

Only Summary and Use of the plants are included in this copy  
Encoded in the data bank Prélude on reference **HQ 03**

Economic Botany 42 (3), 1988, pp. 370-375

## **Ethnomedicine in the Maroantsetra Region of Madagascar**

NAT. QUANSAH

---

Ethnomedicinal information was collected from the Betsimisaraka - the inhabitants of the Maroantsetra Region in the northeastern part of Madagascar - during a recent expedition to the region. In spite of the inhabitants' rich knowledge of and willingness to discuss medicinal uses of plants, from both disturbed areas and undisturbed primary rainforests, it was found that much ethnomedicinal information has not been documented. There is an urgent need to further develop and document this ethnomedicinal information and also to protect the medicinal plants, some of which could be lost as a result of deforestation and invasion by foreign weed species.

---

PLANTS USED MEDICINALLY BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE MAROANTSETRA REGION (THE BETSIMISARAKA) IN THE NORTHEAST OF MADAGASCAR.

Anacardiaceae

Unidentified/**rakomotro**/Tree/Bark is boiled, liquid strained and used as a mouthwash to treat toothache/NMW.86.74.1.

Compositae

*Elephantopus scaber* L./**ahiboka, fandosimasitraomby** /NMW.86.74.2.

Herb/Extract from fresh leaves drunk to treat dysentery

Connaraceae

*Agelaea pentagyna* D.C./**vahamainty**/ NMW.86.74.3.

Climber/Stem is cut into pieces and boiled, liquid strained and drunk to treat stomach-ache

Euphorbiaceae

*Phyllanthus* sp./**ambanivihy, mandrihartvav**/NMW.86.74.4.

Herb/Entire plant is boiled and the beverage is drunk to treat fever in children

Unidentified/**ankangarano**/Shrub and *Jatropha* sp./**valavelona**/Shrub/NMW.86.74.5, 86.74.6.

Equal proportions of the shoots of both plants are boiled together, the liquid is strained and used to massage all joints affected by rheumatism or arthritis

Lamiaceae

*Ocimum gratissimum* L./**rombav** /NMW.86.74.7.

Herb/Shoot put in boiled water, the resulting vapour inhaled for the treatment of blocked (stuffy) nose (cold) and headache

Leeaceae

*Lea guineensis* Don ex Engler/**maimbohavana** /NMW.86.74.9.

Shrub/Bark ground and placed on deep wounds for skin regrowth (regeneration)

Lycopodiaceae

*Lycopodium cernuum* L./**anatrandraka** /NMW.86.74.10.

Dried plant boiled and beverage drunk to treat nervous disorders

Melastomataceae

*Clidemia hirta* (L.) D.Don /**trotrobato, tsitotroko**/NMW.86.74.11

Herb/Fresh leaves crushed and applied directly on bleeding wounds to stop the bleeding.

Fresh leaves also dried on flame then ground into powder and applied in small quantities under the tongue to relieve pains in the lung.

*Tristemma virusanum* Comm./**vatrotroka**/ NMW.86.74.12

Herb/Leaves are used as substitute for toilet paper/

Menispermaceae

*Burasaia madagascariensis* D.C./**hazon-dahy**/NMW.86.74.13.

Tree/Bark is boiled and beverage drunk to treat dysentery

#### Moraceae

*Ficus* sp./**voararano**/NMW.86. 74.14

Tree/Bark is boiled and beverage drunk to treat abdominal (menstrual) pains and also to hasten the healing process of the womb after childbirth (tone-up the uterus)

#### Myristicaceae

*Brochoneura* sp./**malamanitra**/NMW.86.74.15

Tree/Sap is applied directly on gums to treat sores on gums and in the mouth.

*Brochoneura rarabe* H. Perr./**raraha**/NMW.86. 74.8.

Tree/Sap is applied directly on gums to treat sores on gums and in mouth.

It is also applied on tongue to treat breathing difficulty in children due to chest pain

#### Myrtaceae

*Melaleuca viridiflora* Gaertn./**kininiua**/NMW.86.74.16

Tree/Shoot is put in boiled water and the resulting vapour inhaled for the treatment of blocked (stuffy) nose.

*Psidium guajava* Berg./**goavy**(Tree)/NMW.86.74.17.

Extract of young leaves is drunk for the treatment of diarrhoea (dysentery)

#### Poaceae

*Eleusine indica* L./**tsiavotraombilahy**/

Grass/Entire plant is boiled and used to treat sprains.

#### Schizaeaceae

*Lygodium lanceolatum* Desv./**pamahitra-ankanga**/NMW .86. 74.18.

Climbing fern/Dried plant is put in boiled water and the beverage drunk to treat stomach and liver ailments

#### Solanaceae

*Solanum indicum* L./**angivy**/NMW.86.74.19.

Herb/Extract of fresh leaves is applied on wounds as an antibiotic to treat persisting wounds

#### Strelitziaceae

*Ravenala madagascariensis* Adans./**ravenala**/

Tree/the pith of shoot is cooked and eaten with meal to restore one's lost appetite (to treat anorexia).

Also added to the feed of cattle and pigs to fatten them up.

#### Zingiberaceae

*Clinogyne comorensis* H. Perr./**tsintombamba**/ NMW.86.74.20

Herb/Ripe fruits are swallowed to prevent the formation of abscesses (boils) on any part of the body.

## Unidentified Plants

### **Andramena/**

Tree/Wood is ground into powder, mixed with water, and drunk to treat stomach-ache. Wood is also ground with a drop or two of water and rubbed on soft spot on baby's head (fontanel), to treat fever in babies.

### **Vazano/**

Tree/Bark is boiled and beverage drunk to treat waist and lower back pains.

### **Voasiorindrina/**

Tree/Bark is boiled and beverage drunk to treat diarrhoea.