ETHNOBOTANICAL SURVEY OF PLANTS USED IN THE TREATMENT OF PILE IN EDE AND ITS ENVIRONS

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Abstract: Applications of local flora had been a major remedy in treating several ailments including pile in developing countries. In most cases pile is an ailment that often defies conventional drugs thus most people resort to herbs in treating pile and pile related issues. Ethnobotanical survey of plants used in treatment of pile was carried out in Ede and its environment using questionnaires and oral interview among 100 participants from major villages in the two Local Governments in Ede. The participants include traditional medicine practitioners, herbs-sellers and other local dwellers. Information from written questionnaire and oral interview were subjected to analysis using various ethnobotanical parameters such as relative frequency of citation (RFC) and fidelity level (FL). The study revealed a total of 37 plant species of 27 families. Curcubitaceae and Fabaceae were found to be most prominent among the families with 3 species each. Other families include 2 species each, of Amarylidaceae, Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, Combretaceae, Lamiaceae and Zingiberaceae. Most of the identified species had been used severally by the traditional medicine practitioners and local dwellers and had been declared to be effective. About 16.21% of the plants are being reported for the first time in treating pile while 83.79% have been documented in literature to be effective in treating pile. Thus, the study revealed the abundance and wide spread use of plant species in treating pile in the study area. These species of plants could serve as treasures for pharmaceutical companies.
Keywords: Curcurbitaceae, Ethnobotanical, Fabaceae, local-flora and pile.