

Capítulo 18

DE OTROS PECES NOTABLES, AUNQUE MENORES QUE LOS DICHOS; Y SUS PARTICULARES CALIDADES, BUENAS Y MALAS; Y DE LOS QUE SE HALLAN EN LOS RIOS DE ESTAS ISLAS

Por cierto tiene Plinio el dicho común (aunque se atribuye al vulgo) de que se hallan en las aguas todas las especies y diferencias de animales que en la tierra. Y no lo dudo, variando sólo los que viven en ellas, en algunas partes más o menos de su cuerpo, que, según el elemento en que viven lo necesitan, y así comúnmente a los dichos les faltan los pies por no haberlos menester para andar, y sobran diferentes alones y colas, y otras cosas a propósito para remar o nadar, y así de otras partes de modo que dejo esta punto sin controversia, aun en estos mares en que se puede decir que, además de los conocidos en lo restante del mundo y comunes a todos los mares, tiene los suyos propios, por juntarse por acá los dos mayores océanos del mundo, que son el del Norte y el del Sur; aquél que da paso a la navegación par las Indias Orientales y Occidentales, navegando desde el poniente al oriente, y éstas otro navegando desde el oriente al poniente para los mismos términos aunque por opuestos rumbos, dando los diestros pilotos vueltas y vueltas a esta desmedida bola del mundo, por opuestos rumbos, a unos mismos términos, que son los del mundo hasta ahora conocido.

Chapter 18

CONCERNING OTHER NOTABLE FISH, ALTHOUGH SMALLER THAN THOSE MENTIONED; THEIR PARTICULAR QUALITIES — THE GOOD AND BAD — AND ABOUT THOSE FOUND IN THE RIVERS OF THESE ISLANDS

Certainly, Pliny has the common saying (although it is attributed to the multitude) that all the species and differences in animals that are on the land are also found in the water. I have no doubt about it! Those that live in either element vary only in some parts of their bodies; some more, others less, depending on the necessity of the element in which they live. Hence, those of the water ordinarily lack feet because they have no need of them for walking. They have various added fins and tails and other things appropriate for paddling or swimming. Likewise in the case of other parts of the body, so that this point is left without controversy. Even in these seas, where one may say that besides these creatures known in the rest of the world and common to all seas, they have their own proper ones because here the two greatest oceans of the world come together. These are of the north and of the south; the former providing a route for navigation to the east and west Indies, traveling from west to east. This other one, for sailing from the east to the west for the same destination, although by opposite routes. These provide skillful pilots various circuits over this disproportionate ball of the earth by opposite routes to one and the same destination, being those of the world known up to now.

Por esta causa se hallan acá todos los peces que en ambos mares, y algunos más de este Archipiélago propios, porque con tanta diferencia de islas y diferentes climas, son las calidades y agentes que concurren a la generación de ellos, distintos y, a su modo, los efectos producidos por ellos.

Hallarse acá dos diferencias de caballos marinos es sin duda; la una muy pequeños y la otra muy grandes, y estos en nada inferiores a los *duyones* en grandeza, excepto en la figura de caballos del cuello hasta la cabeza. Lo demás como los grandes peces que dijimos, y su cola como de lagarto. Estos no son muy comunes acá. Son lo más en los mares más cercanos de la India, de donde sin duda vienen en los monzones (así llaman los portugueses a los tiempos de navegar por acá) y se extienden hasta estas Islas, y más a las más cercanas a la *Gran Sumatra*.¹

De los dientes y colmillos de estos es la estima y virtud en la India no menos celebrada y estimada que de los *duyones* acá. Los caballos menores que tienen dos como pies o manos delante, rematando en pez lo restante, son por acá mucho más ordinarios y se ven más veces.

Aun a las nombradas sirenas de Ulises (si fueron peces aquellas y no larvas) se halla acá semejanza y aun exceso. He oído a muchos indios fidedignos (y aun a algunos españoles que andan estos mares con la ocasión de las cobranzas de sus tributos) que en algunos parajes se ven a veces peces-hombres (macho y hembra, individuos necesarios para la generación) y no medio peces y medio hombres, como dicen allá de las sirenas, sino todo el cuerpo de pies a cabeza como humanos. Venlos las más veces en isletas pequeñas, cercanas a grandes golfos a que salen después de tempestades, o a solearse o a descansar del contraste que aun en los profundo de los mares suele haber con ellas.

Tienen cabellos largos (según dicen), cuerpo fornido – el del macho más que la hembra–, brazos y manos, muslos y piernas y pies, excepto que en estos (según se colige por las huellas, o pisadas, que dejan en la arena) tienen un modo de membrana entre dedo y dedo, a modo de los pies de los patos. En las manos será, sin duda, lo mismo.

Again, for this reason there is found here all the fish of both seas and some other peculiar to this archipelago because with such variety of islands and differences of climates, the conditions and factors which contribute to the generation of these animals are distinct and, in the same manner, the effects produced by them.

Thus, without any doubt, there are found here two different kinds of sea horses. The one is very small; the other very large. The latter are in no way inferior to the *duyong* in size. Except for its having the shape of a horse from the neck to the head, and its tail like a lizard, the rest is similar to the great fish we described. These are not common here. More of them are in the seas closest to India from where, undoubtedly, they come in the monsoons (this is what the Portuguese call the seasons for sailing here). They spread as far as these islands especially to those nearest *Gran Sumatra*.¹

Their esteem and value for their teeth and fangs is no less regarded in India than those of the *duyong* are here. The smaller sea horses, which have what seems like two feet or paws in front and the rest of the body ending like a fish, are much more common here and are seen more frequently.

There is even some semblance and even too much told here about so-called sirens of Ulysses (if those creatures were fish and not specters). I have heard from many trustworthy natives (and even from some Spaniards who travel these seas and for the purpose of collecting their tributes) that in some places fish people are seen at times (both males and females individually necessary for generation). They are not half-fish and half-person, as they say over there concerning the sirens, but the whole body from feet to head is like a human being. They see them most often on small islands near large bays where they come out after storms either to sun themselves or to rest from the struggle, and they have them even in the depths of the oceans.

They have long hair (according to them), a robust body, that of the male more than the female; arms and hands, muscles and legs and feet, except that in the latter (as may be gathered from the tracks or footsteps which they leave in the sand) they have a kind of membrane between the toes like the feet of ducks. On their hands, without doubt, this would be the same.

Yo he pasado por dos parajes en donde dicen se ven más frecuentemente; el uno entre la isla de Leyte y la de Bohol y Sugbu; el otro cerca de otra isla que llaman *Dinagat*², en nunca faltas gente por ser muy abundante de todo género de peces. Está entre la isla de Leyte a la parte del sur, y la de Mindanao por las costas de Caraga. Varias veces (dicen los indios) que los han visto y seguido, pero se zambullen luego sin que se halle más rastro que el de las pisadas, o huellas, que dejaron en la arena.

En este paraje me dijeron, pasando yo por él, que habían hallado un monstruo de estos, muerto, pero ya muy corrompido y hediondo, si bien se conocía aún ser de macho en dicha especie, y que, aunque estaba muy hinchado y podrido, guardaba aún las delineaciones de cuerpo, al parecer, humano, por lo menos en la figura. Preguntando yo si sabían otras cosas, me dijeron que no; sólo que oían en aquellos parajes a veces unos como ahullidos mal formados, y que juzgaban eran de estos peces.

Llámanlos en esta lengua bisaya *kataw*³, que quiere decir – “como hombre,” o que “tiene figura de hombre.”

Esto es lo que he averiguado de ellos entre estos naturales, y, por no verse en muchas partes, lo saben pocos de ellos, y los menos, y así dudamos de su verdad, aunque no le falta apariencia, y en las historias naturales otros semejantes, y en esto de Samar hallo muy válido que se hallan sin duda.

Antes de pasar a otros peces quiero hacer mención en este lugar de las disformes anguilas que en algunos ríos de estas Islas se hallan, y, asentando primero que en casi todos los ríos grandes que hay en ellas (que no son pocos, y de mucho fondo) se hallan los mismos peces que en el mar, porque con la mucha agua que en las grandes crecientes se entre por ellos, y sube salada muchas leguas la tierra adentro, y más cuanto mayor es la madre del río arriba) tiburones, bufeos, tortugas, rayas, y, por decirlo en breve, casi todos

I have passed through two places where they say they are seen most frequently, the one between the Island of Leyte and that of Bohol and Cebu. The other near another island which they call *Dinagat*,² where there is never a lack of people because there is an abundance of all types of fish. It is between the island of Leyte on the south side and that of Mindanao along the coast of Caraga. On various occasions (say the natives) they have seen them and followed them but they then dive into the water without leaving any trace other than that of the tracks or footprints which they have left in the sand.

In this place, when I was passing through it, I was told that they have found one of those huge monsters dead, well decomposed and foul-smelling. It was still recognized as being of the male species. Although it was very bloated and rotted, it still preserved the features of a body seemingly human, at least in appearance. When I asked them if they knew of other instances, they told me no – except that in those places they heard at times something like badly formed howls, and that they believed that they were from this fish.

In this Bisayan tongue they call them *kataw*,³ which means to say: “like a person”, or “having the shape of a person.”

This is what I have learned about them among these natives. For they are not seen in many places, few know about them and hardly nothing. Thus, we doubt about their reality although there is not lacking vestiges. In the natural histories there are other similar beings. This one of Samar, I believe factual and they can be found without doubt.

Before passing on to other fish, I wish to make mention in this place of the monstrous eels that are found in some of the rivers of these islands. Stating first: that in almost all of the large rivers that there exist in them (which are a considerable number and very deep) there are found the same fish as in the sea. Because with the great amount of water that enters them, due to huge tides, the salt water goes inland many leagues (and more in proportion to the size of the bed of the river) and so even the largest fish go up [river]. There can be seen (as I have witnessed many times) many leagues from the sea, up the river, shark, *buefos*, turtles, ray

los peces que suelen verse y tienen su asiento y vivienda en el mar, aunque hay otros, que son propios de los ríos donde las mares no llegan, hallándose en ellos truchas como las de España, barbos, o lisas, bobos y otros como los de los ríos de allá, con los *sabalos*⁴ de agua dulce que son los más regalados.

Y cierto que en algunos de los ríos de estas islas de los bisayas los hay en tanta abundancia y de tanto regalo como por allá en los más nombrados, siéndolo por acá mucho el de Burawen, *Binahan*⁵ y de *Jaro*⁶ con otros de la isla de Leyte; los de Ubasan⁷, Bangahun⁸, y Catubig, en lo de Samar e Ibabao, en lo mediterráneo de ellas, donde no llega ni de mucho la mares y agua salada, y en todos ellos se ven y cogen con mucha abundancia. De un modo de pescar que usan en algunos ríos, por serlo, diremos después.

En estos ríos, pues, muy lejos de la mar, se suelen hallar anguilas tan grandes que parece increíble, y sólo la vista de los ojos y la experiencia lo aseguran hallarse como la mayor pierna, o pan-torilla, y aun como el muslo, es muy ordinario, y algunas he visto yo que en su grandeza frisaban con ellos.

Pero en un río mediterráneo de la isla de Leyte, llamado *tunga* que quiere decir “mitad” (por estar en medio de dicha isla, según dicen, con igual distancia a la mar por uno y otro lado) me avisaron se veía una anguila mayor que el cuerpo de un hombre. Decían los indios que era como un grande puerco de monte en lo grueso, y larga como una culebra (o como ellas suelen ser), y añadieron que estaba tan fiera que arremetía a los hombres si se llegaban cerca de una grande poza donde ella estaba, por traer poca agua el río en tiempo de verano (que acá lo es cuando no llueve y hay más secas, como llamamos “invierno” el de muchas aguas).

Mandé que fuese allá un *principal*⁹ con otros compañeros para que la matasen. Fueron una y otra vez, sin poderla sacar de su madriguera, y temer cada uno de los que iban no fuese él con quien invistiese dicha anguila; hasta que, habiendo sido las secas grandes, volvieron otra vez, y, echando a nadar un perro en dicha

fish. To put it briefly, almost all the fish that are seen and have their dwelling in the sea. However, there are others which are native to the rivers, where the seas do not reach. One can find trout in them just like in Spain; barbels or skates, *bobos* and others like those of the rivers over there, along with the fresh water *sabalos*⁴ which are most relished.

It is certain that in some of the rivers of these Bisayan islands, they are in as great abundance and of such delicacy as over there [i.e. in Spain] in the most famous rivers. Here, there are many in the rivers of Burawen, Binahan⁵ and Jaro,⁶ together with other rivers of the island of Leyte. [Also in] those of Ubasan,⁷ Bangahun⁸ and Catubig in those of Samar and Ibabaw, in the interior where the tide and the salt water does not reach. In all these rivers they are seen and caught in great abundance. We shall describe later a method of fishing which they use in some rivers, as we shall see later.

In these rivers, then, there can usually be found eels so large that it seems incredible. Only sight and direct experience will convince that they are found as big as the large portion of the leg or calf. It is quite ordinary to find them even as large as the thigh. I have seen some that come near to the latter in its greatness.

But on one interior river of the island of Leyte, called *tunga*, which means to say "half" (because it is in the middle of this island with an equal distance to the sea by one side or the other), they told me that an eel was seen larger than the body of a man. The natives said that it was like a big wild boar in girth and as long as a snake (or like they usually are). They added, that it was so vicious that it attacked people if they came close to a large pool where it was. Since the river brought down little water in the summer time (this is the season here that it does not rain; there are more rains during the '*invierno*' as we call them).

I ordered a *principal*,⁹ who was there with some companions, to kill it. They went once and then again without being able to get it out of its lurking place. Each one of those who went was fearful lest he might be the one who might tangle with this eel. They threw a dog into this pool to swim and it went looking for the eel.

poza, salió ella en su busca, y, como el agua era poca, pudieron hacer pie y al fin la mataron.

Díjome el *principal* (y trajo un bejuco con que la metió) que tendría lo más grueso de nueve a diez palmos de circuito, y largo casi cuatro brazas. La boca con tantos dientes como una *sawa* (de que ya hablamos), el color negro atezado, y que tenía además de unos como alones (que tienen de medio abajo arrimados a un lado, y otro que eran muy anchos), una como cabellera encima de la cabeza.

No se atrevió a comer de ella ninguno de los indios, porque suelen semejantes monstruos ser nocivos y causar muchas muertes, como diré luego de otro, ni tampoco pudieron cargarlo al pueblo, que estaba cerca de dos leguas, o estar lejos, y así se la dejaron allí, contentándose con traer las medidas; y, como comenzó a pudrirse, dicen que acudieron tantos puercos de monte y otros animales que en breve espacio no dejaron rastro de ella. De lo dicho se colegirá la grandeza de estas anguilas, y su fiereza en llegando a ellas.

Con todo, se suelen hallar por acá en las cabezas de estas anguilas unas piedras preciosas, como margaritas, y nada inferiores a ellas. Tengo yo en mi poder una de estas de anguilas de río (y no era ella muy grande, sería como el brazo). El tamaño de la piedra de una avellana pequeña, el color como de cristal escarchado (aunque es sólido y sin raya alguna). Vénse en ella al sol varios colores, como en el iris. Es tan perfectamente rotunda que no parece se pudiera, aun con mucha arte y cuidado, tornear mejor. Tiene en los dos palos dos como remolinillos que hace aquella tez como escarchada, que parece está señalando el lugar por donde se ha de agujerear.

Todos cuantos la han visto han admirado no menos su perfección en lo redondo, su tez y lustre más vistoso que de la mejor perla neta, y sus visos varios y notables. Y, comúnmente dicen que a tener pareja, fuera presea de gran estima por lo extraordinaria. Esto oigo decir a varios españoles que la han visto, y codiciado no menos.

Since the water was low, they were able to wade in; finally they killed it.

The *principal* told (and he brought a reed with which he measured it) that it was nine to ten *palmos* in girth at the thickest part; about four *brazas* in length. The mouth had as many teeth as a *sawa* (about which we have spoken). The color is a deep black and it had besides something like fins which they have half way down attached to each side; they were very broad and had a kind of hair on top of the head.

Not one of the natives dared to eat it because similar kinds of monsters were usually poisonous and caused many deaths, as I shall describe next concerning another one. Neither could they carry it to the village which was about two leagues distant. So they left it there content to bring in the measurements. As it started to putrefy, they said that so many wild boars and other animals approached that in a brief space of time not a trace was left. From this, one can imagine the size of these eels and their ferocity when approached.

All in all, in the heads of these eels here can be found a kind of precious stone like *margaritas* and in no way inferior to them. I have in my possession one of these from the eels from the river (it was not very large, about the size of an arm). The size of the stone was that of small hazelnut; its color like that of frosty crystal (although it is solid and without any streaks whatever). The sun is reflected in it in various colors like in the rainbow. It is so perfectly round that it seems impossible to have been fashioned even with great skill and care. It has on the two *palos*, two tufts of hair which makes its source as though frosted and seems to be pointing out the place where it should be pierced.

As many as have seen it, have admired the perfect roundness of its surface and especially its fine luster; better than that of the best and purest pearl and its several remarkable colors. It is commonly stated that to have a pair would be an ornament of great value, because of its extraordinary character. I have heard this said by various Spaniards who have seen it and coveted it not less.

Los indios dicen de ella que tiene tantas virtudes que, por ser demasiadas, lo dudo yo mucho, y no puedo decir las que tiene por tenerla guardada. De una muy especial diremos después, y la mayor es que cuantos la ven la codician; señal de que tiene alguna virtud atractiva que mueve a que se le aficione, y por la misma causa la guardo yo más y la estimo en más.

Otro pez hay que, aunque vive en la mar, lo más comúnmente suele entrar y salir en los ríos; y, aunque lo ordinario de su tamaño hay muchos y he visto yo de varios, no es sino mediano de tres a cuatro palmos de largo, y poco más de uno de ancho.

Es pez de escamas y tiene la cabeza muy grande y la boca grandísima. Suele crecer mucho y, aunque en lo larga rara vez pasará de una braza, de lo grueso suele tener mucho más. Es pez carnicero y que, cuando grande, suele hacer presa en hombres y bestias, como el tiburón y como el caimán.

La experiencia por acá ha mostrado que estos muy grandes, suelen ser muy ponzoñosos y dañosos; y así las veces, que no han sido pocas, que se ha ofrecido cogerlo en donde yo me hallaba, nunca dejaba de comer de ellos a la gente de casa, y a los demás les avisaba del riesgo. Unos comían y otros no, por el peligro.

En el puerto de Catbalogan, cabecera de Samar y donde suele residir el alcalde mayor de la jurisdicción, se suele coger de estos peces. Y rara vez se los comen sin que haya muertos o muy mal parados de dicha comida. Y es fama común enre ellos que por los años de 1627, antes que yo viniese a estas Islas, una gran peste que se prendió y cuasi arruinó este pueblo (que, siendo antes de ochocientos tributos, apenas llega trescientos hoy), fue originada de uno de estos *kugtong*¹⁰, que así se llama este pez en esta lengua.

Dicen fue exorbitante su grandeza al respeto de lo que suelen ser, y que no le hallaron más que un intestino, señal fatal, y que indica ser muy ponzoñoso cualquier pez donde se halla solo) y, con todo esto, son tales estos indios que muchos no escarmientan, y, si los cogen, se los comen.

The natives say about it that it has very many healing properties which because they are excessive, I doubt very much. I cannot say what it has because I kept it under cover. We shall speak later of a very special quality. The greatest one is that whoever sees it wants it; a sign that it has some power of attraction which moves one to have it. For the same reason I guard it the more and esteem it the more.

There is another fish which, although it usually lives in the sea, it goes into and out of the rivers. Although it is commonly of varying size and I have seen various ones, it averages three to four *palmas* in length and a little more than one in width.

It is a scaly fish and has a very large head and a great mouth. It grows large and although it rarely gets longer than an arm, it may be extremely fat. It is a carnivorous fish and when it is grown it usually hunts both people and animals like the shark and the crocodile.

Experience here has shown that these larger ones may be very poisonous and dangerous. Thus, the times that they have been plentiful and there was an opportunity to catch them in the places where I was staying, never have I permitted the hunters to eat them and I warned the others of the danger.

In the port of Catbalogan, the *Cabecera* of Samar and where the *alcalde mayor* of the jurisdiction resides, these fish are often caught. Rarely are they eaten without fatal consequences or very bad effects from this meal. It is a very common tradition among them that in the year 1627, before I arrived to these islands, this town was attacked and almost destroyed by a great pestilence (there were eight hundred tributes before and today hardly three hundred) which originated with one of these *kugtong*,¹⁰ as this fish is called in this language.

They say that its size is enormous compared to what they usually are. They said that they found no more than one intestine, a fatal sign which indicates that any fish where it is found is very poisonous. Notwithstanding all this, these natives are of such nature that many do not heed the warning and if they catch them, they eat them.

Lo mismo sucede (y esto es mucho más ordinario) con otro pez particular en su hechura, llamado *butiti*.¹¹ Es anclicorto, la cabeza como de tortuga. Tiene uno como pico sin dientes, pero es tan duro que aun en un hierro que le metan en la boca, hace mella. El pellejo es espinoso todo, a modo de erizo¹², aunque las puntas son más cortas y menos fuertes.

Cuando se llega a él o le tocan, se hincha (aun después de muerto) y se pone como una bola. Suélenlo siempre desollar para comerlo por la dureza del cuero. Dicen es muy bueno para hacer tamboriles o panderos, y de estas pieles, sacando lo carnoso afuera, los suelen hacer los chinos, y suenan mucho.

Su carne es muy blanca, al parecer y casi como carne de conejo. De ella dicen los indios que es la más regalada y sabrosa de cuantos peces hay, pero con su riesgo. Ese es tal que son muchísimos los que han muerto, y mueren, por comer de ello, porque, además que las huevas son tan ponzoñosas que cualquiera animal que las come, muere al punto, tiene ciertas venillas y nervios que los peritos conocen y sacan con unas veriguillas en ellas, de un tan malignante humor que, si al sacarlas, se revientan y toca aquel humor a la carne, mata infaliblemente al que la come; y, con todo esto, la comen con mucho gusto y aun sin peligro algunas veces del que sabe, como dijimos, sacarle lo ponzoñoso. Pero no pocas mueren aun los más advertidos y que, habiendo comido sin lesión muchas otras veces, topan con alguno que se les lleva sin remedio.

Pocos años ha que sucedió en la isla de *Poro*¹³ (que, aunque es nombre genérico de isla, lo es especial de aquella) que ocho naturales de ella y de *Zebu* o *Bohol*, pescadores, y que habían comido muchas veces la carne de otros *butitis*, cogieron uno grande más de lo ordinario. Parecióles famoso, hicieron sus diligencias de limpiarlo, etc., comieron muy a gusto. A poco rato, de los ocho los cinco quedaron muertos sin remedio; los tres aplicaron algunos, pero con

The same things happen (and this is a very ordinary occurrence) in the case of another fish, of an unusual make-up, called *butiti*.¹¹ It is wide and short. The head is like that of a turtle; it has a kind of beak without teeth. But it is so tough that even a piece of iron cannot make a dent when thrust into its mouth. The skin is all spiny in the manner of *erizo*,¹² although the spines are shorter and less rigid.

When one comes in contact with it or touches it, it swells up (even after it is dead) and becomes like a ball. It is always necessary to dry it by exposing it to the sun in order to be eaten because of the toughness of the skin. They say that it is very good for making tambourines or timbrels from them after turning them inside out. The Chinese make them and they are very resonant.

Their flesh is very white in appearance and almost like the flesh of a rabbit. The natives say, that it is the most prized and savory of any fish that there is, but it has its dangers. These are so great that a multitude have died and currently are dying for having eaten it. Because the eggs are so poisonous that any animal that eats them, dies immediately. Aside from this, it has certain little blood vessels and nerves which the knowledgeable know about and take out, with some little postules in them of such a malignant fluid, that if they are ruptured on taking them out and the fluid touches the flesh, it kills surely whoever eats it. With all this, they eat it with great delight and even without danger at times, as we said, for him who knows how to extract the poisonous part. But not a few die, even the most informed, as we have said, and who have eaten it without harm many other times. They encounter something which carries them off without remedy.

A few years ago it happened that on the island of Poro¹³ (even though this is a generic name for an island, it is a specific one of this one) eight natives from there and from Cebu or Bohol fishermen, who had often eaten the flesh of other *butiti* caught one that was larger than the ordinary. To them it appeared extraordinary; they took the necessary precautions in cleaning it, etc., eating it with great relish. In a short time, of the eight, five were quite dead. The three applied some antidotes, but two others died

ellos murieron los otros dos; y el octavo, aunque vivió algún tiempo, quedó tal que nunca alzó cabeza hasta que se murió también; que, el escarmentar en cabeza ajena, es muchas veces (¡ojalá no fuera tantas!) causa de acabar mal, sin que valga el haber en otras salido bien; pues es de fe que, el que ama el peligro, parece en él.

La otra multitud de peces ponzoñosos es indecible. Son los unos en la carne como el *butiti*, otros en las espinas que suelen tener en los alones con que nadan, y de estos hay muchos y muy malos que causan grandes dolores cuando no llegan a matar. Aun las espinas interiores de algunos suelen ser muy dañosas.

Hay peces, y los he visto yo, que tienen las espinas verdes y de otros colores, siendo su carne blanca; y, aun pisadas¹⁴, después de comido el pescado, suelen hinchar los pies y causar dolores muy intensos. Sólo añadiré de este género un pez, que por la figura es notable.

Es su rostro, o cabeza, como la de un oso fiero en labios, nariz y boca. Tiene las escamas coloradas, y negras las del espinazo. En medio de él tiene, de pies a cabeza, uno como alón de muy largas, agudas y tiasas puntas negras que son ponzoñosas sobre manera al que, por su desgracia, le toca en cualquiera parte de su cuerpo. La fuerza del veneno dura veinticuatro horas, y es con tanta vehemencia que casi enajena a uno de los sentidos. Es cierto que no puede en todas ellas, ni sabe usar de las funciones ordinarias para vivir. Téplase el dolor, pasadas las veinticuatro horas, y aun antes, si se le acude con valientes contras. Queda la parte, en que fue herido, hinchada y con qué curar para muchos días.

Es pez fiero. Hélo visto, y, aunque es sabroso, comido, según dicen, por la contingencia de tocarlo, y más tan armado, es peligroso. Llámánle, cuando grande, *gatasan*¹⁵ que quieren decir “pez que tiene leche,” porque, en tocándole, por cualquiera parte que le toquen con palo u otra cosa, echa por entre las escamas un humor tan blanco como la leche y que lo parece, y esto le dió dicho nombre.

anyway. Although the eight one lived for some time, he remained in such a condition that he never raised his head until he also died. Not to heed the experience of another is many times (would that it were not so frequent!) the cause of a bad ending and there is no advantage in having escaped on other occasions. It is, then, a matter of faith: he who loves danger will perish in it.

The other great number of poisonous fish is indescribable. Some are so in their flesh, like the *butiti*; others in the spines which they have in their fins with which they swim. And of these, there are many very bad ones which cause great pain, when they do not actually kill. Even the inner spines of some can be very dangerous.

There are fish, and I have seen them, which have bones of green and other colors; their flesh being white. The bones, even trodden upon,¹⁴ after having eaten the fish, can swell up the feet and cause very intense pain. I only add, concerning this kind of fish, that it has a remarkable appearance.

Its face or head is like that of a fierce bear in lips, nose and mouth. It has red bristles and those of the spine are black. In the middle of this, it has, as part of the head, something like a fin of very long sharp and strong black spines which are poisonous beyond measure to him who has the misfortune to touch it with any part of the body. The power of the poison lasts twenty-four hours; it is of such violence that it almost deprives one of his sense. It is certain that in all of this time one cannot perform the usual functions of living. The pain may ease when the twenty-four hours have elapsed and even before it if one is aided with effective antidotes. The portion in which such was wounded remains swollen and incurable for many days.

It is a vicious fish; I have seen it, and although it is tasty to eat, so they say, through the necessity of touching it and especially being so well armed, it is dangerous. When it is fully grown, they call it *gatasan*,¹⁵ which means a fish which gives milk; for in touching any part of it, which they might strike with a club or other object, it releases from between its scales a liquid as white as milk, and which looks like it. This gave the fish its name.

Si hay, o no, por acá el pez rémora, aunque he oído decir que sí, no lo he podido con alguna certidumbre averiguar ni he hallado el nombre. Dicen que lo hay algunos que son ladinos por haberlo oído a los españoles, no visto por acá.

Menos duda hay en el torpedo, porque se hallan muchos que, tocados, aun con cosa intermedia como caña o palo o red, defunden el humor, o calidad nociva, hasta los manos y brazos, y aun los pies lo sienten por acá las más veces, por tener estos indios uso de valerse de ellos como de las manos.

Lo que yo he visto no pocas veces, sin poder contener la risa, es los efectos que causa un pez, género de pulpo o jibia que acá llaman *kugita*.¹⁶ Críanse lo más común y viven en lugares de arrecifes o piedras bajas. Suelen estar siempre cubiertas de agua, aunque con poca, cuando son bajamares grandes, y sale de allí cuando quiere.

La hechura es particular: su cabeza, mayor que la de las jibias, pardisca, ojos grandes y negros, y un buche, apegado a ella, que sirve de barriga. Lo demás es todo de unos como cordeles que proporcionadamente disminuyen o adelgazan. Llegarán a tres palmos, poco más a menos, de largo. Son muchos y, cuando nadan, hacen un grande círculo que parece sol con rayos. En llegando a cualquiera cosa viva, y más a hombres, se pegan todos aquellos látigos tenacísimamente, y tanto que con dificultad se pueden apartar del cuerpo.

Es su tacto más picante que el de las ortigas de España, y tanto como otro género de ellas que es árbol de hojas largas de estas partes, llamado *lingaton*,¹⁷ que escuece diez veces más que nuestras ortigas. Es de ver los saltos y cabriolas que da para desasirse de ellas el que por su desgracia (y sucede muchas veces) topa con ellas.

Ví en cierta ocasión (en que lo admiré más) a unos chinas que estaban echando sus redes o chincorro en la mar para pescar (suelen hacerlo totalmente en cueros). Encontraron dos de ellos

Whether or not there is here the *remora* [cannot be determined]; however, I have heard it said to be so. I have not been able to determine it with certainty nor have I found the native name. Some individuals who are *ladinos* say that there are some because they heard it from the Spaniards. I have not seen them here.

There is less uncertainty about the electric ray because many are found. When touched, even by an intermediate object like a bamboo, a stick or net, they diffuse the humor of poisonous quality over the hands and arms. Even the feet suffer here most often because these natives are accustomed to use them like their hands.

What I have seen very often without being able to contain my laughter is the effect which a fish causes, a kind of cuttlefish or *jibia* which they call here *kugita*.¹⁶ They live and grow ordinarily in places where there are reefs or underwater rocks. They are always covered with water, although with only a small amount when there are great ebb tides and it emerges from there when it wishes.

Its shape is unusual: its head is larger than that of the *jibias* and brownish; it has large brown eyes and a craw attached to it which serves as a stomach. The rest of the fish is a number of cords which proportionately grow smaller or become slender toward the ends. They get to be three *palmos* more or less, in length. They are many of them and when the fish swim, they form a large circle and appear like the sun with its rays. When they come upon some living creature, and especially people, all these tentacles are fastened around it very tenaciously; so much so that one can separate oneself from its body with great difficulty.

Its touch has more sting than the nettles of Spain and as much as another variety of these regions, called *lingaton*,¹⁷ which stings then times more than our nettles. It is amazing to see the leaps and capers which one goes through to free himself from them who through his misfortune (and it happens every often) has bumped into one of these.

I saw on one occasion (in which I was even more astounded) some Chinese who were casting their nets or *chinchorro* into the sea to fish (they do this totally naked). Two of them bumped one

con una de estas *kugitas* que era bien grande. Al uno le alcanzaron en el muslo algunos látigos, de que se desasíó más fácilmente; al otro le cogió la mitad de la barriga, hasta las asentaderas, lo más de este pez. Las voces (que las dan desmedidas), los saltos, el revolcarse por la arena, fue paso que, aunque causaba mucha risa en cuantos lo mirábamos, era más para causar compasión, hasta que, cogiendo puñados de arena seca, no mojada, que añade más dolor (entonces supe yo ser éste el remedio) decansó, aunque le quedaron los rastros de todos los látigos más colorados que suelen quedar los de una buena disciplina da de buena mano.

Comen este pez los indios con gusto; sabe a jibia, según dicen, aunque es mucho más correoso y duro que ellas. Es refrán nuestro por acá para decir a alguno que llevará una buena vuelta, decirle que le dará una *kugita*.

En las mismas playas o, por mejor decir, en las peñas que cuando el mar desplaya mucho con las bajamares, deja patentes y llenas de ovas y otras sabandijas, además de las otras *kugitas*, se hallan otro género de peces menores que ellos, y de las mismas calidades que, por no repetir, dejo. Añadiré brevemente de los más notables.

Uno hay que su hechura es como de una estrella, sin quitar ni poner, con cinco rayos. El tamaño será de un palmo, poco más o menos. En centro tendrá de ancho sus cuatro dedos en redondo. De él parten los cinco rayos dichos, adelgazando cuanto más se apartan. Tendrán en la parte inferior dos dedos, en la superior uno. No acaba en punta aguda sino roma, como el dedo.

Este pez (pues vive y nada) tiene en cada uno de dichos rayos una abertura por la parte inferior que, cuando nada, seca de ella unas como piernecillas como de cientopiés con que se menea. La boca la tiene en medio. Es todo como de escaques duros, y más cuando está ya seco en la playa. No lo comen los indios porque apenas tiene carne; si bien dicen que crece y mengua con las

of these *kugita* which were rather large. Some of the tentacles extended about the thigh of one of them from which he easily extricated himself. Most of the arms of this fish seized the other about the middle of the belly to the buttocks. The cries (which they ceaselessly uttered), the leaps, the threshing about in the sand were circumstances that, although they caused much laughter in so far as the spectacle was concerned, were rather a cause of compassion until they seized a handful of dry sand to cover him, not wet, which add to the pain (then I knew that his was the remedy), he relaxed. However, there remained the traces of all the tentacles, redder than usually those left from a good punishing by a strong hand.

The natives eat this fish with delight; it tastes like *jibia*, so they say, although it is much more stringy and tougher than they. There is an expression among us here which is said to wish a happy return, to tell such that you will give him a *kugita*.

On the same beaches or better to say, among the same rocks, when the sea recedes greatly with the ebb tides, it leaves the rocks exposed and full of 'ovas' and various reptiles. Aside from these *kugita*, there is found another variety of fish smaller than they and with the same characteristics. In order not to repeat, I shall omit them. I shall briefly add something about the more remarkable ones.

There is one whose shape is like a star, without exaggeration, with five rays. The size would be about a *palm*; the center spreads out to about four fingers in circumference. From it these five rays split out, growing more slender as they get longer. On the upper part they are two fingers wide, on the lower, one. They do not end in a sharp point, but blunt like a finger.

This fish (for it lives by swimming), in each one of these arms, has an opening on the underside. When it swims it draws out of this something like little legs, as a centipede with which it moves. It has its mouth in the center of the body. The entire fish is hard like *escaques* and especially when it has become dried on the beach. The natives do not eat it because it scarcely has any flesh. However, they say that it grows or shrinks in size with the seas or

mareas o crecientes de la luna. Llámalo *tuma-ob*¹⁸ porque sólo sale cuando está la marea llena y, al bajar, se esconde.

Otro hay que llaman *tabarong*.¹⁹ Es cuadrado su cuerpo, o cuadrilátero, de modo que parece un pedazo de palo acepillado. La corteza, o pellejo, es como cuero de vaca, y aun más duro. La cabeza es como de *butiti*, aunque con dientes. Tiene dos aloncillos con que nada, y su cola abierta. Encima del espinazo tiene su aloncillo en medio del cuadrado. Lo especial de este pez es que sólo tiene una espina en medio, y, arrimadas al dicho espinazo dos como pechugas de gallina, tan blanca la carne como ellas, y son muy a propósito para hacer manjar blanco. En Cebu los buscan para este efecto, y también los llaman allá *tabalong*. Este pez se halla en mares anchos y de tumbo con más abundancia que entre islas.

La cantidad de caracoles que se hallan en estas otras peñas, y todos comestibles, es casi sin número. Algunos de ellos muy vistosos y hermosos. Los que llaman *bulalo*²⁰ son como el puño cerrado, poco más a menos. Son comúnmente jaspeados, de colores blanco y negro o pardo. La tez muy tersa y sólida y que sirve para bruñir sus mantas y otras cosas, que quedan con mucho lustre; y así a lo bruñido llaman del nombre de este caracol *ginbulalo*, que quiere decir “que le alisaron y bruñeron con él y como él.”

*Lagang*²¹ llaman a otros que son mucho mayores. Por afuera parecen peña, o arrecife, en lo tosco y bruto, y por dentro son de tan buen color, lustre y visos como el nácar, y así se hacen de ellos muy lindas, hermosas y preciosas cucharas, tan buenas como del nácar, y mayores éstas por ser estos *lagang*, casi del tamaño de la cabeza de un muchacho de diez años, tiene como los demás caracoles su boca en que podrá caber todo el puño cerrado, pero con un tapón, llano como la palma de la mano que está asido a la misma carne intrínseca y se cierra con él tan tenazmente que, sino es cuando él abre algo, es imposible entrarle ni sacar dicha tapadera, ni con hierro ni con otro instrumento.

Es la carne comestible y la comen los indios muy bien, aunque de digestión muy recia, y hay varias diferencias de estos *lagang*, mayores y menores, con más lustre o menos; pero ellos y todos los

phases of the moon. They call it *tuma-ob*¹⁸ because it appears only when the tide is in; when it recedes, the fish hides.

There is another they call *tabarong*.¹⁹ Its body is square-like or quadrilateral, so that it looks like a piece of polished wood. The skin or hide is like the hide of a cow and even more tough. The head is like the *butiti*, but with teeth. It has two little fins in the middle of the front. The special feature of this fish is that it has only one bone. In the middle and attached to this spine are two parts resembling chicken breasts, with the flesh as white as the latter. They are very useful for making *manjar blanco*. In Cebu they hunt them for this purpose. Likewise they call them *tabalong* there. This fish is found in wide, deep oceans more abundantly than among these islands.

The quantity of snails that are found among these rocks, and all edible, is almost without measure. Some of them are very colorful and beautiful. Those which they call *bulalo*²⁰ (some are spotted with dark, white or gray) are about a closed fist, more or less. They are usually speckled with the colors white, black or gray. The surface is very glossy and hard and is used to polish their *mantas* and other things which become very shiny. Thus, whatever has been shined they call by the name of this snail *ginbulalo*, which means to say, 'that they polished and shined it just like it'.

Lagang,²¹ they call others which are much larger. On the outside they appear to be rocks or stones in their coarseness or roughness; inside they are of very fine color, lustrous and shining, like mother-of-pearl, thus, they make of these pretty, lovely and precious spoons as good as those from nacre and these spoons even larger because these *lagang* are larger and almost the size of a head of a boy of ten years. Like the other snails it has a mouth, in which one could fit his entire closed fist but with a flat cover, like the palm of a hand, which is attached to the inside flesh itself. It closes with such firmness that, except when it opens by itself slightly, it is impossible to get inside or to pull off that covering either with iron or any other instrument.

The flesh is edible and the natives eat it readily, although very difficult to digest. There are various kinds of these *lagang*, larger and smaller, with more luster or less. But they and all the

demás caracoles del mar todos son apetecidos y buscados de estos indios más por la carne que por la curiosidad y hermosura, aunque es mucha y varia la que en ellos se halla y ve en todas estas playas, que fuera muy largo de contarlos todos.

El que llaman *tangulon*²² es muy delgado y blanco, con unas rayas coloradas que parece loza de China y con mejor lustre por adentro, y háylos de tan buen tamaño que harán media azumbre de agua. Son limpios y tersos y pueden servir de tembladeras²³ y más si se les pone un pie.

Y, aunque cuando vivos viven comúnmente en lo hondo de las peñas, de modo que para sacarlos es menester buscarlos tres y cuatro brazas, y a veces más aun en las mayores bajamares, salen empero cuando hay luna y caminan por las peñas a buscar su sustento y comida, recogién dose siempre antes que se ponga la luna a sus víveres o moradas (curiosidad es esta que han advertido estos naturales que van en dichos tiempos en su busca; y de todos ellos, así grandes como pequeños, y de las almejas y ostriones, se hace muy linda cal y muy blanca, y la que se gasta con los *buyos*²⁴, que sólo la de este género de mariscos dicen es la más a propósito, y que tiene particular bondad para el dicho efecto, y que se ha de apagar con agua de la mar, que aquella moderada sal, con que queda dicha cal, es la que le da más gusto a todo el ingrediente del *bufo*, de que ya tratamos arriba.

Yo mal testigo puede ser de lo tocante a los dichos *buyos*, pues hasta hoy no les he probado; pero digo lo que dicen de ellos estos naturales, que, como es cosa suya, saben mejor sus propiedades. De las calidades de los *buyos* ya dijimos arriba lo bueno y malo que tienen.

Y por remate concluyo esta Capítulo, que se ha alargado algo más que los otros, con una frutilla que se halla en las peñas más hondas del mar y nace asida a ellas, envuelta en un género de ovas muy salidas, que llaman *runas*²⁵, del tamaño de una nuez, aunque más larga. La superficie como una redecilla muy curiosa y muy dura, que sirve como de corteza. Estímanla mucho estos naturales,

other snails of the sea are all craved and sought for by these natives; more for their flesh than for their exoticness and beauty, although there is much of this to be found and observed in these snails on all these beaches, and it would take long to tell of them all.

The one they call *tangulon*²² is very delicate and white with some stripes. It seems like pottery from China and with a better luster within. There are some of such large size that they will hold half an *azumbre* of water. They are very clean and smooth and can be used as *tembladera*,²³ especially if a base is placed on them.

Although while alive, they live ordinarily in the hollows of the rocks so that to go after them one has to go into three or four brazas of water, and sometimes more. Even in the extreme ebb tides, yet they come out when there is a moon, retreating always to their dwelling places or homes before the moon sets (this is a curious fact that these natives have noticed and they go at those times to search for them). From all of these, both large and small and from the mussels and oysters is made a very fine and a very white lime and the kind that is used with the *buyos*²⁴ (for only from this kind of shellfish is it good for that purpose). In order to give it a bonding effect it must be mixed with sea water and a moderate amount of salt which this lime requires. This is what gives it a better taste to all the ingredients of the *buyo*, about which we spoke above.

I could be a bad witness of things concerning these *buyo*, since up until now I have not tried them. But I tell what these natives say about them and as it is their affair, they know better than I about its characteristics. About the quality that the *buyo*, have, good or bad, we have [treated].

As an ending, I shall conclude this chapter, which has lengthened somewhat more than the others, with a subject of a little fruit which is found among the rocks at a great depth in the sea and grows attached to them, enveloped in a kind of projecting lettuce which they call *runas*²⁵ of the size of a nut, although longer. The surface is like a little headdress very odd and very haru which serves as shell. These natives prize them highly

porque dicen que es contra hierva que, al que trae una de estas, no llegan los caimanes, antes huyen de él.

Hay un árbol que hace fruta semejante a este *runas*, que dicen llamanse *linog*, de que usan también, aunque se duda de su virtud; de la otra lo creen sin duda. Yo la tengo muy grande; aunque otras cosas más notables que esta se ven, milagros todos de la naturaleza, cuyas virtudes sabe solo al Autor de ellos con certidumbre.

because they say that it is an antidote, and whoever carries one of these, crocodiles will not touch, but will flee from such a one.

There is a tree which bears fruit similar to this *runas*, which they call *linog*, which they also utilize. However, its value is doubtful, the other they believe in without question. I have a very large one. But there are more remarkable things that is to be seen. All are miracles of nature and have powers only their Author knows with certainty.

Chapter 18

ANNOTATIONS

[1] *Gran Sumatra*. How right Alcina is in presenting Sumatra as ‘Gran’! This is truly one of the 13,000 islands belonging to the Indonesian Archipelago; a gigantic island – the fifth largest in the world. It is 1,760 kilometers (1,094) long and up to 400 kilometers (250 miles) wide.

It accounts for a full 25% of the total Indonesian land area. In just about every way — economically, politically and strategically — Sumatra is Indonesia’s most important island.

Along with all its lake tribes, wildlife reserves, steamy jungles, swampy lowlands, swift clear rivers, spectacular waterfalls, crater lakes and immense forests full of tropical 30-meter (100-foot) high trees, Sumatra truly stands as Indonesia’s ‘giant’.

Almost one-third of the island is continuous lowland and saltwater swamp, with *nipa* palms and mangrove trees extending some 1,370 kilometers (850 miles) down the entire east coast. An unbroken mountain wall ranging in height from 1,575 to 3,805 meters (5,170-12,500 feet) marches down the entire western aspect of the island. Called ‘*Bukit Barisan*’ [a parade of mountains], this range includes 93 volcanic peaks, 15 of them still active. On its western side, the mountains plunge steeply into the sea, while on the eastern side they galope gently down to the plains and swamps.

The island’s forest areas are estimated to comprise about 60-70% of Sumatra’s total land area. All the major ecosystems are well represented in reserves found throughout the island, with the exception of lowland rain forests – always the first kind to come under the axe. The northwest and southwest regions are still quite inaccessible and wild. Cf. William Dalton, *Indonesia: The World’s Largest Archipelago*, (Passport Books, NTC Publishing Group: Lincolnwood, IL., 1992), p. 204.

[2] *Dinagat*. Alcina situates the island properly between the southern portion of Leyte and the northern portion of Mindanao. This is the Province of Surigao del Norte with several islands belonging to it.

[3] *Kataw*. If it means ‘like a person’, as Alcina states, then perhaps it should read *katawo*; its root is *tawo* means primarily a guest, lodger, land owner. *Pagkatawo*, *katawo* is a group or a gathering of people; it means a person, an individual. *Ikakatawo* is a day of one’s birth, etc. Sánchez, 1711, *op. cit.*

Tramp includes the following in his entry under *táwo*: folk, human; inhabitant, laborer, man; men; occupant; people; servant, etc. *Op. cit.*, p. 432.

[4] *Sabalos*. A shad. Any of the food fishes of the genus *alosa*, related to herrings but a typical in swimming up streams from marine waters to spawn.

[5] *Binahan*. Unable to locate this river in the more modern maps.

[6] *Jaro*. It seems that Jaro's ancient name was *Salug* [or *sasalugan*, *sasalgan*]; the Bisayan term itself means 'a river' or a continuous flow of water.

[7] *Ubasan*. Or Hubasan, as it is often cited by Philippine Spanish historians. This is the ancient name for today's Dolores River and a *pueblo* of that same name which formerly was known as *Parik* or even a more ancient name, *Bakud*. This is found on the eastern coast of Samar and between the towns of Oras (on the north) and Taft or formerly *Tubig* (on the south).

[8] *Bangahun*. An ancient name for today's Gandara River which empties on the western coast of Samar. This was also the old name of the *pueblo* up until about 1865 when the town was restored after the great fire in 1862. Cf. Bruce Cruikshank, *Samar: 1768-1898*, (Garcia Publishing Co., Inc., Quezon City, Philippines: 1985), p. 268.

[9] *Principal*. In Bisayan it is *dato*: a title for the headman, chief of a town; in Spanish always referred to as '*a principal*' and the wife as '*a principala*' or in the Bisayan *binukot*. *Kadato*: "*la principalia y lo que le hacen ser dato*." An alcalde or a head of a town, of a clan, captain, a chiefly class in pre-Spanish times, etc. Sánchez, *op. cit.*

[10] *Kugtong*. Sánchez has this entry under *kugtong*: and states that is a fish thus called. *Ibid.*

"*Kugtong*: A large fish of a blue color with some red and dark green. When it is still small it is called *tingag*. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 424, *Suppl.*

[11] *Butiti*. A poisonous fish. Sanchez, *ibid.* Popularly spelled as *botete*. Tramp identifies it in greater detail but shows that it is a Tagalog word, which it is not: *butiti*: puffer or poisonous shellfish, *tetradontidae*; also the three-toothed purse puffer, the silvery puffer, and the scribbled toadfish. *Op. cit.*, p. 65. Also called a 'blowfish'.

"*Butiti*: There are three varieties of this fish which are called: *alatan*, *gumudlaw* and *kiskisan*.

"The *alatan* have two teeth; the other has only one; both are black in color and poisonous; however, some do eat the one that has a single tooth when the fish is big. They also eat the one that has two teeth, removing first a kind of a vein found in the inside, also the entrails, the skin and the head.

"The *gumudlaw*: is yellow in color with black streaks and is poisonous and not edible.

"The *kiskisan* is white in color with black streaks and is also poisonous, but some people eat it, removing first the entrails, the skin, the head and, above all, a kind of a vein found in the inside.

[12] *Erizo*. A Spanish term for a prickly plant or a sea urchin. Porcupine.

[13] *Poro*. Off the western coast of Leyte, facing the town of Baybay and known as one of the Camotes Islands. *Puro*: means an 'island' as Alcina states; *puropuro* is a small island or islet. Sánchez, *op. cit.*

[14] *Pisadas*. The Spanish term *pisada* means tread, footstep, trodden upon. The translation is pure guess.

[15] *Gatasan*. Obviously, just another name for the *butiti* which is not found in any of the two dictionaries of Sánchez and Tramp.

"*Gatasan*: A fish so-called. Its spines are poisonous." De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 124.

[16] *Kugita*. The primary meaning for this word is a waterfall, a cataract. Also it is an octopus or a cuttlefish. Sánchez, *ibid.* Tramp shows it as a Tagalog word and describes it as a large octopus; jellyfish, cuttlefish, *kugitá*. *Op. cit.*, p. 115.

"*Kugita*: An octopus, "squid, marine animal with eight arms and tentacles. They are very poisonous before drying them up. s. A kind of a cataract of the eyes. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 96. The word entered according to the Spanish spelling is *cugueta*.

[17] *Lingaton*. Or *paglilingatungon*, *paglilingatngon*. A tree whose leaves when touched by any part of the body causes an irritation for two or three days and even more than the nettles. Sánchez [1711], *op. cit.* Obviously, the fish derived its name from this tree, it seems.

"*Lingaton*: A bush so-called; its leaves have a fluff that when touched causes a great itch on the part of the body which came in contact with it. De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 187.

[18] *Tuma-ob*. This word is derived from *taob*, *tataubnan* or *tataban*: this refers to the rising of the tide; the incoming tide. *Taub-na*, *taubtaob na*, *nagta-taob*, *tumaob*, sometimes it has this meaning. *Suhuno na kita sinin tumabo*, *tataban*, *tinauban*, the one caught by the hightide. *Pataob kita*, let us wait for the tide. It is said of things soaked in salt water, even when rinsed, in becoming cold, they turn wet again. *Ibid.*

[19] *Tabarong*. Sánchez merely makes this entry under *tabarong*: *peje*, fish. *Ibid.*

"*Tabarong*: A small fish which is edible." De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 429, *Supply*.

[20] *Bulalo*. A small cowry, a sea snail; empty bottle to burnish a clay pot, according to Tramp, *op. cit.*, p. 59. A very smooth snail shell or something similar for burnishing clothing. *Bulalon mo itun corporales, manteles, habul*, etc. *Binulalo ku na*. *Magbulalo sa sadtong minarol*. *Bulaloan*, it is the tray, wood or table on which they trim someting. If it is a *batea* it is also called *abuhan*, although they tan the clothes by mixing with it lime. 2. A kind of grass like *laas*.

"*Bulalo*: A large snail shell which is used for burnishing clothes or other things. In the Borongan, Samar region: A showy and a very colorfull shell. – A thorny herb and a species of thistle." De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 62.

[21] *Lagang*. A chambered or paper nautilus, *nautilus pompilus*, *argonauta arago*, a large sea shell. Tramp, *op. cit.*, p. 219. Also, *ligang* according to Sánchez, which is a species of large snails out of which are made spoons like nacre and incense boats. *Op. cit.*

"*Lagang*: Argonaut, a sea-snail in an orbicular shape which is very pretty and showy. v. When they are out in the sun a lot it means that there will be a draught." De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 175.

[22] *Tangulon*. Or *tangol*, but this has reference to a medicinal herb which grows near the rivers. Also means to stem the flow of blood or water. *Naga sagpu*. *Ibid*.

"*Tangulon*: A vine so-called; its fruit is used as a medication for killing worms." De la Rosa-Alcázar [1914], *op. cit.*, p. 343, *Supply*. Perhaps, named after this shrub.

[23] *Tembladera*. Spanish for a kind of bowl or cup of very thin metal or glass. As a fish it is the torpedo.

[24] *Buyos*. An aromatic leaf which is used with lime and a *bunga* all rolled up together, which is the *buyo* or *mamon*, which is the same. *Mama*, to chew, or *mamaon*, *mamon*, to eat *buyo*, *magmama*. *Mamon*, it is the *buyo* already prepared; *maramon*, that from which it is made, like the leaves of the *buyo* or the *bunga*; *maramon man inin ihalas nga buyo*, *maraman*, or, *maramanan*, a little basket in which they bring the *buyo*. An *bubutangan sin mamon*, *aton papag-mamun inin tawo ta kay mga layo pa*. Let us give them some *buyo*, while waiting for the food to be served. *Ikuha mo ako sin bunga, akon pagmamaun ig mamama mo inin diut nga apug*. Sánchez, *op. cit.*

[25] *Runas*. Unable to locate this term anywhere. There are very, very few words in the Bisayan which begin with the letter 'r'.