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### Ethnopharmacological Note

### Use of *Cycas rumphii* Miquel (Cycadaceae) roots to treat snakebite

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### Abstract

*Cycas rumphii* Miquel, belonging to the Cycadaceae family is known in English as ‘queen sago palm’ and in Bengali as ‘maniraj’. The plant is native to Indonesia, New Guinea, and Christmas Island and is not a common plant of Bangladesh. Ethnomedicinal uses of the plant have not been reported to any great extent. The Nicobarese people of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands use the plant to treat fever (Chander et al., 2015). In Bangladesh, root tops of the plant are used to treat debility by folk medicinal practitioners in Bheramara area of Kushtia district, Bangladesh (Rahmatullah et al., 2009). Leaves are used by the Bede community to treat headache and severe body pain (Seraj et al., 2013). During a recent survey in Rajshahi district, a new use of the plant was obtained from a folk medicinal practitioner (FMP), Mr. Md. Shukur Ali, Baghmara Upazila (sub-district) in Rajshahi district. The FMP used the roots of the plant, which was made into a paste and administered orally with one and a quarter fruits of *Capsicum frutescens* L. (Solanaceae family, known in English as ‘chili pepper’ and in Bengali as ‘morich’) to a snake-bitten patient. This was done only once and the FMP claimed that one dose was enough to neutralize the venom of any poisonous snake. The plant was collected (Figure 1) and identified by a plant taxonomist at the Medicinal Plant Collection Wing of the University of Development Alternative.

Keywords: medicinal plants, *Cycas rumphii*, snakebite

### Declaration of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest associated with this work.

### References

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Figure 1. *Cycas rumphii*