

Review of: "Ethnobotanical Study On Plants Used To Dye Traditional Costumes By The Baiku Yao Nationality of China"

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Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

The manuscript by Hu et al. is an interesting and well-organized paper, providing very valuable ethnobotanical information of an unique branch of Yao people in China. Some improvements should be made before acceptance. When revising the manuscript, please refer to the following comments:

1): In 2.2 Interviews and plant material collection:

The awareness of the research objective, and the consent from the local village heads or the interviewed villagers should be mentioned. The authors would benefit from reading the ISE Code of Ethics.

2) In the inventory, please indicate which phylogenetic system had been adopted by the authors to identify the plant species. or indicate who is the main taxonomist if possible.

3) The photos used in different steps of dyeing should be numbered and figured with suitable footnotes or titles.

4) The copyright of some photos should be indicated, especially the photo of Baiku Yao' s traditional clothing.

5) The price of traditional dyeing clothing or materials could be included in a proper place, if available.

6) Baiku Yao is just one of the branch of Yao people, and the dyeing plants used by other branch of Yao people or nearby ethnic groups are also with high diversity. A comparison of different branch of Yao people or other ethnic groups could make this research more interesting. For instance, some plants they may used the same way but with different purposes.

7) The original source of the dyeing plants could be discussed. Such as, how many plants were collected from the wild, how many were cultivated. how many could purchase from the local markets? Is there any endangered or redlist dyeing plants that need more protection ?

8) There were 61 informants aged 12 and 85, is there any difference between different age and their used dyeing plants ? how many plants are still frequently used by the young generation ?