

## THE ISOLATION AND WASHED FASTNESS TESTING OF CRUDE NATURAL DYES OF BAGBAGOTOT (*Phyllanthus reticulatus*) BERRIES FROM VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR

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### ABSTRACT

*Bagbagotot (Phyllanthus reticulatus) berries were collected from Iigan, Ilocos Sur, then soaked in distilled water and concentrated in rotavapor at 40°C. Water-soluble crude natural dyes were obtained through freeze-drying and yielded 9.20%*

*The fastness of the natural dye was tested. Ferrrous sulfate, copper sulfate, alum and potassium dichromate were used as mordants applying in 2 different yarns, i.e., cotton and silk.*

*Among all mordants in the 3 techniques namely post mordanting, pre-mordanting and simultaneous mordanting, Ferrrous sulfate is the darkest, with copper sulfate, alum and potassium dichromate as the lightest.*

*Dyeing a yarn with this extract with mordants shows darker washed fastness in silk than in cotton, mordant generally helps the fixation of the natural dye on fibers.*

*Dyeing without mordant is similar to dyeing with alum mordant at 5% concentration.*

*Increasing the concentration of mordant to 10% potassium dichromate manifests a significant change which can not be seen in all the treatments and strategies.*

### INTRODUCTION

Many plants and trees are just growing without being given importance. Some are even poisonous and are wastes to the environment especially when they bear fruit. People can't find ways to utilize them so that their existence will not be useless.

With this situation, people in contact with these plants don't have interest and

dare not to identify their actual common names more so with the scientific names. Some plants are endemic to a place and no matter how much we destroy and eradicate such species, they continue to grow. But there will come a time, that when they had already disappeared, we come to realize that they have significant uses, and are very important renewable sources of some potentials.

At the start of the coming century, we have seen the shift of most scientists and industrialists from the very destructive technology which is synthetic to an environment friendly world of natural resources.

In the world of dyes, many entrepreneurs have seen the potentialities of natural dyes. These are isolated from plants mainly trees and shrubs.

The Ilocos region is the endemic habitat of many tropical plants, trees and shrubs which are not so familiar because of unknown and undiscovered potentials. One of these plants is a shrub locally known as "bagbagot". Referred to a botanist at the University of the Philippines at Los Banos, she identified the plant as *Phyllanthus reticulatus*. In the local Tagalog dialect, it is called "tinta- tintahan".

Bagbagot is a shrub with broad branches arising from the base with heights up to 3 meters from the ground. It has minuted leaves, entire margin, reticulate in shape and ever green all throughout. It bears pink flowers at the branches where the leaves are and fruits come in berries. Berries are colored pink or deep blue and turn indigo when matured. Berries range from 1.5 to 2.0 cm in diameter and juices range from maroon to violet in color. They thrive in both wet and dry soil. Usually growing endemically without being propagated, they bear fruit throughout the year and can survive in both extreme seasons.

Bagbagot is believed to be a potential natural source of dyes because when accidentally stained on clothes, one finds it hardly removed. It has been observed to stay in color for years.

It is the main objective of this research to isolate the natural dye extracts from the fruit berries and test their dye properties on textiles, after which future identification and characterization will be done.

When fully identified or tested, the bright future of culturing, growing and harvesting fruits and putting them into industrial scale will be done.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Dyes come in many forms. They are found to be useful and they have wide range of uses as cited Zajac (1992) natural dyes are important in food industry. Dyes such as anthocyanins from black current pomace are tried for industrial production stability of dried dye concentrates was estimated. The anthocyanin losses were estimated after one year storage for 10-14 percent and thus a highly stable product was obtained. Recipes were prepared with practical guide on edible and useful plants were (Jull, 1987). Dyes are important in microbiology for they are used as substrates in testing *Bacillus subtilis* biovar 1 atypical strains in indicating the evolution of a new variant (Banai, et al, 1990). Scott and Jones performed an experiment by evaluating *Lycopodium* sp. accessories for resistance to bacterial spot. (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* (Dridge) dye. They are used for labelling and marketing. Retention time and toxicity of dye marker Sudan' red TB on Formosan and eastern subterranean termites (Su, Scheffrahn & Bon, 1988). They are utilized in detecting of viruses. Siben (1988) determined slot immunobinding assays for virus detections in potatoes which manifest advantages of soluble dyes. Grace and Abdally (1990) labelled eastern subterranean termites, *Reticulitermes flavipes* with dyes using Sudan Blue 35 in foraging and behavioral studies. Termite workers were fed filter paper containing dye concentrations of 0.1, 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 percent for period of 5-15 days. Concentrations greater than 2% deterred feeding, which resulted in less effective labelling, and elicited significant mortality.

As an alternative to other dye makers, Sudan Blue 35 would be suitable for field studies with *R. flavipes* employing mark-

release-capture cycles of 5- 6 days, or for labellings termites in laboratory studies of behavioral interactions for feeding preferences.

### Sources and Classifications

Triphenylmethane dyes were extracted from macrophytzes (Timofeeva and Cheromnyth). 1989). The symplastic transfer of fluorescent dyes from mesophyll to sieve tube in stripped leaf tissue and partly isolated minor veins of Commelina benghalensis Tecton grandis L. and Vilgypayiflora Juss revealed the localization of tannins and pigments in the parenchyma cells of the leaves and stems. Both colorants from the test plants occurred at varying concentrations and color intensities. Aqueous crude dye extracts from the plant samples scanned from 360-780 nm showed that the colorants were water soluble and existed in mixture as exhibited by broad peaks. (Quinto, 1992). Turmeric (Curcuma longa) rhizome finds use as colouring matter and also as condiment. The yellow matter distributed throughout the plant is mainly concentrated in the rhizome. In Indian systems of medicine it is also used to some extent as a tonic acid (blood purifier Agrawal, Goel and Gupta, 1992). Curcumin is the main coloring matter which develops yellow-red color with concentrated sulfuric acid (Wealth of India, 1950).

Natural dyes can broadly be classified as natural organic dyestuffs of vegetable and animal origin and mineral dyestuffs and inorganic pigments. The organic dyestuffs are obtained from roots, stems, leaves, berries and flower of various plants and from certain insects and shellfish with a very elaborate series of processes. These dyes, with a very few to be used with a mordant for fixation. The inorganic pigments are insoluble salts precipitated on fibers by suitable double decomposition. Natural organic dyes are subdivided into indigo and

related compounds, logwood, dyes producing red shades and dyes producing other than red shades.

Indigo is extracted from Indigofera tinctoria a bush of the pepper family. It is a maximum dye content of 0.4% (Kamat & Alat, 199). Wood is similar to indigo from fleshy leaves of the plant "Isatis tinctoria". The extraction is similar to indigo, Logwood produces a blue-black shade on wool and black shade on silk containing Haematoxylin which is colorless and having the following formula  $C_{16}H_{12}O_5$ . Which on oxidation is converted to Haematein  $C_{16}H_{10}O_5$ , the blue-black dye. Natural indigo is manufactured by a process that has remained essentially unchanged throughout the ages. It consists of two distinct operations, the fermentation of the plant and arial oxidation of the liquors. It is now extensively used in dyeing denims (Aberydira, 1979). Catechu apart from being a dye has also a preservative action and it is used in printing. It is used for Khaki dyeing. Annatto dye is also extracted from Bixa oryglana, a tropical shrub growing in South America and South Asia. Its dye is bright crimson taken from seed. Sappan wood from Sri Lanka denims its color from Brazilin ( $C_{16}H_{12}O_5$ ) that is soluble in water and alcohol. It is converted into Brazilin ( $C_{16}H_{12}O_5$ ). When exposed to atmospheric oxygen. The heartwood or sawdust of Arthocarpus integrifolia yield a yellow dye employed in colour monks robes. It is fixed with alum and intensified with turmeric. (Aberydira, 1979).

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimen, Phyllanthus reticulatus fruits were collected in Rugsuanan, Vigan, Ilocos Sur and transported to WST, UPLB where they were processed. Fresh berries were weighed and boiled with distilled water. Extracts containing water were

concentrated in a rotavapor at vacuum and 80C-90C water bath. The mixed distilled water were separated leaving the extract natural dyes.

### Isolation

Dyes are now frozen dried using vacuum and temperature of 50C for three days after samples had turned powdery and dry at the Forest Product Research and Development Institute (FPRDI). Testing of Textile Research Institute at Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

### APPLICATION OF MORDANTS (PRE-MORDANTING)

The fastness of the natural dye was tested. It is done initially by the application of four different mordants (ferrous sulfate, copper sulfate, alum and potassium dichromate).

The four mordants were applied separately in two types of yarns. These are cotton and silk. Weigh the yarns into four samples. Determine the amount by setting it at a specific concentration both on silk and cotton. Similarly, the volume of water used is based on the liquor ratio. Mix the mordant and the water (solvent) and heat for 10 minutes at 60C water bath. Squeeze it until it is totally drained.

### Dyeing

Prepare now the dye to be used. The amount of dyes is 50% of the weight of the yarn. The dye is mixed with the water which is based on the liquor ratio. Cotton yarn requires 1:30 while silk is 1:20 which is computed at 30% of the weight of yarn. Place the yarn in the mixture. Heat in water and drain for an hour. Now completely rinse it to clear.

### Washing

Prepare a washing solution of detergent with water at 20% concentration. Wash the cooked and dyed yarns up to "bleed free". Dry it in a shady area. Fastness is determined.

### APPLICATION OF MORDANTS (POST-MORDANTING)

The fastness of the natural dye was tested. It is done initially by the application of four different mordants (ferrous sulfate, copper sulfate, alum and potassium dichromate) after the dye has been mixed with the fibers. The same specifications were followed only that dyeing comes ahead of mordanting.

### APPLICATION OF MORDANTS (SIMULTANEOUS-MORDANTING)

The effectiveness of the dye was tested via this process. The natural dye together with the mordants were mixed in specific volume of water at the same time and allowed to color the fibers (cotton or silk) altogether or they are stirred occasionally in a hot water bath at 100C for one (1) hour.

### VARYING THE CONCENTRATION OF MORDANTS

The effectiveness of the dye is tested by varying the mordant concentration. After 5% initial application, it was followed by 10%. The determination of the amount of mordant depends on the concentration being set.

Figure 1  
Size of Baghagotot shrubs (*Phyllanthus  
reticulatus*) grown endemically in  
drylands of Ucos



Figure 2  
*Phyllanthus reticulatus* branch and leaves



Figure 3  
*Phyllanthus reticulatus* bearing pink  
flowers in bZoon

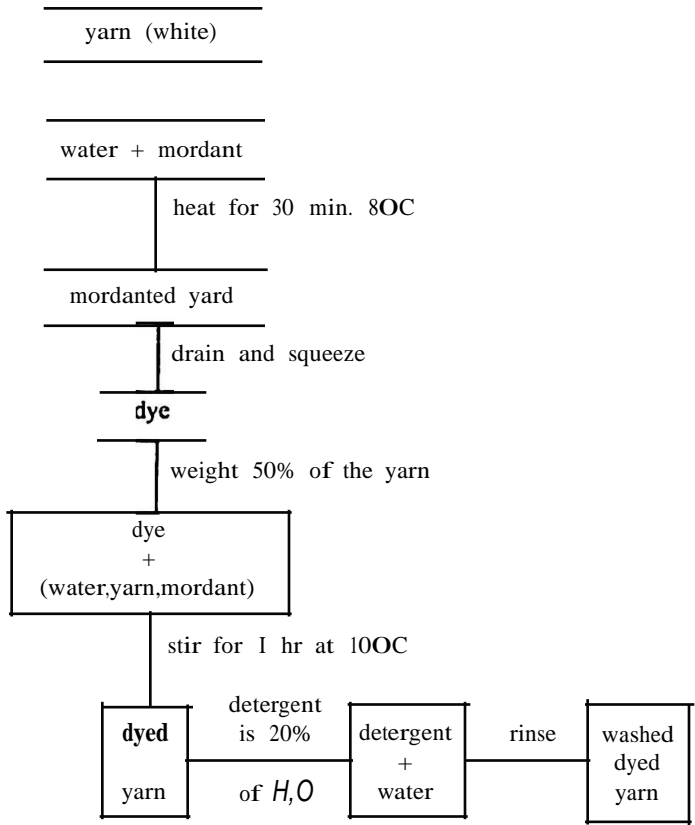


Figure 5. Pre-Mordanting Followed by Dyeing and Washing

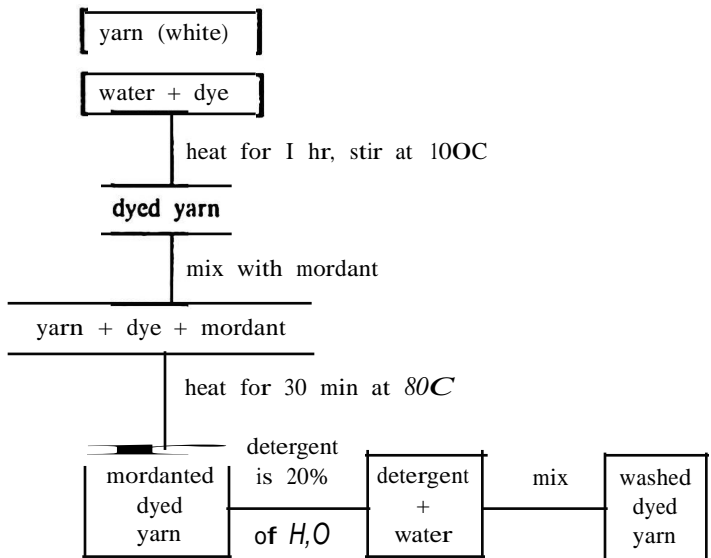


Figure 6. Dyeing Followed by Mordanting and Washing (Post Mordanting)

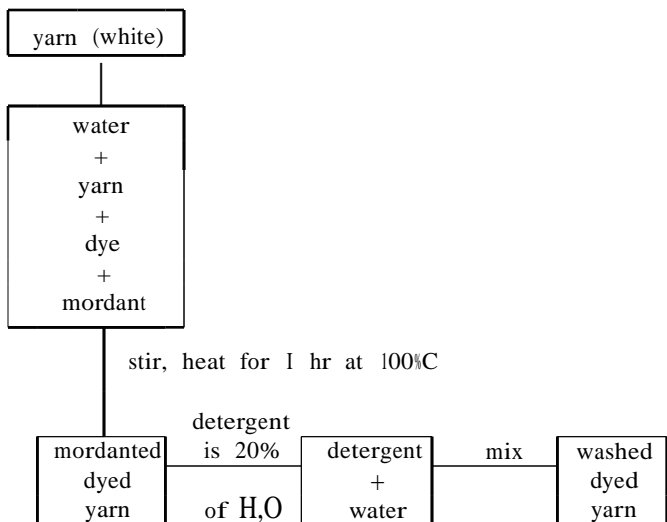


Figure 7. Dyeing and Mordanting Simultaneously Followed by *ashing*

**GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

- Crude dye            Phyllanthus reticulatus dye
- water-soluble; freeze dried
- Sources of dye        berries (blue violet)
- Mordants:
- Ferrous sulfate (white)
- Copper sulfate (blue)
- Alum (white)
- Potassium dichromate (orange)
- Yarns:
- silk
- cotton
- Solvent:
- water
- Detergent:
- sodium sulfonates
- Concentration used:
- 50% . 10%
- Technology applied:
- pre-mordanting
- post-mordanting
- simultaneous dyeing mordanting

## RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Phyllanthus reticulatus berries contain an indigo to black color juices which are soluble in water. These substances cause staining of cloth fibers. The chemicals were isolated in Soxhlet extractors using water as solvent, concentrated in a rotavapor and solidified by a freeze dryer at -50°C in 24 hours.

The percentage yield is 9.205%.

The effectivity of the natural dye is tested using the washed fastness as the basis where the dye is mixed with a solvent water and a fixing chemical - a mordant. There are four (4) mordants: namely ferrous sulfate, copper sulfate, alum and potassium dichromate.

The dye is tested into two (2) varying concentration, 5% and 19% of mordant mixed. In four different strategies: without mordant, pre-mordanting, post-mordanting and simultaneous dyeing and mordanting. The dye is tested on 2 types of fabrics or yarns, the cotton and the silk.

The range of the colour are from dull white up to deep black. Usually dull white, dank white, yellowish brown, light brown, dark brown gray, dark gray, light black, black and deep black. For the first treatment, 5% concentration of the mordants added. Only pre-mordanting was performed while 10% concentration of the mordant added to all the three were performed. (Pre-Post-Simultaneous). For 5% concentration of mordant the following were computed and manifested the result in Figure 9.

### A. Silk Pre-Mordanting

weight of the silk = .25g  
 at 5%; weight of mordant  
 $= .05 \times .25 \text{g} = 0.0125 \text{g}$   
 volume of water  
 at 1:30 liquor ratio =  $30 \times .25$   
 $= 7.5 \text{ ml}$   
 heated at 60°C for 30 min

### Dyeing

weight of dye  
 (50% of the yarn) =  $.50 \times .25 = .125 \text{ g}$   
 volume of water =  $.50 \times .25 = 7.5 \text{ ml}$   
 heat at 100°C for 1 hr, stir occasionally

### Washing

washed with detergent (quickwash)  
 at 20% concentration with water,  
 300 ml water  
 weight of detergent =  $300 \text{ ml} \times .20 = 60 \text{g}$   
 totally washed and rinsed until there was no bleed

### B. Cotton

#### Pre-Mordanting

weight of the cotton = .75g  
 at 5% weight of mordant =  $.05 \times .75 \text{g}$   
 $= 0.0375 \text{g}$   
 volume of water  
 at 1:20 liquor ratio =  $20 \times .75$   
 $= 15 \text{ ml}$   
 heat at 60°C for 30 min.

#### Dyeing

weight of dye  
 (50% of the yarn) =  $.50 \times .75$   
 $= .375 \text{ g}$   
 volume of water =  $.20 \times .75$   
 $= 15 \text{ ml}$   
 heat at 100°C for 1 hr,  
 stir occasionally

#### Washing

washed weight quickwash detergent  
 at 20% concentration with water,  
 300ml water  
 weight of detergent =  $300 \text{ ml} \times .20$   
 $= 60 \text{g}$   
 washed and rinsed until there was  
 no bleeding



### Post Mordanting

- A. SILK - dyeing, mordanting, washing
- B. COTTON - dyeing, mordanting, washing

Note: The computations were based on the same formula. Only the sequence is changed.

### Simultaneous Dyeing and Mordanting

- A. SILK - (dyeing/mordanting), washing
- B. COTTON - (dyeing/mordanting), washing

Note: Total time for mixing is 1 hr at water bath at 100°C

Dyeing without mordant was performed. There was just a slight alteration of the color of the white yarn which is specified by the PTRI.

### DISCUSSION

Dyeing cotton without mordant is similar to dyeing cotton having 5% pre-mordanting using copper sulfate or alum. Comparing 5% with 10% pre-mordanting, there was no change in the color of cotton but for 5% and no mordant, dyeing without mordant matches with the result of  $\text{CuSO}_4$  mordanted and slightly with alum mordanted. Among the results in 10% concentration, post mordanting is the darkest, followed by simultaneous and lastly the pre-mordanting. But there is a similar color or washed fastness degree at 10% in the copper sulfate (simultaneous) and potassium dichromate (post-mordanting).

Among all mordants in 3 strategies, ferrous sulfate is the darkest, copper sulfate, alum and potassium dichromate being the lightest except in 10% post-mordanting that alum is the lightest where potassium dichromate outcolored alum.

Washed fastness of silk are far better than cotton with a shinier physical appearance manifested. Among the 10% concentration treatments, all the results are the same for post, pre and simultaneous except for a similar outcome in 10% between copper sulfate (simultaneous) and potassium dichromate (post-mordanting). Comparing 5% and 10% (pre-mordanting), there is a darkening of the silk. Dyeing without mordant is similar to 5% (Pre) using alum.

Among all mordants in 3 strategies, ferrous sulfate, is the darkest, copper sulfate alum and potassium dichromate, respectively. Except in 10% post mordanting that alum is the lightest which is outcolored by potassium dichromate.

### CONCLUSION

The yield is higher than most renewable sources. The chemicals found in bagbagotot (*Phyllanthus reticulatus*) is water-soluble which is a potential dyestuff.

Increasing the concentration of mordant results to darker washed fastness in both silk and cotton.

In a uniform mordant concentration, of the three (3) strategies, post mordanting is the most effective.

Generally, dyeing a yarn (fiber) with *Phyllanthus reticulatus* dye with mordants shows darker washed fastness in silk than in cotton. Without a mordant, the dye is slightly fixed on both cotton and silk. Mordant generally helps the fixation of the natural dye on fibers.

Dyeing without mordant is similar to dyeing with alum mordant at 5% concentration.

Increasing the concentration of mordant to 10%; potassium dichromate manifests a significant change which can not be seen in all the treatments and strategies.

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