

## ABSTRACT

### **Ethnobotanical Survey of Medicinal Plants used by Traditional Healers of South Unguja Region in Zanzibar**

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The rapid increasing of awareness on the use of medicinal plants in today's medical practice has urged the researchers to conduct ethno botanical investigation so as to reveal the knowledge possessed by the traditional healers on medicinal plants. The study is intended to collect substantial information on application of medicinal plants used by traditional healers of South Region of Unguja, Zanzibar. Interviews were held whereby the participants were purposively selected through the help of the local people and village leaders.

The interviews were conducted in Swahili language to abridge the communication. Triangulation research methodologies were used for qualitative, quantitative and observational approach whereby structured questioners were used to collect information using kobo system (digitalized system of data collection). A total of 63 Shehias of South Unguja region were visited and 252 Traditional healers were interviewed to get required information based on ethnomedicinal information, vernacular names, plant parts used, mode of preparations, and ways of remedy administration.

Males traditional healers contributed about 73% of collected information of ethnobotanical uses of medicinal plants and only 27% contributed by female respondents. Fifteen (15) diseases treated with different medicinal plants has been reported in this study including blood pressure, respiratory tract infections, vaginal infections, **diabetes**, malaria, asthma, urinary tract infections, sexual transmitted disease, oral infection, skin disorder, abdominal pain, wound, eye disorder, ulcer and ear disorder. A total of 78 families were identified from the medicinal plants collected on this study. Leaves (44%) and roots (35%) have been observed to be the most plant parts commonly used for medicine by Traditional healers.

The basic information of medicinal plants identified by traditional healers of South Unguja will be useful by the Government, stakeholders and partners to conduct more research regarding the medicinal plants.