

## Traditional medicinal plants of Nigeria: an overview

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### ABSTRACT

The present study represents an attempt to document information on the traditional medicinal plants that used in Nigeria. A compiled check list of these plants including their Latin names, families, parts used, medicinal uses, and name in different Nigerian states is the main purpose of this study. All available information about either the traditional medicinal plants or ethnobotanical surveys in Nigeria was consulted. The study showed that 325 species and 95 families of medicinal plants were recognized as being used by most of the people in Nigeria for the treatment of various common diseases. Fabaceae has the largest number of species (42), followed by Asteraceae (22), Euphorbiaceae (20), Acanthaceae (13) and Apocynaceae (12). The largest genera were *Euphorbia* (6 species), *Cola* and *Hibiscus* (5 species for each), *Albizia*, *Acacia*, *Combretum* and *Ficus* (4 species for each), *Acalypha*, *Allium*, *Clerodendrum* and *Cleome* (3 species for each). The study revealed that traditional medicinal practices have a wide acceptability among the Nigerian people, probably because they believe in its effectiveness. The medicinal uses are varied, and the plant parts that are used ranged from leaves, roots, stem, bark to fruits only, or a combination of two or more in a species or with those of other species. Enduring and sustainable conservation efforts should be implemented to safeguard these important medicinal plants.

**Keywords:** Ethnomedicine, diversity, distribution, traditional healers, Nigeria

### INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants constitute an effective source of both traditional and modern medicine. These plants have been shown to have genuine utility and about 80% of the rural population depends on them as primary health care (Akinyemi, 2000). Plants have been used as sources of remedies for the treatment of many diseases since ancient times and people of all continents especially Africa have this old tradition. Despite the remarkable progress in synthetic organic medicinal products of the twentieth century, over 25% of prescribed medicines in industrialized countries are derived directly or indirectly from plants (Newman et al., 2000). However, plants used in traditional medicine are still understudied (Kirby, 1996). In developing countries, notably in West Africa, new drugs are not often affordable. Thus, up to 80% of the population uses medicinal plants as remedies (Kirby, 1996; Hostellmann and Marston, 2002).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the definition of traditional medicine may be summarized as the sum total of all the knowledge

and practical, whether explicable or not, used in the diagnosis, prevention and elimination of physical, mental or social imbalance and relying exclusively on practical experience and observation handed down from generation to generation, whether verbally or in writing. Traditional medicine might also be considered as a solid amalgamation of dynamic medical known-how and ancestral experience. In Africa, traditional healers and remedies made from plants play an important role in the health of millions of people. Traditional medicine has been described by the WHO as one of the surest means to achieve total health care coverage of the world's population. Numerous medicines have been derived from the knowledge of tropical forest people and clearly there will be more in the future. This alone is reason enough for any and all programs to be concerned with the conservation, development, and protection of tropical forest regions.

It has been estimated that in developed countries such as United States, plant drugs constitute as much as 25% of the total drugs, while in fast developing countries such as China and India, the

contribution is as much as 80%. Thus, the economic importance of medicinal plants is much more to countries such as India than to rest of the world. These countries provide two third of the plants used in modern system of medicine and the health care system of rural population depend on indigenous systems of medicine. Of the 2, 500,000 higher plant species on earth, more than 80,000 are medicinal. India is one of the world's 12 biodiversity centres with the presence of over 45000 different plant species.

The use of traditional medicine in various therapies by the indigenous population over the world cannot be overemphasized, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), as many as 80% of the world's people depend on traditional medicine for their primary healthcare needs. Due to poverty, ignorance and unavailability of modern health facilities, most people especially rural people are still forced to practice traditional medicines for their common day ailments, most of these people form the poorest link in the trade of medicinal plants (Khan, 2002). A vast knowledge of how to use the plants against different illnesses may be expected to have accumulated in areas where the use of plants is still of great importance (Diallo et al., 1999). In the developed countries, 25 per cent of the medical drugs are based on plants and their derivatives (Principe, 1991).

During the past decade, traditional medicinal practices have become a topic of global relevance. In many developing nations, a significant number of indigenous populations rely on medicinal plants to meet their health care needs. According to Lewis and Elvin-Lewis (2003), botanically derived medicinals have played a major role in human societies throughout history and prehistory and people have used plants as medicine since the beginning of civilization, as they were believed to have healing powers (Connie and King, 2003). The use of plants in the tropical and subtropical regions is diversified and most of the uses are for medicine, source of food, clothing and shelter. But the medicinal uses of plants are rapidly declining among the present generation of local people as a consequence of modernization and civilization (Cox, 2005). The younger generation is showing little interest in learning this valuable science of healing. Usage of medicinal plants to cure diseases has also been much influenced by religious practices (Trease and Evans, 1989; Wambebe, 1999). All over the world, several ethnobotanical studies focusing on medicinal plants have been documented (Ekpendu et al., 1998; Balansard and Timon, 2000; Singh and Singh, 2001; Wang et al.,

2002; Cox, 2005; Kumar et al., 2005; Pei, 2005). But in Nigeria, very little information about ethnobotanical studies has been documented (Gill, 1992; Sofowora, 1993; Igoli et al., 1999). Therefore the need for proper documentation of traditional medicinal practices among the people in Nigeria where there has been a dearth of published information is immediately called for and this accounts for the rationale to undertake the present study.

This study represents an attempt to document information on the traditional medicinal plants used in Nigeria. A compiled check list of these plants including their Latin names, families, part used, uses, and name in different Nigerian states is the main purpose of this study. The documentation of medicinal uses of African plants is becoming increasingly urgent because of the rapid loss of the natural habitat for some of these plants due to anthropogenic activities.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

All available information about either the traditional medicinal plants or ethnobotanical surveys in Nigeria (Fig. 1) was consulted. Data obtained were collected and tabulated to give the botanical names, common names, families and the vernacular names of the various plant species as well as their uses and the part(s) used. A total of 325 plants species were encountered in this study. Their names in the various languages, families, uses and part(s) being used are shown in Table 1. Classification of the collected data according to the diseases for which these plants used to.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Plant species belonging to 325 species and 95 families were recognized as being used by most of the people in Nigeria for the treatment of various common diseases. Table (1) showed the list of the species, botanical name, local name, uses and parts used. Some of these plants are cultivated by the people themselves while others grow in the wild. Of the 95 different families which the people of this

Table 1: List of the species, botanical name, local names, parts used, and uses.

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Acanthaceae	<i>Acanthus montanus</i>	Urunhishi	Stem-twig, leaves	Syphilis, cough, emetic, urethral discharge
	<i>Adhatoda buchhoizii</i>		Fruits, whole plant	Rhumatism, antiinflammatory
	<i>Asysasia calyciana</i>	Orole	Leaves	skin diseases, weak erection,
	<i>Asysasia gangetica</i>	lobiri, inana, ntiaturu	whole plant	snake antidote, piles, urethral discharge
	<i>Barleria opaca</i>	Arenikosun	leaves	jaundice, laxatives, snake bite, hemorrhoids
	<i>Barleria maderaspatensis</i>	ewe-asaju, ewe-isaju	whole plant	snake bite antidote
	<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i>	mafowa, bayingiwa	whole plant	craw-craw, bacteriostatic
	<i>Hypostes forskalei</i>	Ogbigbo	whole plant, roots	skin infections
	<i>Hypostes vertillaris</i>	Ekere	whole plant, leaves	sore, fever, antiseptic, chest pains
	<i>Justicia flava</i>	odian, oridun	whole plant	fungal skin diseases, malaria, stomach disorders
	<i>Justicia insularis</i>	isepe-akera	whole plant	measles, mallpox
	<i>Nelsonia compestria</i>	dandun-makiyaya	leaves, juice, twigs	yellow fever, inflammation, schistosomiasis
	<i>Phaulopsis falcisepala</i>	Apa-ogbe	whole plant	wounds, skin parasites, laxative
Amaranthaceae	<i>Achyranthes spera</i>	hakorin maciji	leaves, roots	stomach disorders, abortion, malaria
	<i>Alternantheras repens</i>	Dagunro	whole plant	dysentery, antimicrobial, filariasis
	<i>Alternantheras selsilis</i>	maikai dubu	whole plant, leaves	snake antidote, piles, astrigent, antibacterial
	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i>	Nanijingasaya	whole plant	abdominal pain, ulcers, gonorrhoea
	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i>		leaves, roots	antihelminthics, dysentery, antispasmodic, diuretic

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Anacardiaceae	<i>Celosia laxa</i>	Mannafaa	leaves	antiscorbutic, purgative
	<i>Celosia argenta</i>	fara-layatu	leaves, seeds	skin diseases, diarrhoea, antiscorbutic, anthelmintics
	<i>Philoxerus vermiculatus</i>		leaves	hernia, inflammation
	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	kasu, kanju	bark, leaf, fruits	malaria, elephantiasis, leprosy, ringworms
	<i>Antocaryon micraster</i>	ifa-okete, egin-agbo	leaves, fruits	general toxic, laxative
	<i>Haematostaphis barteri</i>	jan danya	stem, bark, root	emetic, tonic, hepatitis, sleeping sickness
	<i>Heeria insignis</i>	kasheshe, hawayenzaki	leaves, stem, root, bark	anthelmintics, aphoradisiac, galactagogue
	<i>Isolana campanulata</i>	Aghakeze	root, stem, bark	brochial infections, skin diseases, hematuria
	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Mangoro	leaves, roots, stem, bark	high blood pressure, skin lesions, insomnia
Annonaceae	<i>Monodora tenuifolia</i>	Sinin	leave, roots	Antihemorrhage, toothache, skin diseases
	<i>Annoa squamosa</i>	Sharp -sharp, mbugo ago	Leaves, fruit, stem	Anaemia, dysentery, ulcer, anti-tumor
	<i>Annona sanegalensis</i>	`	Root, bark, leaves, seed	Cancer, cough, venereal diseases
	<i>Anoridium manni</i>	Ewuro –igbo	bark	Diarrhoea, cough, fever, rheumatism
	<i>Clestopholis paterns</i>	Apako	Leaves, bark	Respiratory diseases, tuberculosis
	<i>Enantia chlorantha</i>	Osopupa, kakerim	Bark	Typhoid fever, hepatitis, jaundice, fever
	<i>Greenwayo dendronsuaveolens</i>	Agudugbu	roots, leaves, bark	Easy labour, weak erectile
	<i>Hexalobus crispiflorus</i>	lapawe, apara, oji ogoda	roots, whole plant	gonorrhoea, cough, malaria
	<i>Monodora myristica</i>	Abo-lakoshe, ehuru	seeds	constipation, lice, guinea worms

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Araceae	<i>Anchomanes difformis</i>	abirisoko,hantsar gada,oje	roots	Diuretic,gonorrhoea
	<i>Andira inermis</i>	Gwaska	seeds,bark	skin diseases,anthelmintics
	<i>Caladium bicolor</i>	eje-jesu	leves,rhizome	topical application for boils,convulsion,ulcer
	<i>Cercestics afzelii</i>		laves,stem,bark	Purgative
	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	gwaba,kokofun	tuber,leaves	anaemia,wounds,poison antidote
	<i>Culcasia scandens</i>	Agunnoma	leaves	Anaesthetic,pregnancy booster
Asclepiadaceae	<i>Aslepias curassavia</i>	Rizgar-kurege	root	Gastrointestinal disorders
	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Tumfafiya	leaves,root,bark,latex	Elephantiasis,leprosy
	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i>		whole plant	Diabetes,snake bite antidote
Amarylidaceae	<i>Crinum glaucum</i>	isu meri	Bulb,flower-stalks	Antimicrobial,anti-allergic
	<i>Crinum jagus</i>	Obase,albasar kwadi	Bulb,leaves	Tuberculosis
Avicenniaceae	<i>Avicennia africana</i>	Ogbun,ofun	leaves,stem,twigs	Abortifacient
Apiaceae	<i>Certella asiatica</i>		whole plant	Elephantiasis,skin diseases
	<i>Eryngium foetidum</i>		Leaves	Ulcer,headache
	<i>Apium graveolen</i>	seleri-saladi	whole plant	aphrodisiac,stimulant,diuretic
	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Pasili	whole plant	vitamin c,stimulant,asthma,conjunctivitis

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Apocynaceae	<i>Adenium obesum</i>	Gariya	stem,roots,fruit,juice	wound dressing,cardiotonic,veneral diseases
	<i>Alafia barteri</i>	Agbari –etu	root,leaves	sickle cell anaemia,rheumatic pains,eye infections
	<i>Alstonia boonei</i>	Awun,ahun,akpi	root,bark,leaves	Breast development,filrial woms
	<i>Alstonia congensis</i>	Ahun,egbu	bark	malaria,toothache
	<i>Carpodinus dulcis</i>		whole plant	Galactogogue
	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>		leaves,latex	fungal infections,heart problems
	<i>Eruatamia caronaria</i>		leaves,stem,root	Anthelmintic,skin infections,toothache
	<i>Funtumia africana</i>	Akoire,mbamiri	leaves,stem,root	constipation,wounds,weak bladder,jaundice
	<i>Funtumia elastica</i>	ire,mba	stem,twigs,stem,latex	jaundice,piles,antipyretics
	<i>Hedrantheral bartery</i>	Agbo,omode	leaves,fruit	convulsion,anti-tumour
	<i>Landolphia dulcis</i>	Ibo	stem,roots	Rheumatism,cough,kidney diseases
	<i>Landolphia owariensis</i>	panukuru,ciwoo,oto	fresh leaves,roots,seed	Malaria,gonorrhea
Balsaminaceae	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>		whole plant	Antiseptic,fungicide
	<i>Impatiens glandullifera</i>	Touch me not	sap	Application on poison ivy rash
Bombaceae	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	ose,igi-ose,kuka	leaves,fruit,pulp,bark	Fever,antimicrobial,kidney and bladder diseass
	<i>Bombax buonopozense</i>	Gurjiya	whole plant	Abdominal pain,blood tonic
	<i>Pachira glabra</i>	Epa-boro	stem,bark,seed	stomach disorders,headache,blood tonic
Bixaceae				

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Burseraceae	<i>Bixa orellana</i>	osun-buke,ulla,ufo	fruits,seeds	malaria,kidney diseases,skin diseases
	<i>Boswellia dalzielli</i>	Hano	bark,gum,roots	urinary disorder,antiseptic
	<i>Boswellia SPP</i>	Juhii	bark	anti snake venom
	<i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i>	origbo,mbiji	bark	black tongue,roundworms,gonorrhoea
	<i>Commiphora africana</i>	turari,dashi	roots,fruits	whooping cough,bronchitis
	<i>Dacryodes edulis</i>	elemi, ube	bark,roots,fruits	jiggers,skin diseases,elephantiasis
Bignoniaceae	<i>crecidentia cujete</i>	igi,iba	fruits	Receptacle for herbal medicines
	<i>Jacaranda spp</i>		leaves,bark	veneral diseases,spleen tonic
	<i>Kigelia africana</i>	pandoro,utu rubein	roots,fruits,stem,bark	kidney disorders,spleen infections,cough
	<i>Markhamia tomentosa</i>	iru-aya,aya	leaves	elephantiasis,oedema,rheumatism
Capparidaceae				
Combretaceae	<i>Boscia senegalensis</i>	Anza	leaves,fruit,bark	malaria,veneral diseases
	<i>Anogeissus lelocarpus</i>	Ayin,marike	Bark,leaves,seed	Taeniace,skin diseases
	<i>Combretum glutinosum</i>	Kattakara	leaves	childhood fever,milk preservation
	<i>Combretum grandiflous</i>	Ikedike	leaves	Jaundice
	<i>Combretum mucronatum</i>	farar geza	root,leaves	Wounds
Commelinaceae	<i>Combretum periculatum</i>	ogan,okan	twigs	Appetizer

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Cannaraceae	<i>Cnestis ferruginea</i>	Amunketa, esise	fruit, seeds, bark, root, leaves	Snake bite, oral infections
	<i>Commelina diffusa</i>	Obogi, balasa	whole plant	yellow fever, oedema, itchin
	<i>Connarus africanus</i>		seed, root, bark	Anthelmintics
Cannaceae	<i>Canna indica</i>	Gwangwama	leaves	Asthma, malaria
Caricaceae	<i>Carica papaya</i>	Ojo, gwanda	leaves, seeds, fruits	Gonorrhoea, syphilis, mental disorders
Capparaceae	<i>Courbonia virgata</i>	Kumkum	Root, fruits, seeds	stimulant, chest pain
	<i>Capparis thoningii</i>	ewon, ekiri	root	Mentrl disorders, fever
Cannabinaceae	<i>Cleome ciliata</i>	Ekuya	leaves, seeds	Convulsion, wounds, sores
	<i>Cleome gynandra</i>	Ipiya	leaves, seeds	Rheumatism, ease labour
	<i>Creteva adansonii</i>	taniya,	leaves, seeds	Urinary disorders, antipyretic
	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	igbo, wiwi	leaves, seeds, stem, twigs	sedative, lice, dyspepsia
Caprifoliaceae	<i>Lonicera caprifolium</i>		leaves, flower	Respiratory disorders, liver disorders
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i>	Egusi-baara	seed, leaves, fruit, pulp	womb expeller, cystitis, diuretic
	<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Gurjin daji	leaves, fruits	Depression, venereal diseases



Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Crassulaceae	<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i>	Egus bara	whole plant	Antimicrobials
	<i>Cucumeropsis manni</i>	Eyen	leaves	Milk laxative
	<i>Coccinia barteri</i>	ewe-ojo	whole plant	Veneral diseases
	<i>Cucumis melo</i>	Burji	leaves,root	Fungal diseases
	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>	Kabewa	seeds,fruits	tape worms,taenicides
	<i>Cucumis prophetarum</i>		fruits,pulp	Vermifuge
	<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i>	Abomoda	leaves,root,leaf -sap	
Brassicaceae	<i>Kalenchoe crenata</i>	ejeti,onwa	whole plant	small pox,convulsion,asthma
	<i>Brassica oleracea capitata</i>	Kabeji	leaves,seed	Antimicrobial
Celestraceae	<i>Celestrus indica</i>	ponju-owiwi	root,leaves,twigs	Antimicrobial,asthma,malaria
	<i>Celestrus senegalensis</i>	Isepolohun	leaves,stem,root	Oedema,laxative,gonorrhoea
Chailletiaceae	<i>Dichaetalum baneri</i>	Ngbu ewa	seeds	Cough,rheumatism
Cochlospermaceae	<i>Cochlospermum planchorii</i>	Rawaya	roots,stem-bark	Gonorrhoea,menstrual disorder
	<i>Cochlospermum tinctorium</i>	Balagande	whole plant	Virginal discharge,bilharzia
Chenopodiaceae	<i>Chenopodium ambroiodes</i>	asin,arunpale	whole plant	Anthelmintics,tumour

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	aya aya	whole plant	to induce vomiting,menstrual discharge
	<i>Mariscus alternifolius</i>	Ranransa,ikeregun	stem-bases	Gonorrhoea,healing wounds
Asteraceae	<i>Acanthospermum, hispidum</i>	kashin yawo	whole plant	yellow fever,turbaculosis,cough
	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yaro	flowers,leaves,seeds	haemostatic,wounds,piles
	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Urata	whole plant	wounds,ulcers,sleeping sickness,eyewash
	<i>Ambrosia maritima</i>	Makarfo	whole plant	syphilis,stimulant
	<i>Aspilla africana</i>	yunyun,kalankuwa	leaves,flower	skin rashes,cleaning sores,corneal opacities
	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	abere,langanran	whole plant	anaesthetic,easy labour,abdoinnal pains
	<i>Blumia auria</i>		whole plant	antipyretic,gastro intestinal pains
	<i>Centauriea perrottetii</i>	Danyi	whole plant	skin infections,syphilis
	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	akintola,obiarakara	leaves,stem-twigs	Antimicrobials,haemostatic,skin diseases
	<i>Chrysanthelium indicum</i>	Abilere,oyigi	whole plant	boils,gonorrhoea,jaundice
	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>		whole plant	gonorrhoea,genital diseases,antibacterials
	<i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	Olowojeja	whole plant	Antipyretic,asthma,tuberculosis
	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>		rhizome	Antimicrobial agents
	<i>Eclpa prostrata</i>	Abikole,arjoku	leaves	Elephatiasis,liver ailments,convulsion
	<i>Elephantapus scaber</i>		root,leaves	fever,cough
	<i>Emilia coccinea</i>	Odundun	leaves,root,sap	ulcers,hernia,messles
	<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>		leaves	wounds,analgesic

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
	<i>Laggera alata</i>	agemo-kogun, eru-tabo	leaves, root, sap	fever, pneumonia, tapeworms
	<i>Laggera aurita</i>	taba-ebora	whole plant	malaria, gastrointestinal pains
	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>		flowers	Analgesic, antispasmodic
	<i>Microglossa abzelii</i>		leaves, stem	tuberculosis, respiratory infections
	<i>Microglossa pyrifolia</i>		leaves, root	antipyretic, abortifolant
Dichapetalaceae	<i>Dichapetalum toxicarium</i>	alo, ikunmu-agbo	stem, bark, twigs, leaves	jaundice, poisonous to animals
Discoreaceae	<i>Discorea dumetorum</i>	Esuru, gussami	tuber, leaves	Analgesic, psychic trouble
Dracaenaceae	<i>Dracaena manni</i>	peregun, akuku	root, leaves, fruit	Antimicrobial, skin diseases
Ebenaceae	<i>Diospyros canaliculata</i>	owe, oriloje	bark, leaves	Antimicrobial, leprosy
	<i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i>	kalwa, ige	root-bark, stem-bark	Bilharzia, fertility regulation
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Acalypha fimbriata</i>	Kandri	leaves	sypphilis, asthma, antimicrobial, antifungal
	<i>Acalypha godseffiana</i>	Jinwinini	leaves, twigs	skin infections, antimicrobials
	<i>Acalypha wikesiana</i>	Jiwene	leaves, twigs	antimicrobials, constipation
	<i>Alchornea laxiflora</i>	Pepe, ijan	Stem, root, leaves	Veneral disease, antioxidant
	<i>Antidesma venosum</i>	Aroro	stem, bark	Anthelmintics
	<i>Bridelia ferruginea</i>	iri, kirni	leaves, stem, bark, root	insomnia, mouth wash, gonorrhoea

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
	<i>Croton lobatus</i>	eru,namijin zaki,bansaa	root,bark,leaves	guinea worms,urinary disorders
	<i>Croton zambesicus</i>	Ajekobale	leaves,twigs	file,gonorrhea
	<i>Drypetes florabunda</i>	Asokara	stem	toothache,oral hygiene
	<i>Erythrococca anomala</i>	iyere-igbo	fruits,leaves,leave-sap	joint pains,taeniicide
	<i>Euphorbia balsamifera</i>		stem,latex	Dysentery
	<i>Euphorbia deightonii</i>	ora agogo	leaves	women sterility
	<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i>	Egele	leaves,roots	skin diseases
	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	nonon kurciya,odane	whole plant exudate	asthma,cough,shape of breasts
	<i>Euphorbia kamerurica</i>	oro,ukoko	latex	Aid umbilicalcord drop-off
	<i>Euphorbia laterifolia</i>	oro were	leaves exudate	dermatosis,constipation
	<i>Makaranga barteri</i>	asasa,owariwa	leaves,stem,bark	dysentery,urinary disorder
	<i>Mareya spicata</i>	Uhosa	leaves,fruits,bark	skin infections,tape worms
	<i>Microdesmis puberula</i>	Aringo,ukperi	leaves,seeds,bark	eye drop,diarrhea
	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	geron tsuntsaye	whole plants	jaundice,insomnia,antimicrobials
Flacourtiaceae	<i>Caloncoba echinata</i>	Ntuebi	whole plant and exudate	skin infections
	<i>Caloncoba glauca</i>	Kakandika	seed,root,bark	leprosy,skin lesions
Geraniaceae	<i>Mansonia senegalensis</i>		oil	Emmenagogue
Hypoxidaceae	<i>Curculigo piloza</i>	Doyar kurege	roots	Leukaemia,gonorrhea

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
	<i>Hypoxis nyasica</i>		whole plant	Uterine cancer
Hypericaceae	<i>Harungana madagascariensis</i>	Otoro,alilibarrafi	stem-bark,root-bark	piles,trypanosomiasis
Irvingiaceae	<i>irvingia gabonensis</i>	oro,goron biri	leaves	sleen infections
	<i>Klainedoxa gabonensis</i>	kanakoro,odudu	bark,seeds	measles,chicken pox,skin infections
Lauraceae	<i>Cassythafiliformis</i>	Niginigini	stem-twigs	Antimicrobial,anti-funga,anthelmintics
	<i>Cinnamomum zeyianiam</i>		Bark,leaves,oil	Typhoid fever,vomiting,nausea
Lamiaceae	<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	Ekun	leaves,root	wound,purgative
	<i>Leucas martinicensis</i>	keke-owu	leaves	snake bite antidote
Fabaceae	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	oju-ologbo,idon zakara	roots,leaves,seeds	conjunctivitis,antidote for poison,antimicrobials
	<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	kasia eleti	bark	Astringent
	<i>Afrormosia laxiflora</i>	shedun,makarfo	roots	intoxicant,body pains
	<i>Afzelia africana</i>	Apa-igbo,akpalata	leaves,roots,bark,seeds	gonorrhoea,hernia
	<i>Albizia adiarthifolia</i>	banabana,tsintsiyar kurmi	bark	gonorrhoea,night blindness,piles
	<i>Albizia ferruginea</i>	Kurmii	root,stem,bark,leaves	constipation,fish poison
	<i>Albizia lebbeck</i>	Igbagbo	seeds,leaves,stem,bark	river blindness,astringent

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
	<i>Albizia zygia</i>	Ayinre-weere	bark	Arthritis,sprain
	<i>Anthonotha macrophylla</i>	Abara	latex,bark	Gonorrhoea,yellow fever
	<i>Arachis hypogea</i>	Epa	nuts	Antimicrobials,insomnia
	<i>Bandeiraea simplicifolia</i>	Kporekpo	leaves,bark	Urinary disorder,cancerous growth
	<i>Cajanus cajan</i>	Orela	leaves,seeds	smallpox,mouth wash
	<i>Calliandra portoricensis</i>	tude,oga	leaves,twigs,roots	convulsions,breas engogement
	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>		roots,leaves,seeds	gonorrhoea,ulcer
	<i>Dalbergia lactea</i>	Ojiji	bark,stem-dust	pimples,ease labour
	<i>Daniellia oliveri</i>	iya,kadaura	gum,bark	urinary tract infections
	<i>Daniellia thurifera</i>	Iya	stew-wood dust	Scabies
	<i>Delorix regia</i>	seke seke,ayin	leaves,bark,seeds,flower	diuretics,anthelmintics
	<i>Detaruyn nucricaroy</i>	taura,ogbogbo	bark,leaves	wounds,ulcers
	<i>Dialium guineense</i>	tsamiyar kurmi	leaves,fruits,bark,twig	bronchitis,cough,diuretic
	<i>Dioclea reflexa</i>	Agbarin,arin	seeds	Asthma head lice,dandruff
	<i>Glycine max</i>	Ewa	seeds	Laxative
	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>		roots	Expectorant,bronchitis
	<i>Guibourtia coplliere</i>	kaluk ofoun	leaves,roots,fruits,exudate	blood booster
	<i>Indigofera arrecta</i>	Elu aja	leaves,twigs	Diarrhoea,dysentery
	<i>Indigofera macrophylla</i>	aniya makomiya	leaves	piles,enlargement of spleen and liver
	<i>Leucena leucocephala</i>		leaves,seeds	Antimicrobials,blood tonic
	<i>Mepturnia oleracea</i>	galajin ruwa	whole plants	yellow fever

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Lecythidaceae	<i>Acacia ataxacantha</i>	ihun,ewon-adele,sarkakiya	Young leaves	Dysentry,bark pain
	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	baani,gabaruwa	fruit,bark,exudate	skin diseases,fungal infections
	<i>Acacia sieberia</i>	siyi,farakaya	bark,stem-twigs,leaves	Anti cancer,Athsma
	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i>	Kakara	hairs on the pods	intestinal worms,genito-urinary disorders
	<i>Mundulea sericera</i>		roots	anti parasites
	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	Dorowa,igba	whole plant	tonic,mental disorders,obesity,diabete
	<i>Pentaclethra macrophylla</i>	Apapa,pakala	leaves,bark,roots	Appetizer,general weakness,jaundice
	<i>Pericopsis laxiflora</i>		bark	hypertension,insomnia
	<i>Baphia nitada</i>	majigi,aboshi	leaves,bark	cancrous growth,urinary disorders
	<i>Baphia pubescens</i>	Awewi	stem bark	antimicrobials,urinary infections
	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>		Root,leaves,bark	skin diseases,syphilis
	<i>Bauhinia caesalpinhiaceae</i>	Jinga	Root	Fever,dysentry
	<i>Berlinia grandiflora</i>		Root,bark,stem	syphilis,skin diseases
	<i>Burkea africana</i>	Apasa,orusi	Bark,twigs	Headache
	Lycopodiaceae	<i>Napoleona imperialis</i>	Mabungu	twigs
<i>Napoleona vogelii</i>		ito,akbodo	whole plant	Diabetes,fever
Lythraceae	<i>Lycopodium cernuum</i>	kuje-kuje	whole plant	New born skin management
	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	Lalle	leaves,flower,bark	spermatorrhoea,jaundice,skin diseases

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Loganiaceae	<i>Anthocleista djalensis</i>	shapo,kwari	bark,leaves	Purgative,rashes,eczema
	<i>Anthocleista vogelli</i>	Apa oro,sapo	seeds,bark	Antidote for snake bite
Lobeliaceae	<i>Lobelia molleri</i>		whole plant	Mental disorders,antimicrobial
Liliaceae	<i>Allium ascalonicum</i>	Albasa maigo	Leaves, bulb	convulsion,dysentery
	<i>Allium cepa</i>	Albsa	bulbs, leaves	cough, diuretic, antihelminthic
	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Ayo, ayuu	bulb	fever,cough, asthma,antimicrobial
	<i>Aloe vera</i>	ahon erin	leaves juice	purgative, guineaworms, breast cancer
	<i>Asparagus africana</i>	aluki, sarka	whole plant	antimicrobial, kidney diseases
	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	mora, ewe-aje, baurere	tubers, leaves	gonorrhoea, headlice, antipyretic
	<i>Pancratium trianthum</i>	alubosa-aloko, hatsin manoma	bulb	visual hallucinations, convulsions
Malvaceae	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	kubewa,ila	fruits,seeds	fever,gonorrhoea,catarrhal infections
	<i>Abutilon mauritianum</i>	furu,kawo	leaves,roots	diarrhoea,piles,gonorrhea
	<i>Clappertonia facifolia</i>	Bolobolo	leaves,roots	Cough
	<i>Hibiscus acetosella</i>	Akese	leaves	Dysentery
	<i>Hibiscus asper</i>	isapa,dangiraa	leaves	cough,wounds,diuretic
	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	kekeke,ireagu	leaves,stem,flower	influenza,wounds,diuretic
	<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>	sobo,gurguzuu	leaves,flowers	Diuretics,cough,dressing wounds



Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Malpighiaceae	<i>Hibiscus surattensis</i>	Akonimara,emo	whole plant,leaves	Abdominal pain
	<i>Flabellaria peniculata</i>	lagbo-lagbo	leaves	wound,cuts
Meliaceae	<i>Azadiracta indica</i>	Dogon yaro,bedi	leaves,stem,bark,seeds	Malaria,jaundice,anthelmintics,syphilis
	<i>Ekebergia senegalensis</i>	madacin dutse,ayape	trunk,bark,root	Insomnia,root powder induce sneezing
Menispermaceae	<i>Chasmanthera dependens</i>	Ato-oloriraun	root	Diuretic,management of fracture
	<i>Cissampelos owariensis</i>	Damargaji	whole plant	Lung diseases,diuretic,blood tonics
	<i>Cocparnus pendulus</i>		root	Antipyretic
	<i>Discoreophyllum cummisii</i>	Inunurin	Fruits,leaves,root	Diabetes,Obesity
Myrsinaceae	<i>Embelia guineasis</i>		leaves,root	Anthelmintics,skin diseases
	<i>Embelia schimperi</i>	Kiru	stem-bark,leaves	Antispasmodic,anthelmintic
Molluginaceae	<i>Gisekia pharmacicides</i>		leaves,fruits	wounds,cut
Moringaceae	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	zogale,bagaruwar makka	whole plant	Inflammatory diseases,veneral diseases
Moraceae	<i>Antiaris africana</i>	Ooro, Ayo, Farinloko	stem-bark, root bark,sap	Epilepsy, lumbago,Irritation
	<i>Artocarpus altilis</i>	Berefruit, Berefuruhu,Jaloke	Roots, Fruits, Wood	Fevers, Sedative

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Nymphaeaceae	<i>Dorstenia prorepens</i>	Alaifo, Aloifo	Stem, Twig, Leaves	Nephrosis, antimicrobials
	<i>Ficus capensis</i>	opoto, farin bauree	leaf, stem, root, fruits	Dysentery, oedema, leprosy, gonorrhoea
	<i>Ficus elegans</i>	Asoro	leaves	piles, constipation, crawl-crawl
	<i>Ficus exasperata</i>	Epin	leaves, bark, roots, seeds	stomach disorders, scabies, urinary ailments
	<i>Ficus mucosa</i>	Janbaure	bark of stem	insomnia
Nyctaginaceae	<i>Nymphaea lotus</i>	Bado	whole plant	vomiting, anti-tumour
Neprolepidaceae	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i>	Baba juji, eso	bark, leaves, fruit, flower	Blood tonic, emolient
	<i>Neprolepsis bisserata</i>	Iramu	whole plant	pregnancy booster
Onagraceae	<i>Jussiaea linifolii</i>	Bini-sensen	leaves	Malaria
Olacaceae	<i>Ludwigia suffruticosa</i>	Ako ewuro odo	whole plant	Anthelmintics, purgative
	<i>Olax subscorpioidea</i>	gwanon rafi	whole plant	Yellow fever, venereal diseases, mental disorders
Orchidaceae	<i>Eulophia millosoni</i>		Rhizome	Aphrodisiac
Ochnaceae	<i>Lophira alata</i>	Eki, uda	Root, bark, seeds, leaves	Fever, jaundice
	<i>Ouratea flava</i>	Nkanka	leaves, fruit	Laxative, vitamins

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Opilliaceae	<i>Opilia celtidifolia</i>	Inuwar gada	Root,stem	Anthelmintics
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	oneku,tsuku	leaves	Fever,warts,boils
Passifloraceae	<i>Adenia cissampeloides</i>	arokeke,godogbo	leaves,stem,bark	hypertension,nervous disorders,antimicrobials
	<i>Adenia venenata</i>	dodo,yaga,arokeke	whole plant	bronchitis,syphilis
Pontederiaceae	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	mako,omi	whole plant	Skin care
Phytolaccaceae	<i>Hilleria latifolia</i>	Ogo,akaato	whole plant	Breast cancer,urethral discharges
Periplocaceae	<i>Sanguinolenta cryptolepia</i>		root,stem	Antipyretic,antimicrobial,urinary infections
Pedaliaceae	<i>Pedalum murex</i>		whole plant	Gonorrhoea,enlarged spleen
Polygonaceae	<i>Antigonon leptopus</i>		leaves	antimicrobials
Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i>		nut	urinary tract infections,anthelmintics
	<i>Borassus aethiopum</i>	Uburu	Roots,juie of nut	Respiratory disorders
	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Agbon,kwakwa	bark,roots,nut	Bronchitis,liver ailments,scabies

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Piperceae	<i>Piper nigrum</i>		Fruits	diuretic, piles, rheumatic pains
	<i>Piper umbellatum</i>	eweefon, iwere	leaves, roots, fruits	Rheumatism, inflammatory tumours, diuretic
Rhamnaceae	<i>Gouania longipetata</i>	Laghosa	stem-twigs	Gum infections
Rubiaceae	<i>Amaralia bignoniflora</i>	Unemuo	leaves, seeds	cough, rheumatic pain
Sapindaceae	<i>Borreria verticillata</i>	Irawo	leaves, seeds	Gonorrhoea, anti-leprosy, antibilharziasis
	<i>Cephaelis manni</i>		leaves, bark, roots	wounds, antipyretic, dysentery
	<i>Cinchona offinalis</i>		bark	malaria, antibacterial
	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	kofi, gahwa	kernels	stimulant, rheumatism, diuretic
	<i>Rutaceae</i>			
	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Dankabuya	whole plant	jaundice, abdominal ulcer, scurvy, antimicrobial
	<i>Citrus limon</i>	Babban lemu	whole plant	Antipyretic, colds
	<i>Allphylus africanus</i>	Alarto	leaves, root, bark	piles, venereal diseases, anthelmintics
	<i>Blighia unijugata</i>	ako-isin	root, leaves, stem, bark	Diabetes, postnatal haemorrhage
	<i>Blighia sapida</i>	gwanja kusa	leaves, fruits, bark	Malaria
Simaroubaceae	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>		leaves	Sore throat
	<i>Brucea antidysentrica</i>		root, bark	cancer

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Sterculiaceae	<i>Hannoa klaineana</i>	Takardar giwa,igigun	stem,root	Hypertension
	<i>Buchholzia coriacea</i>	Uwuro	Fruit,bark	Antimicrobials,respiratory disorders
	<i>Cola acuminata</i>	Oji	fruits,nuts	Fever
	<i>Cola caricifolia</i>	Ogugu	leaves	Eye infections,ring worm
Sapotaceae	<i>Cola laurifolia</i>	Karanga	twigs,stem,bark	Toothache
	<i>Cola milleni</i>	obi-edun	leaves,fruit	Ringworms,scabies
	<i>Cola nitida</i>	Obi gbanjo	stem,bark,seeds,kernel	Diarrhoeas
	<i>Hildegradia barteri</i>	Kariya	bark	Epilepsy
	<i>Butyrospermum paradoxum</i>	kadanya,osisi	seeds	Nasal decongestion and catarhal conditions
	<i>Chrysophyllum albidum</i>	osan balumo	bark,leaves	Fever
	<i>Baccopa monnifera</i>		whole plant	Cough,catarrh,bronchitis
Scrophulariaceae				
Samydaceae	<i>Casearia barteri</i>	Ukpakuzon	stem,twigs,bark	Oral hygiene
Thymelaeceae	<i>Gnidia kraussiana</i>	mada,sungoje,tururibi	roor,stem	Leprosy,skin diseases
Thelyptoidaceae	<i>Leptogramma pillosiasaila</i>		Rhizome	Diabetes,obesity
Tiliaceae				

Families	Species	Local names	Part used	Medicinal uses
Ulmaceae	<i>Glyphaea brevis</i>	Atory	whole plant	Respiratory ailments
	<i>Grewia venusta</i>	Dargaza	leaves,stem,twigs,bark	fever,boils,ease labour
Verbenaceae	<i>Celtis midbraedii</i>	uta,aziza	root	Arthritis
	<i>Clerodendrum paniculatum</i>	ora-ojola,adabi	root,leaves	Anthpyretic,anthelmintics
	<i>Clerodendrum capitalum</i>	Feregede,illiri	leaves,root	Anthelmintics,dysentry,gonorrhoea
	<i>Clerodendrum umbellatum</i>		leaves	Wouns,cut
	<i>Duranta repens</i>		fruits	Anthelmintics
	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Kimba	leaves	fever,aniseptic
	<i>Lippia multiflora</i>	Toromaba	whole plant	Hypertension,antipyretic
Violaceae	<i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i>	Abiwere	whole plant	Easy and painless child delivery
Zingiberaceae	<i>Afrormosia granum-paraisi</i>	oburo-wawa	roots	anthelmintics
	<i>Aframomum scretrum</i>	oburo-etu,oguro	seeds,leaves	Measles,small pox
	<i>Aframomun melegueta</i>	Citta	leaves,seeds	stimulant,anthelmintics,small pox
	<i>Curcuma longa</i>	Gangamu	tubers	jaundice,anti-tumour,eye wash
	<i>Kaempfena nigerica</i>		rhizome	Mental disorders,hallucinogenic agent
Zygophyllaceae	<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	Aduwa,badure	root,fuits,seeds,bark	Anthelmintics,skin diseases
	<i>Guaiacum officinale</i>		Stem	Urinary disorders,diuretic

Table 2: Total number of species and genera within each recorded family.

Family	Number of species	Number of genera
Fabaceae	42	28
Asteraceae	22	19
Euphorbiaceae	20	12
Acanthaceae	13	9
Apocynaceae	12	9
Cucurbitaceae	9	6
Amaranthaceae	8	5
Annonaceae	8	7
Malvaceae	8	4
Rubiaceae	8	7
Anacardiaceae	7	7
Liliaceae	7	5
Moraceae	7	4
Sterculiaceae	7	3
Araceae	6	6
Capparaceae	6	4
Verbenaceae	6	4
Burseraceae	5	4
Combretaceae	5	2
Zingiberaceae	5	4
Apiaceae	4	4
Bignoniaceae	4	4
Caesalpiniaceae	4	3
Menispermaceae	4	4
Sapindaceae	4	3
Asclepiadaceae	3	3
Bombaceae	3	3
Mimosaceae	3	1
Palmae	3	3
Amaryllidaceae	2	1
Balsaminaceae	2	1
Celestraceae	2	1
Cochlospermaceae	2	1
Commelinaceae	2	2
Cyperaceae	2	2
Ebenaceae	2	1

Family	Number of species	Number of genera
Flacourtiaceae	2	1
Irvingiaceae	2	2
Lamiaceae	2	2
Lauraceae	2	2
Lecythidiaceae	2	1
Loganiaceae	2	1
Meliaceae	2	2
Myrsinaceae	2	1
Ochnaceae	2	2
Onagraceae	2	2
Papilionaceae	2	2
Passifloraceae	2	2
Piperaceae	2	1
Simaroubaceae	2	2
Spotaceae	2	2
Tiliaceae	2	2
Zygophyllaceae	2	2
Avicenniaceae	1	1
Bixaceae	1	1
Cannabinaceae	1	1
Cannaceae	1	1
Cannaraceae	1	1
Capparidaceae	1	1
Caprifoliaceae	1	1
Caricaceae	1	1
Chailletiaceae	1	1
Chenopodiaceae	1	1
Crassulaceae	1	1
Brassicaceae	1	1
Dichapetalaceae	1	1
Discoreaceae	1	1
Dracaenaceae	1	1
Geraniaceae	1	1
Hypericaceae	1	1
Hypoxidaceae	1	1
Lobeliaceae	1	1
Lycopodiaceae	1	1



Family	Number of species	Number of genera
Lythraceae	1	1
Malpighiaceae	1	1
Molluginaceae	1	1
Moringaceae	1	1
Neprolepidaceae	1	1
Nyctaginaceae	1	1
Nymphaeaceae	1	1
Olacaceae	1	1
Opilliaceae	1	1
Orchidaceae	1	1
Oxalidaceae	1	1
Pedaliaceae	1	1
Periplocaceae	1	1
Phytolaccaceae	1	1
Polygonaceae	1	1
Pontederiaceae	1	1
Rhamnaceae	1	1
Samydaceae	1	1
Scrophulariaceae	1	1
Thelyptoidaceae	1	1
Thymelaeaceae	1	1
Ulmaceae	1	1
Violaceae	1	1



Fig. 1: General map of Nigeria showing its states

country consult for medicinals, Fabaceae has the largest number of species (42), followed by Asteraceae (22), Euphorbiaceae (20), Acanthaceae (13) and Apocynaceae (12). These families included also the highest number of genera as well (Table 2). Largest genera were *Euphorbia* (6 species), *Cola* and *Hibiscus* (5 species for each), *Albizia*, *Acacia*, *Combretum* and *Ficus* (4 species for each), *Acalypha*, *Allium*, *Clerodendrum* and *Cleome* (3 species for each). Forty-three families or about 44.3% of the total families included only one species. This study has revealed that traditional medicinal practices have a wide acceptability among the Nigerian people probably because they believe in its effectiveness. Also the unavailability and unaffordability of orthodox drugs may also have contributed largely to preference of traditional medicine over the orthodox drugs. The medicinal uses are varied and the plant species parts that are used range from leaves, roots, stem, bark to fruits only, or a combination of two or more in a species or with those of other species.

For common diseases like cuts and wounds, *Milicia excelsa*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Aspilia africana*, *Manihot esculenta* are used for fast healing of wounds. This may only indicate that these plants contain therapeutic compounds such as vitamins c and some amino acids which are responsible for the fast healing of wounds. Others like eye defects and ear infections are treated using *Alchornea cordifolia* and *Bryophyllum pinnatum*, *Jatropha curcas* respectively.

Diseases such as coughs are cured using varieties of taxa such as *Abrus precatorius*, *Ocimum gratissimum*, *Garcinia kola* and *Terminalia macroptera*. *Euphorbia hirta* is used for the treatment of asthma while *Cassia alata* and *Parquetina nigrescens* are used as tonic (blood purifier). *Cymbopogon citratus*, *Blighia sapida* and *Ocimum gratissimum* are also effective in the relief of chest pains.

Some plants are believed to contain chemicals which possess anti-malarial properties such as

*Chromolaena odorata*, *Mangifera indica*, *Citrus aurantifolia*, *Psidium guajava*, *Nauclea latifolia*, *Bridelia ferruginea*, *Cymbopogon citratus*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Alstonia boonei* and *Azadirachta indica*. These plants are not commonly used individually to cure malaria but two or more of the plants are combined together for the treatment of malaria. *Khaya senegalensis* is used to cure typhoid fever while *Acanthospermum hispidus* is used for yellow fever. Others such as *Azadirachta indica* and *Bridelia ferruginea* are combined together for the treatment of Jaundice.

Critical ailments such as epilepsy are cured using the leaves of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* and *Emilia sonchifolia* when made as concoction and administered orally to the patient while scrotum elephantiasis is cured with the leaves of *Newbouldia laevis* and tuberculosis with *Acanthospermum hispidus* leaves. The people also use *Azadirachta indica* to cure small pox and chicken pox. Diabetes is cured using the root extract of *Urena lobata*. *Ficus capensis* and *Pupalia lappacea* are used for the treatment of Leprosy while *Cajanus cajan* and *Carica papaya* are used for hypertension and ulcer respectively. *Bridelia ferruginea* and *Anacardium occidentale* found to be effective in the treatment for coated tongue.

Skin infections like eczema, pimples, and rashes are cured by rubbing the leaves of *Jatropha gossypifolia*, *Borreria* sp., *Hymenocardia acida* and *Allamanda cathartica* on the infected parts of the skin. *Acalypha hispida* is known to confer anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties and therefore leaf decoction is administered to infants for skin rashes.

For sexually transmitted diseases, the people of this area rely on *Vernonia amygdalina* for vagina itch and *Azadirachta indica* for syphilis. Plants such as *Alchornea cordifolia* and *Carica papaya* are used for the treatment of gonorrhoea.

Stomach disorders are cured using varieties of plants viz: *Vernonia amygdalina*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Terminalia macroptera* and *Spondias mombin*; Kwashiorkor and gastroenteritis are cured using *Daniella oliveri* while constipation and indigestion are treated using *Parkia biglobosa* and *Ananas comosus*. *Momordica charantia*, *Nauclea latifolia* and *Vigna unguiculata* are used as vermifuge. Diarrhoea and dysentery are treated with *Ocimum gratissimum*, *Bidens pilosa* and *Allamanda cathartica*.

Some plants are also used for preventive purposes, for example, seven very young twigs of *Annona*

*senegalensis* and seven seeds of *Aframomum melegueta* are eaten to prevent snake bite. Also plants such as *Nicotiana tabacum* and *Datura metel* are planted around houses to prevent and repel the snakes. The indigenous people believe that some plants could confer longevity (increase their life span), for example, *Spondias mombin* is used to bath infants because its name "iyeye" means survival and *Garcinia kola* is used during naming ceremonies because its name "orogbo", means long life. *Bryophyllum pinnatum* may also be put on window frames as it is believed that since the plant does not die easily, whoever that keeps it will live long. The people also used plants such as *Glyphaea brevis* and *Abrus precatorius* to induce labour, while *Alchornea cordifolia* and *Heliotropium indicum* are used for foetal development and arrest abortion or for miscarriage respectively.

In conclusion, this study has revealed that ethno-medicinal practices are well accepted by the people of this country. It is suggested that an enduring and sustainable conservation efforts be put in place by the community and government to safeguard these important medicinal plants.

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