

Ethnobotanical Survey of Medicinal Plants Used in Curing Some Diseases in Infants in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria

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Abstract

An ethnobotanical survey of medicinal plants used in curing some diseases in infants in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria was carried out between February and June, 2012. Ethnobotanical data were collected by oral interview with the aid of a semi-structured questionnaire administered to fifty (50) respondents made up of traditional medical practitioners (TMPs), herbalists and herb sellers. From the survey, a total of 63 plant species belonging to 33 families were found to be useful in the treatment of cold, malaria, fontanel, diarrhoea, typhoid, chicken pox, measles and small pox. Recipes used in the treatment of these ailments were documented. Herbal remedies were either prepared from dry or freshly collected plants while the traditional solvents of choice includes water, pure honey, lime and aqueous extracts from fermented maize. The methods of preparation were decoction and infusion while method of administration ranges from 1 drop to 1 teaspoonful daily. Survey revealed that leaves form the major part of plant for herbal preparations. Residents in the study area find the traditional medicine cheaper as compared to orthodox medicines. It is therefore implicated that efforts should be made on how to improve on documentation, conservation and standardization of the medicinal plants in Nigeria. Also, attention of the scientists and health officials should be drawn to the importance and various uses of the medicinal plants and they should intensify on the research to reveal other concealed values.

Keywords

Ethnobotany, Survey, Medicinal Plant, Abeokuta, Nigeria

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1. Introduction

The term ethnobotany was first coined by an American botanist John Harshburger, in 1896, in an attempt to study the plants used by the primitive and aboriginal people. Since then, it has been defined as the traditional knowledge of indigenous communities, about surrounding plant diversity and how various people make use of indigenous plants found in their localities. Ethnobotany involves the study of how communities of a particular region make use of indigenous plants in the region for food, clothing and medicine [1].

Plants are significant sources of medicines that are used in the treatment of various categories of human diseases. Historically all medicinal preparations were derived from plants, whether in the simple form of plant parts or in the more complex form of crude extracts, mixtures, etc. Today a substantial number of drugs are developed from plants which are active against number of diseases [2].

The majority of these involve the isolation of the active ingredient (chemical compound) found in a particular medicinal plant and its subsequent modification. In the developed countries 25% of the medical drugs are based on plants and their derivatives [2] and the use of medicinal plants is well known among the indigenous people in rural areas of many developing countries. Plants, especially the higher ones have been described as the sleeping giants of drug and these medicinal plants have been screened for their chemicals that are potentially potent [3]. Many of the medicinal plants, especially in Nigeria have been documented [4]. The importance of medicinal plants, and the contribution of phytomedicine to the well-being of a significant number of the world's population, has attracted interest from a variety of disciplines [5].

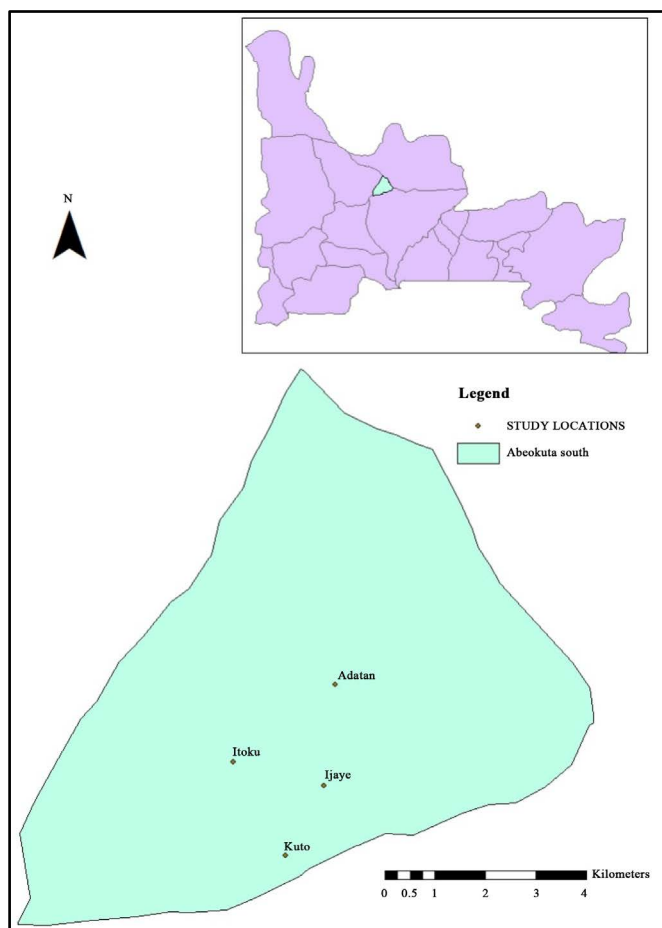
Infancy, a period marked by the most rapid physical growth and development of a person's life. In Nigeria the need to reduce infant and child morbidity and mortality is one of the greatest challenges confronting the Federal government. It has been estimated that the mortality rate of children below five years of age in Nigeria hovers between 97 and 120 per thousand births [6] [7]. The greatest health challenge to the Federal government of Nigeria is to reduce this rate to the barest minimum; but despite the efforts of various successive governments to tackle the problem, the results have been dismally poor. Various researchers who are interested in maternal and child health in Nigeria have identified some key factors that may be adduced to this problem and some of these factors include poverty [8]; ignorance by mothers [9]; and the lack of political will by the Federal government [10]. For these and other similar reasons, morbidity and mortality from childhood diseases continue their debilitating effects on the health of young children. The major causes of poor health and premature death among children in the developing world are not rare or exotic diseases. Millions of children in developing countries die each year from common illnesses such as malaria, measles, convulsion, mumps, mouth ulcer, chicken pox, kwashiorkor, small pox, cholera, pertussis (whooping cough), diarrhea, pneumonia, and especially in sub-Saharan Africa-malaria. Newborns die from delivery complications, cold, tetanus and infections. Thus the aim of this study was to document the medicinal plants used for the treatment of some diseases in infants from Nigeria flora.

2. Materials and Methods

Ethnobotanical survey was carried out between February 2012 and June 2012 to obtain relevant information about medicinal plants used in the treatment of various diseases in infant in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. Data collected was based on oral interview with the aid of semi-structured questionnaire from respondents. Plants specimens indicated in the recipes were collected, pressed, mounted, identified and authenticated using their local names and standard text [11]. Voucher specimens were deposited at forestry and wildlife herbarium of the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta.

2.1. Study Area

The survey was carried out in Itoku (7.15662°N, 3.34135°E), Kuto (7.13943°N, 3.35074°E), Adatan (7.17070°N, 3.35960°E) and Ijaye (7.15221°N, 3.35757°E) all in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. Abeokuta is located within Latitude 7.1608°N and Longitude 3.3483°E. Abeokuta is surrounded by large mass of rocks and has a population of about six hundred thousand people [12]. The city covers the geopolitical areas of Abeokuta North and Abeokuta South Local Government Areas of Ogun State. The Yorubas are the main ethnics in the area but the original settlers are those of the Egba Yoruba dialect who founded the historic city. The dialectical groups in the area include Egbado, Ijebu, Egba, Remo, Oyo (Owu), Awori, Ikale and Ilaje. The people are known for traditional arts, carving and sculpturing [13].



2.2. Ethical Approval

The purpose of the study was explained to the respondents (Herb sellers, traditional medical practitioner and herbalist) in the Local Government Area and informed consent was obtained from each of the respondents.

2.3. Administration of Questionnaire

Fifty-two (52) people were selected from these four study area. 13 people from each location. Ethnobotanical information on the plants was obtained from 50 respondents out of the total selected. These constituted the Traditional Medicinal Practitioners (TMPs), herb sellers and herbalists. The use of semi-structured questionnaire and oral interview were adopted to obtain relevant ethno medicinal data. The questionnaires were administered to the respondents. The questionnaire was divided into three sections.

Section 1 deals with demographic information such as age, sex, religion, nationality, practice specification, duration of practice and educational background.

Section 2 consist of professional experience on the treatment of diseases and includes question such as type of diseases treated, frequency of treatment, use of herbal therapy alone or otherwise, duration of treatment, accompanied side effects, accompanied verbal instructions, plant part(s) frequently used, availability of plants/plant part(s) and knowledge of treatment.

In Section 3, plants and recipes used in the treatment of common diseases, herbal preparation, arrangement of plant part(s) ingredient, traditional solvent of choice, traditional extraction methods/method of preparation and method of administration were considered.

In terms of educational background, majority of the respondent were not literate. The questionnaire was translated and interpreted to them orally in the local language and responses filled into the questionnaire after each interview.

2.4. Data Analysis

All data were entered and verified using Epi-Info software (version 6.04; Centers for Disease Control Prevention, Atlanta, GA) and analyzed using SPSS version 16.0 for windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

3. Results

Demography/Personal Information on Respondents

The survey showed a total of 50 respondents, interviewed through the use of semi-structure questionnaire. The respondents were mainly herb sellers (80%), Traditional Medical Practitioners (TMPs) (12%), TMPs/herb sellers (4%) and herbalists (4%). The demographic survey of respondents was represented in **Table 1**.

Table 2 showed the professional experience of respondents. The survey showed that only 2% of the respondents use other therapies such as incantations to aid treatment of their patients. The survey also showed that (80%) inherited their knowledge of herbal treatment from their ancestors while (10%) got the knowledge from formal training, (8%) both from formal training and ancestors while (2%) claimed that their knowledge was from divination. Also (94%) of the respondents documented no accompanied side effects while (4%) indicated nausea/vomiting as accompanied side effect.

The entire survey revealed that a total of 63 medicinal plant species from 36 families were used by the various practitioners. Botanical names, local names, common names, family, growth form and plant part used were presented in **Table 3**. **Table 4** showed the species distribution according to their families while **Table 5** revealed the percentage of plant growth form and plant part used in the treatment of the common diseases in infants. **Table 6** showed the ailments, enumeration of recipes, methods of preparation and mode of administration.

4. Discussion

Plants have been a major source of medicine for human kind. The demand for traditional herbs is increasing very rapidly, mainly because of the harmful effects of synthetic chemical drugs. The global clamor for more herbal ingredients creates possibilities for the local cultivation of medicinal and aromatic crops as well as for the regulated and sustainable harvest of wild plants. Such endeavors could help raise rural employment in the developing countries, boost commerce around the world and perhaps contribute to the health of millions [14]. Ni-

Table 1. Demographic structure of the respondents on the knowledge of plants used in the treatment infant diseases.

Parameter	Specification	N (%)
Practice specification	Herb sellers	40 (80)
	Traditional medical practitioners	6 (12)
	Traditional medical practitioners/Herb sellers	2 (4)
	Herbalists	2 (4)
Sex	Male	10 (20)
	Female	40 (80)
Age (years)	1 - 20	1 (2)
	21 - 40	18 (36)
	40 - 60	25 (50)
	>60	6 (12)
Religion	Islam	12 (24)
	Christianity	10 (20)
	Traditional	28 (56)
Nationality	Nigerian	50 (100)

N = number of respondents; % = percentage of respondents.

Table 2. Professional experience of the respondents on the knowledge of plants used in the treatment infant diseases.

Parameters	Specification	N (%)
Frequency of treatment	Regular	44 (88)
	Irregular	6 (12)
Duration of treatment (Days)	1	3 (6)
	2 - 3	39 (58)
	4 - 5	4 (8)
Other treatments apart from herbs	Divination/Oracle/Incantation/Animal part	1 (2)
	None	49 (98)
Source of knowledge	Parental	40 (80)
	Training	5 (10)
	Parental/Training	4 (8)
	Divination	1 (2)
Availability of plant/plant parts	Forest	6 (12)
	Around house/Home garden	10 (20)
	Market	34 (68)
Accompanied side effects	Nausea/Vomiting	2 (4)
	Others	1 (2)
	None	47 (94)

N = number of respondents; % = percentage of respondents.

geria is endowed with an enormous diversity of animals and plants, both domesticated and wild, and an impressive variety of habitats and ecosystems. This heritage sustains the food, medicinal, clothing, shelter, spiritual, recreational, and other needs of her population [15].

Respondents gave local names of plants in recipes used in the treatment of some infant diseases. This was in consonance with Singh (2008) [16] who reported that plants are generally known by their local names in every part of the world. The local names play a vital role in ethnobotanical study of a specific tribe or region. Although local names are not recommended directly for scientific accounts as they lack uniformity and consistency, yet they may certainly be considered as a useful tool for search of new useful plants or new uses of known plants [17]. Local names render a useful service as a means of reference by local people in a particular area.

This work revealed that majority (80%) of the respondents acquired the source of knowledge from their ancestral via verbal transfer. Ogbole and Ajaiyeoba (2010) [18] had earlier reported that knowledge of the uses of plants, which is sometimes jealously guarded by their owners, is a tradition passed on from one generation to the other by verbal transfer, the changes imposed by modern life on social structures and attitudes now seems to be the cause of the loss or rejection of such indigenous practices.

The study also showed that quite a number of plant parts from the 63 species especially the leaves, roots and stem barks have been found to be efficient in the management of various diseases in infants in the Local Government Area. Information gathered from respondents showed that increasing number of people is turning to herbal remedies for prevention and cure of various diseases. The 63 medicinal plants mentioned were represented by all plants forms. Trees were found to be the most used plants followed by shrubs, herbs, underground stem, grass, climber, creeper and weed.

The various plants parts mentioned include bulb, fruit, leaves, rhizome, root, seed, stem bark and whole plants. It was observed that leaves formed the most frequently used (47.62%), followed by stem bark (23.81%), seed (7.93%), roots (6.34%), fruits (4.76%), bulb, rhizome and whole plants (3.17% each). The plant leaves are important ingredient in traditional treatment of various diseases as it features as a component in many herbal prep-

Table 3. Enumeration of plants used for the treatment of some common diseases in infants by the people of Abeokuta South Local Government Area.

Botanical Name	Local Name	Common Name	Family	Habit	Part(s) Used
<i>Mangifera indica</i> Linn.	Mangoro	Mango	Anarcadaceae	Tree	Stem bark, leaves
<i>Lannea welnitschii</i> (Hiern) Engl	Orira	Kumbi	Anarcadaceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Spondias mombin</i> Linn.	Iyeye	Hog plum	Anarcadaceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Uvariachamea</i> P. Beauv.	Eruju	Cluster pear	Annonaceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Xylopii aethiopia</i> (Dun.) A. Rich.	Eru	Ethiopian pepper	Annonaceae	Tree	Seed
<i>Monodora myristica</i> Dunal	Ariwo	Calabash nutmeg	Annonaceae	Tree	Seed
<i>Alstonia boonei</i> R. Br.	Ahun	Pattern wood	Apocynaceae	Tree	Stem bark, leaves
<i>Rauwolfia vomitoria</i> Afzel.	Asofeyeje	African rauwolfia	Apocynaceae	Shrub	Stem bark, leaves
<i>Calotropis procera</i> R. Br	Bomubomu	Milk weed	Apocynaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Picralima nitida</i> Stapf Th. & H. Dur.	Abere	Picralima	Apocynaceae	Tree	Seed
<i>Aristolochia ringens</i> Vahl.	Akogun	Dutchman's pipe	Aristolochiaceae	Climber	Root
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (L.) King & H. E. Robins.	Akintolataku	Siam weed	Asteraceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Agerantum conyzoides</i> Linn.	Imi-esu	Goat weed	Asteraceae	Herb	Leaves
<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> Delile	Ewuro	Bitter leaf	Asteraceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Kigelia africana</i> (Lam.) Benth.	Pandoro	Sausage tree	Bignoniaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Carica papaya</i> Linn.	Ibepe	Pawpaw	Caricaceae	Tree	Fruit, leaves
<i>Hippocrateae indica</i> (Hutch. & M. B. Moss)	Ponjuowiwi	Bitter sweet	Celestraceae	Shrub	Root and leaves
<i>Terminalia avicennioides</i> Guill. & Perr.	Idin	Baushe	Combretaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Guiera senegalensis</i> J. F. Gmel.	Saabara	Moshi medicine	Combretaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Mormodica charantia</i> Descourt.	Ejinrin-wewe	Bitter gourd	Cucurbitaceae	Creeper	Leaves
<i>Lagenaria breviflorus</i> (Benth.) Roberty	Itagiri	Pseudococcyth	Cucurbitaceae	Creeper	Fruit
<i>Kyllingia nemoralis</i> Dandy ex Hutch. & Dalziel	Keregun	White water sedge	Cyperaceae	Weed	Seed
<i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i> (Muell. Arg.) Fosberg.	Jinwini	Copper leaf	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Manihot esculentum</i> Crantz.	Paki	Cassava	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (L.) Roxb	Ayo	Gray nicker	Fabaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn.	Aidan-toro	Golden shower	Fabaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Daniella oliveri</i> (Rolfe) Hutch. & Dalz.	Uya/Iya	Copaibalsam	Fabaceae	Tree	Stem bark, Leaves
<i>Prosopis africana</i> (Guill. & Perr.) Taub.	Ayan	African prosopis	Fabaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Baphianitida</i> Lodd.	Irosun	Camwood	Fabaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Pilostigma reticulatum</i> (DC.) Hochst.	Abafe	Pilostigma	Fabaceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (L.) Millsp.	Otili	Pigeon pea	Fabaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Harungana madagascariensis</i> Lam. ex Poiret	Asunje	Dragon blood tree	Hypericiaceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> Linn.	Efinrin	Scent leaf	Lamiaceae	Shrub	Leaves

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<i>Persia americana</i> Miller	Apoka	Avocado pear	Lauraceae	Tree	Leaves, root
<i>Allium sativum</i> (Linn)	Ayu	Garlic	Liliaceae	Underground stem	Bulb
<i>Allium ascalonicum</i> Linn.	Alubosaelewe	Shallot	Liliaceae	Stem	Bulb, leaves
<i>Lawsoniainermis</i> Linn.	Laali	Henna plant	Lythraceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Azadirachthaindica</i> (L.) Adelb	Dongoyaro	Neem tree	Meliaceae	Tree	Leaves, stem bark
<i>Pseudocedrelakotschyi</i> (Schweinf.) Harms	Emigbegiri	Pseudocedra	Meliaceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Khayagradiifolia</i> C. DC.	Oganwo	Khaya	Meliaceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Chasmantheradependens</i> Hochst.	Owoh		Menispermaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Sphenocentrumjollyanum</i> Pierre	Akerejupon	Sphenocentrum	Menispermaceae	Tree	Leaves, root, seed
<i>Ficuscapensis</i> Linn.	Opoto	Ree	Moraceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Ficusthonningii</i> Blume	Odan	Umbrella thorn	Moraceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Eugenia aromatica</i> (L.) Merrill & Perry	Kanafuru	Clove	Myrtaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Psidiumguajava</i> Linn.	Gilova	Guava	Myrtaceae	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Schreberaarborea</i> A Chev.	Opele	Mulere	Oleacea	Tree	Stem bark
<i>Lophiraindica</i> Banks ex Gaertn.	Panhan	Iron wood	Onchnaceae	Tree	Stem bark, root
<i>Argemonemexicana</i> Linn.	Mafovokanmomi	Mexican poppy	Papaveraceae	Herb	Leaves
<i>Petiveraalliacea</i> Linn.	Awopa	Anamu	Phytoloccaceae	Tree	Stem bark, leaves
<i>Cymbopogoncitratus</i> (DC.) Stapf	Ewe tee	Lemon grass	Poaceae	Grass	Leaves
<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i> Schrad. ex J. C. Wendl	Oparun	Bamboo	Poaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Bryophyllumpinnatum</i> (Lam.) Oken	Abamoda, odundu	Resurrection plant	Poaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench	Poroporobaba	Sorghum	Poaceae	Grass	Leaves
<i>Parinaricuratellaefolia</i> Planch. ex Benth.	Abo-idofun	Rough-skinned	Rosaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Nauclealatifolia</i> (Smith)	Egbesi	Africa peach	Rubiaceae	Tree	Root, stem bark and leaves
<i>Morindalucida</i> Benth.	Oruwo	Brimstone Tree	Rubiaceae	Tree	Leaves
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> (Christm. & Panzer)	Osanwewe	Lime	Rutaceae	Tree	Fruit
<i>Nicotianatabacum</i> Linn.	Kataba	Tobacco	Solanaceae	Herb	Leaves
<i>Solanumamericanus</i> Mill.	Odu	Wonder berry	Solanaceae	Shrub	Leaves
<i>Aframomummelegueta</i> K. Schum.	Atare	Alligator pepper	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Leaves, whole plant
<i>Curcuma longa</i> Linn.	Atale pupa	Tumeric	Zingiberaceae	Underground stem	Rhizome
<i>Zingiberofficinale</i> Roscoe	Atale	Ginger	Zingiberaceae	Stem	Rhizome

arations. This finding concurred with other studies such as [19].

However, most informants opined that there is no side effect in taking herbal recipes.

Some of the plants revealed in the survey have been cited in the ethnobotanical survey of some African countries, for example in the treatment of measles, jaundice, polymylitis, yellow fever, chicken pox [19], anti malaria [20]. The prominent plant species are *Cajanuscajan*, *Allium sativum*, *Carica papaya*, *Momordicacharantia*, *Garcina kola*, *Vernonia amygdalina* and *Aframomum melegueta*.

One of the recipes is prepared from a single plant source (*Parinari curatellaefolia*) while some others are in

Table 4. Species distribution according to families of plants used for the treatment of some common diseases in infants.

Family	Number of species
Anarcadaceae	3
Annonaceae	3
Apocynaceae	4
Aristolochiaceae	1
Asteraceae	3
Bignoniaceae	1
Caricaceae	1
Celestraceae	1
Combretaceae	2
Crassulaceae	1
Cucurbitaceae	2
Cyperaceae	1
Euphorbiaceae	2
Fabaceae	7
Hypericaceae	1
Lamiaceae	1
Lauraceae	1
Liliaceae	2
Lythraceae	1
Meliaceae	3
Menispermaceae	2
Moraceae	2
Myrtaceae	2
Oleaceae	1
Onchnaceae	1
Papaveraceae	1
Phytoloccaceae	1
Poaceae	3
Rosaceae	1
Rubiaceae	2
Rutaceae	1
Solanaceae	2
Zingiberaceae	3

Table 5. Percentage of plant growth form and plant part used in the treatment of some common diseases in infants by people of Abeokuta South Local Government.

Plant growth form	N (%)	Plant part	N (%)
Climber	2 (3)	Bulb	2 (3)
Creeper	1 (2)	Fruit	3 (5)
Grass	2 (3)	Leaves	30 (48)
Herb	5 (8)	Rhizome	2 (3)
Shrub	12 (19)	Root	4 (6)
Tree	36 (57)	Seed	5 (8)
Underground stem	4 (6)	Stem bark	15 (24)
Weed	1 (2)	Whole plant	2 (3)

N = number of plant growth form or plant part; % = percentage of plant growth form or plant part.

Table 6. Enumeration of recipes, method of preparation, mode of administration used in the treatment of some infant diseases among the residents of Abeokuta South Local Government.

Disease	Recipe	Traditional Solvent of Choice	Method of Preparation	Mode of Administration
Common Cold	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Pure honey	Juice	Give little quantity to baby
	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Water	Decoction	Put it on the baby's nose, chest and back
Fever	<i>Allium sativum</i> , <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	Water	Decoction	Give little quantity to baby
	<i>Nauclea latifolia</i> , <i>Hippocrateae indica</i> , <i>Petivera alliacea</i> , <i>Mangifera indica</i> , <i>Aframomum meleguata</i> , <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	Water	Decoction	Give little quantity to baby
Diarrhoea	<i>Terminalia avicennioides</i> , <i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	Water	Infusion	Give little quantity to baby
	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i> , <i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> , <i>Prosopis africana</i>	Water	Decoction	Give little quantity to baby
Skin Rashes	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Water	Decoction	Use for baby bath
	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Palm oil	Grinding	Apply paste externally
	<i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i>	Water	Decoction	Use for baby bath every morning
	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Water	Decoction	Use for baby bath every morning
	<i>Daniella oliveri</i> , <i>Nauclea latifolia</i> , <i>Pseudocedrelakotschyi</i> , <i>Terminalia avicennioides</i> , <i>Ficus capensis</i> , <i>Mangifera indica</i> , <i>Uvariachamaea</i> , <i>Pilostigma reticulatum</i> , <i>Xylopiiaethiopica</i>	Water	Decoction	Use for baby bath
Measles	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> , <i>Baphianitida</i> , <i>Caesalpinia bonduca</i> , <i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> , <i>Bambusa vulgaris</i> , <i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i> , <i>Lagenaria breviflorus</i> , <i>Argemone mexicana</i> , <i>Manihot esculentum</i>	Water/Black soap	Decoction/ Grinding	Boil all the recipes except <i>Manihot esculentum</i> . Give little quantity to baby and mix grinded <i>Manihot esculentum</i> with black soap to bath the baby every morning
	<i>Lophira indica</i> , <i>Mangifera indica</i> , <i>Khaya gradifolia</i> , <i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	Water	Decoction	Give baby little quantity to drink and use the remaining to bath the baby
	<i>Hippocrateae indica</i> , <i>Chasmanthera dependes</i> , <i>Nauclea latifolia</i> , <i>Petivera alliacea</i> , <i>Cassia fistula</i> , <i>Alstonia boonei</i> , <i>Curcuma longa</i> , <i>Lagenaria breviflorus</i> , <i>Mangifera indica</i> , <i>Sphenocentrum jollyanum</i>	Water	Decoction	Give little quantity to baby
	<i>Persia americana</i> , <i>Guiera senegalensis</i> , <i>Bambusa vulgaris</i> , <i>Lannea welnitschii</i> , <i>Schrebera arborea</i>	Water	Decoction	Give little quantity to baby
	<i>Allium ascalonicum</i> , <i>Allium sativum</i> , <i>Kyllinganemorals</i> , <i>Xylopiiaethiopica</i>	Paste	Grinding	Paste is applied externally to the abdominal cord.

Continued

	<i>Rauwolfiavomitoria</i> , <i>Aristolochiarogens</i> , <i>Allium ascalonicum</i> , <i>Eugenia</i> <i>aromatica</i> , <i>Sphenocentrumjollyanum</i> , <i>Picalimanitida</i> , <i>Monodoramyristica</i> , <i>Morindalucida</i>	Water	Infusion	Give little quantity to baby
Jaundice	<i>Lawsoniainermis</i> , <i>Solanumamericanus</i> , <i>Harunganamadagascariasis</i>	Water	Decoction	Give little quantity to baby
	<i>Vernoniaamygdalina</i> , <i>Zingiberofficinale</i> , <i>Psidiumguajava</i> , <i>Mangiferaindica</i> , <i>Azadiracthaindica</i> , <i>Alstoniaboonei</i> , <i>Calotropisprocera</i> , <i>Rauwolfiavomitoria</i> , <i>Khayagradifolia</i> , <i>Spondiasmombim</i> , <i>Ficusthonningii</i> , <i>Ocimumgratissimum</i>	Water	Decoction	Give little quantity to baby
Poliomyelitis	<i>Kigeliaafricana</i> , <i>Aframomummeleguata</i> , <i>Nicotianatobaccum</i>		Strong heating	Ashes from burnt leaves are used to rub the affected parts
Cough	<i>Parinaricuratellaefolia</i>	Water	Infusion	Give little quantity to baby

combinations with other common plants. Method of preparation varies decoctions and infusions are the most frequently used methods.

Some of the challenges encountered in the course of this survey include: respondents not willing to give relevant information due to fear of losing their major source of their income, some demanded money prior to interview as they claimed to have “intellectual properties” stocked with knowledge of medicinal plants, while some castigated government for neglecting them and sending researchers to come and exploit their ethnomedicinal knowledge. Also, some herbalists/TMPs preferred sharing the knowledge on a television programme rather than disseminating ethnomedicinal information to researchers. This they claimed will also help to advertise their names and services.

5. Conclusion

The survey has added more to the existing discoveries of the relevance of plants and its usefulness in the treatment of some infant diseases among the residents of Abeokuta South Local Government. The therapeutic claimed recipes incorporated in the study need to be evaluated through phytochemical, pharmacological investigation to discover their active compounds.

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