

**FLORISTIC COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF HOME-GARDENS  
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURE  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IBADAN OYO STATE.**

**BY**

**OKINE SAMUEL AZIEGBEMI**

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FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA**

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT,  
COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT,  
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA.**

**SUPERVISOR: Mr. A. O OLADOYE**

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## ABSTRACT

Tropical home-gardens are widely recognized as a repository of biodiversity of domesticated and wild plant, and animal species that need to be developed to meet livelihood needs and for purpose of their conservation. This study investigates the pattern of indigenous and exotic flora in the home-gardens managed by urban dwellers in the neighborhood of the national horticulture research institute, Ibadan Oyo state. Ten home-gardens were randomly selected from the area and studied for their species richness and diversity, floristic distribution. 25 species 21 families of plants were identified of which 9 are classified as edible fruit trees, 10 as edible crops, 5 as medicinal crops , 3 as vegetable crops and 1 as non edible fruit tree. The results of this study suggest that home-gardens are repository biodiversity. The observation of 25 different plant species managed in the homegardens, of which edible fruit trees constitute 36%, edible crop 40%, medicinal crop 20%, vegetable crop 12% and non-edible fruit tree 4% indicate high biodiversity conservation. Nearly 88% of all species were indigenous. Differences in species composition determined differences in vertical canopy structure. The floristic composition and high abundance of indigenous and exotic species managed or retained in the home-gardens demonstrates high degree of biodiversity conserved by urban dwellers in the neighborhood of the national horticulture research institute, Ibadan Oyo state.