

Forest plants in traditional healthcare in Owo Local Government Area, Ondo State, Nigeria: implications for tertiary-level curriculum on non-timber forest products

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Abstract

There is need to gather information on the medicinal value of forest plants and to encourage the cultivation and conservation of the fast-disappearing non-timber forest species in Africa. This information is useful in developing curricula on conservation and management. Forest plant species used for traditional healthcare in Owo Local Government Area, On do State, Nigeria, were investigated, with emphasis on those used by farmers to treat fresh cuts, wounds, ulcers, sores, snakebite and guinea worm disease. The results showed that 22 plant species from 20 families were used for these ailments. Sores and ulcers had the largest number of plant species (seven) and snakebite the least (three). Plants in families such as Euphorbiaceae, Leguminoceae and Musaceae were represented by only one species, implying that if that species became extinct the family could be wiped out. The inclusion of and emphasis on an NTFP curriculum in tertiary schools is recommended.

Key words: ailments, Owo, Ogho, Aghere, LGA, non-timber forest products, healthcare, traditional. curriculum, education