

Project Update: February 2018

My project aims at providing initial conservation genetic data for forest fragments in Cebu, Philippines and at resolving taxonomic issues of *Tetrastigma loheri*. I collected 89 vouchers and 87 leaf tissues in silica gel of *Tetrastigma* species from Cebu and other regions. In collaboration with Cebu Technological University - Argao and the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, we also conducted a field botany workshop in Nug-as, Alcoy, Cebu from 5th-9th January 2018. This was aimed at augmenting the skills of the participants who are involved in biodiversity conservation in Cebu and other parts of the Philippines and at training a new generation of plant conservation biologists. Twenty-three people coming from academia, government institutions, NGOs, and people's organisations participated. Among the workshop topics were plant identification and recognition of select families, documentation and preservation of plants, principles of botanical nomenclature, and collecting botanical field data.



Left: *Tetrastigma loheri* in Mt. Mariveles, Bataan in Luzon, Philippines. Right: Obtaining field data about *Tetrastigma loheri* in Cebu, Philippines.



Left: Jasper Obico collects a specimen that looks similar to *Tetrastigma loheri* in Leyte, Philippines. Right: Participants and staff of the botany workshop in Nug-as, Alcoy in Cebu, Philippines.



Left: Sorting specimens with Pieter Pelser and Jasper Obico after the Fig Hunt activity during the botany workshop. Right: Julie Barcelona demonstrates mounting of a specimen on a herbarium sheet during the botany workshop.