

UTILIZATION OF FOREST PLANT LEAVES IN OMO FOREST RESERVE OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

A Survey of the use of forest plant leaves in household nutrition and health care in Omo Forest Reserve (OFR) was carried out. The result shows that 39 plant species in 27 families are used either as food or health care or for both. Of the 39 species, 29 or 53.8% are trees while the least used are the herbaceous climbers. Majority of the plants are used as concoction i.e. Agbo in Yoruba language. There is a prevalent use of the plant leaves for the treatment of malaria diseases in the study area. The arrays of uses suggest the importance of forest plant leaves in health care delivery among the rural dwellers. However, what is not known is the quantity of the plant materials harvested. Research is therefore in the area of quantifying the harvesting and utilization of plant leaves from the reserve.

KEYWORDS: Agbo, Ewe, Leaves, Household, Nutrition, Healthcare,