

# Ethnobotanical Notes of the Kerepua Valley, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu

by

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橋本 保\* : バヌアツ国ケレプア溪谷における民族植物学的記録

## Abstract

Vernacular names and brief notes of their traditional utilization on 37 native plant-species by Kerepua people in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu are collected and listed.

## Introduction and Circumstances

During my botanical trip to Mt. Tabwemasana area between November 2 to 11, 1996, vernacular names and their traditional utilization of 37 native plant-species by the Kerepua people, from the village to Palitaliefu were collected by the author. However, some species is not mentioned its utility in this record, it is probably used by the people for appreciation, firewood, temporary matting or roofing and others. This is the primal record on the ethnobotany of Kerepua.

Kerepua is a small village along the southern mouth of Kerepua River, consists of 72 people at that time, and is situated on the west coast of Espiritu Santo Island, Vanuatu. Some of them are immigrants from Nokovula since 1975. The people of Kerepua are gentle, and live simply with self-supporting, but without electric and modern telecommunication services. They have no continuous employment. Their main edible crops are taro, yam, banana, pumpkin, coconut, mango, papaya, pineapple, etc. People do not use wild *Piper methysticum* "Kava" because of its ingredient is too severe for them, has no name and no use by the Kerepua people. An abandoned farm of sisals is seen at about 700 m high altitude of the mountain-ridge.

## List of Plants and their Utilities

1. Plants are listed by alphabetical order of names in Kerepua.
2. Name of most plant is recorded on the voucher specimen which shall be kept in TNS and PVNH.
3. Utility of the plant is briefly noted on the lower line of each name.

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LOCAL NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY NAME	VOUCHER
<b>Arapuhi</b>	<i>Acalypha grandis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	46~47
Leaves chewed for shivering.			
<b>Auinatanapo</b>	<i>Psilotum</i> sp.	Psilotaceae	
<b>Chalinapupura</b>	<i>Maesa</i> sp.	Myrsinaceae	31~32
Leaves used for eye disease.			
<b>Haihai</b>	<i>Elatostoma beccari</i>	Urticaceae	53~54
Smoke of plant effective for pain.			
<b>Hue-Hue</b>	<i>Fagraea ceilanica</i>	Loganiaceae	961108
A legend that if one steps over this species, one gets a disease of the legs.			
<b>Hulemana</b>	<i>Peperomia</i> sp.**	Piperaceae	
<b>Kolkol-Oa</b>	<i>Rubus neoebdicum</i>	Rosaceae	48
Fruits edible.			
<b>Kukuipuné</b>	<i>Peperomia pllidinervis</i>	Piperaceae	39
<b>Lio</b>	<i>Pavetta opulina</i>	Rubiaceae	40~41
<b>Malélé</b>	<i>Freycinetia tannaensis</i>	Pandanaceae	61~63
Fruits edible.			
<b>Memwbu</b>	<i>Begonia vitiensis</i>	Begoniaceae	37~38
Young stem excluded the epidermal tissue edible as salad. Sour taste.			
<b>Mulemule</b>	<i>Blechnum gibbum</i>	Blechnaceae	
<b>Naeueu</b>	<i>Equisetum</i> sp.	Equisetaceae	
Plant used for stomachache.			
<b>Nahrihi</b>	<i>Lygodium</i> sp.	Lygodiaceae	
<b>Naudmamawo</b>	<i>Melastoma denticulatum</i>	Melastomataceae	33~34
Used for putting down the infant irritation.			
<b>Parapara</b>	<i>Boehmeria platyphylla</i>	Urticaceae	35~36
Plants put into fire effective for orchitis.			
<b>Paula</b>	<i>Breynia disticha</i>	Euphorbiaceae	71
Effective for a pain in the throat.			
<b>Pioro</b>	<i>Santalum austro-caledonicum</i>	Santalaceae	
Wood fragrant. Used for woodcarving, etc.			
<b>Pulpul</b>	<i>Calanthe triplicata</i>	Orchidaceae	72~73
	<i>Coelogyne macdonaldii</i>	Orchidaceae	86
	<i>Pholidota imbricata</i>	Orchidaceae	
	<i>Spathoglottis</i> sp.	Orchidaceae	78
Pseudobulbs of these orchids used for adhesives.			
<b>Tahiateaté</b>	<i>Elatostema salomonense</i>	Urticaceae	51~52
Ash of plants resolving by water extracted salt.			
<b>Tikeli</b>	<i>Claoxylon gillisonii</i>	Euphorbiaceae	64~65
Squeezed leaves in water effect for the pregnancy of woman.			

\*\*Plant with small and obtuse leaves, spontaneous in village.

Toélé	<i>Selaginella</i> sp.	Selaginellaceae	
Totouni	<i>Amyema aneityensis</i>	Loranthaceae	55~56
	<i>A. banksiana</i>		57~58
A legend that if the husband eats the leaves, then his wife also eats them in succession, they shall die.			
Uruta	<i>Diplazium harpeoides</i>	Athyriaceae	66
Young plant is an ingredient of soup.			
Uruta-Wawanlev	<i>Pteris</i> sp. (アマクサンダ似)	Pteridaceae	
Uruta-Woko	<i>Pteris comans</i>	Pteridaceae	67
Young leaves edible as salad.			
Uta	<i>Polygala paniculata</i>	Polygalaceae	44~45
Roasted plant fitted on the abdominal area for the infant stomachache.			
Vavachoré	<i>Alpinia biota</i>	Zingiberaceae	68
Wuiwui	<i>Elatostema macrophyllum</i>	Urticaceae	49~50
Ash of plants resolving by water extracted salt.			
Wulmaloa	(Climber)	PT	59~60
Plant used for medicine.			
Wuneiau	<i>Metrosideros collina</i>	Myrtaceae	42~43
No Name	<i>Hedyotis lapeyrousii</i>	Rubiaceae	69~70
Used as purgative.			

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#### 摘 要

バヌアツ共和国エスピリツ・サント島ケレプア溪谷に沿って、村落がある海岸から海拔約1,200 m のパリタリエフーといわれる地域にかけて自生している植物に関して、ケレプアで呼ばれている名前と用途を一覧した。この国の植物名や用途についての記録は不完全で、ケレプアでの調査報告はこれが初めてである。今回収集した植物名は同国および同島の他部落での記録には見られなかった新しいものである。

#### Literature

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