

APPENDIX 1.

An overview of the ethnobotanical field studies conducted by Carlos Cerón in the period 1993-2005.

General methodology

Key informants were designated by members of the community according to their ethnobotanical knowledge. The number of informants varied from 1-11. After identification of the informants the location of representative patches of the different vegetation types available to the community was decided in collaboration with community members.

For category 0 studies data were gathered through random plant collections done with local informants who were interviewed informally during visits to paths and areas close and around the communities. For category 1 and 2 studies a plot-based semi-structured interview procedure was applied. The research team consisting of Carlos Cerón and at least one assistant walked together with the key informant(s) through transects, plots or paths (see table 1 below). Useful plant species were identified by the informants. Each identification was followed up by a semi-structured interview regarding starting out with same two basic questions: 1) What is this plant for? 2) Which part of the plant is used for that purpose? Several uses could be recorded for the same plant. Additional information that was offered during the conversation initiated by the two basic questions (i.e. preparation, harvest data, history) was also recorded, but this part of interview did not follow a predefined scheme. In each case a herbarium voucher for the identification of the plant was collected and prepared during the conversation.

Table A1.1. Overview of studies and their characteristics

Study category	0	1	2
Number of communities	88	19	14
Study regions	Andes (86), Amazon (2)	Andes (9), Coast (5), Amazon (5)	Andes (3), Coast (2), Amazon (9)

Ethnicity	Mestizo (76), Kichwa of the Andes (10), Kichwa of the Amazon (1), Shuar (1)	Mestizo (12), Kichwa of the Amazon (3), Cofan (1), Secoya (1), Awa (1), Afroecuadorian (1)	Kichwa of the Amazon (3), Mestizo (2), Kichwa of the Andes (2), Wao (2), Cofan (2), Secoya (2), Tsa'chi (1)
Duration of field work	Usually one weekend	5 –15 days	30 –100 days
Methodology	Random plant collections done with local informants who were interviewed informally during visits to paths and areas close and around the communities.	Data recorded in transects (0.1 – 0.5 ha)	Data recorded in transects (0.1 – 0.5 ha) and/or permanent plots (1 ha) and/or by walking along paths (usually 2 km long) in representative vegetation types surrounding the community
Notes	The studies were performed mainly during weekends and by Carlos Cerón's undergraduate students. Type 0 studies are not included in the analysis as we judge the information too incomplete for our purpose	Commonly, these studies were conducted to assess the plant diversity and composition of the locality. Ethnobotanic information was a secondary priority but still thoroughly documented.	In these studies the gathering of ethnobotanical data was the main focus
