tables 4 and 5) it has to be noted that the numbers are mainly based on plot sampling covering an overall area of less than 1 ha. This is a tiny fraction of the still existing forest on Mt. Pangasugan, leave alone the Leyte Cordillera. From our current overview of the collections at the VSU Herbarium we estimate that they certainly represent 800 to 1000 vascular plant species. That the encounter of new or very rare taxa is just a matter of collecting can be seen from the findings of the last collections. Four new orchid species have been described from Mt. Pangasugan in the years 1996 to 1998 (Fessel and Lückel, 1996a, b, 1997, 1998). The *Schefflera* specimens (Araliaceae) at the VSU Herbarium contain one species, *S. leytensis* (GL 2462), which has been collected only once before, several decades ago, as well as three species still awaiting final

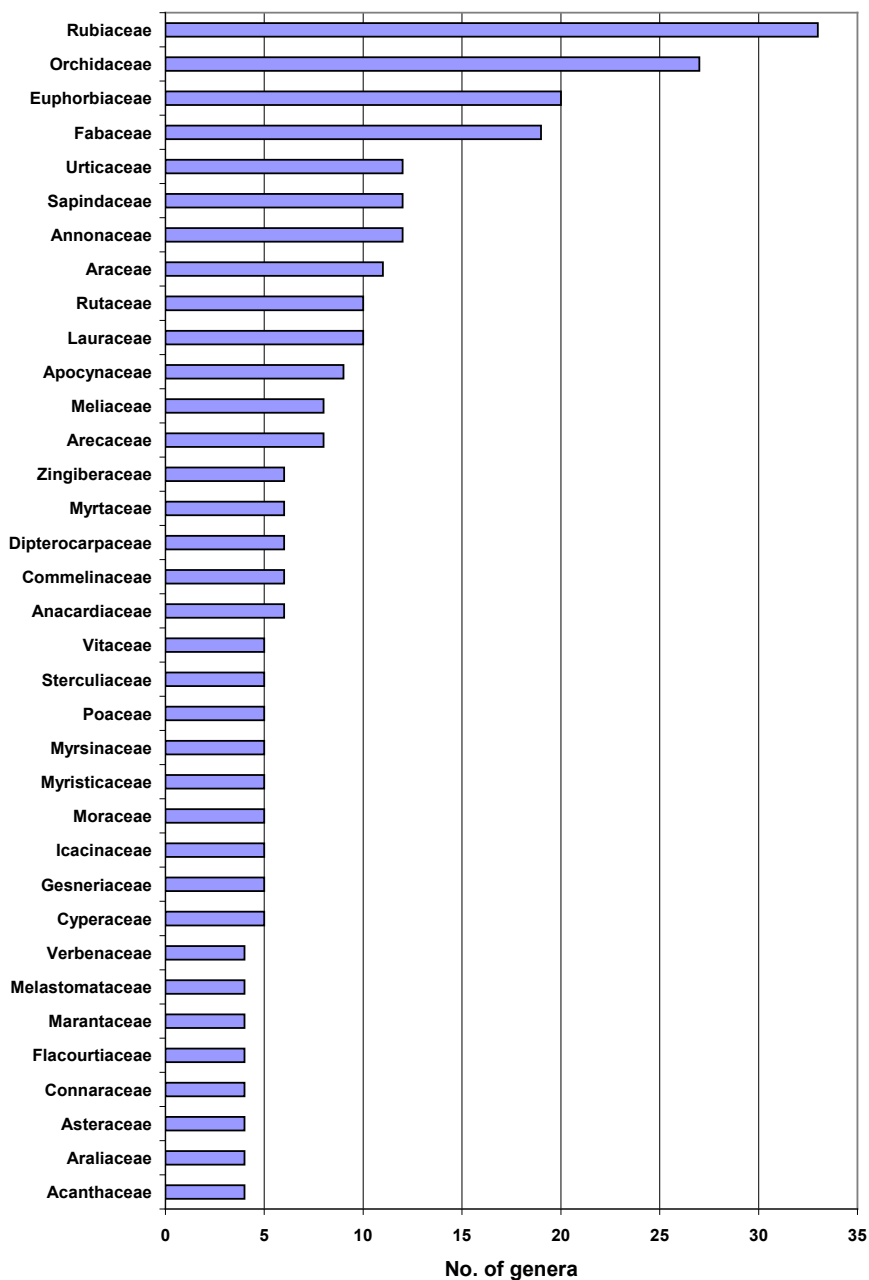


Figure 3. The most common spermatophyte families on Mt. Pangasugan, Leyte, Philippines, as based on the current status of floristic analysis

Table 4. Families and genera of spermatophytes identified on Mt. Pangasugan based on the synthesis of the studies by Po (2000), Belonias (2002), and Langenberger (2003)

Acanthaceae (4)*	Apocynaceae (9)	(Arecaceae cont.)
<i>Acanthus</i>	<i>Alstonia</i>	<i>Oncosperma</i>
<i>Hemigraphis</i>	<i>Alyxia</i>	<i>Pinanga</i>
<i>Justicia</i>	<i>Dischidia</i>	<i>Heterospatha</i>
<i>Strobilanthes</i>	<i>Kibatalia</i>	
	<i>Lepiniopsis</i>	Aristolochiaceae (1)
Aceraceae (1)	<i>Paralstonia</i>	<i>Aristolochia</i>
<i>Acer</i>	<i>Tabernaemontana</i>	
	<i>Voacanga</i>	Asclepiadaceae (2)
Actinidiaceae (1)	<i>Wrightia</i>	<i>Gymnema</i>
<i>Saurauia</i>		<i>Hoya</i>
	Aquifoliaceae (1)	
Alangiaceae (1)	<i>Ilex</i>	Asteraceae (4)
<i>Alangium</i>		<i>Ageratum</i>
	Araceae (11)	<i>Blumea</i>
Amaranthaceae (2)	<i>Aglaonema</i>	<i>Mikania</i>
<i>Achyranthes</i>	<i>Alocasia</i>	<i>Vernonia</i>
<i>Deeringia</i>	<i>Amorphophallus</i>	
	<i>Costus</i>	Balanophoraceae (1)
Anacardiaceae (6)	<i>Homalomena</i>	<i>Balanophora</i>
<i>Dracontomelon</i>	<i>Pothoidium</i>	
<i>Koordersiodendron</i>	(<i>Araceae cont.</i>)	Begoniaceae (1)
<i>Mangifera</i>	<i>Pothos</i>	<i>Begonia</i>
<i>Rhus</i>	<i>Raphidophora</i>	
<i>Semecarpus</i>	<i>Schismatoglottis</i>	Bignoniaceae (2)
<i>Spondias</i>	<i>Scindapsus</i>	<i>Oroxylum</i>
	<i>Spadiphyllum</i>	<i>Radermachera</i>
Annonaceae (12)		Burseraceae (2)
<i>Alphonsea</i>	Araliaceae (4)	<i>Canarium</i>
<i>Anaxagorea</i>	<i>Arthrophyllum</i>	<i>Dacryodes</i>
<i>Artabotrys</i>	<i>Osmoxylon</i>	
<i>Cananga</i>	<i>Polyscias</i>	Capparidaceae (1)
<i>Cyathocalyx</i>	<i>Schefflera</i>	<i>Capparis</i>
<i>Goniothalamus</i>		Caprifoliaceae (2)
<i>Meiogyne</i>	Arecaceae (8)	<i>Sambucus</i>
<i>Papualthia</i>	<i>Arenga</i>	<i>Viburnum</i>
<i>Platymitra</i>	<i>Calamus</i>	
<i>Polyalthia</i>	<i>Caryota</i>	
<i>Popowia</i>	<i>Daemonorops</i>	
<i>Uvaria</i>	<i>Korthalsia</i>	

Table 4. Families and genera of spermatophytes identified on Mt. Pangasugan based on the synthesis of the studies by Po (2000), Belonias (2002), and Langenberger (2003) (cont.)

Casuarinaceae (1)	(Connaraceae cont.)	Ebenaceae (1)
<i>Gymnostoma</i>	<i>Ellipanthus</i>	<i>Diospyros</i>
	<i>Rourea</i>	
Cecropiaceae (2)	Crypteroniaceae (1)	Elaeagnaceae (1)
<i>Poikilospermum</i>	<i>Crypteronia</i>	<i>Elaeagnus</i>
<i>Procris</i>		
Celastraceae (3)	Cucurbitaceae (1)	Elaeocarpaceae (1)
<i>Bhesa</i>	<i>Trichosanthes</i>	<i>Elaeocarpus</i>
<i>Euonymus</i>		
<i>Lophopetalum</i>	Cunoniaceae (1)	Ericaceae (2)
	<i>Weinmannia</i>	<i>Rhododendron</i>
		<i>Vaccinium</i>
Chloranthaceae (2)	Cyperaceae (5)	Euphorbiaceae (20)
<i>Chloranthus</i>	<i>Carex</i>	<i>Acalypha</i>
<i>Sarcandra</i>	<i>Hypolytrum</i>	<i>Antidesma</i>
	<i>Mapania</i>	<i>Aporosa</i>
Chrysobalanaceae (1)	<i>Paramapania</i>	<i>Baccaurea</i>
<i>Maranthes</i>	<i>Scleria</i>	<i>Breynia</i>
		<i>Bridelia</i>
Clethraceae (1)	Datiaceae (1)	<i>Claoxylon</i>
<i>Clethra</i>	<i>Octomeles</i>	<i>Cleidion</i>
		<i>Cleistanthus</i>
Clusiaceae (3)	Dichapetalaceae (1)	<i>Codiaeum</i>
<i>Calophyllum</i>	<i>Dichapetalum</i>	<i>Croton</i>
<i>Garcinia</i>		<i>Drypetes</i>
<i>Kayea</i>	Dilleniaceae (2)	<i>Glochidion</i>
	<i>Dillenia</i>	<i>Macaranga</i>
Combretaceae (1)	<i>Tetracera</i>	<i>Mallotus</i>
<i>Terminalia</i>		<i>Neotrewia</i>
	Dioscoreaceae (2)	<i>Omalanthus</i>
Commelinaceae (6)	<i>Dioscorea</i>	<i>Phyllanthus</i>
<i>Aneilema</i>	<i>Stenomeris</i>	<i>Suregada</i>
<i>Cyanotis</i>		<i>Trigonostemon</i>
<i>Floscope</i>	Dipterocarpaceae (6)	
<i>Forrestia</i>	<i>Anisoptera</i>	Fabaceae (19)
<i>Polia</i>	<i>Dipterocarpus</i>	<i>Albizia</i>
<i>Rhopalephora</i>	<i>Hopea</i>	<i>Afzelia</i>
	<i>Parashorea</i>	<i>Archidendron</i>
Connaraceae (4)	<i>Shorea</i>	
<i>Cnestis</i>	<i>Vatica</i>	
<i>Connarus</i>		

Table 4. Families and genera of spermatophytes identified on Mt. Pangasugan based on the synthesis of the studies by Po (2000), Belonias (2002), and Langenberger (2003) (cont.)

(Fabaceae cont.)	Grossulariaceae (2)	Leeaceae (1)
<i>Bauhinia</i>	<i>Itea</i>	<i>Leea</i>
<i>Dalbergia</i>	<i>Polysma</i>	
<i>Derris</i>		Lecythidaceae (2)
<i>Desmodium</i>	Hamamelidaceae (1)	<i>Petersianthus</i>
<i>Entada</i>	<i>Sycopsis</i>	<i>Planchonia</i>
<i>Erythrina</i>		
<i>Euchresta</i>	Hernandiaceae (1)	Liliaceae (2)
<i>Kingiodendron</i>	<i>Illigera</i>	<i>Curculigo</i>
<i>Milletia</i>		<i>Dianella</i>
<i>Mucuna</i>	Hydrangeaceae (1)	
<i>Ormosia</i>	<i>Hydrangea</i>	Loganiaceae (3)
<i>Pithecelobium</i>		<i>Fagraea</i>
<i>Pterocarpus</i>	Icacinaceae (5)	<i>Geniostoma</i>
<i>Spatholobus</i>	<i>Gomphandra</i>	<i>Strychnos</i>
<i>Strongylodon</i>	<i>Gonocaryum</i>	
<i>Wallaceodendron</i>	<i>Miquelia</i>	Magnoliaceae (1)
	<i>Phytocrine</i>	<i>Magnolia</i>
Fagaceae (1)	<i>Platea</i>	
<i>Lithocarpus</i>		Malpighiaceae (1)
	Ixonanthaceae (1)	<i>Hiptage</i>
Flacourtiaceae (4)	<i>Ixonanthes</i>	
<i>Casearia</i>		Marantaceae (4)
<i>Homalium</i>	Juglandaceae (1)	<i>Donax</i>
<i>Osmelia</i>	<i>Engelhardia</i>	<i>Phacelophrynium</i>
<i>Trichadenia</i>		<i>Phrynium</i>
	Lamiaceae (1)	<i>Stachyphrynium</i>
Flagellariaceae (1)	<i>Gomphostemma</i>	
<i>Flagellaria</i>		Melastomataceae (4)
	Lauraceae (10)	<i>Astronia</i>
Gesneriaceae (5)	<i>Actinodaphne</i>	<i>Medinilla</i>
<i>Aeschynanthus</i>	<i>Caryodaphnopsis</i>	<i>Melastoma</i>
<i>Cyrtandra</i>	<i>Cinnamomum</i>	<i>Memecylon</i>
<i>Agalmyla</i>	<i>Cryptocarya</i>	
<i>Monophyllaea</i>	<i>Dehaasia</i>	Meliaceae (8)
<i>Rhynchoglossum</i>	<i>Endiandra</i>	<i>Aglaia</i>
	<i>Litsea</i>	<i>Aphanamixis</i>
Gnetaceae (1)	<i>Neolitsea</i>	<i>Chisocheton</i>
<i>Gnetum</i>	<i>Notaphoebe</i>	<i>Dysoxylum</i>
	<i>Phoebe</i>	<i>Reinwardtiodendron</i>

Table 4. Families and genera of spermatophytes identified on Mt. Pangasugan based on the synthesis of the studies by Po (2000), Belonias (2002), and Langenberger (2003) (cont.)

(Meliaceae cont.)	Myrtaceae (6)	(Orchidaceae cont.)
<i>Toona</i>	<i>Acmena</i>	<i>Flickingeria</i>
<i>Vavaea</i>	<i>Decaspermum</i>	<i>Galeola</i>
<i>Walsura</i>	<i>Syzygium</i>	<i>Grammatophyllum</i>
	<i>Tristaniopsis</i>	<i>Grastidium</i>
Menispermaceae (3)	<i>Xanthomyrtus</i>	<i>Habenaria</i>
<i>Arcangelisia</i>	<i>Xanthostemon</i>	<i>Lepidogyne</i>
<i>Pycnarrhena</i>		<i>Liparis</i>
<i>Tinomiscium</i>	Nepenthaceae (1)	<i>Luisia</i>
	<i>Nepenthes</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis</i>
Monimiaceae (2)		<i>Plocoglottis</i>
<i>Kibara</i>	Ochnaceae (1)	<i>Robiquetia</i>
<i>Matthaea</i>	<i>Gomphia</i>	<i>Spathoglottis</i>
		<i>Trichoglottis</i>
Moraceae (5)	Oleaceae (2)	Pandanaceae (2)
<i>Artocarpus</i>	<i>Erythralium</i>	<i>Freycinetia</i>
<i>Ficus</i>	<i>Strombosia</i>	<i>Pandanus</i>
<i>Maclura</i>		
<i>Trophis</i>	Oleaceae (1)	Pentaphragmataceae (1)
<i>Streblus</i>	<i>Olea</i>	<i>Pentaphragma</i>
Musaceae (1)	Opiliaceae (2)	Piperaceae (2)
<i>Musa</i>	<i>Champereia</i>	<i>Peperomia</i>
	<i>Melientha</i>	<i>Piper</i>
Myristicaceae (5)	Orchidaceae (27)	Pittosporaceae (1)
<i>Endocomia</i>	<i>Acanthephippium</i>	<i>Pittosporum</i>
<i>Gymnacranthera</i>	<i>Aphyllorchis</i>	
<i>Horsfieldia</i>	<i>Appendicula</i>	
<i>Knema</i>	<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	
<i>Myristica</i>	<i>Calanthe</i>	Poaceae (5)
	<i>Ceratostylis</i>	<i>Bambusa</i>
Myrsinaceae (5)	<i>Coelogyne</i>	<i>Centotheca</i>
<i>Ardisia</i>	<i>Cymbidium</i>	<i>Dinochloa</i>
<i>Discocalyx</i>	<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>Schizostachyum</i>
<i>Embelia</i>	<i>Dendrochilum</i>	<i>Thysanolaena</i>
<i>Maesa</i>	<i>Epigeneium</i>	
<i>Myrsine</i>	<i>Eria</i>	Podocarpaceae (1)
	<i>Erythrodes</i>	<i>Podocarpus</i>
	<i>Eulophia</i>	

Table 4. Families and genera of spermatophytes identified on Mt. Pangasugan based on the synthesis of the studies by Po (2000), Belonias (2002), and Langenberger (2003) (cont.)

Polygalaceae (2)	(Rubiaceae cont.)	(Sapindaceae cont.)
<i>Polygala</i>	<i>Mussaenda</i>	<i>Guioa</i>
<i>Xanthophyllum</i>	<i>Mycetia</i>	<i>Harpullia</i>
	<i>Myrmecodia</i>	<i>Lepisanthes</i>
Proteaceae (1)	<i>Nauclea</i>	<i>Nephelium</i>
<i>Helicia</i>	<i>Neonauclea</i>	<i>Paranephelium</i>
	<i>Ophiorrhiza</i>	<i>Pometia</i>
Ranunculaceae (1)	<i>Pavetta</i>	
<i>Clematis</i>	<i>Pertusadina</i>	Sapotaceae (3)
	<i>Praravinia</i>	<i>Palaquium</i>
Rhamnaceae (3)	<i>Psychotria</i>	<i>Planchonella</i>
<i>Sageretia</i>	<i>Tarenna</i>	<i>Pouteria</i>
<i>Ventilago</i>	<i>Tarrenoidea</i>	
<i>Ziziphus</i>	<i>Timonius</i>	Saxifragaceae (2)
	<i>Uncaria</i>	<i>Dichroa</i>
Rhizophoraceae (1)	<i>Urophyllum</i>	<i>Polyosma</i>
<i>Gynotroches</i>	<i>Wendlandia</i>	
	<i>Xanthophytum</i>	Simaroubaceae (1)
Rosaceae (2)		<i>Picrasma</i>
<i>Prunus</i>	Rutaceae (10)	
<i>Rubus</i>	<i>Achronychia</i>	Smilacaceae (1)
	<i>Atalantia</i>	<i>Smilax</i>
Rubiaceae (33)	<i>Clausena</i>	
<i>Adina</i>	<i>Euodia</i>	Solanaceae (1)
<i>Argostemma</i>	<i>Glycosmis</i>	<i>Solanum</i>
<i>Boholia</i>	<i>Lunasia</i>	
<i>Borreria</i>	<i>Melicope</i>	Sonneratiaceae (1)
<i>Canthium</i>	<i>Micromelum</i>	<i>Duabanga</i>
<i>Diodia</i>	<i>Severinia</i>	
<i>Diplospora</i>	<i>Zanthoxylum</i>	Staphyleaceae (1)
<i>Dolicholobium</i>		<i>Turpinia</i>
<i>Gardenia</i>	Sabiaceae (1)	
<i>Greeniopsis</i>	<i>Meliosma</i>	Sterculiaceae (5)
<i>Hedyotis</i>		<i>Heritiera</i>
<i>Hydnophytum</i>	Sapindaceae (12)	<i>Melochia</i>
<i>Hypobathrum</i>	<i>Allophylus</i>	<i>Pterocymbium</i>
<i>Ixora</i>	<i>Cubilia</i>	<i>Pterospermum</i>
<i>Lasianthus</i>	<i>Dictyoneura</i>	<i>Sterculia</i>
<i>Morinda</i>	<i>Dimocarpus</i>	
	<i>Euphorianthus</i>	Symplocaceae (1)
	<i>Ganophyllum</i>	<i>Symplocos</i>

Annex 1: Families and genera of spermatophytes identified on Mt. Pangasugan based on the synthesis of the studies by Po (2000), Belonias (2002), and Langenberger (2003) (cont.)

Taccaceae (1)	(Urticaceae cont.)	Winteraceae (1)
<i>Tacca</i>	<i>Elatostema</i>	<i>Drimiys</i>
	<i>Elatostematoides</i>	
Theaceae (2)	<i>Girardinia</i>	Zingiberaceae (6)
<i>Eurya</i>	<i>Laportea</i>	<i>Adelmeria</i>
<i>Ternstroemia</i>	<i>Leucosyke</i>	<i>Alpinia</i>
	<i>Maoutia</i>	<i>Globba</i>
Thymelaeaceae (3)	<i>Oreocnide</i>	<i>Kolowratia</i>
<i>Aquilaria</i>	<i>Pilea</i>	<i>Languas</i>
<i>Gonystylus</i>	<i>Pipturus</i>	<i>Plagiostachys</i>
<i>Phaleria</i>	<i>Pouzolzia</i>	
		* The application of family and genus names has been standardized based on Gunn et al. (1992). The numbers in brackets refer to the number of genera so far identified within the respective families.
Tiliaceae (3)	Verbenaceae (4)	
<i>Colona</i>	<i>Clerodendrum</i>	
<i>Grewia</i>	<i>Premna</i>	
<i>Microcos</i>	<i>Teijsmanniodendron</i>	
	<i>Vitex</i>	
Ulmaceae (3)	Vitaceae (5)	
<i>Celtis</i>	<i>Ampelocissus</i>	
<i>Gironniera</i>	<i>Cayratia</i>	
<i>Trema</i>	<i>Cissus</i>	
Urticaceae (12)	<i>Pterisanthes</i>	
<i>Cypholophus</i>	<i>Tetrastigma</i>	
<i>Dendrocnicide</i>		

Table 5. Families and genera of pteridophytes identified on Mt. Pangasugan based on the synthesis of the studies by Belonias and Bañoc (1994) and Langenberger (2003)*

Aspidiaceae	Athyriaceae	Davalliaceae
<i>Ctenitis</i>	<i>Diplazium</i>	<i>Davallia</i>
<i>Cyclopeltis</i>		<i>Trogostolon</i>
<i>Heterogonium</i>	Blechnaceae	
<i>Pleocnemia</i>	<i>Blechnum</i>	Dennstaedtiaceae
<i>Pteridrys</i>	<i>Stenochlaena</i>	<i>Dennstaedtia</i>
<i>Tectaria</i>		<i>Microlepia</i>
Aspleniaceae	Cyatheaceae	Dryopteridaceae
<i>Asplenium</i>	<i>Cyathea</i>	<i>Didymochlaena</i>

Table 5. Families and genera of pteridophytes identified on Mt. Pangasugan based on the synthesis of the studies by Belonias and Bañoc (1994) and Langenberger (2003)*

Gleicheniaceae	Oleandraceae	Selaginellaceae
<i>Dicranopteris</i>	<i>Nephrolepis</i>	<i>Selaginella</i>
<i>Gleichenia</i>	<i>Oleandra</i>	
Grammitidaceae	Osmundaceae	Sinopteridaceae
<i>Calymmodon</i>	<i>Osmunda</i>	<i>Adiantum</i>
<i>Scleroglossum</i>		<i>Pytyrogramma</i>
	Parkeriaceae	<i>Syngamma</i>
Hymenophyllaceae	<i>Ceratopteris</i>	<i>Taenitis</i>
<i>Trichomanes</i>		Thelypteridaceae
<i>Hymenophyllum</i>	Polypodiaceae	<i>Amphineuron</i>
	<i>Colysis</i>	<i>Chingia</i>
Lindsaeaceae	<i>Drynaria</i>	<i>Christella</i>
<i>Lindsaea</i>	<i>Leptochilus</i>	<i>Cyclosorus</i>
<i>Sphenomeris</i>	<i>Microsorium</i>	<i>Macrothelypteris</i>
<i>Tapeinidium</i>	<i>Pyrrosia</i>	<i>Pneumatopteris</i>
	<i>Selliguea</i>	<i>Pronephrium</i>
Lycopodiaceae	Psilotaceae	<i>Pseudophegopteris</i>
<i>Lycopodium</i>	<i>Psilotum</i>	<i>Sphaerostephanos</i>
Lomariopsidaceae	Pteridaceae	Vittariaceae
<i>Bolbitis</i>	<i>Acrostichum</i>	<i>Antrophyum</i>
<i>Elaphoglossum</i>	<i>Pteris</i>	<i>Vittaria</i>
<i>Lomogramma</i>		
<i>Teratophyllum</i>	Salviniaceae	
	<i>Azolla</i>	
Marattiaceae	<i>Salvinia</i>	
<i>Angiopteris</i>		
<i>Marattia</i>	Schizaeaceae	
	<i>Lygodium</i>	

* The study by Belonias and Bañoc (1994) includes lowland aquatic (cultivated) habitats, therefore aquatic ferns are included. The list also includes taxa observed during recent field work in mossy forest, e.g. *Elaphoglossum* and *Calymmodon*. The application of family and genus names has been standardized using the checklist on Philippine ferns by Salgado (1990).

Table 6. Classes and genera of bryophytes identified in the foothills of Mt. Pangasugan (from Quimio, 1994)

Class Musci	Class Hepaticae	Class Anthocerotae
<i>Acroporium</i>	<i>Aneura</i>	<i>Anthoceros</i>
<i>Anomobryum</i>	<i>Apometzgeria</i>	
<i>Barbula</i>	<i>Apotreubia</i>	
<i>Bryum</i>	<i>Bazzania</i>	
<i>Buxbaumia</i>	<i>Blasia</i>	
<i>Calymperes</i>	<i>Cyathodium</i>	
<i>Calytothecium</i>	<i>Frullania</i>	
<i>Campylopus</i>	<i>Lejeunea</i>	
<i>Clastrobryum</i>	<i>Lophocolea</i>	
<i>Dicranella</i>	<i>Marchantia</i>	
<i>Dicranoloma</i>	<i>Metzgeria</i>	
<i>Fissidens</i>	<i>Pellia</i>	
<i>Hypnum</i>	<i>Riccia</i>	
<i>Macromitrium</i>		
<i>Macromitrium</i>		
<i>Neckeropsis</i>		
<i>Neckeropsis</i>		
<i>Orthodontium</i>		
<i>Orthotrichum</i>		
<i>Plagiopus</i>		
<i>Ptychomitrium</i>		
<i>Symphysodontella</i>		
<i>Taxithellium</i>		
<i>Zygodon</i>		

description (GL 3467, 3677, 3678, 3695) (David Frodin, pers. comm.). One *Lasianthus* (Rubiaceae) specimen (GL 3440) might represent a new species (Zhu Hua, pers. comm.). Many other taxa have never been recorded for Leyte or are even described as endemic to restricted areas elsewhere in the Philippines. Many rare or even new species might still be hidden in the large pile of backlog specimens and morphospecies stored at the VSU Herbarium.

Besides the encounter and documentation of rare or new species a better knowledge of the Leyte flora will also allow new insights in the geographic distribution of taxa and thus in the plant-geographic development of the Philippine archipelago. We are therefore convinced

that Mt. Pangasugan and the Leyte Cordillera deserve more attention. Although the Herbarium of the Visayas State University suffers a low budget - as it is typical not only for many tropical Herbaria - it is well equipped and provides good working facilities at the foot of a fascinating mountain.

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