

MEDICINAL PLANTS

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Available information

Species inventory list Table 1

Summary statistics

The plant parts most preferred in medicinal plants are roots. Of the medicinal plants found in the shops visited, 61% were in the form of roots, 22% in the form of whole plant, 15% in the form of barks, 1% in the form of fruits and the other 1% in the form of leaves. The plant parts most sensitive to harvest are the ones that are most exploited. Therefore collectors must collect such parts with extreme care, to ensure plant survival and conservation.

According to Mr. Netshia (personal communication), traditional healers know the plants by vernacular names only. This is apparently a way of protecting information from clients so that they may not recognize the plants used for treating them are actually the same as perhaps those growing in their backyard. For example, *Elaeodendron transvaalensis* is connotationally referred to as 'mukuvhazwivhi/mulumanama' by traditional healers whereas laymen commonly know it as 'mulumanamana', or 'muswigiri'. Despite the difference between 'mulumanama' and 'mulumanamana' being small, the traditional healers will simply regard mulumanamana as an unknown species to them.



H. Foulquier

Conservation measures for *Brackenridgea zanguebarica*, since it is regarded as threatened, have been put in place by making a reserve around a population of this species. The conservation authorities and the headman make sure that there is no collection of medicinal plant materials from this reserve. Collection of medicinal plant materials is only done outside the reserve and even this has been suspended since 1997 so that the trees are given time to recover. According to headman Nemafulkani, seedlings of this plant which have been seen to establish themselves in great numbers, will also have enough time to grow into mature plants. This will ensure a continuous and sustainable supply of medicinal materials from the area. The territorial council arrests people found collecting medicinal materials during the recovery period. Because of the fact that headmen from the areas where *Brackenridgea zanguebarica* is found are given a share in the cash generated, civic people in such areas also play a conservationist role by policing the area. This system of managing natural resources by involving traditional leaders and the community was found to be very successful.

Traditional healers still practise rituals of collecting medicinal materials, while in the field. These rituals possibly ensure that the plant from which medicinal materials are collected should not die to ensure that the medicine should work effectively. The interest of traditional healers in hemiparasites and epiphytes on trees was also observed. Middlemen are also involved in the collection of medicinal plant materials, in some cases, and the significance of their contribution was investigated.

Major studies and publications

MABOGO, D. E. N. 1990. *The ethnobotany of the Vhavenda*. M.Sc. Thesis. University of Pretoria. Pretoria, RSA.

TSHISIKHAWE, M. P. 2002. *Trade of indigenous medicinal plants in the Northern Province, Venda region: their ethnobotanical importance and sustainable use*. M.Sc. Thesis. University of Venda for Science and Technology. Thohoyandou, RSA.

Recommendations for priority studies required to fill any gaps identified

People will always utilize natural resources and it is therefore important to investigate the sustainability of their actions.

"Hot spots" of particular importance

Reserves should be constructed in some areas where important plants are harvested since such plant species might face extinction.

TABLE 1: Indigenous medicinal plants traded in Venda, identified by botanical names, common names (C) and/or technical (T) names

Family	Botanical Names	Vernacular Names	Form
Anacardiaceae	<i>Lannea schweinfurthii</i> (Engl.) Engl. var. <i>stuhmannii</i> (Engl.) Kokwaro	Vhulivhadza, Munie-dombo, Muswoswoto	Tree
	<i>Lannea edulis</i> (Sond.) Engl. var. <i>edulis</i>	Mutshutshungu (C)	Shrub
Annonaceae	<i>Artabotrys monteiroae</i> Olive	Munnamutswu, Mudzidzi	Shrub
Apiaceae	<i>Alepidea amatymbica</i> Eckl. & Zeyh. var. <i>amatymbica</i>	Sungwi	Herb
	<i>Heteromorpha trifoliata</i> (Wendl.) Eckl. & Zeyh.	Muthathavhanna	Shrub
Apocyanaceae	<i>Acokanthera oppositifolia</i> (Lam.) Codd	Musilisili (C)	Shrub
	<i>Carissa bispinosa</i> (L.) Desf. ex Brenan	Tshirungulu (C)	Shrub
	<i>Landolphia kirkii</i> Dyer	Muvhungo (C)	Shrub
	<i>Rauvolfia caffra</i> Sond.	Munadzi (C)	Tree
	<i>Tabernaemontana elegans</i> Stapf.	Muhatu (C)	Tree
	<i>Wrightia natalensis</i> Stapf.	Musunzi (C)	Tree
Asparagaceae	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> (L.)W. Wight	Tshiwamatata (T)	Climber
Burseraceae	<i>Commiphora merkeri</i> Engl.	Mutanyambidi (T)	Tree
Canellaceae	<i>Warburgia salutaris</i> (Bertol.f.) Chiov.	Mulanga (C)	Tree
Capparaceae	<i>Capparis sepiaria</i> L.	Muobadali	Shrub
	<i>Maerua caffra</i> (DC.) Pax	Mutapatila	Shrub
	<i>Maerua edulis</i> Gilg & Gilg-Ben.) DeWolf	Mutshalimela	Shrub
	<i>Maerua juncea</i> Pax	Mukundulela	Shrub
Celastraceae	<i>Elaeodendron transvaalensis</i> (Burt Davy) R.H. Archer	Mukuvhazwivhi, Mungugunu, Mulumanamana, Mulumanama	Tree
	<i>Hippocratea longipetiolata</i> Oliv.	Mutshilari	Shrub
	<i>Maytenus peduncularis</i> (Sond.) Loes.	Mukwatukwatu, Mukwatule	Shrub
	<i>Pleurostyliya capensis</i> (Turcz.) Loes.	Murumelela	Tree
	<i>Salacia rehmannii</i> Schinz	Ntsatshilambe, Mupatapani, Phathatshimima	Shrub
Clusiaceae	<i>Garcinia livingstonei</i> T. Anderson	Mpimbi, Muphiphi	Tree
Cupressaceae	<i>Widdringtonia nodiflora</i> (L.) Powrie	Thaululo	Tree
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Dioscorea drageana</i> (Kunth) Dur. & Schinz	Gambampengo	Climber
Dracaenaceae	<i>Sansevieria hyacinthoides</i> (L.) Druce	Tshiunza, Savha	Herb
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Croton sylvaticus</i> Hochst.	Muruthu	Tree
	<i>Synadenium cupulare</i> (Boiss.) L.C. Wheeler	Mulambamanoni, Muswoswo	Shrub
Flacourtiaceae	<i>Dovyalis caffra</i> (Hook. F. & Harv.) Hook. f.	Mutunu	Tree
Icacinaceae	<i>Pyrenacantha grandiflora</i> Baill.	Gwere, Velavhahleka, Mbengelele	Climber

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Lauraceae	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i> L.	Luangalala	Climber
	<i>Ocotea kenyensis</i> (Chiov.) Robyns	Muangata	Tree
Liliaceae	<i>Ornithogalum ornithogaloides</i> (Kunth) Oberm	Tshihatsitshandila	Herb
Malpighiaceae	<i>Acridocarpus natalitius</i> A.Juss. var. <i>natalitius</i>	Mavhofhe, Mabophe	Shrub
Meliaceae	<i>Trichilia dregeana</i> Sond.	Mutuhu	Tree
Myrothamnaceae	<i>Myrothamnus flabellifolius</i> (Sond.) Welw.	Mafautshivuwa, Mukangambanzhe	Shrub
Ochnaceae	<i>Brackenridgea zanguebarica</i> Oliv.	Mutavhatsindi	Tree
Orchidaceae	<i>Polystachya ottoniana</i> Rehb.f.	Thahame	Orchid
Passifloraceae	<i>Adenia spinosa</i> Burtt Davy	Tshivhuyudumbu	Shrub
Periplocaceae	<i>Mondia whitei</i> (Hook.f.) Skeels	Muungulawe	Climber
Podocarpaceae	<i>Podocarpus latifolius</i> (Thunb.) R.Br. ex Mirb.	Muhovhohovho	Tree
Polygalaceae	<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i> Fresen.	Mpesu	Tree
Rubiaceae	<i>Conostomium natalense</i> (Hochst.) Bremek.	Ndilela, Phandavhashimana	Herb
	<i>Gardenia volkensii</i> K. Schum.	Tshiralala	Tree
Rutaceae	<i>Zanthoxylum capense</i> (Thunb.) Harv.	Munungu	Tree
Santalaceae	<i>Osyris lanceolata</i> Hochst. & Steud.	Mpeta	Shrub
Solanaceae	<i>Withania somnifera</i> (L.) Dunal	Musalamarubini	Shrub
Vitaceae	<i>Rhoicissus tridentata</i> (L.f.) Wild & R.B. Drumm.	Murumbulashedo, Murunganzie Murumbulambudzana	Climber
Zamiaceae	<i>Encephalartos transvenosus</i> Stapf & Burtt Davy	Tshifhanga	Herb