**Flora diversity of Ijero Local Government Area of Ekiti State, South-Western Nigeria**

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**Abstract:** In an attempt to keep biodiversity records of our world today, species diversity studies have remained important in the face of climate change and habitat degradation resulting from urbanization and other human activities. Consequently, we surveyed to document the plants of Ijero Local Government Area (Ekiti State), an area that has been poorly studied in South-Western Nigeria. The study area was periodically visited over 18 months and all identified species were carefully documented. One hundred and sixty-three (163) species in forty-six (46) families, one hundred and thirty (130) genera were recorded. These species are represented in seven (7) plant habits. The trees were dominant followed by the herbs, shrubs and climbers. The dominant families were Euphorbiaceae, Asteraceae and Caesalpinaceae, with 17, 13 and 10 species respectively. Asteraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Papilionaceae and Rubiaceae also all had the highest number of genera represented, with 12, 10, 9 and 6 respectively. Generally, the Legumes collectively contributed 25 species (15.3%) of the total enumeration. This study has not only added to the existing records of floristic data in south-western Nigeria, but it is the first of its kind in the study area.

**Keywords:** Biodiversity - Flora - Legumes - Conservation.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Accessing the World’s genetic resources has continued to gain remarkable interest among scientists. Nigeria has several biodiversity hotspots that are yet to be assessed. Although data on the country’s flora are available (Anoliefo *et al.* 2006, Soladoye *et al.* 2011, Ariwaodo *et al.* 2012a, Soladoye *et al.* 2013, Soladoye *et al.* 2015, Iyagin & Adekunle 2017), they are inadequate and incomplete. For successful management and effective utilization of any resource, there is a need for an inventory of such resources (Soladoye *et al.* 2011). The value of any biodiversity analysis and the adequacy of conservation measures, largely depend on the quality of basic data as noted by Valdecasas & Camacho (2003). Similarly, Oduwaiye & Ajibode (2005) opined that the forest reserves in Nigeria and protected forests outside the reserve provide a lot of tangible and intangible benefits of forest products, and the sustenance of these resources depends on conservation or other management techniques employed. Forests are therefore essential in maintaining environmental stability, provision of raw materials for wood-based industries and provision of livelihood, food and employment for man, especially in the rural areas. Previous studies have shown that south-western Nigeria accommodates a large number of species which are economically and medicinally useful especially to the common man (Ariwaodo *et al.* 2012a, b, Soladoye *et al.* 2015, Chukwuma & Adebisi-Fagbohungbe 2015). It is important to note that knowledge of the floristic composition and structure of the forest is useful in identifying and monitoring the state of the forests (Ssegawa & Nkutu 2006) and this has become very crucial in the face of the ever-increasing threat to the forest ecosystem.
and eventual species extinction. As clearly put by Kimmlins (1987), we do not know how to recreate a species once it has become extinct. Soladoye & Lewis (2003) also noted that it is wise to have an inventory of our biodiversity and to make an appropriate recommendation for the preservation of the species which will be enormous to encompass the local variation of genotypes and which will further ensure the survival of the angiosperm genetic diversity of an area. The present study thus, takes into account the floristic diversity of a poorly studied area of South-western Nigeria in an attempt to update existing floristic data of the zone. This work also aimed at forming a baseline data for future biodiversity studies within the study area and the adjoining towns.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study site

Ijero Local Government Area is located on Latitude 7°49′N and Longitude 5° 05′ E in the Northwestern part of Ekiti (Fig. 1). The area is bordered by Moba, Ido-Osi, Irepodun/Ifelodun and Ekiti West local government areas of the state. The study area has been reported to be rich in mineral resources such as Tin, Columbite, Tantalite, industrial feldspar, ceramic, clays, kaolin bery (aquamarine), smoky quartz, amongst others but these have not been exploited for commercial purpose (https://ekitistate.gov.ng). The area is also characterised by forested areas in-between towns and villages and accommodates several typical forest species.

Figure 1. Map of Ekiti State showing location of the study area.

Species enumeration

The survey involved repeated visits to the study area to ensure that nearly all existing tracheophytes are recorded. This was embarked upon for 18 months (December, 2018 – May, 2019) to ensure that the two climatic seasons (rainy and dry) in Nigeria are considered. Species were identified on the field using taxonomic keys provided in Hutchinson et al. (1954, 1958, 1963, 1968 & 1972), Stanfield (1970), Lowe & Stanfield (1974), and Keay (1989), while others were taken to the Forest Herbarium Ibadan (FHI) (Holmgren et al. 1990) for proper identification. All scientific names were also checked and verified from the International Plant Name Index (IPNI) website (http://www.ipni.org).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of one hundred and sixty-three (163) species in forty-six (46) families and one hundred and thirty (130) genera were recorded from the survey (Table 1). These species cut across seven (7) different plant habits. Families Euphorbiaceae, Asteraceae and Caesalpinaceae had the highest species diversity with 17, 13 and 10 respectively. Other prominent families include Papilionaceae with 9 species, Verbenaceae (7), Acanthaceae, Amaranthaceae, Malvaceae, Mimosaceae, Moraceae and Rubiaceae with 6 species each. Convolvulaceae, Sapindaceae and Solanaceae had 5 species, Apocynaceae and Poaceae with 4 while Asclepiadaceae, www.tropicalplantresearch.com
Bignoniaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Lamiaceae and Rutaceae were represented with 3 species each. 8 other families had 2 species represented while the remaining 17 families were represented with only one species each (Table 2). Of the total 130 genera recorded, a huge sum of 109 were represented with only one species, 13 genera had 2 species each, 6 genera (Albizia, Citrus, Euphorbia, Ficus, Phyllanthus and Sida) had 3 species while the remaining 2 genera (Ipomoea and Senna) had 4 and 6 species respectively (Table 3). Furthermore, Asteraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Papilionaceae and Rubiaceae all had the highest number of genera represented, with 12, 10, 9 and 6 respectively. Interestingly, the Legumes (Caesalpiniaceae, Mimosaceae and Papilionaceae) collectively contributed the highest record with a total of 25 species (Table 2).

Table 1. Identified species of Iroko-Ekiti community, Ekiti State.

| S.N. | Species/Botanical names                  | Family                  | Habit  |
|------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| 1.   | Abrus precatorius L.                    | Papilionaceae           | Climber|
| 2.   | Acalypha fimbriata Schumach. et Thonn.  | Euphorbiaceae           | Herb   |
| 3.   | Acalypha godseffiana Mast.              | Euphorbiaceae           | Shrub  |
| 4.   | Acanthospermum hispidum DC.             | Asteraceae              | Herb   |
| 5.   | Achrysanthes aspera L.                  | Amaranthaceae           | Herb   |
| 6.   | Ageratum conyzoides L.                  | Asteraceae              | Herb   |
| 7.   | Albizia ferruginea (Guill. & Perr.) Benth. | Mimosaceae              | Tree   |
| 8.   | Albizia lebbeck (L.) Benth.             | Mimosaceae              | Tree   |
| 9.   | Albizia zygia (DC) J.F. Macbr.          | Mimosaceae              | Tree   |
| 10.  | Alchornea laxiflora (Benth.) Pax et K. Hoffm. | Euphorbiaceae           | Shrub  |
| 11.  | Allophylus africanus P. Beauv.          | Sapindaceae             | Tree   |
| 12.  | Alternanthera sessilis (L.) R. Br. ex DC. | Amaranthaceae           | Creeper|
| 13.  | Amaranthus spinosus L.                  | Amaranthaceae           | Herb   |
| 14.  | Amaranthus viridis L.                   | Amaranthaceae           | Herb   |
| 15.  | Anacardium occidentale L.               | Anacardiaceae           | Tree   |
| 16.  | Anthocleista djalonensis A Chev.        | Loganiaceae             | Tree   |
| 17.  | Anthonotha macrophylla P. Beauv.        | Caesalpiniaceae         | Tree   |
| 18.  | Antiaris toxicaria A.Chev.              | Moraceae                | Tree   |
| 19.  | Aspilia africana L.                     | Asteraceae              | Herb   |
| 20.  | Asystasia gangetica (L.) T. Anderson    | Acanthaceae             | Herb   |
| 21.  | Azadirachta indica A. Juss.             | Meliaceae               | Tree   |
| 22.  | Baphia nitida Lodd.                     | Papilionaceae           | Tree   |
| 23.  | Basella alba L.                         | Basellaceae             | Climber|
| 24.  | Berlinia grandiflora (Vahl) Hutch. & Dalzeil | Caesalpiniaceae         | Tree   |
| 25.  | Bidens pilosa L.                        | Asteraceae              | Herb   |
| 26.  | Bixa orellana L.                        | Bixaceae                | Shrub  |
| 27.  | Blepharis maderaspatensis (L.) B. Heyne ex Roth | Acanthaceae             | Herb   |
| 28.  | Blighia sapida Koenig                   | Sapindaceae             | Tree   |
| 29.  | Boerhavia diffusa L.                    | Nyctaginaceae           | Herb   |
| 30.  | Borreria ocyoides (Burm. f.) DC.        | Rubiaceae               | Herb   |
| 31.  | Brachystegia eurycoma Harms             | Caesalpiniaceae         | Tree   |
| 32.  | Brosocarpus coccineus Schumach. Et Thonn. | Connaraceae             | Climber|
| 33.  | Caesalpinia pulcherima (L.) Sw.         | Caesalpiniaceae         | Shrub  |
| 34.  | Calopogonium mucunooides Desv.          | Papilionaceae           | Creeper|
| 35.  | Calotropis procera (Aiton) Dryand.      | Asclepiadaceae          | Shrub  |
| 36.  | Cardiospermum grandiflorum SW.          | Sapindaceae             | Climber|
| 37.  | Carica papaya L.                        | Caricaceae              | Shrub  |
| 38.  | Centrosema pubescens P. Beauv.          | Papilionaceae           | Creeper|
| 39.  | Chasmanthera dependens Hochst.          | Menispermaceae          | Creeper|
| 40.  | Chassalia kolly (Schumach.) Hepper      | Rubiaceae               | Shrub  |
| 41.  | Chromolaena odorata King & Robinson     | Asteraceae              | Herb   |
| 42.  | Cissampelos owariensis P. Beauv. ex DC. | Menispermaceae          | Creeper|
| 43.  | Cissus aralioides (Welw. ex Baker) Planch. | Vitaceae                | Creeper|
| 44.  | Cissus arguta Hook.f.                   | Vitaceae                | Creeper|
| 45.  | Citrus aurantiifolia Swingle            | Rutaceae                | Tree   |
| 46.  | Citrus paradisi Macfad                  | Rutaceae                | Tree   |
| 47.  | Citrus sinensis (L.) Osbeck.            | Rutaceae                | Tree   |
| No. | Scientific Name                        | Family         | Type       |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| 48  | Clerodendrum capitatum (Wild.) Schum. & Thonn. | Verbenaceae    | Shrub      |
| 49  | Clerodendrum splendens G.Don.         | Verbenaceae    | Climber    |
| 50  | Cocos nucifera L.                     | Arecales       | Tree       |
| 51  | Cola acuminata (P.Beauv.) Schott & Endl. | Sterculiaceae  | Tree       |
| 52  | Combretum platypterum Welw. ex M.A.Lawson | Combretaceae   | Climber    |
| 53  | Combretum racemosum P.Beauv.          | Combretaceae   | Climber    |
| 54  | Crescencia cuyete L.                  | Bignoniaceae   | Tree       |
| 55  | Croton lobatus                         | Euphorbiaceae  | Herb       |
| 56  | Croton zambesicus Mull.Arg.           | Euphorbiaceae  | Tree       |
| 57  | Datura metel                          | Solanaeae      | Shrub      |
| 58  | Duranta repens L.                     | Verbenaceae    | Tree       |
| 59  | Euphorbia heterophylla L.             | Euphorbiaceae  | Herb       |
| 60  | Euphorbia hirta L.                    | Euphorbiaceae  | Herb       |
| 61  | Euphorbia hyssopifolia L.             | Euphorbiaceae  | Herb       |
| 62  | Ficus exasperata P.                   | Moraceae       | Tree       |
| 63  | Ficus macus Ficalho                   | Moraceae       | Tree       |
| 64  | Ficus sur Forssk.                     | Moraceae       | Tree       |
| 65  | Fimbriylis sp.                        | Cyperaceae     | Sedge      |
| 66  | Gliricidia sepium (Jacq.) Walp.       | Papilionaceae  | Tree       |
| 67  | Glyphaea brevis (Spreng.) Monach.     | Tiliaceae      | Shrub      |
| 68  | Gmelina arborea Roxb.                 | Verbenaceae    | Tree       |
| 69  | Gomphrena celosioides Mart.          | Amaranthaceae  | Herb       |
| 70  | Gossypium barbadense                  | Malvaceae      | Shrub      |
| 71  | Helianthus annuus L.                  | Asteraceae     | Shrub      |
| 72  | Hewittia sublobata (L.f.) Kuntze      | Convolvulaceae | Climber    |
| 73  | Holarrhena floribunda T. Durand & Schinz | Apocynaceae   | Tree       |
| 74  | Hoslandia opposita Vahl               | Lamiaceae      | Shrub      |
| 75  | Hypitis suaveolens (L.) Poit.         | Lamiaceae      | Shrub      |
| 76  | Indigofera spicata Forssk.            | Papilionaceae  | Creeper    |
| 77  | Ipomoea alba L.                       | Convolvulaceae | Climber    |
| 78  | Ipomoea asarifolia (Desr. et Schult.) Roem. et Schult. | Convolvulaceae | Creeper    |
| 79  | Ipomoea involucrata P. Beauv.         | Convolvulaceae | Climber    |
| 80  | Ipomoea nil (L.) Roth                 | Convolvulaceae | Climber    |
| 81  | Jatropha curcas L.                    | Euphorbiaceae  | Shrub      |
| 82  | Jatropha gossypifolia L.              | Euphorbiaceae  | Shrub      |
| 83  | Lecaniodiscus cupanioides Planch. ex Benth. | Sapindaceae   | Tree       |
| 84  | Leucaena leucocephala (Lam.) de Wit   | Mimosaceae     | Tree       |
| 85  | Lonchocarpus sericeus (Poir.) HB & K. | Papilionaceae  | Tree       |
| 86  | Luffa acutangula (L.) Roxb.           | Cucurbitaceae  | Climber    |
| 87  | Macrophyra longistyla (DC.) Hiern     | Rubiaceae      | Shrub      |
| 88  | Mallotus oppositifolius (Geiseler) Mull. Arg. | Euphorbiaceae | Herb       |
| 89  | Malvastrum coronelienianum (L.) Garcke | Malvaceae      | Herb       |
| 90  | Mariscus alternifolius Vahl           | Cyperaceae     | Sedge      |
| 91  | Martynia annua L.                     | Martyniaceae   | Shrub      |
| 92  | Melanthera scandens (Schum. et Thonn.) Roberty | Asteraceae     | Herb       |
| 93  | Microdesmis puberula Hook.f. ex Planch. | Pandaceae     | Shrub      |
| 94  | Millettia thomningii (Schum. et Thonn.) Baker | Papilionaceae | Tree       |
| 95  | Mimosina invisa Mast                  | Mimosaceae     | Creeper    |
| 96  | Mirabilis jalapa L.                   | Nyctaginaceae  | Shrub      |
| 97  | Mitracarpus scaber Zucc. ex Schult. et Schult. | Rubiaceae     | Herb       |
| 98  | Momordica charantia L.                | Cururbitaceae  | Climber    |
| 99  | Momordica foetida Schumach            | Cururbitaceae  | Climber    |
| 100 | Morinda lucida Benth.                 | Rubiaceae      | Tree       |
| 101 | Morus mesozygia Stapf. ex A.Chev.     | Moraceae       | Tree       |
| 102 | Mucuna pruriens (L.) DC. var pruriens | Papilionaceae  | Climber    |
| 103 | Myrianthus arboreus P.Beauv.          | Moraceae       | Tree       |
| 104 | Nauclea latifolia Sm                  | Rubiaceae      | Shrub      |
| 105 | Nelsonia canescens (Lam.) Spreng.     | Acanthaceae    | Herb       |
| No. | Name                                      | Family           | Category |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 106 | *Newbouldia laevis* (P. Beauv.) Seems. Ex Bureau. | Bignoniaceae     | Tree     |
| 107 | *Ocimum gratissimum* L.                   | Lamiaceae        | Shrub    |
| 108 | *Olyra latifolia* L.                     | Poaceae          | Grass    |
| 109 | *Oplismenus hirtellus* (L.) P. Beauv.     | Poaceae          | Grass    |
| 110 | *Parkia biglobosa* (Jacq.) R. Br. ex G    | Mimosaceae       | Tree     |
| 111 | *Parquetina nigrescens* (Afzel.) Bullock  | Periplocaeeae    | Creeper  |
| 112 | *Passiflora foetida* L.                   | Passifloraceae   | Creeper  |
| 113 | *Paulinia pinata* L.                     | Sapindaceae      | Climber  |
| 114 | *Peperomia pellucida* (L.) H. B. et Kunth. | Piperaceae       | Herb     |
| 115 | *Pergularia daemia* (Forssk.) Choiv.     | Asclepiadaceae   | Climber  |
| 116 | *Phaulopsis barteri* T. Anders.          | Acanthaceae      | Herb     |
| 117 | *Phaulopsis falcisepala* C. B. Clarke    | Acanthaceae      | Herb     |
| 118 | *Phyllanthus amarus* L.                   | Euphorbiaceae    | Herb     |
| 119 | *Phyllanthus mellerianus* (Kuntze.) Exell | Euphorbiaceae    | Shrub    |
| 120 | *Phyllanthus odontadenius* Mull. Arg.     | Euphorbiaceae    | Herb     |
| 121 | *Physalis angulata* L.                    | Solanaceae       | Herb     |
| 122 | *Physalis micrantha* Link.                | Solanaceae       | Herb     |
| 123 | *Portulaca oleracea* L.                   | Portulacaceae    | Herb     |
| 124 | *Psidium guajava* L.                      | Myrtaceae        | Tree     |
| 125 | *Pupalia lappacea* (L.) Juss.            | Amaranthaceae    | Herb     |
| 126 | *Ricinidendron heudelotii* (Baill.) Pierre ex Heckel | Euphorbiaceae | Tree     |
| 127 | *Ricinus communis* L.                     | Euphorbiaceae    | Shrub    |
| 128 | *Ruellia tuberosa* L.                     | Acanthaceae      | Herb     |
| 129 | *Scoparia dulcis* L.                      | Scrophulariaceae | Herb     |
| 130 | *Secamone africola* (Roem. et Schult.) K. Schum. | Asclepiadaceae   | Climber  |
| 131 | *Securinega virosa* (Roxb. ex Wild) Baill. | Euphorbiaceae    | Shrub    |
| 132 | *Senna alata* (L.) Roxb.                  | Caesalpiniaeeae  | Shrub    |
| 133 | *Senna hirsuta* (L.) Irwin & Barneby      | Caesalpiniaeeae  | Shrub    |
| 134 | *Senna obtusifolia* (L.) Irwin & Barneby   | Caesalpiniaeeae  | Shrub    |
| 135 | *Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link.           | Caesalpiniaeeae  | Shrub    |
| 136 | *Senna siamea* (Lam.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby | Caesalpiniaeeae  | Tree     |
| 137 | *Senna sophora* (L.) Roxb.                | Caesalpiniaeeae  | Shrub    |
| 138 | *Sesamum indicum* L.                      | Pedaliaceae      | Herb     |
| 139 | *Setaria longiseta* P. Beauv.             | Poaceae          | Grass    |
| 140 | *Sida acuta* Burm.f.                      | Malvaceae        | Herb     |
| 141 | *Sida corymbosa* L.                       | Malvaceae        | Herb     |
| 142 | *Sida urens* L.                           | Malvaceae        | Herb     |
| 143 | *Solanum nigrum* L.                       | Solanaceae       | Creeper  |
| 144 | *Solanum torvum* Sw.                      | Solanaceae       | Shrub    |
| 145 | *Spigelia anthelmia* L.                   | Loganiaeeae      | Herb     |
| 146 | *Spilanthes filicaulis* (Schum. et Thonn.) C. D. Adams. | Asteraceae | Creeper  |
| 147 | *Spondias mombin* L.                      | Anacardiaceae    | Tree     |
| 148 | *Stachyophorpha pyramidalis* P. Beauv.    | Poaceae          | Grass    |
| 149 | *Stachyophorpha cayennensis* (Rich.) Schau. | Verbenaceae      | Shrub    |
| 150 | *Stachyophorpha indica* (L.) Vahl         | Verbenaceae      | Herb     |
| 151 | *Strophanthus sarmentosus* DC.            | Apocynaceae      | Climber  |
| 152 | *Synedrella nodiflora* Gaertn.            | Asteraceae       | Herb     |
| 153 | *Tecoma stans* (L.) Juss. ex Kunth        | Bignoniaceae     | Shrub    |
| 154 | *Tectona grandis* L.f.                    | Verbenaceae      | Tree     |
| 155 | *Tithonia diversifolia* A. Gray.          | Asteraceae       | Shrub    |
| 156 | *Trema orientalis* Blume                  | Ulmaceae         | Tree     |
| 157 | *Tridax procumbens* L.                    | Asteraceae       | Herb     |
| 158 | *Urena lobata* L.                         | Malvaceae        | Shrub    |
| 159 | *Vernonia amygdalina* Del.                | Asteraceae       | Shrub    |
| 160 | *Vernonia cinera* (L.) Less.              | Asteraceae       | Herb     |
| 161 | *Voacanga africana* Stapf.                | Apocynaceae      | Tree     |
| 162 | *Waltheria indica* L.                     | Sterculiaceae    | Shrub    |
Table 2. Species distribution across families.

| S.N. | Family            | No. of genus/genera | Total no. of species | % species composition |
|------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.   | Acanthaceae       | 5                   | 6                    | 3.7                   |
| 2.   | Amaranthaceae     | 5                   | 6                    | 3.7                   |
| 3.   | Anacardiaceae     | 2                   | 2                    | 1.2                   |
| 4.   | Apocynaceae       | 4                   | 4                    | 2.5                   |
| 5.   | Areceae           | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 6.   | Asclepiadaceae    | 3                   | 3                    | 1.8                   |
| 7.   | Asteraceae        | 12                  | 13                   | 8.0                   |
| 8.   | Basellaceae       | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 9.   | Bignoniaceae      | 3                   | 3                    | 1.8                   |
| 10.  | Bixaceae          | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 11.  | Caesalpiniaceae   | 5                   | 10                   | 6.1                   |
| 12.  | Caricaceae        | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 13.  | Combretaceae      | 1                   | 2                    | 1.2                   |
| 14.  | Concaraceae       | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 15.  | Convulucaceae     | 2                   | 5                    | 3.1                   |
| 16.  | Cucurbitaceae     | 2                   | 3                    | 1.8                   |
| 17.  | Cyperaceae        | 2                   | 2                    | 1.2                   |
| 18.  | Euphorbiaceae     | 10                  | 17                   | 10.4                  |
| 19.  | Lamiaceae         | 3                   | 3                    | 1.8                   |
| 20.  | Loganiaceae       | 2                   | 2                    | 1.2                   |
| 21.  | Malvaceae         | 4                   | 6                    | 3.7                   |
| 22.  | Martyniaceae      | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 23.  | Meliaceae         | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 24.  | Menispermaceae    | 2                   | 2                    | 1.2                   |
| 25.  | Mimosaceae        | 4                   | 6                    | 3.7                   |
| 26.  | Moraceae          | 4                   | 6                    | 3.7                   |
| 27.  | Myrtaceae         | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 28.  | Nyctaginaceae     | 2                   | 2                    | 1.2                   |
| 29.  | Pandaceae         | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 30.  | Papilionaceae     | 9                   | 9                    | 5.5                   |
| 31.  | Passifloraceae    | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 32.  | Pedaliaceae       | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 33.  | Periplocaceae     | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 34.  | Piperaceae        | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 35.  | Poaceae           | 4                   | 4                    | 2.5                   |
| 36.  | Portulacaceae     | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 37.  | Rubiaceae         | 6                   | 6                    | 3.7                   |
| 38.  | Rutaceae          | 1                   | 3                    | 1.8                   |
| 39.  | Sapindaceae       | 5                   | 5                    | 3.1                   |
| 40.  | Scrophulariaceae  | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 41.  | Solanaceae        | 3                   | 5                    | 3.1                   |
| 42.  | Sterculiaceae     | 2                   | 2                    | 1.2                   |
| 43.  | Tiliaceae         | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 44.  | Ulmaceae          | 1                   | 1                    | 0.6                   |
| 45.  | Verbenaceae       | 5                   | 7                    | 4.3                   |
| 46.  | Vitaceae          | 1                   | 2                    | 1.2                   |

In all, the trees dominated the life forms/habits identified, contributing 27% of the total enumeration. This was closely followed by herbs and shrubs with 26% and 23% respectively. The climbers constituted 15% while the creepers, grasses and sedge had 5%, 3% and 1% respectively (Fig. 2). Further results shown in table 4 gives the distribution of species across the families based on habits. Only Verbenaceae had species in 4 different habits/life forms. Euphorbiaceae, Papilionaceae, Rubiaceae and Solanaceae all had species across 3 habits, while 11 families were represented by 2 habits and the remaining 29 families had species represented by 1 habit only. In general, the climbers spread across 13 families, the creepers 6 families, the grasses 1 family (Poacea), herbs 14 families, sedges 1 family (Cyperaceae), shrubs 17 families and the tree in 18 families.

The Legumes have been known to be abundantly distributed across the ecological zones of Nigeria (Soladoye & Lewis 2003, Soladoye et al. 2011, Ayodele & Yang 2012, Soladoye et al. 2015). Our findings also
support previous studies by Lock (1989), whose report showed clearly that Africa has a vast array of indigenous legumes, ranging from large rainforest trees to small annual herbs. Some of the studies mentioned above, amongst others (Gills 1992, Odugbemi 2008, Schemelzer & Gurib-Fakim 2008, Ariwaojo et al. 2012b, Soladoye et al. 2013), have also reported the medicinal values of many species reported in the present study.

Table 3. Summary of species distribution according to genera.

| Genera            | Species per Genus |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ipomoea           | 4                 |
| Senna             | 6                 |
| Albizia, Citrus, Euphorbia, Ficus, Phyllanthus, Sida | 1 |
| Acalypha, Amananthus, Cissus, Clerodendrum, Combretum, Croton, Jatropha, Momordica, Phaulopsis, Physalis, Solanum, Stachydrapheta, Vernonina | 2 |
| Abrus, Acahanospermum, Achryanthes, Ageratum, Alchornea, Allophylus, Alternanthera, Anacardium, Anthoeclesta, Anthoquosa, Antiaris, Aspilia, Asystasia, Azadirachta, Baphia, Basella, Berlinga, Bidens, Bixa, Blepharis, Blighia, Boerhavia, Borreria, Brachystegia, Brsocarpus, Caesalpinia, Calopogonium, Calotrops, Cardiospermum, Carica, Centrosema, Chasmanthera, Chassalia, Chromolaena, Cissampelos, Cocos, Cola, Crescentia, Datura, Duranta, Fimbristyli, Gliricidia, Glyphaea, Gmelina, Gomphrena, Gossypium, Helianthus, Hewtitia, Holarrhena, Holundia, Hystis, Indigofera, Lecaniodiscus, Leucaena, Lonchocarpus, Luffa, Macophyra, Mallotus, Malvastrum, Mariscus, Martynia, Melanthera, Microdesmis, Millletta, Mimosal, Mirabilis, Mitracarpus, Morinda, Morus, Macuna, Myrianthus, Nauclea, Nelsonia, Newbouldia, Ocimum, Olyra, Oplismenus, Parkia, Parquetina, Passiflora, Paullinia, Peperomia, Pergularia, Portulaca, Psidium, Papalata, Rauwolfia, Ricinidendron, Rinus, Ruellia, Scoparia, Secamone, Securinega, Sesamum, Setaria, Spigelia, Spilanthes, Spontias, Sporobolus, Strophosteph, Synedrella, Tecoma, Tectona, Tithonia, Trema, Tridax, Urena, Voacanga, Waltheria | 3 |

Table 4. Distribution of species within families based on habits.

| Family      | Climber | Creeper | Grass | Herb | Sedge | Shrub | Tree |
|-------------|---------|---------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|
| Acantaceae  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Amanaceae   | 4       | 3       | 1     |      |       |       |      |
| Anacardiace | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Apocynaceae | 4       | 3       | 1     |      |       |       |      |
| Areaceae    | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Asclepiace  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Asteraceae  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Basellaceae | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Bignoniace  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Bixaceae    | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Caesalpiniace | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Caricaceae  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Combretace  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Connaraceae | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Convulucace | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Cucurbitace | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Cyperaceae  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Euphorbiace | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Lamiaceae   | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Loganiaceae | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Malvaceae   | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Martyniace  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Melliaceae  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Menispermac | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Mimosaceae  | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Moraceae    | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Myrtaceae   | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Nyctaginace | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Pandaceae   | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Papilionace | 8       | 7       | 2     | 1    |       |       |      |
| Passiflorace | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | |

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While man continues to depend on plants for survival, it is imperative to also consider the sustainable collection and use of these life sustainers. Hence, species conservation is inevitable if extinction is to be mitigated, as it is obvious that, with the continuous degradation of the ecosystem resulting from infrastructural and economic development in our society today, there is a greater threat to species disappearance. Additionally, previous reports by Gbile et al. (1981) & Oguntala et al. (1996) are indications that the ecosystems in Nigeria face a greater risk if urgent attention is not considered.

**CONCLUSION**

This study has revealed 163 angiosperms belonging to 46 families 130 genera. The present study has not doubt added to the existing records of flora South-Western Nigeria. We re-emphasize that, while urbanisation and other developmental activities are inevitable, the conservation of our ecosystem is of utmost importance if we must continue to rely on plants for survival. While this study has shown that the community is not only rich in biodiversity but also embraces some socio-economic value, it suggests some strategies for conservation to avoid complete loss of biodiversity resulting from over-exploitation of the important species.

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