



Asia-Pacific Environment Monograph 4

Reite Plants: An Ethnobotanical Study in Tok Pisin and English

Porer Nombo and James Leach

Reite Plants is a documentation and discussion of the uses of plants by speakers of the Nekgini language, a people who reside in the hinterland of the Rai Coast in northern Papua New Guinea. High quality images and detailed information about traditional customary practices using plants provide a unique entry into understanding Nekgini social and cultural life. The book contains a discussion of the ownership of plant knowledge in the context of both local and contemporary global trends. As a dual language, co-authored text, the book is a unique contribution to the ethnobotany and anthropology of Melanesia. *Reite Plants* represents the product of a long term collaborative work between the authors.

This book makes an important contribution ... Nombo and Leach provide an exciting example of how much a deeper exploration of cultural context adds to the field of ethnobotany. It will make very good company with the classic ethnobiological collaborative work of Saem Majnep and Ralph Bulmer on the birds and animals of the Madang highlands.

Robin Hide, The Australian National University

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Porer Nombo is the Local Government representative (Komiti) for the villages of Reite, Sarangama and Marpungae in Mot 1 District on the Rai Coast of Papua New Guinea; a position he has held since the early 1980s. He is recognised as a leading local authority on plants, healing and kastom. In 2009 Porer visited the UK at the request of the British Museum to assist the Museum with understanding the history and meaning of their collections from the North Coast of PNG and the future value of these collections to the people of Melanesia.

James Leach is Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen. He has undertaken long-term field research in Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, and in the UK with people utilising new technologies for collaborative knowledge production. His publications include: *Creative Land: Place and Procreation on the Rai Coast of Papua New Guinea* (2003) and *Rationales of Ownership: Transactions and Claims to Ownership in Contemporary Papua New Guinea* (2004).

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