

APPENDIX 2.

Description of the 12 use categories as defined by Cook (1995) and modified by de la Torre et al. (2008) and used in this study for classifying plant use records.

Use category	Description
Food	Plants eaten by human beings. Include plants used to make beverages
Food additives	Processing additives and other additive ingredients used in food or beverages preparation
Vertebrate food	Forage and fodder for domestic or wild vertebrates that serve as a source of food for human beings
Invertebrate food	Plants eaten by invertebrates that are useful to humans, such as edible grubs
Apicolous	Plants that provide pollen, nectar or resins as sources for honey or propoleum production. This category was separated from invertebrate food due to its importance in developing countries as Ecuador
Fuel	Plants used to produce charcoal, or used as petroleum substitutes, alcohols, or tinder
Materials	Plants used as source of materials for construction of houses, fences or bridges, or to elaborate handicrafts, music instruments, work tools, weapons, home objects, etc. This category includes fibers, waxes, oils, chemicals and their derived products
Social	Plants used for cultural purposes, which are not definable as food or medicines. This category includes hallucinogens, contraceptives and plants with ritual or religious significance. Plants used to cure cultural disorders as “bad air” are also included
Toxic to vertebrates	Plants that are poisonous to vertebrate animals, both accidentally and when deliberately applied, such as extracts and preparations used for fishing and hunting
Toxic to non vertebrates	Plants that are poisonous to non vertebrates, both accidentally and when deliberately applied. This category includes insecticides and herbicides
Medicinal	Plants used to cure human and animal sicknesses
Environmental	Plants used to protect, improve, and fertilize soils; to provide shadow, as living fences, ornamentals or that form a structural part of agroforestry systems