

## **Biological Inventory and Local Knowledge in Locating Medicinal Plants**

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Plants are important contributors to medicines throughout the world. Increased levels of forest destruction are making it important to find rapid ways to assess forests for their medicinal plant potential. Debate has arisen over whether botanical inventories or indigenous knowledge provide the best information about medicinal plants. A biological survey of an area of premontane wet forest in Monteverde, Costa Rica, and interviews of local people were done to compare which would better assess possible medicinal plants in the area. The end result indicates that the biological inventory is the best way to proceed in locating medicinal plants in Monteverde. (Poster)