



## Documentation of Ethno-Medicinal Herbs Commonly Used as Medicinal Herbology among Ebira Tribes in Kogi State, Nigeria

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### Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author Abdullahi Attah Alfa designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors KBT and USU managed the analyses of the study. Author Abdulbasit Anoze Aliyu managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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### ABSTRACT

In Ebira Land, many medicinal plants are used as medicinal herbology which normally employed for the treatment of several diseases. These plants were not properly documented as to the dearth of knowledge of the uses of medicinal herbs. It is therefore important to document the medicinal values of these plants. The collection and identification of plants used for medicinal purposes, were conducted through field trips to each of the Four Local Government in the study area (namely; Adavi, Ajaokuta, Okehi and Okene) respectively in Kogi State, North Central Nigeria. The total number of 124 botanical species of medicinal herbs were collected. This research supports the local use of this plant for therapeutic purposes especially in this time of economic recession. The knowledge opens a window of business potentials that will improve the economic situation of the nation. This will surely be of great assistance to researchers, herb sellers and the entire consumers in overcoming the long standing problems of health challenges.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Medicinal herbology is the use of natural herbs, plant and botanical knowledge to medically treat individual. This practice of using fresh plants, extracts, spices, herbs and other naturally found growing elements across the world theoretically does not differ much from today's medical practices-Natural Medicine. Ethno-medicine has long been recognized as one of the oldest forms of remedies used by humans. Through human evolution, ethnobotanical knowledge is seen as essential component relied upon for nutrition, local supplies of foods and medicines from wild plant [1]. Although traditional ethno-medicinal knowledge is still critical in a few regions where indigenous cultures and native ecosystems co-exist, this knowledge base has gradually eroded and gone extinct in many others [2]. In still other regions, it lies dormant in the memories of elders who retain both skills and knowledge specific to the ecosystems in which they live or were raised. [3]. Plants are generally rich sources of many natural herbal products which are mostly used for human welfare especially in tonic to loss of viability and also reduce the human pain and suffering from many diseases [4]. From the ancient period man has been used several different plants to cure all body pain and different diseases. Now-a-days throughout the world several thousands of plants mostly weed plants are medicinal but very few drug plants are cultivated [5].

Medicinal plants normally invade natural vegetation, usually adversely affecting native biodiversity or ecosystem functioning or invade agricultural land, impacting on the growth and productivity of cultivated crops [6]. As noted, plants are useful to human beings as food, erosion control, medicines, aesthetic value, shelter, supply of organic matter and mineral nutrients to the soil. Most agricultural plants are usually regarded as undesirable and targeted for eradication [7]. However, weeds are useful to human beings as food and traditional medicines. Many weeds contain chemical compounds which are biologically active and potentially useful for medical science. Few studies have been done to document the uses of weeds as traditional vegetables [8].

Many people in developing countries like Nigeria still rely on traditional healing practices and medicinal plants for their daily healthcare needs. There is abundant undocumented traditional

knowledge of herbal remedies used to treat diseases in most cultures especially the Ebira tribe of Kogi State. Different traditional healing practices worldwide are designed for either therapeutic or prophylactic use in human or animal diseases [9]. Native people can say much about their local plants; for instance, whether they are poisonous, useful for curing diseases, good for roofing (i.e. waterproof) or for fuel. They also know how to 'prepare' the plants for these uses, when and how to harvest them and which parts and also when and where they grow. This invaluable knowledge is being lost by the destruction of these natural ecosystems and the acculturation of these traditional people [10].

Ethno-medicinal herbs has two major uses; naming plants accurately allows professionals such as biologists and foresters to talk with communities effectively about vegetation. But beyond identification, the real value of this is to determine the role particular plants play in the economic and cultural life of communities [6,11]. Most plants used by the rural communities have biologically active compounds that are effective against various disorders [12]. For many plants, the use is not yet documented in Ebira Land, Kogi State, but almost certainly the plant plays a part either in the extensive medical herbarium or for more practical economic purposes. This current study concentrates on plant species commonly use as remedies. This is because people look at the destructive aspects of medicinal herb and forget to see any beneficial role played by these plant species in tackling the health challenges and healing the economic situation of the nation [6].

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The collection and identification of plants used for medicinal purposes, were made through field trips to each of the Four Local Government in the study area (Adavi, Ajaokuta, Okehi and Okene) respectively all located in Kogi State. A total of 80 elderly men and women who were traditional healers were interviewed to give information regarding the ethno-medicinal uses of plant species in their respective areas. The common and vernacular names of the described species were documented. The plants were collected from the study area around 20<sup>th</sup> March-October, 2020. The plant's identification was authenticated by Mr. Ayegba Ojochele Sule at the Herbarium Unit of the Department of Biological

Sciences, Kogi State University, and voucher specimen was deposited for future reference.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present work was based on the local knowledge obtained from the herbalist. Each common plant species used is provided with its scientific name, local name, plant parts mostly used and the corresponding uses of each herbs.

The result obtained in this study need to be subjected to pharmaceutical analysis in other to validate their authenticity and future prospect. The paper carried out the documentation of the herbal health remedies in the region under study and does not prescribe or recommend for their use till further determination by the pharmacologist. Data have been gathered on the traditional uses of medicinal plant species. By examining the plant materials collected from the study area and using the identification method and medicinal information each is described below. A total of one hundred and twenty four (124) plant species, was recorded and documented. Given below include the Botanical, English common and Locals or Vernacular Names; Family; Habit; Uses and Parts used of each herbal plant species.

#### 3.1 Herbal Preparations for Treatment of Different Ailments

- All kinds of stomachache: For *Anthocleista djalonensis* Scrap the roots and cut into small pieces. Then boil for 30 minutes and allowed it to cool. Drink one (1) glass of the herb juice twice a day for two weeks.
- Diabetes: For *Vernonia amygdalina*. Extracts from the plant can be mixed with pure honey and taken orally with two (2) table spoonful twice daily before meals.

For *Carica papaya*.The unripe fruit is peeled and soaked in water for three days. One glass of the liquid is taken 3 times a day for three consecutive days.

For *Psidium guajava* and *Ocimum gratissimum*. The concocted leaves are being sipped slowly. This would have a spontaneous reaction with sucrose in the blood. Note, that the treatment should be repeated intermittently.

- Ulcer: For *Saccharum officinarum*. Scrap the bark and cut into small pieces, then

soaked in water for three days. One glass of the liquid is taken 3 times daily.

- Hypertension: For *Talinum triangulare*. The fresh leaves is crushed in two liters of water. Then this must be filtered and stored. Half a glass of the liquid is taken twice daily before meals.

For *Persea Americana*. The decoction of its leaves is orally taken with one full glass and drink two times a day before meals.

For *Xylopia aethiopica*. The decoction of its fruit is orally taken with one full glass and drink two times a day before meal and serve as laxative.

Fresh leaves of *Talinum triangulare* crushed in 2 liters of water, filtered and stored. Half a glass is taken before food twice daily. Decoction of *Persea americana* leaves and fruit of *Xylopia aethiopica* taken (one full glass) twice daily before meal serve as laxative.

- Arthritis: For *Xylopia aethiopica* (fruits) and *Vernonia amygdalina* (leaves). The prepared paste is mixed with soap.
- Cholera: For *Parkia biglobossa*. The paste obtained from the seeds being processed is chewed, and the extract is swallowed every 2 hours to stop the stooling and vomiting.
- Whitlow: For *Carica papaya*. Its latex is applied on the swollen finger for about 3 to 4 times daily until it burst.
- Yellow fever: For *Nauclea latifolia*. Its roots is soaked in corn water for three days. The liquid is taken orally with one glass 3 times daily before meals and fever will subside.
- Dewormed: For *Citrus lemon*. Two tablespoonful of the liquid juice is orally taken before meal serves to deworm.
- Pile: For *Ocimum gratissimum* (leaves) and *Zanthoxylum xanthoxyloides* (roots). Both powdered active ingredients extracted with gin. This is taken orally 2 times daily for one week would eliminate the pain.
- Typhoid fever: For *Allium sativum* and *Zingiber officinale*. Its paste and the latter is for 30 minutes boiled with citrus lemon fruit and is taken 2 times daily with wine.
- Malaria: For *Alstonia boonei* (bark) and *Cymbopogon citratus* (leaves) is brought to boil. The liquid is orally taken with 1 full glass taken 3 times daily.

Table 1. Ethno-medicinal herbs commonly used by local names/Ebira tribe herbalist in Kogi State of Nigeria

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
1.	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L) Wight and Arn	Okra/ okro	Epehú	Malvaceae	Shrub	Soup, Diabetes, sperm count, fertility	Fruits and tender leaves
2.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> Linn	Crab's eye	Eyi uba / Ohinehine Epu	Fabaceae	Climber	Used as remedy for Cough	Leaves & seeds
3.	<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC	Starbur	Asibowu/ Ovareyi – koza	Asteraceae	Herb	Treats jaundice, snake bite, skin diseases, cough, malaria, epilepsy, vomiting, abdominal pain, convulsion, constipation, and bronchitis.	Leaves and flowers
4.	<i>Adansonia digitata</i> Linn	Baobab	Ovovo	Bombaceae	Tree	Skin diseases, cough, malaria, abdominal pain, convulsion, constipation, and bronchitis, diarrhea	Fruit and Stem bark
5.	<i>Aframomum danielli</i> K.Schum	Guinea grains	Orihi ose	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Blood tonic, treat jaundice, abdominal pain	Stem leaves and grains
6.	<i>Aframomum melegueta</i>	Alligator pepper	Ose	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Stimulant, Analgesic, Aphrodiac, Sleeping sickness	Seed`
7.	<i>Allium cepa</i>	Onion	Arivasa	Alliaceae	Herb	Antidiabetic, Prostate, eye	Bulbs
8.	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Garlic	Arivasa ahono	Alliaceae	Herb	Antibiotic anti-diabetic anti hypertension	Bulbs
9.	<i>Alstonia boonei</i>	cheese wood	Angwuo	Apocynaceae	Tree	Fever, Toothache	leaves, Bark
10.	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Cashew	Kaju	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Cough high vit.c	bark, fruit
11.	<i>Ananas comosus</i>	pineapple	Epeoyivo	Bromeliaceae	Herb	Anti-hypertension constipation	Unripe fruit

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
12.	<i>Annona muricata</i>	Soursop	Cocochi osureyi	Annonaceae	Tree	Relaxing nerves	Leaves
13	<i>Annona senegalensis</i>	African custard apple	Ochikwu	Annonaceae	Tree	Antisnake, Blood tonic, antimalarial	Leaves, Bark, Root
14.	<i>Anthocleista djalonensis</i> A. Chev	Cabbage tree	Aha'aba	Loganiaceae	Tree	Remedy for hernia, Diabetes, Stomach Pain, inflammation	Leaves, Stem Bark and root
15.	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> Linn	Goat weed	Avi Hupahupa	Asteraceae	Herb	Remedy for skin diseases, wound Healing diarrhea and to relieve pain associated with navel in children	Root, Leaves
16.	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L	Spiky amaranth	Itẹtẹ	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Used to treat fever, laxative, diuretic, eczema, stomach ache, improves appetite, useful in burning sensation, gonorrhea, hallucination, piles, bronchitis, constipation, as mouth wash for tooth ache, expectorant lessens menstrual flow and reduces leprosy,	Leaves
17.	<i>Aspilla africana</i> (Pers.) C. D. Adams.	Marigold / Bush iodine	Qwozunava	Compositae	Herb	Heals wound and sores, stops bleeding, treats fever, skin diseases such as Athlete's foot, night sweats, tuberculosis, gonorrhea, cough and stomach trouble. As	Leaves Whole plant

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
						enema to pregnant women to quicken and ease delivery.	
18.	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>	Groundnut	Etupa	Fabaceae	Legume	Cardiovascular diseases, Increase testosterone	Leaves, Nut
19.	<i>Azadiractha indica</i>	Neem tree	Idongoyaro	Meliaceae	Tree	Boils, Anti malaria, Diabetes	Fruit juice Leaves, Stem bark
20.	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i> Schrad. ex J.C. Wendl	Bamboo	Opa'aru	Poaceae	Tree	Roofing & furniture, Asthma, fever	Stem and leaves
21.	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Blackjack	Imima aninyere	Asteraceae	Herb	diabetes, heart diseases, high blood pressure, Ulcer	Leaves
22.	<i>Biophytum petersianum</i> Klotzsch		Chagawuk wokwo Oweyi	Oxalidaceae	Herb	Paste on the navel removes it and heal the wound, stomach ache, urinary stones, cerebral malaria, skin diseases	Whole plant
23.	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	Hog weed	Qoqoqo	Nyctaginaceae	Herb	Used as Pain relief, anti-cancer anti-inflammatory, and for the treatment of jaundice, diabetes and protect eye sight.	Root, Leaves
24.	<i>Borassus aethopium</i> Mart.	Fan palm	Ugiga	Palmae/ Arecaceae	Tree	Aphrodisiac, building and roofing	Fruit, Stem, Leave
25.	<i>Bridelia ferruginea</i> Benth	Bridelia	Awuya	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Treatment of stomach disorder, Pneumonia, Cough, Diabetes	Leaves
26.	<i>Butyrospermum paradoxum</i> (Gaern, f.) Hepper/ <i>Vitellaria</i>	Shea butter	Okume	Sapotaceae	Tree	As cream, remedy or high temperature in children, Cough, Boil	Fruit, Seed, leave

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
	<i>paradoxum</i> (Gaertn, f)						
27.	<i>Cajanus cajan</i>	Pigeon peas	Ihi'ehe	Fabaceae	Legume	Antidiarrheal, sickle cell,	Leaves
28.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton) R. Br.	Sodom apple/ milkweeds	Avi Aniwara	Ascepinadaceae	Shrub	Used in treating intestinal worms, cough, asthma, bronchitis, paralysis, swellings, intermittent fevers, anorexia, Inflammations and tumors as a purgative and aphrodisiacs.	Leaves and Root
29.	<i>Capsicum annum</i> Linn.	Pepper	Ako'oko	Solanaceae	Shrub	Remedy for Gonorrhoea	Root
30.	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>	hot pepper	Ako'oko enese	Solanaceae	Shrub	Digestion, Antihaemorrhoidal, Anti-ictic and Anti-oedematous	Fruits
31.	<i>Carica papaya</i> Linn.	Pawpaw	Irenwua	Caricaceae	Non-woody tree	Laxative, Remedy for skin infection, Anti-icteric, Diuretics, Jaundice, Hepatitis	Leave, Milky Latex, Fruit and root
32.	<i>Cassia alata</i> Linn syn. <i>Senna alata</i> (L) Roxb	Candle stick	Idedenguhi obanyi	Fabaceae	Shrub	Treat Skin infections (ringworm, Eczema), syphilis sores, rash and itching, stomach pain during pregnancy, dysentery, schistosomiasis. gonorrhoea, convulsions, heart failure, oedema, hernia, jaundice, headache, paralysis	Leaves

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
						abortifacient	
33.	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> Linn syn. <i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L) Link	Negro coffe or false kinkeliba	Idedenguhi oweyi	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub	Treats liver problems, asthma, bronchitis; menstrual problems, tuberculosis, anaemia, gonorrhea, urinary tract disorders, constipation in babies, wounds, expels worms, reduces fever and inflammation and as analgesic	Leaves, flowers, roots and seeds
34.	<i>Chromoalaena odorata</i> (L.) King & H. E. Robins	Siam weed	Avi Awo	Asteraceae	Shrub	Used as Anti fever, treatment of cuts	Leaves
35.	<i>Citrillus lunatus</i>	Melon / Egusi	Ipapara	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	soup, fibroids, fertility, Scar	Seed, Leaves
36.	<i>Citrillus vulgare</i>	Sweet melon	Igondo	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	soup, fertility	Seed
37.	<i>Citrus paradise</i>	Grape	Oromi fiva	Rutaceae	Tree	Antibiotic, prostate	Fruit
38.	<i>Citrus sinensus</i>	Sweet orange	Oromi	Rutaceae	Tree	Vit. C, bowel moist	Fruit Roughages
39.	<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lime	Oromi oweyi	Rutaceae	Tree	Deworm, fat, cough	Juice/fruit
40.	<i>Cola acuminata</i> Schott and Endl	Kola	Irevu Óboro	Sterculiaceae	Tree	Stimulant & used for dye	Fruit and root
41.	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut	Atahu neva	Arecaceae	Tree	Hepatitis, Anti poison/neutralizes poison/drug	Root, Nut
42.	<i>Cola nitida</i> (Vent.) Schott and Endl.	Kola	Irevu Atara	Sterculiaceae	Tree	Stimulant & used for dye	Fruit and root
43.	<i>Corchorus olitorius</i>	Jew fiber telteria Jews mallow	Oyoyo	Malvaceae	Herb	Blood purifier	Leaves
44.	<i>Cymbopogon</i>	Lemon grass	Avi tii/ avi	Poaceae	Grass	Anti-cold, anti-malaria	leaves



S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
	<i>citrus</i> (DC.)Stapf		tihe			and anti-cough	
45.	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Carrot	Irenwa inete	Apiaceae	Herb	Male infertility	Fruit
46.	<i>Dennettia tripetala</i> G. Baker / <i>Uvariopsis tripetala</i> (Bak. f.) G. E. Schatz	Pepper fruit	Etu Akoko	Annonaceae	Tree	Stimulant & remedy for cough	Fruits
47.	<i>Desmodium mauritianum</i> (Willd.) DC	Stick tight	Avi uto	Fabaceae	Herb	Migraine/ head – ache	Leaves
48.	<i>Dioscorea alata</i> L	Water yam	Evina	Dioscoreaceae	Climber	Porridge	Tuber
49.	<i>Dioscorea bubilifera</i> L	Aerial yam	Enu oyivo	Dioscoreaceae	Climber	Boiled & eaten	Bulbils
50.	<i>Dioscorea cayennensis</i> Lam	White yam	Enu	Dioscoreaceae	Climber	Boiled & eaten	Tuber
51.	<i>Dioscorea dumentorium</i> (Kunth) Pax	Bitter yam	Esunu	Dioscoreaceae	Climber	Boiled & eaten	Tuber
52.	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i> Jacq	Palm tree	Osochi	Arecaceae	Tree	Hair lotion, antipoison, Anti convulsion, Easy flow menses, Aphrodiac	Kernel, Tender frond, Root
53.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> Linn	Asthma herbs	Ireruku/Irevuku	Euphorbiaceae L	Herb	Treats dengue fever, skin diseases, snake bites, asthma. Root decoction is also beneficial for nursing mothers deficient in milk problem and Gastro – intestinal among children,	Leaves and roots
54.	<i>Ficus exasperate</i> Vahl.	Fig tree / sandpaper	Urere	Moraceae	Tree	Ulcer, Blood tonic, Venereal disease, hypotensive	Leaves and root
55.	<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	Fig tree	Ebankoro	Moraceae	Tree	Condiment, Blood tonic, Antibacterial, Antiviral	Leave, Bark, Root

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
56.	<i>Ficus thonningii</i> Blume	Strangler fig / Sawpaper	Ihariha	Moraceae	Tree	wound, fever, nosebleed, sore throat, Remedy for venereal diseases	Leaves, Bark, Root
57.	<i>Ganoderma lucidum</i>	Reishi Mushroom	Uru'ogozaruvo	Ganodermataceae	Herb	Anticancer, kidney, weight loss	Mushroom
58.	<i>Garcinia kola</i>	Bitter kola	Ooro	Guittiferae / Clusiaceae	Tree	Stimulant, remedy for infertility in men, cough & venereal diseases	Fruits, Leaves
59.	<i>Gardenia florida</i> Ellis	Cape jasmine	Ikanaga	Rubiaceae	Shrub	Remedy for miscarriage, Aphrodiac	Leaves, Root
60.	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i> Mart	Bachelor button	Uzomęte	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Treats asthma and dermatitis, menstrual pain and improves orgasm	Whole plant
61.	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> Linn.	Cotton	Owu tutu	Tiliaceae	Shrub	Anti-typhoid fever	Leaves
62.	<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i> Linn.	Zobo	Ichakoro ovivi	Malvaceae	Shrub	Remedy for instant swellings, lowers blood pressure & liver problem	Leaves, flowers
63.	<i>Hymenocardia acida</i>	Heart-fruit	Ochi ozozinyanya	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Sickle cell, diabetes, blood tonic, Rheumatism,	Leaves, Bark, Root
64.	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> Poir	Bush mint	Avi apari	Lamiaceae	Herb	Scare mosquitoes from the house	Leaves
65.	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (L.) P. Beaux	Spear grass	Anchi	Graminaceae	Grass	Used to treat Gonorrhoea and painful menstruation	Leaves and rhizomes
66.	<i>Ipomea batatas</i> L	Sweet potato	Hemiheme /	Convolvulaceae	Weed	Blood tonic, Potage	Tuber and

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
			Oduku			Boiled & eaten, antsnake fertility	Tender leaves
67.	<i>Irvingia smithii</i> (O'Rorke) Baill	Bush mango	Evuha	Irvingiaceae	Tree		Seed, Leaves, Stem bark
68.	<i>Jatropha ajitata</i> Linn.	Red pig nut	Ochiga ovivi	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Anti – ring worm, Antiviral	Latex
69.	<i>Jatropha curcus</i> Linn.	Pig nut	Ochiga	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Burn wound	Latex
70.	<i>Khaya ivorensis</i>	Sapele mahogany	Ago	Mehaceae	Tree	Ulcer, Blood Tonic, Roofing and furniture	Trunk, Stem bark, Leaves
71.	<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>	Savanna mahogany	Ago	Mehaceae	Tree	Blood Tonic, arthritis, Roofing and furniture	Trunk, stem bark, leaves
72..	<i>Kigelia africana</i> DC	Sausage tree	Oguro	Bignoniaceae	Tree	Remedy for Boil, fibroid, Breast cancer	Fruit, bark
73.	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Chinese privet	Ochewerege	Oleaceae	Shrub	Anti-stroke, cardi tonic	Leaves
74.	<i>Lophira lanceolata</i> Van Tiegh	Lophira	Ochi okovi	Ochnaceae	Tree	Fever, headache, Gastritis, Malaria, rheumatism, fertility	Leaves, root, Stem bark
75.	<i>Luffa aegyptiaca</i>	Vegetable sponge	Awe	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	high blood pressure	Leaves
76.	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Mango	Mangolo	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Malaria, diabetes, blood tonic	Leaves
77.	<i>Manihot esculetus</i> Crantz	Cassava	Echuka	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Blood tonic, Pudding & soup	Tuber, Tender leaves
78.	<i>Milicia excels</i> (A.Chev.) C.C. Berg	Iroko/ African teak	Uroko	Moraceae	Tree	Fever, Malaria, Cough, Blood tonic	Stem bark, Leaves
79.	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> linn	Sensitive plant	Shagadawu kwokwo obanyi	Fabaceae /Mimosoideae	Herb	Treats wound, piles, ulcers, diarrhea, diabetes, antivenom	Leaves, Root seeds, Whole

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
							plant
80.	<i>Mitracarpum scabrum</i> Zucc	Tropical gridle pod	Avi agwu	Rubiaceae	Herb	Treatment of Eczema and other fungal skin diseases	Leaves
81.	<i>Momordica charantia</i>	Bitter melon	Avi Ehie	Cucurbitaceae	Herb	Liver diseases, Diabetes, Hepatitis	Whole plant
82.	<i>Morinda lucida</i> Benth	Brim stone tree	Ugigor	Rubiaceae	Tree	Treatment of Yellow fever, Malaria Diabetes	Leaves & Root
83.	<i>Moringa Oliefera</i>	Moringa	Anahu	Moringaceae	Tree	Treatment of itching eye & sickle cell Anemia. It is used for fencing	Stem & leaves
84.	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i>	Velvet bean	Igenepe / Idaku	Fabaceae	Herb	Blood tonic, Aphrodisiac, Parkinson's diseases	Leaves, Seed, Root
85.	<i>Musa nana/sapientum</i>	Banana	Ogede oweyi	Musaceae	Shrub	High blood pressure	Fruit
86.	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>	Plantain	Ogede abo	Musaceae	Shrub	Potent astringent high iron	Fruit
87.	<i>Newbouldia laevis</i> Seem	African tulip tree	Ogisi	Bignoniaceae	Tree	Fencing wrapping food. Tooth ache & dysentery remedy	Stems and leaves
88.	<i>Nicotiana rustica</i>	Wild tobacco	Orihi Otova	Solanaceae	Herb	Antispasmodic, Cathartic, Emetic, sedative, Scorpion antivenom	Leaves
89.	<i>Nicotiana tabbacum</i> Linn.	Tobacco	Otova	Solanaceae	Herb	Stimulant & remedy for cold	Leaves
90.	<i>Ocimum bsilicum</i>	Basil	Ireru Eva	Lamiaceae	Herb	Stimulating digestion	Leaves
91.	<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> Linn	Mint	Ireru	Lamiaceae	Shrub	Treats gastro intestinal problems,	Leaves, Root

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
						diabetes & gonorrhoea	
92.	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Rice	Iraisi	Poaceae	Grass	Energy-giving food	Grains
93.	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i> R. Br.	Locust bean	Une	Papilionaceae	Tree	Seeds for soup as spices	Pulp of fruit, Seeds
94.	<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk) Chiov	Trellis-vine	Omu avuta	Asclepiadaceae	Climber	Treats jaundice, liver problem, insect bites, Headache, urinary tract problems, severe stomach pain, boils, eyes, abscesses, wounds, cold, aching teeth, snakebites, worm infections, eczema, backache, liver problems, bronchitis, fainting, diarrhea, dysentery, cough, tetanus, rheumatism, malaria, asthma appendicitis, arthritis, muscular pain, rheumatism, amenorrhoea, venereal diseases and remove thorns from the skin, used, facilitate child-birth, and as an abortifacient.	Leaves, Latex, Root
95.	<i>Perquentina extensa</i> (Afzel.) Bullock	Trellis-vine	Emanya	Asclepiadaceae	Herb	Chronic dysentery, blood tonic, boosts fertility in female, aphrodisiac.	Leaves Roots
96.	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schum	Stone breaker	Avi ogerema	Euphorbiaceae	Herb	Remedy for skin infection among	Leaves

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
	and Thonn					children, Fever	
97.	<i>Phyllanthus muellerianus</i> (O. Ktze.) Exell		Okoruwa	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Remedy for fever and stomach disorder	Leaves
98.	<i>Piper guinenses</i> Schum and Thonn	Black pepper	Ozanyi	Piperaceae	Tree	Spices	Leaves & seeds
99.	<i>Prosopis Africana</i> (Guill and Perr.) Taub.		Okpiye	Mimosaceae	Tree	For soup as spices	Seeds
100.	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	Sugar cane	Uji / Irike	Poaceae	Herb	Laxative	Stem
101.	<i>Sesamum indicum</i>	Beniseed	Igorigo	Pedaliaceae	Herb	For soup, stomachache	Seeds
102.	<i>Psidium quajava</i>	Guava	Gova	Myrtaceae	Tree	Reduce frigidity	Unripe fruit
103.	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm. F.	Sida	Irarunọ	Malvaceae	Herb	Remove pus from boils, facilitate placenta expulsion after delivery	Leaves
104.	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	Tomato	Itomato	Solanaceae	Shrub	Anti-hypertensive	Fruit
105.	<i>Solanum melongena</i>	Garden egg	Inyakwu	Solanaceae	Shrub	Kidney problem / vit. C	Fruit, Seed & leaves
106.	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench	Millet	Ijoro	Poaceae	Herb	Porridge, pudding, local drink & alcohol	Porridge, pudding, local drink & alcohol
107.	<i>Sorghum caudatum</i> L	White guinea corn	Akuovu	Poaceae	Herb	Porridge, pudding, local drink & alcohol	Seed
108.	<i>Sorghum guineensis</i> L	Red guinea corn	Akuovivi	Poaceae	Herb	Porridge, pudding, local drink & alcohol	Seeds
109.	<i>Spondias mombin</i> Linn	Hog plum	Osinkara	Anacardiaceae	Tree	memory, fertility, facilitate	Leaves

S/No	Botanical name	Common name	Ebira name	Family	Habit	Uses	Part used
						placenta expulsion after delivery, Stomach pain after deliver	
110.	<i>Striga hermonthica</i>	Witch weed	Irera oragu / Ohwu	Scrophulariaceae	Herb	Blood tonic, jaundice, leprosy, ulcer, pneumonia	Leaves
111.	<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i>	Clove	Kanaferi	Myrtaceae	Tree	Tooth ache/mouth infection, Anti-inflammatory	Fruit
112.	<i>Talinum triangular</i>	Water leaf	Egure	Portulacaceae	Herb	blood pressure, Rat poison	Leaves, Root
113.	<i>Telfairia occidentalis</i>	Fluted pumpkin	Igwu	Curcubitaceae	Climber	Anti anaemic (blood tonic)	Leaves
114.	<i>Tetracapiduum conophorum</i>	African walnut	Arusa	Europhorbiaceae	Tree	Aprodisiac	Fruit
115.	<i>Tetrapleura tetraptera</i>	Four side fruit	Aidan	Mimiossaceae	Tree	Sickle cell, Fallopiian blockage	Fruit
116.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> Linn.	PWD Weed	Avi ozoga / Avi Adeji	Compositae	Herb	Remedy for stomach ache, stomach ulcer, convulsion in children and hypertension, Rheumatism	Leaves, Whole plant
117.	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	Oyi'oyoyo	Urticaceae	Herb	fever, blood sugar, blood pressure	Leaves
118.	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> Dcl.	Bitter leaf	Uzi	Asteraceae	Shrub	Remedy for insomania, hypertension, fever & diabetes, Pile, cough	Leaves, Root
119.	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> Linn	Cowpea	Ikiza	Papilionaceae	Climber	Soup, boiled & eaten, Sickle cell	Seed
120.	<i>Vitex doniana</i> Sweet	African black plum	Ezu	Verbenaceae	Tree	Anti – snake venom	Root

<b>S/No</b>	<b>Botanical name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Ebira name</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Habit</b>	<b>Uses</b>	<b>Part used</b>
121.	<i>Xanthosoma spp</i> Schott	Cocoyam	Ikoko	Araceae	Herb	boiled & eaten	Corms
122.	<i>Xylopia aethipica</i>	Ethiopian pepper	Onyi	Annonaceae	Herb	Analgesic/stimulant, aphrodisiac	fruit
123.	<i>Zea mays</i> Linn	Maize	Apapa	Poaceae	Herb	Porridge, pudding, local drink & alcohol	Seeds
124.	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Ginger	Jinja	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Detoxify liver bronchitis	Corm



**Table 2. Summary table for the ethnomedicinal herbs in relation to number of families, Genera and species**

Family	Genera	Species
55	124	124

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This presentation in this section is commendable. However, I suggest to include the total number of medicinal herbs and indicate which of the area of study indicated the most preferred ethnomedicinal herbs and were used by the Epira tribes.

#### CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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