

Traditional Botanical Knowledge and Use of Anza (*Boscia Senegalensis*) in Boumba, Niger.
(Oral Presentation)

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Introduction

The Zarma are descendents of the Songhai Kingdom, currently living in the south west region of Niger and the bordering regions of Niger. They are known for being 'leaf eaters' and local knowledge of wild edible leaves is critical for survival in times of famine.

Objectives

This presentation examines the role of *Boscia Senegalensis* (Anza) to the Zarma community of Boumba and how the use of this plant gives insight into the community's concept of famine and famine coping strategies.

Methods

Participatory fieldwork conducted in Niger during July-September 2005 employed key-informant interviews, participant observation and group interview techniques to explore the use of uncultivated plant resources among the Zarma of Boumba, Niger.

Results

During the interviews with healers, herbalists and farmers the tree *Boscia Senegalensis* (Anza) was commonly listed among the medicinal plants, food plants and famine foods.

Conclusion

It seems that this plant plays both is an important medicinal and nutritional and a good case study into cultural resilience.

Keywords: Zarma, Ethnobotany, famine food,

Selected References

None

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