

ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES UTILIZATION: A CASE STUDY OF FOREST PLANTS IN TRADITIONAL HEALTH CARE IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The forest plants crucial to traditional systems of health management were investigated in the twenty LGA of Ogun State, Nigeria. This is to provide useful information on these plants for possible conservation purposes. The results showed that over 101 plant species are used by traditional healers to treat common ailments such as malaria fever, venereal diseases, urethral diseases, stomach ache, cough and impotency. The natural forest still constitute the dominant sources of supply to these plants. However, some of the species such as *Hannaa undulata*, *Aframomum me/eguata*, *Indigofera capitata* and *Uvaria picta* were becoming very scarce in most of the LGA's due to the conversion of natural forest to other uses. There patronage of the herbal homes by patients from government hospitals as claimed by about 82% of the traditional healers sampled. Reasons for these include poverty level, which does not enable them to afford conventional modern medical facilities and inability to afford the high cost of modern medicare.

KEYWORDS: Traditional Medicines, Traditional Healers, Health Diseases, Wild plants, Ogun State, Forest, Local Government Areas (LGA).