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University Botanic Garden: a Resource for Learning

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Plants are unique organisms; they can make their own food using the energy of sunlight in photosynthesis process. Plants are able to live almost everywhere. These facts are amazing and also excite the students. Botanic gardens play a unique role in connecting people and plants, providing plants that are often rare in cultivation, provide living laboratories for botanical study. Botanic gardens are vital in conserving plant species that are under threat in the wild, and dissemination of botanical knowledge, can demonstrate variation and adaptation in different plant species. The purpose of this document was to investigate plant diversity in Phetcharawanalai Botanic Garden, Phetchaburi Rajabhat University. Plants were divided into plants that are often rare in cultivation, living laboratories for botanical study and vital conserving plant species that are under threat in the wild. Sixty plants species in 30 families were studied, plants that are often rare in cultivation such as *Bauhinia aureifolia* K.&S.S.Larsen, *Pinus kesiya* Royle ex Gordon, *Melodorum fruitcosum* Lour., *Schumannianthus dichotomus* (Roxb.) Gagnep., *Globba winitii* C.H. Wright and *Ensete superbum* (Roxb.) Cheesman, living laboratories plant for botanical study such as *Nepenthes mirabilis* (Lour.) Druce, *Saccharum officinarum* L., *Oryza sativa* L., *Podocarpus wallichianus* Presl and *Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn., and conserving plant species that are under threat in the wild such as *Afgekia mahidolae* Brutt et Chermisrivathana, *Bauhinia winitii* Craib, *Cananga odorata* Hook.f.&Thomson var. *fruticosa* (Craib) J.Sinclair, *Goniothalamus laoticus* (Finet & Gagnep.) Ban, *Kerriodoxa elegans* J. Dransf. and *Podocarpus polystachyus* R.Br. ex Endl. Botanic gardens continue to be humanity's scientific, aesthetic and social link to plants. They serve to educate, to explore, to fascinate, to discover and continue to reflect evolving relationship with plant and natural world and can use botanic garden for biology teacher education.