

- Parataxonomists: A new approach to training for Science.

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Abstract:

Papua New Guineans have excellent traditional knowledge of plants and animals living in their rainforests, but at the same time Papua New Guinea is lacking in published information on its flora and fauna. This is because there is no connection between traditional knowledge systems and formal education and research in biology, as pursued by universities. Training people with extensive traditional knowledge of plants and animals in methods of scientific research is an efficient approach to the study of biodiversity in Papua New Guinea as it can produce information useful both for researchers and grassroots villagers. Methods and results of this parataxonomist training are outlined in this contribution.



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