

markets that are frequented by members of the Puerto Rican community. A sample of these markets could then be selected at random.

- b. The locations are then scouted out and the area boundaries demarcated if they are not already naturally or artificially discrete. Questions are formulated for the area much as they are for an environmental transect, except that the questions may not always be asked in the same order nor at the same location.
- c. Participants (individually or in groups) are taken through the area and asked specific questions about the resources within it. It is not unusual for only a small number of participants to be exposed to a single location or (for example) for the location to be explained only by the location owner or manager.
- d. Specimens are collected based upon the results of the questions asked. Usually this is done at the time of the interview with the participant directing the process so that the correct samples are collected.
- e. At the conclusion the participants are shown the specimens and asked to verify the information associated with them.

### 12.2.5 Artefact interview

One or more cultural artefacts (e.g. tools, art, clothing, houses) are used as the focus of questions posed to participants usually to learn about such things as the components, history, uses, meanings (Banack 1991; and Lemonnier, Chapter 13 below). Since it is easy for participants to focus on the details of a specific artefact and fail to discuss the general category of the artefact, it is a good idea to have a spectrum of different examples of the same sort of thing present. If a disease complex can be considered as a cultural artefact (albeit an interpreted mental construct rather than a physical articulation), then artefact interviews would also include some kinds of disease-culture-centred research (of disease and its interpretations) that leads to the material basis of remedies (e.g. Balick et al. 2000).

- a. For the purposes of an ethnobiological study, questions developed for an interview usually include focus on the material basis of the artefact. The questions should not lead but should rather be simple, such as 'What are the parts of this made from?' Many artefacts are composed of more than one part that is functional in and of itself. As such, these sub-artefacts should be recognized as separate components with their own questions. Some researchers may wish to ask about materials that are used in the production of an artefact but are not physically present in the final product. For example, a tool handle may be sanded with shark-skin during its production but the skin is not present in the final product. An appropriate question could be formulated to elicit this sort of information if desired.
- b. At the time of the interview, the participant (or participants) are presented with the artefact(s) and asked the questions in a particular order. The responses are recorded.
- c. Following the questions, any materials identified by the participants need to be located and specimens prepared of them. If this process is done with the same participants, they will have identified the materials; if not, the participants need to be shown the specimens in order to verify that what has been collected is the same as they had mentioned in the interview.
- d. A special form of artefact interview is a production or reproduction interview wherein a participant or group of participants produces an artefact with the researcher either assisting as a participant in the process or as an observer (see e.g. Cox 1982; Nickum 2008; Rickard and Cox 1984).