

Animals and Plants for the Formosan Natives

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Abstract

People have to live on the animals and plants that are available to them. Animals and plants are either wild or domesticated. Some are indigenous, while the others are alien and introduced to the Formosan natives at later stages, as based on linguistic evidence. Rice and millet are some of the cultivated plants that pre-Austronesian speakers must have brought with them to Taiwan from continental Asia when they arrived and colonized Taiwan 5,000 to 6,000 BP, as based on both linguistic and archaeological evidence. I shall show what animals and plants were available to the proto-Austronesian speakers, and what were introduced to Taiwan only a few hundred years ago. A list of Formosan cognates for animals and plants is given in the appendix.

Keywords: animal, plant, wild, domesticated;
