

Inventory of Endogenous Knowledge and Ethnobotanical Use of Orchid's in the Southern Zone of the Togo Mountains

*Sodjinou¹ K. Edjèdu, Adjonou¹ Kossi, Etse¹ K. Djidjolé, Johnson¹ Benziwa N., Gueye² Mathieu, Radji¹ A. Raoufou, Quashie¹ A. Marie-luce, Kokou¹ Kouami

1- Forestry Research Laboratory (LRF), Faculty of Sciences, University of Lomé, BP: 1515 Lomé-Togo, West Africa

2- Botany Laboratory, UMI 3189, Environment, Health and Society, Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal

*Corresponding author: sodjinouedjedu@gmail.com

Key words: Orchids, ethnobotany, medicinal plant, endogenous knowledge, Togo

Submitted 30/01/2025, Published online on 30th April 2025 in the [Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences \(J. Anim. Plant Sci.\) ISSN 2071 – 7024](#)

1 ABSTRACT

In Togo, wild orchids are constantly harvested in an unregulated way for local traditional medicine, medicinal magic and for horticulture. The present study aims to identify the diversity of wild orchid species used in traditional medicine, and then capitalize on endogenous knowledge for a better valorisation and sustainable management of Orchidaceae in the southern zone of the Togo Mountains. An ethnobotanical survey by direct interviews based on a semi-structured questionnaire was carried out in 18 villages of the zone, with 152 traditional healers and herbalists. 12 species of orchids used in traditional medicine in the forest zone were reported. 80% of the ethnic groups surveyed use Orchidaceae in traditional medicine, medicinal-magical, cultural, as ornamental plants and for veterinary use. The treatment of malaria, rheumatism, anaemia, headache, hallucinations, protection are among other areas of recurrent use. The parts used in the preparations range from leaves (24%) to the whole plant (57%). *Calypstrochilum christyanum* is the most used orchid with a usual value, VU = 0,28. This work widens the perspectives of research on molecules and active principles contained in Orchidaceae with proven pharmacological values.