

A

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

34-52

Country Philippine Islands.Locality North Central Mindanao.People Bukidnon.

Stock.

Name Lumit:- Bone hemp splitter
used to split hemp strips from
the stalk, ready for stripping.
Made from leg bone of a horse.
Owner's mark cut on back.

(over)

Collection R. F. Cummings Philippine Expedition, 1909-1911.F. C. Cole, Collector.

Notes _____

Acc. 1115

Width _____

Length _____

Height _____

Price _____

Trade _____

128521

ENT

571

TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

The introduction of foreign cloth into the Bukidnon country has caused most of the people to give up weaving, however, a few women still make their own garments. A small portion of the native fabrics are made of cotton but the greater number are of hemp. This hemp, or abaca, is obtained from the leaf stalks of *Musa textilis*, a species of wild banana peculiar to the Philippines. When the time for stripping the fiber has arrived the plant is cut off, the leaf blades are trimmed from the stems and the latter are turned over to an operator who is provided with a short bone splitter. The stripper passes his instrument under a strip about $\frac{2}{3}$'s the width of the stalk and with a quick movement jerks it loose from the cellular matter of the stem through its entire length. The center portion of the stem is thrown to one side as waste. The fiber strips are then cleaned by the hemp machine which is illustrated and described in this case. When the fiber has dried it is tied into long threads and is laid in baskets or wound on spindles until desired for use. All tying, measuring of thread and weaving is done by the women with the primitive instruments.