

**NOTEWORTHY FERN DISCOVERIES IN THE PHILIPPINES  
AT THE TURN OF THE 21ST CENTURY**

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**ABSTRACT**

The status of pteridological research in the Philippines at the turn of the 21st century is presented and discussed. An electronic database containing collection and taxonomic information on nearly 23,000 collection numbers of Philippine pteridophyte specimens in herbaria around the world was started in 1994, a collaborative personal and institutional endeavor. I also provide a synthesis of the results of my field explorations in three protected areas in the last three years. Noteworthy of these are the rediscovery and confirmation of the presence in the Philippines of the genus *Cyrtomium*, and the rediscovery of *Aglaomorpha cornucopia*, *Antrophyum williamsii*, *Ctenitis humilis*, and *Dennstaedtia macgregori*, rare Philippine endemics. The need for extensive botanical explorations in the Philippines is imperative for our understanding of biodiversity and sound conservation management. The implications for scientific research and cooperation of current laws regarding biological collection and transport, especially the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, are also presented.