The Widespread Democratisation of Kava Use in Vanuatu During the 80’s

Long considered as the symbol of rebellion of traditional leaders against the missionaries until the early 20\textsuperscript{th} century, the old beverage and the \textit{nakamal} - traditional male club where kava is consumed in New Hebrides - has played a fundamental role in the independence years in the process of the islanders’ settlement in towns, as well as in the reconciliation of hostile religious, political and linguistic groups, and has become a national emblem. This ecumenism, cleverly conducted by the first government of Vanuatu, has fostered the expansion and intensification of kava use, which has become a subject of trade, also perceived as an indigenous national resource.