

Sub-theme: indigenous Knowledge systems continued.

- Scientific and Traditional Taxonomies of rainforest plants.

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Abstract:

There are detailed taxonomies for local plants in virtually all languages in Papua New Guinea, many of them including hundreds of plant species. They were often created independently one from another, as different language groups were not in mutual contact. It is therefore interesting to see whether there are some common principles for classification of plants shared by different language groups, and also by scientific taxonomy, which would produce similar classification of plants in various languages. This question is addressed in our study, examining scientific taxonomy and taxonomies from two Papua New Guinean languages as applied to 60 species of rainforest trees.



The University of Goroka, Faculty of Science

FIRST SCIENCE FACULTY CONFERENCE

September 12 - 14, 2001.

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Theme: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: emerging trends in the new millennium.

September, 2001