Ethnobotanical assessment of the plant species used in the treatment of diabetes in the Sudano-Guinean zone of Benin

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1   SUMMARY

This study aims at assessing knowledge of local population on anti-diabetic plant species in the Sudano-Guinean zone of Benin. One hundred and twenty six (126) persons including traditional practitioners, medicinal plant sellers, farmers, breeders and others stakeholders were investigated using ethnobotanical approach. Data collected was on anti-diabetic plant species; anti-diabetic plant parts used; the modes of remedy preparation and pre-emption. Results showed that 144 plant species were used as anti-diabetics in the study area. These species belong to 63 botanical families and 132 genera. Anti-diabetic species were mostly represented by Euphorbiaceaes and Leguminosae-Pipilionoideae families. *Citrus aurantifolia* was found to be the major anti-diabetic plant (RFC = 0.21) and leaves were the major anti-diabetic organs used (27% of the plants). Decoction was the most used (53 %) mode for remedy preparation. A total of 63 recipes related to anti-diabetic species were recorded. Inventoried plants were essentially used for their hypoglycaemic activity. This study has provided basic knowledge in pharmacological research.