



Ethnozoology in Allen, Northern Samar, Philippines

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Abstract

The traditional useful animals and their significant uses, taxonomic classification of the identified animal species the customs, beliefs and practices of the people of Allen that involves the use of animals are included. The medicinal animal species are also indicated together with its ailment and the methods of preparation. The researcher assigned in four (4) selected barangays of Allen, Northern Samar and stay in one to two days to gather the information of the elderly villager's age fifty (50) years old below and fifty (50) years old above. The data are obtained through interviews and direct observation. The collected specimens preserved in 10% formalin solution and photos are taken for large specimens. The researcher found out that there were twenty eight (28) species of terrestrial animals that are significantly useful to the people of Allen in terms of food, medicine and economic value. Specifically, these animals were: Dog (*Canis familiaris*), Wild Pig (*Sus scrofa*), Brahminny Kite Hawk (*Haliastur Indus*), Cattle (*Bos indicus*), Malayan Freshwater Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis daudin*), Pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*), House Lizard *Hemidactylus Frenatus*), Deer (*Muschos moschiferous*), Goose (*Anser anser domesticus*), Wild Cat (*Felis Silvestris*), Woodland Frog (*Rana magna stejneger*), Monitor Lizard (*Varanus albiguralis*), Brown Basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*), Horse (*Equus caballus*), Bat (*Pteropus vampyrus*), Goat (*Capra degugrus*), Carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*), Domesticated Cat (*Felis catus domestica*), Chicken (*Gallus gallus*), Visayan Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis rabori*), Turkey (*Meleagris Galopavo*), Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Pigeon (*Colombo livia*), Boa Snake (*Python Reticulatus*), White Crane (*Anthropoides paradise*), Wild Duck (*Anas luzonica*), Zebra Pigeon (*Geopelia striata*) and Monkey (*Macaca philippinensis*). There were 7 species of terrestrial animals that are considered has a medicinal value. These animals were: Boa Snake (*Python Reticulatus*), Carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*), Chicken (*Gallus gallus*), Deer (*Muschos moschiferous*), Dog (*Canis familiaris*), House Lizard (*Hemidactylus frenatus*), and Monitor Lizard (*Varanus Albigularis*). The relation exists between the fauna and the culture of the people of Allen as evidenced by the number of animals identified to be directly related to the people's socio-cultural belief and practices. The people of Allen still believe on the healing of "Albolaryo" that every sickness can be cured by his/her "Orasyon" and rituals they use animals for the ailment and as an offering to the spirit. Every animal that were used in ailments has a method of preparation before and after it applied. The people of Allen permanently adapted the custom, belief and practices especially to the people who lived in

the interior barangays, because they believed that if they will not follow these, their lives will surely be affected negatively.

1. Introduction

Ethnozoology is the store of knowledge on animals, which are used in native cultures, superstitious beliefs, cultural practice, and medicine. In fact, some native people use animals as medicine to be able to cure an illness or sickness in man (Coopstead, Lee-Ellen C 1989).

Man has domesticated animals to supply definite needs. He has bred them to satisfy these needs, observing the law of heredity in the case of animals as closely in the case of plants. Many animals have economic value and sources of medicine, milk and leather. Some people succeeded in adapting strictly in vegetarian diet, while others have learned to like the flavor of animals have been domesticated by man also to provide him with skin and hairs for clothing and shelter. Animals are not only for human needs, but animals have played important roles in the oral tradition and the recorded myths of the word, both ancient and modern (Dogma and Trono, 1997).

Ethnobotany is the scientific study of the relationships that exist between people and plants. Ethnobotanists aim to document, describe culture and plants, focusing primarily on how plants are used, managed and perceived across human societies. This includes use for food, clothing, currency, ritual, medicine, dye, and contraction, cosmetic and more (Alpert E, Isselbacher KJ, Schur2000).

This study attempted to identify the species of animals that are considered traditionally useful to the people in Allen, Northern Samar and to identify the significant uses of these animals. To determine the classification of animals. To identify the animals that is associated with the customs, beliefs, and cultural practices to the people of Allen, Northern Samar. To identify the part of the animals being used in and the methods of preparation.

2. Methodology

This study was conducted in selected Barangays of Allen, Northern Samar, namely; Barangay Londres, Barangay Guin-arawayan, Barangay Cabacungan and Barangay Jubasan. Allen is the main site of travelers here in Northern, Samar that going to Manila because of the boat that travels going to Legaspi City. It is composed of two (2) terminals of boat, the Dap-Dap located in Barangay Kinabranan Zone II” and Balwarteko located in “Barangay Looc”. Allen is composed of 20 barangays. The municipality is geographically situated in the North part of the Province on Northern, Samar. It is bounded on the south of Victoria; and the Eastern part of Lavezares; San Bernardino strait in the northwest. Allen has a total of land area of 49,382,932.495 in sq. m. the nearest barangay in poblacion are “Barangay Kinabranan Zone I, Kinabranan Zone II, and Sabang I”. Barangay Londres has total of land area of 4,321,014.75 in sq. m. and the distance form Poblacion is 3.50 in km. it is bounded in the north part of Lavezares and in the northwest part of Victoria. The people in these barangays are domesticated by eating food such as fish, meat, chicken, vegetable, root crops and other sources or a product of their farm. The number one product of their farm are coconut (copra), vegetable, and rice (bugas). Barangay Guin-arawayan has a total of land area of 2.331.130.50 in sg. M. and the distance from poblacion is 5.80 in km. it is bounded in northwest part of Lavezares and in the South part of Cabacungan. The people in these barangays are domesticated by eating fish, meat, chicken, vegetable, root crops and other sources or a

product of their farm. Some people in these barangays are working by fishing because they are near from sea side others are working by biking, they called these bike the “habal-habal”. Barangay Cabacungan has a total of land area of 5,929,189.25 in sq. m. and the distance from poblacion is 9.20 km. it is bounded in the northwest part of Lavezares and in the north part of Guin-arawayan. The people in these barangays are domesticated by eating food such as fish, meat, chicken, vegetable, root crops and other sources or a product of their farm. Most of the people in this barangay are working by fishing and farming. Barangay Jubasan has a total of land area of 5,521, 452.23 in sq. m. and the distance from poblacion is 2.00 in km. it is bounded in the northwest of Victoria and in the south part of Alejandro. The people in these barangays are domesticated by eating food such as fish, meat, chicken, vegetable, root crops and other sources or a product of their farm. If you can see in the Map, this barangay is the boundary between Allen and Victoria. This barangay are near from sea side and the road way will lead you as guide to Leyte and Visayas region.

The descriptive survey methods of research were in this study. Data gathered through the Questionnaire and actual interview of the respondents. Purposive sampling technique was used in the study, since this research is interested on the Ethnozoology of Allen, Northern Samar. The respondents are the elderly villagers whose age ranges from fifty (50) years old and above, who lives in the area since birth, together with the “albolaryos” regardless of age and gender, who lives in the area for all his life.

The source of data information is gathered from the albularyos and elderly villagers by personal interviewed. The interview guide composed of the information of the useful animals and there significant uses to the people of Allen. The researcher stayed in each barangay for one to two days to collect all the necessary and significant data with regard to the study.

The respondents are residents of the selected Barangays of Allen. It is composed of villagers aged below fifty (50) years old and above fifty (50) years old and who have resided in the area for most of their lives. Another set of respondents are the albularyos in selected barangays, regardless of age and gender.

The preserved specimen were classified and identified by an expert in the Department of Biological Science in the College of Science using the following references and taxonomic keys as guide: Guide to the Philippine Flora and Fauna Vol. XII (1986), General Zoology by Storer et al (1979).

3. Results and Discussion

This chapter discusses the traditional animals and their significant uses, especially to the animals that are associated with their beliefs and practices. It is also discussed the medicinal animals and the methods of preparation according to the ailment. The animals are arranged in alphabetical group with its local name, common name, scientific name and family name.

The Traditional Useful animals and their Significant Uses

The table 1 is the information of the animals that are traditionally useful and their significant uses. The applications are gathered from the respondent according to their uses.

Table 1. Traditional Useful Animals and Their Significant Uses

Local name (English name)	Significant uses
1. Ayam (dog)	Pet
2. Baboydamo (wild pig)	Food
3. Banog (hawk)	Pet
4. Baka (cattle)	Food and Pet
5. Bau (freshwater turtle)	Food, Pet and Medicine
6. Baktin (pig)	Food and Pet
7. Butiki (house lizard)	Medicine
8. Bugsok (deer)	Food and Medicine
9. Gansa (goose)	Food and Pet
10. Garong (wild cat)	Food
11. Halo (monitor lizard)	Food and Medicine
12. Ibid (brown basilisk)	Food
13. Kabakab (woodland frog)	Food
14. Kabayo (horse)	Food and Pet
15. Kabog (bat)	Food
16. Kanding (goat)	Food, Pet and Medicine
17. Karabaw (carabao)	Food, Pet and Medicine
18. Kuying (domesticated cat)	Pet
19. Manok (chicken)	Food and Pet
20. Miro (leopard cat)	Food
21. Pabo (turkey)	Food and Pet
22. Pato (duck)	Food and Pet
23. Salampati (pigeon)	Pet
24. Sawa (boa snake)	Food, Pet and Medicine
25. Talalabong (white crane)	Food
26. Tamaw (wild duck)	Food
27. Tukmo (zebra pigeon)	Food
28. Ulot (monkey)	Pet

It was found out that there were twenty eight (28) species that has significant uses in food, medicine and pet. There were twenty-two (22) animals that has significant uses or food, these animals are; wild pig, cattle, freshwater turtle, pig, deer, goose, wild cat, monitor lizard, brown basilisk, woodland frog, horse, bat, goat, carabao, chicken, leopard cat, turkey, duck, boa snake, white crane, wild duck and zebra pigeon. There were seven (7) animals that has

significant uses in medicine, these animals are; boa snake, carabao, goat, monitor lizard, deer, house lizard and freshwater turtle. There were fourteen (14) animals that were considered a pet the dog, hawk, cattle, freshwater turtle, pig. Goose, horse, goat, carabao, domesticated cat, chicken, turkey, duck, pigeon, boa snake, and monkey.

Taxonomic Classification of Animals

Table 2 is the information about the taxonomic classification of animals that are common to the people of Allen.

Table 2. Taxonomic Classification of Animals

Family	Scientific Name	Local Name (English Name)
1. Accipitrate	Haliastur indus B.	Banog (brahminny kite hawk)
2. Anatidae	Anser anser domesticus L.	Gansa (goose)
3. Anatidae	Anas platyrhynchos L.	Pato (duck)
4. Anatidae	Anas luzonica F.	Tamaw (wild duck)
5. Bovidae	Bos indicus L.	Baka (cattle)
6. Bovidae	Bubalus bubalis L.	Karabaw (carabao)
7. Bovidae	Capra degugrus L.	Kanding (goat)
8. Canidae	Canis familiaris L.	Ayam (dog)
9. Cervidae	Moschus moschiferous L.	Bugsok (deer)
10. Cercopithecidae	Macaca philippinensis G.	Ulot (monkey)
11. Chiroptera	Pteropus vampyrus L. mearns	Kabog (bat)
12. Columbidae	Columba livia G.	Salampati (pigeon)
13. Columbidae	Geopelia striata L.	Tukmo (zebra pigeon)
14. Equidae	Equus caballus L.	Kabayo (horse)
15. Felidae	Felis silvestris S.	Garong (wild cat)
16. Felidae	Felis catus domestica L.	Kuying (domesticated cat)
17. Felidae	Prionailurus bengalensis rabori K.	Miro (visayan leopard cat)
18. Geomydidae	Cuora amboinensis D.	Bau (freshwater turtle)
19. Gruidae	Anthropoides paradise L.	Talalabong (white crane)
20. Hemidactylidae	Hemidactylus frenatus L.	Butiki (house lizard)
21. Iguanidae	Basiliscus vittatus W.	Ibid (brown basilisk)
22. Phasianidae	Meleagris gallopavo L.	Pabo (turkey)
23. Phasianidae	Gallus gallus L.	Manok (chicken)
24. Pythonidae	Python reticulatus S.	Sawa (boa snake)
25. Ranidae	Rana magna stejneger L.	Kabakab (woodland frog)
26. Suidae	Sus scrofa domesticus E.	Baktin (pig)
27. Suidae	Sus scrofa L.	Baboydamo (wild pig)
28. Varanidae	Varanus albigularis L.	Halo (monitor lizard)

The table were divided into three columns. The first column is the family name, second is the scientific name and the third is the local name or its English name of the animals.

There are some taxonomist who named the scientific name of the selected animals. Linnaeus named the animals like *Anser anser domesticus*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Bos indicus*, *Bubalus bubalis*, *Capra degugrus*, *Canis familiaris*, *Muschos moschiferous*, *Geopelia striata*, *Equus caballus*, *Felis catus domestica*, *Meleagris galopavo*, *Gallus gallus*, *Rana magna stejneger*, *Sus serofa* and *Varanus albigularis*.

Taxonomist like Erxleben named the animal *Sus scrofa domesticus*, Gmen named the animal *Columbo livia domestica*, Geoffry named the animal *Macaca philippinensis*, Schneiber named the animal *Python reticulatus*, Lanensismearns named the animal *Pteropus vampyrus*, Schreber named the animal *Felis silvestris*, Kerr named the animal *Prionailurus bengalensis rabori*, Daudin named the animal *Cuora amboinensis*, Lichtinsein named the animal *Anthropoides Paradise* and Wiegmann named the animal *Basiliscus vittatus*.

Animals associated with the Customs, Belief and Practices

Allenons (People of Allen) adapted the development and modernization of science and technology especially to the people who lived in the urban place. But somehow other people live with their traditional beliefs. The most common of these are the people who live in the interior barangays of Allen: they applied the tradition, and every practice is very important for their daily lives living because if they do not follow, their lives will surely be affected negatively.

Marriage Practices

People are very hilarious during the marriage, Before the marriage or in term of “Pangasawa” the groom must go to the bride house to take the hands of the girl or “Pamalaye” the parents of the boy prepared food, beverage, fire wood, and few animals such as chicken (*Gallus gallus*), pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) and carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*). They will talk about the marriage of the couple and plan about the things that they will do.

The prepared couple pigeon (*Columbo livia*) will be handled by the couple. The groom holds the male pigeon while the bride holds the female pigeon then they will together set free for the sign of the loyalty and faithfully life that no matter what happen they will stay together and love each other.

During Pregnancy

In some cases there are some prohibitions that need to be followed by a pregnant woman. The people of Allen has a strong belief during pregnancy that every woman should be careful to the nourishment intake to avoid disgrace.

According to the elders that a pregnant woman should not eat a molted animals or “hinglo” so that the baby might not have a soft bone and may not be a disabled. Likewise, a woman’s favorite food during conception will affect the physical characteristics of her child. Say if a woman likes to eat pork a lot, she might give birth to a baby that looks like a pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) or has a hairy birthmark just like the skin of a pig. Also said that pregnant woman should not drink cold water and eat many rice during pregnancy because it might cause to the baby bigger in size and may cause caesarean section during birth.

A conceiving woman should only show photographs of a beautiful women and handsome men in order to give birth to a beautiful baby. If she sees photos ugly like the monkey

(*Macaca philippinensis*), she might give birth to an ugly babe. Pregnant women are prone to "asuwang" (vampire) attacks, Horn of the carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*) and garlic should be hung near the windows and the husband must always keep a stingray tail in the bedroom to discourage vampires from entering it and eating the fetus.

During Childbirth

During childbirth, the "Manaram" or a local midwife assisting the pregnant woman until after the baby is born. After the birth, the mother should eat food to sustain nutrients, vitamins and minerals to recover. Alleneon's (people of Allen) believe that the mother should not eat food like the meat of chicken (*Gallus gallus*), carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*), and pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*) to avoid bleeding or "bughat".

During Childhood

The elders say that if the child has a late development on his skills in talking or "delot the child must eat a genital part of a pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*). The genital must be cooked before it is served.

Alleneon's (People of Allen) believe that during childhood stage the children are playful that they can disturb the unseen being. As a result, it can cause to unexplainable ailments to the children. If this happened the help of "Albolaryo" is necessary. The "Albolaryo" will ask the family to prepare three (3) pairs of eggs from the chicken (*Gallus gallus*) and three (3) pairs of cigarettes. The "Albolaryo" will chant his "Orasyon" to talk to the unseen being and ask what is needed. After the reception the "Albolaryo" asks the family to prepare food such as a meat of Chicken (*Gallus gallus*), pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*), cattle (*Bos indicus*) or carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*) to be given to the unseen being or a "Halad" and ask for peace.

During Planting Season

Farmers believe that the best way on planting is during the day after a night when the sky is full of stars. To those upland farms the best way in planting should be in high tide. Elderly people of Allen say that if the tide is high the cat's eyes (*Felis catus domestica*) expand and if low tide they contract.

During the seed-time farmers must not cut their hairs or shave or eat salt fish. If they do any of these things the stalks of rice will grow short. The owner of the farm will hire "Albolaryo" for the ritual and to avoid bad luck. The "Albolaryo" will ask the owner to prepare food such as a meat of the chicken (*Gallus gallus*), or a meat of pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*). This food will serve as a "Halad" to avoid bad spirit in the farm and to give blessing to the plant.

During Harvesting

Before harvesting the owner of the farm will hire "Albolaryo" for the ritual. The owner of the farm will prepare food such as chicken (*Gallus gallus*), pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*), rice and root crops it will serve as a "Halad" to the farm. The "Albolaryo" will chant his "Orasyon" to give things to the spirit around the farm and give blessing and protection to the people who will do the harvest and to avoid disgrace.

In Building a House

There are some prohibitions that need to be followed during house-building. The owner of the house will hire "Albolaryo" for the rituals. The "Albolaryo" will ask the owner to prepare a couple of chickens. This chicken will be used as a "Pa-dugo" in every post. The "Albolaryo" will

chant his “Orasyon” and ask the owner of the house to prepare food such as a meat of chicken (*Gallus gallus*), of a meat of a pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*). These foods serve as a “Halad”.

Other Beliefs Related to the Animals

1. A black butterfly inside the house will bring death in the household.
2. A brown butterfly inside the house will bring good luck and it is the sign of money.
3. A dog barking or howling continuously signifies the impending death of its master.
4. Asthma can cure by putting a cat near the throat and the chest and at the same time reciting a prayer.
5. One should not eat mollusks when he has wounds, otherwise, his wounds will grow big.
6. Let the dog lick your wounds, and the wounds will be healed.
7. If one catches a two-tailed lizard, he will be lucky in gambling.
8. A snake that enters the house brings good luck as long as it doesn't bite the occupants.
9. A black cat walking in the road is a sign of bad luck.
10. A noise of a frog is a sign on rainy season.

Parts of Animals and the Methods of Preparation

The table 3 shows the different kinds of animals with medicinal value and indication on how they are prepared together with the parts used and on what ailment they are applicable.

Table 3. Animals with Medicinal Value and the Methods of Preparation

Animals	Part used	Ailment	Methods of preparation
Boa	Bile	Abdominal pain	Dried the bile to the heat of the sun and mix a piece of dried bile to the hot water. Taken orally 3 times a day until the pain initiate.
		Chicken pox	Dried the bile to the heat of the sun and mixed a piece of dried bile to the hot water. Taken orally 3 times a day until the chicken fox goes out to the body.
	Tail	Asthma	Cut the tail of the boa and cook it with flavoring mixed it in cooked rice; eaten.
Carabao	Tail	Anemia	The tail must be moderately boiled with spices such as garlic and onion. Then sliced into thin strips and dipped with soy sauce for flavoring. Taken orally for 3 times a week.
	Blood (inside the heart)	Asthma	Blood must be squeezed out from a fresh heart of carabao. 1 glass a day is recommended for fast and better result.
Chicken	Gizzard	Abdominal Pain	The gizzard must be dried first through sun's heat. Afterwards, it will be mixed on boiling water for a couple of minutes. The mixture is taken orally immediately after the pain initiate.

Animals	Part used	Ailment	Methods of preparation
	Saliva	Centipede's Bite	The saliva is directly applied into the bitten part.
	Egg	Fever	The egg is boiled for 5 minutes and served to the ill person with porridge.
Deer	Horn	Abdominal pain	Put the horn to the fire for a several minutes and scrub the horn. The scrubbed pieces of the horn must put on to the hot water and mixed; 1 glass orally until the pain initiate.
New born Dog	Blood	TB	The new born dog must be color in black. Blood squeezed out from the new born black dog; 1 glass a day is recommended for fast and better result.
House Lizard	Tail	Asthma	The tail must be cooked with any method, and then it will be mixed on boiling water. The remedy is taken orally for a tablespoon daily.
Monitor Lizard	Bile	Abdominal pain	Dry the bile to the heat of the sun and mixed a pieced of dried bile to the hot water. Taken orally 3 times a day until the pain initiate.

According to the elderly villagers that the best indication for the Abdominal pain is the bile of the boa snake, gizzard of the chicken. Horn of the deer and bile of the monitor lizard and for the Anemia is the tail of the carabao, The best indication for Asthma is the tail of the boa snake, carabao and house lizard, for the Chicken pox Is the bile of the boa snake and for the centipedes bite is the saliva of the chicken. It is also said that the best indication for the Fever is the egg of chicken and for the Tuberculosis is the blood from a new born black colored dog.

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