

**ATI MIGRATION AND TRADE
IN ETHNOMEDICINES IN CEBU**

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APPROVAL SHEET

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- *Bonifacio M. Amper, Jr.*

“I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the Ati migration and trade in ethnomedicines in Cebu. It discusses the Ati ethnomedicinal knowledge including (1) the identification of specific plants/trees and their parts (as well as some animals and minerals) that are medicinal, (2) the location and gathering of such, (3) preparation and combination of various plant parts as well as other ingredients and, (4) the types of conditions and/or ailments for which these preparations are used. Generally such knowledge has been passed on from one generation to the next. Engaging in the trading of these traditional medicines is one of the factors that led the Ati to urban centers such as Cebu. While the Ati share this knowledge with their customers, they have likewise been influenced by other forms of knowledge and practices of those whom they do business with. It is this knowledge which is part of their identity as Ati that has created income opportunities for them: engaging in the ethnomedicinal trade with customers from cultures other than their own. The ethnomedicinal knowledge of the Ati has persisted in spite of migration to a highly urbanized center like Cebu, however this has also been enriched with other knowledges from the cultures that they have encountered over the years as they seek opportunities and transfer from one place to another through the process of "*molangyaw*" and "*paningpalad*".

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