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Medicinal Plants of Edo State, Nigeria

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Abstract: An ethno-medical field survey was carried in communities spanning the three vegetation (Fresh Water Swamp, Lowland Rain Forest and Derived Savanna) zones of Edo State, Nigeria. 300 plant species distributed in 247 genera, belonging to 77 families, used in the treatment of various diseases were enumerated, identified and their ethnomedical value documented. The most used species include: *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Asystasia gangetica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Calopogonium muconoides*, *Carica papaya*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Citrus aurantifolia*, *Citrus sinensis*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Colocasia esculenta*, *Commelina erecta*, *Elaeis guineensis*, *Eleusine indica*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Hura crepitans*, *Iringia gabonensis*, *Mangifera indica*, *Manihot esculenta*, *Musa paradisiaca*, *Musa sapientum*, *Nauclea pobeguinii*, *Newbouldia laevis*, *Phyllanthus amarus*, *Psidium guajava*, *Sida acuta*, *Spondias mombin* and *Synedrella nodiflora*. Leaves and roots were the most frequently used plant parts while malaria fever, muscular pains, gastrointestinal problems, cardiovascular problems, bronchial problems and skin infections are amongst the frequently managed conditions malaria fever, muscular pains, gastrointestinal problems, cardiovascular problems, bronchial problems and skin infections among others.

Key words: Ethno medicinal plants, Edo State, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants, since times immemorial, have been used in virtually all cultures as a source of medicine. The widespread use of herbal remedies and healthcare preparations, as those described in ancient texts such as the Vedas and medicinal plants has been traced to the occurrence of natural products with medicinal properties.

Traditional medicinal practices are an important part of the primary health care delivery system in most of the developing world (Akerele, 1998; Bodeker, 1994; Sheldon *et al.*, 1997). According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 3.5 billion people in the developing world depend on medicinal plants as part of their primary health care (Balick and Cox, 1996).

The use of traditional medicine and medicinal plants in most developing countries, as a normative basis for the maintenance of good health, has been widely observed (UNESCO, 1996). Furthermore, an increasing reliance on the use of medicinal plants in the industrialized societies has been traced to the extraction and development of several drugs and chemotherapeutics from these plants as well as from traditionally used rural herbal remedies (UNESCO, 1998). Moreover, in these societies, herbal remedies have become more popular in the treatment of minor ailments and because of the increasing costs of personal health maintenance. Indeed, the market and public demand has been so great that there is a great risk that many medicinal plants today, face either extinction or loss of genetic diversity.

Edo state is rich in medical lore. The use of plants in religious ceremonies as well as for magic and medicinal purposes is common and widespread. Based upon strong primitive roots. The art of native medicine is still widely practiced and much of this is indigenous. Among natives of various

communities, knowledge of medicine has been passed by oral tradition from one generation to the next by the elderly, priests, witchdoctors or medicine men as written records in this field are almost non-existent. The method is crude and highly subjective to distortion in an area where much accuracy is needed.

Traditional and folklore medicine bequeathed from generation is rich in domestic recipes and communal practice. Encompassing concepts and methods for the protection and restoration of health, traditional medicine has served as a fount of alternative medicine, new pharmaceuticals and healthcare products. The best-known examples are in China and India.

Despite the increasing use of medicinal plants, their future, seemingly, is being threatened by complacency concerning their conservation. Reserves of herbs and stocks of medicinal plants in developing countries are diminishing and in danger of extinction as a result of growing trade demands for cheaper healthcare products and new plant-based therapeutic markets in preference to more expensive target-specific drugs and biopharmaceuticals. Such concerns have stimulated positive legal and economic interest.

Genetic biodiversity of traditional medicinal herbs and plants is continuously under the threat of extinction because of growth-exploitation, environment-unfriendly harvesting techniques, loss of growth habitats and unmonitored trade of medicinal plants.

Of the estimated 250,000 to 500,000 plant species in the world, more than 85% are in environments that are the traditional homes of indigenous people. Nearly 75% of 121 plant-derived prescription drugs used worldwide were discovered following leads from indigenous medicine. Globally, indigenous peoples use 3000 different species of plant to control fertility alone. Almost all trees and many plants have a place in medicinal folk lore.

Indigenous people work on body and mind together to help cure illness. Medicinal plants are used to treat the spiritual origins of disease as well as the physical symptoms. The vast knowledge of such plants is now beginning to be acknowledged by the rest of the world. So is the role-played by indigenous people as custodians of the world's genetic heritage. Other studies presented in this field includes (Ijomah *et al.*, 1997; Idu and Olurunfemi, 2000; Idu *et al.*, 1999; Gill *et al.*, 1997).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An ethno-medical field survey was carried in the major communities spanning the three vegetation (Fresh Water Swamp in the distal south, Lowland Rain Forest and Derived Savanna in the northern part) zones of Edo State, Nigeria (Fig. 1).

Fifty informants were interviewed regarding the type of medicinal plants used by them; they include full time/part-time herbalists, old ladies, family heads and village heads. Each interviewee was brought to the nearby forest and garden to collect plants. Interviews were conducted for periods ranging from Two hours to six hours. Herbalists were given enough time to express themselves freely during the interview. The medicinal property of each species, medical symptoms and illness was recorded. The people interviewed, were active, within the age bracket of between 40 and 80 years and were cooperative. Identification of plant species was done using standard monographs and their local flora (Keay, 1989; Akobundu and Agyakwa, 1998).The survey of these sites was carried out between September and October 2006.

Observation

Three hundred (300) plant species belonging to 77 families and 247 genera, used in the treatment of various diseases were encountered during the study. The plant species were collected from different parts of the state viz:

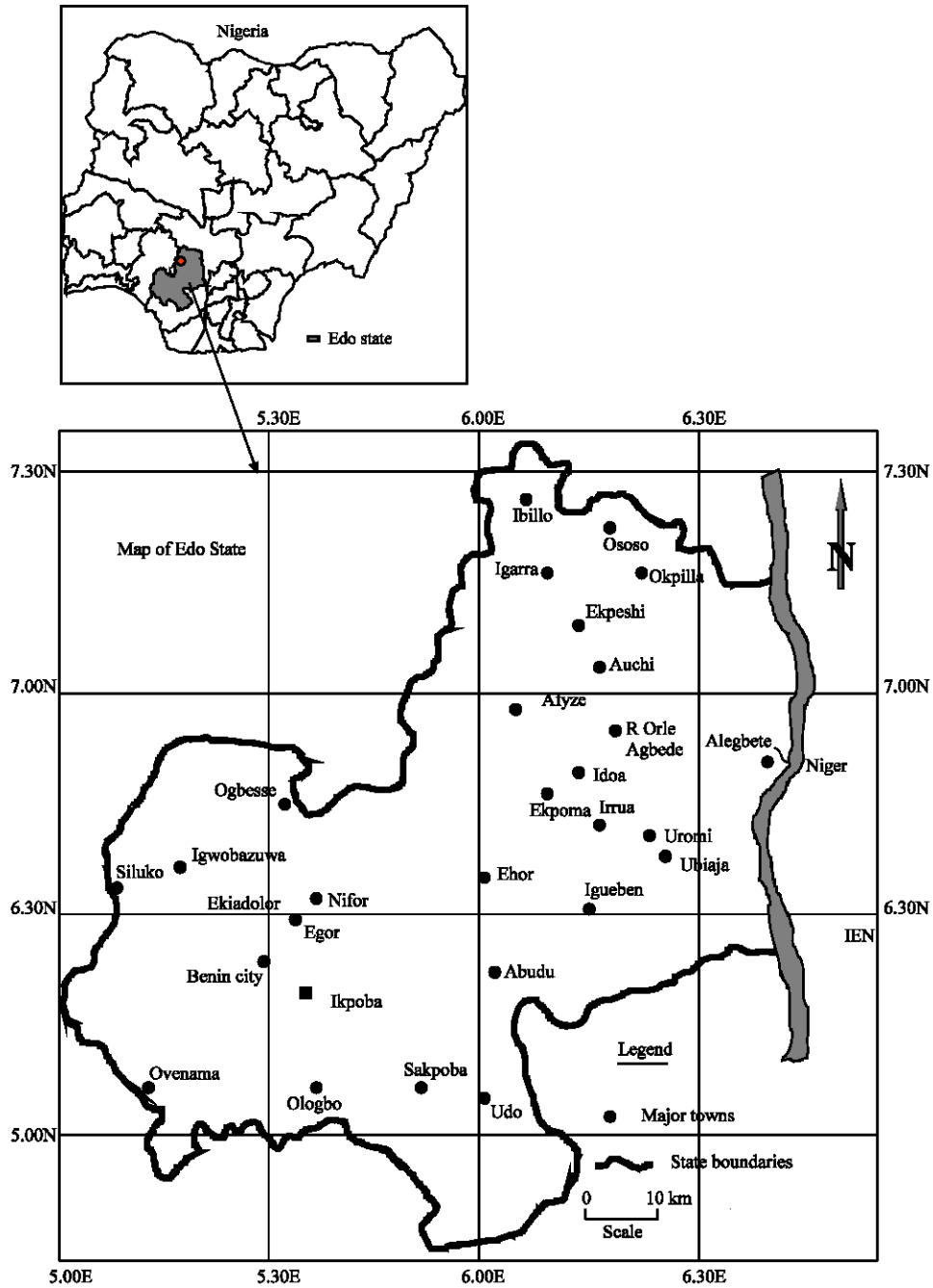


Fig. 1: Map of the study area showing Nigeria and Edo State

Derived Savanna: Auchi (102), Agbede (112), Igara (71), Okpella (101), Agenebode (101); Lowland Forest: Afuze (88), Ehor (105), Irua (56) ; Fresh Water (Swamp): Sakponba (94), Ologbo (99). The plants which are best known and most highly regarded in local medicine are enumerated in alphabetical order of family name; botanical name, local name and their medicinal usage are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Check list of medicinal plants used in Edo State, Nigeria.

Taxa	Family	Part used	Medicinal uses
<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Energizer, cough
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	Fabaceae	Fruits, bark	As astringent, for conjunctivitis, diarrhoea, alleviate rheumatism
<i>Acalypha ciliata</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves, twig	Expectorant, anthelmintic, STD's
<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Yellow fever, tuberculosis
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Leaves	Gonorrhoea, stomach disorder
<i>Acroceras zizanoides</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Tuberculosis
<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	Bombacaceae	Fruit pulp, fruit	Asthma, diarrhoea, cholera
<i>Adenopus breviflorus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Seeds	Intoxicant, mild laxative
<i>Aeschynomene indica</i>	Fabaceae	Root	Convulsion
<i>Aframomum melegueta</i>	Zingiberaceae	Seed, Leaves, Fruit	Cholera, Stomach pain
<i>Aframomum sceptrum</i>	Zingiberaceae	Seed	Stomach disorder
<i>Agave sisalana</i>	Agavaceae	Leaves	Asthma, bronchial problems
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Ulcers, to cure weak erection, headache, dysentery, stomach pain in children, emetic
<i>Albizia adianthifolia</i>	Fabaceae	Bark	As caminative, purgative, anthelmintic
<i>Albizia zygia</i>	Fabaceae	Root and bark	Dressing wounds
<i>Alchornea cordifolia</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves, root, bark	Cough, coated tongue, emmenagogue, rheumatic pain, fever
<i>Alchornea laxiflora</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves, root	Emmenagogue, laxative
<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	Apocynaceae	Root, latex	To treat amoebic dysentery, pimples and insect bites
<i>Aloe vera</i>	Liliaceae	Leaves	Dermatitis, typhoid and malaria fever
<i>Alostonia boonei</i>	Apocynaceae	Leaves, bark, latex	Chronic dysentery, stomach disorder, to treat cataract, astringent, febrifuge
<i>Aiteranthera sessilis</i>	Amaranthaceae	Whole plant	To treat dysentery, as filaricide
<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i>	Amaranthaceae	Whole plant	Abdominal pains, astringent, menorrhagia
<i>Amphimas pterocarpoides</i>	Fabaceae	Root	Spermatorrhoea
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Anacardiaceae	Leaves, bark	Malaria fever, tooth ache, sore gum, cough, asthma, scurvy, diuretic
<i>Ananas comosus</i>	Bromeliaceae	Young vegetative buds, fruit	Respiratory ailments, anti-scorbutic, diaphoretic, increase appetite
<i>Anchomanes difformis</i>	Araceae	Roots	Diuretic, purgative
<i>Andropogon tectorum</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Cough
<i>Aneilema beniniense</i>	Commelinaceae	Root	Vermifuge
<i>Annona muricata</i>	Annonaceae	Root, bark	Epilepsy, tonic, astringent
<i>Anthocleista djaloniensis</i>	Loganiaceae	Bark	Dermatitis, anti-pyretic
<i>Anthocleista vogelii</i>	Loganiaceae	Bark	Stomachic, purgative, antipyretic
<i>Antigonon leptopus</i>	Polygonaceae	Root	Asthma, liver and spleen disorder
<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	Papaveraceae	Root	Cough, eczema
<i>Artocarpus communis</i>	Moraceae	Root, bark, fruit	As astringent, antipyretic
<i>Aspilia africana</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Astringent/ styptic
<i>Asystasia gangetica</i>	Acanthaceae	Leaves	Anti-pruritic, astringent, vermifuge
<i>Aubreygrinia taiensis</i>	Sapotaceae	Bark	Galactagogue
<i>Axonopus compressus</i>	Poaceae	Whole plant	Rheumatic pain
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	Leaves	Malaria
<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>	Poaceae	Young shoot	Emmenagogue, haematemesis
<i>Baphia nitida</i>	Papilionaceae	Leaves, bark	Restores body energy, whitlow, chest pain, hemostatic, Metrorrhagia
<i>Basella alba</i>	Basellaceae	Leaves	Energizer
<i>Bassia axillaris</i>	Chenopodiaceae	Leaves	Stomach Disorder
<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i>	Fabaceae	Root	Stomach cancer
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Ear problems, cough, diarrhoea, induce menstruation
<i>Bixa orellana</i>	Bixaceae	Seed, leaves	Massage stomach of pregnant women, aphrodisiac
<i>Blighia sapinda</i>	Sapindaceae	Bark	Gonorrhoea, back ache, ulcer
<i>Boerhavia coccinea</i>	Nyctaginaceae	Leaves	Reduces swollen stomach in children
<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i>	Nyctaginaceae	Leaves	To treat low sperm count
<i>Borassus aethiopicum</i>	Arecaceae	Dried Leaf powder	Get rid of lice

Table 1: Continued

Taxa	Family	Part used	Medicinal uses
<i>Brachystegia aëryrycoma</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Enema, kidney problem
<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i>	Crassulaceae	Leaves	Heal wounds and navel-umbilical cord in children.
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	Casuarinaceae	Leaves, roots, seed	Emmenagogue, epilepsy, purgative
<i>Cajanus cajan</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Small pox, as mouth wash to prevent bad breadth
<i>Calamus decratus</i>	Arecaceae	Leaves	Convulsion
<i>Calopogonium muconoides</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Diarrhea
<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Leaves+root bark	Chronic eczema, leprosy, anti-convulsant
<i>Canna indica</i>	Cannaceae	Leaves, root	Malaria fever, diabetics, emollient
<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>	Solanaceae	Leaves	Treat cholera, sore throat, tuberculosis
<i>Carica papaya</i>	Caricaceae	Leaves, fruit, seed	Gonorrhoea, fever, laxative, abortifacient
<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	Fabaceae	Bark	Emmenagogic, anti-dysenteric, sore throat
<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Bombacaceae	Bark	Emetic, astringent, mouth wash, stimulant
<i>Celosia leptostachya</i>	Amaranthaceae	Leaves	Vermifuge, dermatitis
<i>Cenchrus biflorus</i>	Poaceae	Young shoot	Appetizer, abortifacient
<i>Centrosema pubescens</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	For boils
<i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i>	Fabaceae	Root and leaves	Anticonvulsant, pile
<i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i>	Chenopodiaceae	Stem	Anthelmintic
<i>Chloris pilosa</i>	Poaceae	Whole plant	Anti-coagulant
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Stomach pain, malaria fever, haemostatic
<i>Cissampelos mucronata</i>	Menispermaceae	Root, stem, leaves	Blood purification, bladder disorder
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Rutaceae	Leaves, bark	Antiseptic, haemostatic, sudorific
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Rutaceae	Leaves	Malaria fever
<i>Citrus paradisi</i>	Rutaceae	Leaves	Fever, jaundice, headache
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Rutaceae	Fruit peels	Relive toothaches, sore ears
<i>Cleome ruidosperma</i>	Capparidaceae	Leaves	Headache, earache
<i>Cnestis ferruginea</i>	Connaraceae	Leaves	Headache
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Arecaceae	Fruit husk, fruit	Typhoid fever, cough
<i>Coix lachrymal-jobi</i>	Poaceae	Leaves and root	Stabilizes pregnancy
<i>Cola nitida</i>	Sterculiaceae	Bark and seed	Appetizer, stimulant
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Araceae	Corms	Chronic dysentery
<i>Combretum paniculatum</i>	Combretaceae	Bark	Lumbago
<i>Commelina erecta</i>	Commelinaceae	Whole plant	To stop premature labour, oedema
<i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Boils, abscesses, stomach tonic
<i>Costus afer</i>	Zingiberaceae	Leaves	Diuretic, cough, rheumatism
<i>Crescentia cujete</i>	Bignoniaceae	Leaves	Anti-pyretic
<i>Crinum giganteum</i>	Amaryllidaceae	Bulb and leaves	Vermifuge, purgative, whitlow
<i>Crotalaria retusa</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves, root	Malaria fever, vermifuge, prevent abortion, dysmenorrhoea
<i>Croton zambesicus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves, root, bark	Purgative, insecticides, dermatitis
<i>Cyathula prostrata</i>	Amaranthaceae	Whole plant	Jaundice, wounds, cuts, ear problems
<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	Poaceae	Whole plant	Cough, malaria fever
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Poaceae	Whole plant	To treat diarrhea, dysentery, bleeding pile, anti biotic
<i>Cyperus difformis</i>	Poaceae	Leaves and flower	Snake bite, abortive
<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	Cyperaceae	Leaves	Contraceptive
<i>Cyperus haspan</i>	Cyperaceae	Tuber	Tonic for high fever
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Cyperaceae	Rhizomes and tuber	For rheumatoid arthritis
<i>Cyrtosperma senegalense</i>	Araceae	Roots	Lumbago, sprains, cough
<i>Dacryodes edulis</i>	Burseraceae	Bark, and leaves	Vermifuge, treat acute malaria
<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Anthelmintic
<i>Daniellia oliveri</i>	Fabaceae	Bark	Urinary infection, dysentery, toothache
<i>Delonix regia</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Anticonvulsant
<i>Desmodium ramossissimum</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Constipation, convulsion, gonorrhoea
<i>Dialium guineense</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves, bark, fruit	Malaria fever, mouth wash, astringent
<i>Dicrostachys cinerea</i>	Fabaceae	Stem, bark	Astringent, diuretic, malaria fever, toothache
<i>Dinophora spemeroideis</i>	Malastomataceae	Root	Arrow poison
<i>Dioscorea rotundata</i>	Dioscoreaceae	Root	To relive pain during childbirth, hepatic congestion

Table 1: Continued

Taxa	Family	Part used	Medicinal uses
<i>Diospyros canaliata</i>	Ebenaceae	Stem bark	Stomachache
<i>Diospyros crassiflora</i>	Ebenaceae	Leaves	Treats pile
<i>Dracaena mamii</i>	Agavaceae	Leaves	Stop vomiting
<i>Eclipta alba</i>	Asteraceae	Root, leaves	Purgative, emetic, expectorant, antiseptic
<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	Arecaceae	Dried leaves	Haemostatic,
<i>Eleusine indica</i>	Poaceae	Root, leaves	Diarrhea, dysentery
<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Anti-biotic, sore, headache
<i>Emilia coccinea</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Eye problems-cataract
<i>Emilia praetermissa</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves, root	Vertigo, epilepsy, colic in children
<i>Eniada africana</i>	Fabaceae	Bark, leaves, root	Astringent, anti-parasitic
<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	Poaceae	Fresh leaves	Rheumatic pain
<i>Erythrophleum suaveolens</i>	Fabaceae	Stern, bark	Emetic, respiratory problems
<i>Euphorbia kamerunica</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Latex	Whitlow
<i>Euphorbia tirucali</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Root	Cough, cold
<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves	Whitlow
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Whole plant, latex	Stomach problem, antidote for poison
<i>Euphorbia hyssopifolia</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Whole plant	Bronchial and paroxysmal asthma, as an aphrodisiac
<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Moraceae	Bark	Jaundice, pile
<i>Ficus elastica</i>	Moraceae	Leaves	To treat spleen diseases
<i>Ficus exasperata</i>	Moraceae	Leaves	Typhoid fever
<i>Fimbristylis littoralis</i>	Cyperaceae	Whole plant	Proper development of foetus
<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Poultices to bruises, erysipelas, sores
<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Verbenaceae	Leaves, root	Gonorrhoea, galactagogue
<i>Gomphrena celosioideis</i>	Amaranthaceae	Whole plant	Regulates fertility
<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	Malvaceae	Leaves	Gonorrhoea
<i>Harrisonia abyssinica</i>	Simaroubaceae	Leaves	To reduce swelling and ease blood flow
<i>Heliotropium indicum</i>	Boraginaceae	Leaves	To treat boil, stomach ache
<i>Hepeastrum equestre</i>	Liliaceae	Leaves	Treat whitlow
<i>Heterotis</i> sp.	Melastomataceae	Whole plant	Diarrhoea in children, to hasten suppuration of boil
<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Latex	Wounds, cuts
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Malvaceae	Flower, stem, leaves	Stomach upset, appendicitis pain
<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>	Malvaceae	Leaves	As diuretic, cough, hypertension
<i>Hibiscus suratensis</i>	Malvaceae	Leaves	Wound dressing, cough, diuretic
<i>Hura crepitans</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Latex, seed	Rheumatism, intestinal worms, skin diseases, purgative, for leprosy
<i>Hydrolea corymbosa</i>	Hydrophyllaceae	Leaves	Piles, eye wash
<i>Hylodendron gabunense</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Metrorrhagia
<i>Hypytis suaveolens</i>	Lamiaceae	Leaves	To treat conjunctivitis, mosquito repellent, catarrh, cold, anthelmintic, carminative.
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Poaceae	Whole plant	Antiseptic, anti fungicide
<i>Indigofera hirsuta</i>	Fabaceae	Whole plant	To treat whooping cough, bronchitis, toothache
<i>Ipomoea asarifolia</i>	Convolvulaceae	Whole plant	To clean-up newly born babies, purgative
<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	Convolvulaceae	Leaves	Purgative, galactagogue, suppurative
<i>Ipomoea involucrata</i>	Convolvulaceae	Leaves	Febrifuge, colic, treat bed sores
<i>Ipomoea triloba</i>	Convolvulaceae	Leaves	Rheumatism, boil
<i>Irvingia gabonensis</i>	Irvingiaceae	Bark, leaves	For cough, spleen infection
<i>Isora coccinea</i>	Rubiaceae	Leaves	Wounds, cuts
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves, seed, roots	Purgative, galactagogue, anti-convulsant
<i>Jatropha parvifolia</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves	For chronic pile
<i>Jatropha podagrica</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves	Ulcers, gastritis, febrifuge
<i>Jatropha tanjorensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves, seed	Purgative, ulcers
<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>	Meliaceae	Bark	Stomach pain, weak erection
<i>Kigelia africana</i>	Bignoniaceae	Bark and leaves	To treat spleen infection and kidney disorder
<i>Kyllinga bulbosa</i>	Cyperaceae	Whole plant	Vomiting in pregnancy,
<i>Kyllinga erecta</i>	Cyperaceae	Whole plant	Treatment on retained placenta
<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Root, leaves	Purgative, emmenagogue and antipyretic

Table 1: Continued

Taxa	Family	Part used	Medicinal uses
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Verbenaceae	Stem bark	For gum care
<i>Laportea caesians</i>	Urticaceae	Leaves	Constipation, dressing wound
<i>Laudelia arundinacea</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Menorrhagia, leucorrhoea
<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	Lythraceae	Leaves, root	Mouthwash, jaundice, virginal discharge
<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	Lamiaceae	Root	Burns, cuts, wounds
<i>Leucas martinicensis</i>	Lamiaceae	Root	Appetizer
<i>Lophira lanceolata</i>	Ochnaceae	Leaves, bark, root, seed	Gastrointestinal disorder, laxative
<i>Loudeia arundinacea</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Gastro intestinal disorder, fever, cough
<i>Ludwigia decurrens</i>	Onagraceae	Whole plant	Cold, malaria fever
<i>Luffa cylindrica</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Leaves	Reduce swelling
<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	Solanaceae	Leaves, fruit	For ear ache, carminative
<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i>	Malvaceae	Leaves	Cold, stomachache
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Bark, Leaves	Febrifuge, odema
<i>Manihot esculenta</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves	Anemia
<i>Mareya micrantha</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Stem, leaves	Dysentery, appetizer
<i>Mariscus alternifolius</i>	Cyperaceae	Whole plant	Lumbago, eye ointment
<i>Martynia annua</i>	Martyniaceae	Root	Digestive troubles
<i>Melanthera scandens</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Stops bleeding associated with circumcision
<i>Milicia excelsa</i>	Moraceae	Stem bark, leaves	Diseases of upper respiratory tract.
<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Fabaceae	Root, leaves	Kidney problems, fistula
<i>Mitracarpus villosus</i>	Rubiaceae	Leaves	Treats eczema
<i>Momordica charantia</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Leaves, fruit	Cough, diabetes, abortifacient, colic
<i>Morinda lucida</i>	Rubiaceae	Stem bark	Intestinal heat
<i>Mucuna pruriens</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Anemia
<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>	Musaceae	Leaf sheet	Anti-fungi
<i>Musa sapientum</i>	Musaceae	Root, leaves	Insect bit, wounds, cut
<i>Musanga cecropioides</i>	Moraceae	Leaves, root	Diarrhea, dysentery
<i>Myrianthus arboreus</i>	Moraceae	Bark, root	Vermifuge, sore throat, tumours
<i>Nauclea pobeguini</i>	Rubiaceae	Leaves, root	Malaria fever, stomach upset, jaundice, dizziness
<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>	Davalliaceae	Leaves	Dysmenorrhoea
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Apocynaceae	Root, leaves	Ringworm, abortifacient
<i>Newbouldia laevis</i>	Bignoniaceae	Bark	For stomach Ulcer, for womb massage
<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	Solanaceae	Leaves	Hydrocele
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Lamiaceae	Whole plant	Snake bite, stomach cramps, anthelmintic
<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i>	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Stomach disorder, dysentery
<i>Okoubaka aubrevillei</i>	Santalaceae	Bark, Leaves	To reduce swollen testicles (orchitis)
<i>Oldelandia corymbosa</i>	Rubiaceae	Whole plant	As oxytocic, nervous depression
<i>Opismenus burmannii</i>	Poaceae	Whole plant	Constipation
<i>Opuntia dileinii</i>	Cactaceae	Ripe fruit, stem	Purgative, demulcent
<i>Palisota hirsuta</i>	Commelinaceae	Root	Eye problems-cataract, cough, antiseptic
<i>Panicum laxum</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Respiratory ailment
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Chest pain
<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	Fabaceae	Bark, leaves, fruit	Dressing wounds, malaria, tooth ache.
<i>Parquetina nigrescens</i>	Periplocaceae	Leaves	Treat anemic condition.
<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Inflamed eyes
<i>Paspalum scrobiculatum</i>	Poaceae	Whole plant	Menstruation disorder
<i>Pedilanthus tithymaloideus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Root	Ulcer
<i>Pennisetum pedicellatum</i>	Poaceae	Leaves, root	Treatment of mumps
<i>Pennisetum polystachion</i>	Poaceae	Root	Diuretic
<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	For indigestion
<i>Pentaclethra macrophylla</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves, bark, root	Body weakness, appetizer, fish poison
<i>Peperomia pellucida</i>	Peperomiaceae	Leaves and stem	Reduce internal heat in Uterus
<i>Perotis indica</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Cough, expectorant, emetic
<i>Persea americana</i>	Lauraceae	Leaves	Hypertension
<i>Petersianthus macrocarpus</i>	Lecythidaceae	Bark	Chronic bronchitis
<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves	Dermatitis, Malaria fever, stomach pain
<i>Phymatodes scolopendra</i>	Polypodiaceae	Root	Gonorrhea, liver problems
<i>Physalis angulata</i>	Solanaceae	Whole plant	Stomach disorder, nose and ear problem

Table 1: Continued

Taxa	Family	Part used	Medicinal uses
<i>Piliostigma thonningii</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves, root	Purgative during childbirth
<i>Piper guineense</i>	Piperaceae	Fruit, leaves	Diuretic, anti-vomiting
<i>Platostoma africanum</i>	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Waist pain
<i>Platycerum stegmaria</i>	Polypodiaceae	Fronks	Skin diseases, ascites
<i>Plumeria alba</i>	Apocynaceae	Root, bark	Rheumatic pain
<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	Apocynaceae	Bark	Purgative, ringworm
<i>Polypodium senegalense</i>	Polypodiaceae	Whole plant	Small pox
<i>Portulaca quadrifida</i>	Portulacaceae	Leaves and shoot	To treat athlete foot diseases
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Portulacaceae	Whole plant	As demulcent, astringent, diuretic
<i>Pouzolzia guineensis</i>	Urticaceae	Leaves	Cure male sterility
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	Leaves	Anti-pyretic, malaria fever, improve blood flow, treat diarrhea, astringent.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceous</i>	Fabaceae	Stem bark, leaves	Abortifacient, ulcer
<i>Pterygota macrocarpa</i>	Sterculiaceae	Root, stem bark	Dermatitis, asthma
<i>Pueraria phaseoloides</i>	Fabaceae	Bark, leaves	Candidiasis, acnes
<i>Pupalia lappacea</i>	Amaranthaceae	Leaves	Anthelmintic, nasal haemorrhage
<i>Pycnanthus angolense</i>	Myristicaceae	Leaves, stem bark	Purgative, tooth ache
<i>Pycnus lanceolata</i>	Cyperaceae	Whole plant	Dressing boil, skin diseases
<i>Quamoclit pennata</i>	Convolvulaceae	Leaves	Enema, cough
<i>Raphia hookei</i>	Arecaceae	Front	Purgative
<i>Rauwolfia vomitoria</i>	Apocynaceae	Leaves, Root	Mental problems, stomach disorder, measles in children.
<i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i>	Poaceae	Root, leaves	Dermatitis
<i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Stem bark, root, seed	Relieve during labour pain, febrifuge
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Seed	For constipation, cathartic, emollient
<i>Roystonea regia</i>	Arecaceae	Front	Anthelmintic
<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Headache, joint pain
<i>Salba blackburnia</i>	Arecaceae	Front	Sexual weakness
<i>Sansiveria liberica</i>	Agavaceae	Leaves, root	Asthma, diarrhea, haemorrhoids
<i>Schrankia leptocarpa</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Leaves Sore throat, mouth wash
<i>Schwenkia americana</i>	Solanaceae	Whole plant	Rheumatism, chest pain, cardiac tonic
<i>Scindapsus aereus</i>	Araceae	Leaves	Anemia
<i>Scoparia dulcis</i>	Scrophulariaceae	Leaves	Anti-pyretic
<i>Senna alata</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves, flower	To treat eczema, STD treatment
<i>Senna hirsuta</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Corrects abnormal menstrual flow and pain
<i>Senna occidentalis</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Anticonvulsant
<i>Senna orbicularis</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Purgative, abortifacient, as suppurative for boils
<i>Setaria barbata</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Sore throat, emetic
<i>Sida acuta</i>	Malvaceae	Root, leaves	Anthelmintic, suppurative, astringent
<i>Sida linifolia</i>	Malvaceae	Leaves, root	Malaria, as anthelmintic for intestinal worm, astringent
<i>Smilax anceps</i>	Smilacaceae	Root, twig	Oxytotic, syphilis, gonorrhea, anti-inflammatory
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Solanaceae	Leaves	Whitlow, boil, anticonvulsant
<i>Solanum torvum</i>	Solanaceae	Root, leaves	Children's cough, enlargement of spleen
<i>Solanum erianthum</i>	Solanaceae	Leaves	Laxative, digestive disorder
<i>Solanum incanum</i>	Solanaceae	Root, leaves	Diuretic, gonorrhoea, leprosy
<i>Solenostemon monostachyus</i>	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Ulcers, prevent miscarriage, anticonvulsant, treatment of tuberculosis
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Stomach ache
<i>Spermacoce ocymoides</i>	Rubiaceae	Leaves and flower, leaves	Dysmenorrhea, to treat eczema
<i>Spermacoce verticillata</i>	Rubiaceae	Leaves	To treat eczema
<i>Spondias mombin</i>	Anacardiaceae	Seed, bark	Malaria fever
<i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i>	Poaceae	Leaves	Convulsion
<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i>	Asteraceae	Whole plant	Cardiac troubles, wound to stop bleeding
<i>Tagetes erectus</i>	Asteraceae	Flower head and foliage	Vermifuge, colic, emmenagogue, diuretic
<i>Talinum triangulare</i>	Portulacaceae	Leaves	Menorrhagia

Table 1: Continued

Taxa	Family	Part used	Medicinal uses
<i>Tectona grandis</i>	Verbenaceae	Seeds, fruits	As diuretic, astringent
<i>Telfaria occidentalis</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Leaves	Convulsion, rodenticide
<i>Tephrosia bracteolata</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves, seed	Vermifuge, diuretic, cough
<i>Tephrosia linearis</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves, root	Gonorrhoea, liver and spleen diseases
<i>Tephrosia pedicellata</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	As vermifuge, diuretic
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Combretaceae	Bark	As astringent/styptic, diuretic
<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>	Combretaceae	Bark	Stomach-ache, constipation, arthritis
<i>Thalia geniculata</i>	Marantaceae	Leaves	Muscular relaxant
<i>Theobroma cacao</i>	Sterculiaceae	Bark, leaves	Urinary diseases, dyspepsia
<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>	Apocynaceae	Bark	For cardiac diseases, emetic
<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Menstrual irregularities
<i>Trema orientalis</i>	Ulmaceae	Bark, leaves	Fever, black tongue, dysentery, bronchitis
<i>Trichosanthes cucumerina</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Whole plant	As febrifuge, purgative,
<i>Tridax procumbens</i>	Asteraceae	Whole plant	Ulcer, anaemia
<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>	Sterculiaceae	Bark, stem bark	Inflammation of intestine
<i>Triumfetta cordifolia</i>	Tiliaceae	Leaves, flower	Laxative, malaria
<i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i>	Tiliaceae	Leaves	Malaria fever
<i>Urena lobata</i>	Malvaceae	Leaves	Dysentery, emollient, expectorant
<i>Vernonia galamensis</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves, root	Boils, wounds
<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves, root, stem	Anti-pyretic, analgesic, diabetes
<i>Vernonia cinerea</i>	Asteraceae	Seeds, leaves	Diaphoretic, fever, anthelmintic
<i>Vinca alba</i>	Apocynaceae	Leaves	Hypertension, blood tonic
<i>Vinca roseus</i>	Apocynaceae	Leaves	Diuretic, malaria fever
<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	Sapotaceae	Stem bark	Skin infection, tooth ache
<i>Vitex doniana</i>	Verbenaceae	Root and leaves	Uterus cancer
<i>Waltheria indica</i>	Sterculiaceae	Whole plant	External hemorrhage, cough, toothache
<i>Xanthosoma sagittifolius</i>	Araceae	Roots and leaves	Stimulant
<i>Xylopia aethiopic</i>	Annonaceae	Leaves, fruit	Constipation, gonorrhoea,
<i>Zanthoxylum gillettii</i>	Rutaceae	Root and leaves	Anticonvulsant, anti-microbial
<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	To treat cough, asthma, dropsy
<i>Zornia latifolia</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	Rheumatism, pile, liver diseases

DISCUSSION

This report is based on the survey of medicinal plants from different communities in Edo State, Nigeria. The present study documents data regarding the availability of ethnomedicinal plant resources, which have various potential uses. Three hundred (300) species of herbal medicines in 77 families and 247 genera have been recorded in the course of this study. Fabaceae, Poaceae and Euphorbiaceae families are the most used medicinal plants in Edo State followed by Asteraceae, Rutaceae, Amaranthaceae, Cyperaceae, Arecaceae, Malvaceae. The dominant plant species widely used among the various communities surveyed include : *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Asystasia gangetica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Calopogonium muconoides*, *Carica papaya*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Citrus aurantifolia*, *Citrus sinensis*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Colocasia esculenta*, *Commelina erecta*, *Elaeis guineensis*, *Eleusine indica*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Hura crepitans*, *Irvingia gabonensis*, *Mangifera indica*, *Manihot esculenta*, *Musa paradisiacal*, *Musa sapientum*, *Nauclea pobeguunii*, *Newbouldia laevis*, *Phyllanthus amarus*, *Psidium guajava*, *Sida acuta*, *Spondias mombin* and *Synedrella nodiflora*.

All the plants mentioned in this paper are very popular among the communities of Edo state and enjoys a good reputation in Trado-medicinal practice in the areas. From this study, it was found that plants are used to treat mostly for malaria, stomach disorder, fever, cut, wounds, ulcer, sexual problems and diabetes.

The idea of having many plants for a single treatment of ailment (i.e., in the case of treatment of Cough, sour throat, cramps and gastroenteritis) is firstly, if a patient does not get relief from one remedy (plant) during a specified period of time, generally another remedy is tried and secondly if the plant cannot be found on specified time, another plant is taken as a substitute.

We suggest a detail assessment of resource quantities productivity potential, sustainable harvesting methods, domestication possibilities, market value of potentially promising species and importantly, equitable benefit sharing regimens, this view is also shared by Shrestha and Dhillion (2003) and a detailed investigation on the molecular and genetic characterization of these plants is necessary to have gene pool conservation.

CONCLUSIONS

Recent and renewed interest in medicinal plants coupled to developments in information technology has fuelled an explosion in the range and content of electronic information concerning medicinal plants as a re-emergent health aid. Bhat (1997) recently reviewed diverse sources of such information in traditional abstracting services as well as in a variety of online electronic databases. As a result of such developments access to indigenous peoples and cultures concerning medicinal plants are greatly facilitated. Furthermore, the active participation of such natural custodians and practitioners of valuable knowledge is guaranteed in bioactive principles and the development of new drugs.

The Edo State study concludes that traditional health practices can provide up to half of local primary health needs. Enlightened health-care workers are beginning to re-introduce traditional plant remedies where allopathic drugs have become commonplace. Properly studied and recorded, this traditional knowledge could revolutionize the world of medicine.

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