

**ETHNOMEDICINAL USES AND PHYTOCHEMISTRY OF
MEDICINAL PLANTS USED IN THE TREATMENT OF DIABETES BY
THE PEOPLE OF NSUKKA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, SOUTH
EASTERN-NIGERIA: A REVIEW**

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ABSTRACT

Background: The older generation who are the reservoir of traditional medicine information and practice are fast passing away. Deforestation, strong preference for synthetic drugs and rural-urban migration has made it “unnecessary” to seek/acquire traditional medicine knowledge. Therefore, it is necessary to document ethnomedicinal uses of plants. This study aims to identify the plants used by the people of Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria in the management of diabetes, and document all relevant information on them. **Materials and Methods:** Available literature was searched for information on diabetes and plants used for treatment of diabetes by the people of Nsukka Local Government Area using Elsevier-Science direct, SpringerLink (Springer/Kluwer), Wiley

Interscience (Wiley), Researchgate, Pubmed, Google Scholar, Virtual Health Library and Science Direct. The search included the following keywords: “Diabetes”, “antidiabetic activity”, “medicinal plants”, “ethnomedicine”, “Nsukka Local Government Area”, “phytomedicine”, “traditional medicine”, “phytochemistry”. The ethnomedicinal uses and

phytochemistry were reviewed. **Conclusions:** The plants used by the people of Nsukka LGA of Enugu state for the treatment of diabetes mellitus have other medicinal uses in other places. They also contain many pharmacologically active compounds.

KEYWORDS: Diabetes, Antidiabetic activity, Medicinal plants, Ethnomedicine, Phytomedicine, Traditional medicine.

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is an important endocrine and metabolic disease causing considerable mortality and morbidity in human population. With improved healthcare the diagnosis of diabetes is increasing in most African countries. Yet it is difficult to estimate the numbers of people with the disease as the majority of cases are untreated. Because of the chronic nature of the disease and the complexity of its management, diabetes requires comprehensive patient care and an interdisciplinary approach to treatment. Diabetes mellitus is a hereditary, metabolic disease characterized by hyperglycemia and eventual glycosuria. It is caused by the inability of tissues to carry out normal metabolism of carbohydrates, fats and proteins, due to an absolute or relative lack of insulin.^[1] It is a group of metabolic disorders characterized by hyperglycemia; is associated with abnormalities in carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism, and results in chronic complications including microvascular and macrovascular disorders. These complications contribute to diabetes being the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults, end stage renal disease, and non-traumatic lower limb amputations.^[2]

Based on cost estimates from a recent systematic review, it has been estimated that the direct annual cost of diabetes to the world is more than US\$ 827 billion.^[3] Bloom *et al.*,^[4] estimated that losses in GDP worldwide from 2011 to 2030, including both the direct and indirect costs of diabetes, will total US\$ 1.7 trillion, comprising US\$ 900 billion for high-income countries and US\$ 800 billion for low- and middle-income countries.

Insulin and oral hypoglycemic drugs are used in the management of diabetes. Insulin is indicated in all patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus and in about one-third of patients with type 2 DM. Oral hypoglycaemic drugs are useful in type 2 diabetes as adjuncts to continued dietary restraint (Biguanides, Sulphonylureas, thiazolidinediones and α -glucosidase inhibitors. A number of plants have been identified in ethnomedicinal surveys as potent agents in management of diabetes. Examples include *Combretum micranthum*,^[5] *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*,^[5] *Acalypha wilkesiana*,^[6] *Loranthus micranthus*^[7] *Moringa*

oleifera, *Momordica charantia*, *Garcinia kola*, *Citrus aurantiifolia*, *Caesalpinia bonduc*,^[8] *Scoparia dulcis*,^[9] *Alafia barteri*, *Alstonia boonei*, *Thaumatococcus danielli*,^[10] *Glycyrrhiza glabra*,^[11] *Allium cepa* (Onion), *Allium sativum* (Garlic), *Aloe vera* and *Cinnamomum cassie*.^[12] The medicinal uses of plants are attributed to the secondary metabolites content such as alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, tannins, terpenoids, steroids etc.

The search focused on other ethnomedicinal uses and phytochemistry of the plants used for the treatment of diabetes in Nsukka LGA of Enugu state of Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

A literature search using Elsevier-Science direct, SpringerLink (Springer/Kluwer), Wiley Interscience (Wiley), Researchgate, Pubmed, Google Scholar, Virtual Health Library, Science Direct, Science alert was conducted. The search included the following keywords: “Diabetes”, “antidiabetic activity”, “medicinal plants”, “ethnomedicine”, “phytomedicine”, “traditional medicine”, “phytochemistry”.. The search focused on other ethnomedicinal and pharmacological uses of the plants used for the treatment of diabetes in Nsukka LGA of Enugu state of Nigeria.

RESULTS

Ethnomedicinal use of the plants used for the treatment of diabetes in Nsukka LGA

Abelmoschus esculentus (L.) Moench (*Malvaceae*)

The oils of the seeds are useful in treating leucorrhoea, spermatorrhoea thinness of semen, premature ejaculation, jaundice. It can be also used as non-caffeinated substitute for coffee. Okra seeds may be roasted and ground to form a caffeine-free substitute for coffee. It promotes healthy skin and blood. In Nepal juice of the roots is used externally to treat cuts, wounds and boils; the infusion of the roots is used in the treatment of syphilis. The pods, flowers, leaves and fruits are used as therapeutic diets. In Turkey and Cyprus they serve as remedies for swelling and inflammation.^[13]

Acanthus montanus (Nees) T. Anderson (*Acanthaceae*)

The Iggede people of Nigeria use the ground leaves to treat boils, skin infections and hypertension and as an antitussive. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the leaves are pounded in water with those of *Ananas comosus* and *Costusspp* and used to treat urogenital infections, urethral pain, endometritis, urinary disease, cystitis, leucorrhoea. In Cameroon it is used to treat cough, carious teeth, pharyngitis, dysmenorrhoea, gastritis, false labour,

epilepsy, and intestinal helminthiasis while in other African countries, it is used alleviate urethral discharge, chest pain, emesis, constipation, rheumatic pains, and syphilis.^[9] The roots are used for bathing to relieve aches and pains.^[14]

***Allium cepa*, Linnaeus (*Liliaceae*)**

In Cameroun, the rhizome is used as a decoction for the treatment of Sexual weakness, rheumatism. The bulb is used locally in the treatment of diabetes in the southern zones of Eritrea; often used as an antipyretic, antiseptic, anthelmintic and in treatment of gastrointestinal disorders. Fresh Onion juice is often recommended in folk medicine of various countries for pain and swelling after bee or wasp stings, which are followed by an allergy-induced reaction of the skin. Onions have also been used as adjuvant therapy for diabetes.^[15]

***Allium sativum*, Linnaeus (*Liliaceae*)**

To treat diarrhea. To treat intestinal and extraintestinal diseases. Ancient Japanese and Chinese used it to treat headache, flu, sore throat and fever. In Africa, particularly in Nigeria, it is used to treat abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, otitis media and respiratory tract infections. In Europe and India, it was used to treat common colds, hay fever and asthma.^[16]

***Aloe barbadensis*, (Linnaeus) Burm (*Liliaceae*)**

Diabetes, salopecia, bacterial and fungal skin infections, chronic leg wounds, parasitic infections, systemic lupus erythematosus, arthritis and tic douloureux.^[17]

***Alstonia boonei* De Wild (*Apocynaceae*)**

Is used to combat rheumatic and arthritic pains, Painful menstruation (dysmenorrhoea), when associated with uterine fibroid or ovarian cysts in women; lower abdominal and pelvic congestion associated with gynaecological problems such as pelvic inflammatory diseases; to relieve the painful urethritis. A cold infusion made from the fresh or dried bark of *Alstonia* taken orally two to three times daily exerts a mild hypoglycaemic effect on diabetic patients. The bark decoction of *Alstonia boonei* is used with other preparations in the treatment of fractures or dislocation. Therapeutically, the bark has been found to possess antirheumatic, anti-inflammatory. The cold infusion is also administered orally for the purpose of expelling round worms, threadworms. Indigenous treatment of malaria in Southwestern part of Nigeria, jaundice, and for inducing breast milk. Its latex is taken as a purgative. The hardened latex is used for the treatment of yaws. The hardened latex is used for the treatment of yaws. *Alstonia boonei* is regarded as one of few herbs with potential anti-HIV indicators, Analgesic/pain-

killing, antimalaria / antipyretic, antidiabetic (mild hypoglycaemic), antihelminthic, antimicrobial and antibiotic. It has been reported to be used for treatment of malaria, intestinal helminthes, rheumatism, muscular pain, insomnia, and hypertension.^[18]

***Anacardium occidentale* Linnaeus (Anacardiaceae)**

In India, the plant is extensively used locally the treatment of diabetes mellitus, dyspepsia, impotence, diarrhoea, urinary disorders, venereal diseases, leishmaniasis and syphilis – related skin disorders, diarrhea, dysentery and colonic pain. In West Africa and South America, the leaf infusion is used in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders, mouth ulcers and throat problems.^[19]

***Annona muricata* Linnaeus (Annonaceae)**

In Nigeria the leaf decoction is used to treat Gastric disorders, prostate cancer, diabetes, neuralgia In Togo the leaf decoction is used to treat Hypertension/ diabetes. In Brazil it is used topically to treat snake bite while the leaf decoction is used orally to treat Arthritis pain, rheumatism, neuralgia, weight loss. In South America and tropical Africa, including Nigeria, leaves of *A. muricata* are deployed as an ethnomedicine against tumors and cancer.^[20] The fruit is used as natural medicine for arthritic pain, neuralgia, arthritis, diarrhea, dysentery, fever, malaria, parasites, rheumatism, skin rushes and worms, and it is also eaten to elevate a mother's milk after childbirth. The leaves are employed to treat cystitis, diabetes, headaches and insomnia. Moreover, internal administration of the leaf's decoction is believed to exhibit anti-rheumatic and neuralgic effects, whereas the cooked leaves are topically used to treat abscesses and rheumatism. The leaves have also been used to treat cystitis, diabetes, headaches, and insomnia.^[21] Treatment of abscess bronchitis, asthma, diarrhoea, dysentery. The roots of have been shown to have anti-parasitic and pesticidal properties in traditional medicine. The leaves are used in the bath to cure skin diseases in the Caribbean islands, Indonesia as well as in the South Pacific countries. In Ecuador, Mauritius, and New Guinea, the application of the *A. muricata* leaves is local on the pain site. Decoctions of *A. muricata* leaves are used as analgesics in Brazil, Martinique, Mexico and Nicaragua, while in Benin, the Caribbean, Cuba, and Mexico, it is used to reduce colds, flu, and asthma. The importance of *A. muricata* leaves to treat malaria is very crucial in tropical countries such as Cameroon, Togo, and Vietnam. In Ghana, *A. muricata* and some other plants are decocted into a mixture and used in bath for feminine hygiene. The bark, leaves and roots have sedative,

antispasmodic, hypoglycemic, hypotensive, smooth muscle relaxant and nerve properties.^[22]

***Anthocleista vogelii* Planch (Gentianaceae)**

In Sierra Leone, decoction of the root is taken to alleviate chest pain and for the treatment of hepatitis when taken with lemon. The decoction of *A. vogelii* root is reported to be commonly taken to treat constipation and to regulate menstruation. The combination of the stem bark and the leaves is used as anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic agents and in treatment of wounds. The root decoction of *A. vogelii* and *Combretum mucronatum* with pepper and ashes is taken to treat chest pain in Ghana.^[23] The bark is noted for its anti-pyretic, tonic and purgative properties and a decoction of the leaves is known to prevent malaria and also used to treat jaundice and as haemostatic.

***Azadirachta indica* A. Jus (Meliaceae)**

Azadirachta indica is indigenously used as a bitter tonic, antimalarial, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, antihelmintic, and for antimicrobial and antiviral effects. The traditional Ayurvedic uses of neem include the treatment of fever, leprosy, malaria, ophthalmia and tuberculosis. Other folkloric uses include use as an anthelmintic, anti-feedant, antiseptic, diuretic, emmenagogue, contraceptive, febrifuge, parasiticide, pediculocide and insecticide.^[24]

***Buchholzia coriacea* Engler (Capparaceae)**

The seed of the plant is used in folk medicine for the treatment of diabetes, ulcer, malaria, antihelmintic disorders, hypercholesterolemia. In Ghana, the fresh bark of the plant helps for ear ache.^[25] In Cameroun, it is used as a remedy to relieve chest pain. The ground seeds are mixed with palm oil and taken orally as treatment for malaria. In Ivory Coast, the bark can be made into a pulp for inhalation or into a snuff to relieve headache, sinusitis, and nasal congestion while the crushed up seeds, are pasted over the stomach for difficult childbirth. It is used as cough medicine, treatment of ulcer and also used in the treatment of hypertension by drinking the fluid squeezed out of the leaves with pea leaves and small salt. In Gabon pounded bark of is used as a lotion against scabies, smallpox or skin itching while the fruit serves as an anthelmintic.^[26]

***Carica papaya* Linnaeus (*Caricaceae*)**

The leaves of *Carica papaya* are used traditionally to treat numerous ailments such as malaria, dengue, jaundice, immune-modulatory, and antiviral activity. The latex is used in antihelmintic, relieves dyspepsia, cures diarrhea, pain of burns and topical use, bleeding haemorrhoids, stomachic and whooping cough. In Mexican folk medicine the different parts are used to treat diseases such as diarrhea, inflammation and diabetes.^[27]

***Chrysophyllum albidum* G. Don (*Sapotaceae*)**

The bark is used for the treatment of yellow fever and malaria. The seeds and roots extracts help to stop bleeding from fresh wounds and to inhibit microbial growth of known wounds, decoction of the leaves is employed in diarrhoea and stomach ache while the leaves are exhausted as emollient and for medication of skin eruptions. The cotyledons from the seeds are used in the management of vaginal and dermatological infections, while pregnant women consume the fruit pulp to thwart nausea in Western Nigeria.^[28] The stem-bark is engaged in African trypanosomiasis, yellow fever and malaria alleviation.

***Cinnamomum verum* J.Presl (*Lauraceae*)**

Cinnamomum has been known to improve the health of the colon, thereby reducing the risk of colon cancer, acts as a coagulant. Its flavouring principles help in removing bad breath when produced as chewing gums and as tooth powder in treatment of tooth aches and dental problems.^[29]

***Citrus aurantifolia* (Christm) Swingle (*Rutaceae*)**

It is used as antidiabetic, antihypertensive, anti-inflammatory, antiparasitic, and antilipidemic, treatment of cardiovascular, hepatic, osteoporosis, urolithiasis diseases, and as fertility promoter.^[30] Used as an antitoxic, appetizer and stomachic.

***Citrus limon* (Linnaeus) Burman (*Rutaceae*)**

In traditional Asian medicines the citrus fruit has been used to treat indigestion and improve asthmatic and bronchial conditions. Ancient and medieval uses of *C. limon* in the Mediterranean region includes; antitoxic, antihelmintic, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory amongst other uses. Fruit is used as tooth powder to maintain orodental health.^[31]

***Cucumis sativus* Linnaeus (Cucurbitaceae)**

The fruit is used as demulcent, depurative, emollient, purgative and resolvent. It is also internally used for the treatment of blemished skin, heat rash and externally for burns, sores, wounds, and also used as cosmetic for softening, moisturizing and whitening skin. Raw cucumber fruit is also used in treatment of coeliac disease. In IndoChina raw fruit is used for treatment of dysentery in children. The seeds are used as diuretic, tonic, anthelmintic and also as taeniicide. The leaf juice is emetic and is used to treat dyspepsia in children. A decoction of root is used as diuretic. The boiled leaves when mixed with cumin seeds are used for throat infections.^[32]

***Cymbopogon citratus* (de Candolle) Stapf (Poaceae)**

It serves several purposes in different ethno medicinal systems such as Cuba, Brazil, Egypt, India etc. Hot water extract of the dried leaves and stem is taken orally as a hypotensive for catarrh and rheumatism, renal anti-plasmodic and diuretic. Infusions of *C. citrates* are useful in the treatment of infections such as laryngitis, sore-throats, bronchitis etc. Likewise, its leaves decoction is used as diaphoretic in fever and lemon grass tea is commonly used to combat flu, fever, pneumonia.^[33]

***Dioscorea alata* Linnaeus (Dioscoreaceae)**

Tubers of different *Dioscorea* species are used as a cure for different diseases and ailments (cough, cold, stomach ache, leprosy, burns, fungal infections, dysentery, skin diseases, rheumatism, arthritis, etc.) in several formulations, and even for birth control.^[34]

***Garcinia kola* Heckel (Clusiaceae)**

It has Purgative, antiparasitic, and antimicrobial properties.^[35] It is used to treat cough in South-Eastern Nigeria.

***Glycyrrhiza glabra* Linnaeus (Fabaceae)**

It is used to treat many diseases, such as asthma, tonsillitis, sore throat, hyperdipsia, flatulence, epilepsy, fever, sexual debility, paralysis, coughs, stomach ulcers, heartburn, colic, swellings, rheumatism, skin diseases, acidity, leucorrhoea, bleeding, hemorrhagic diseases, and jaundice. Moreover, it was traditionally used as an insecticide, laxative, anti-inflammatory, anti-ulcer, antibiotic, anti-arthritic, antiviral, memory stimulant due to its action as a monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor, anti-cholinergic, antitussive, anti-caries, hypolipidemic, anti-mycotic, estrogenic, antioxidant, anticancer, and anti-diuretic agent^[36]

Modern folk medicine employs licorice roots both independently and in dozens of multicomponent preparations (teas) possessing cholagogic, diaphoretic, expectorant, analgesic, wound-healing, antiseptic, antidotal, antiallergic and tonic properties. Liquorice is also used for the treatment of disorders in lungs, respiratory tracts, stomach, kidneys, and other organs. The licorice powder and extract are useful for the treatment of sore throat, cough, and bronchial catarrh. It has antitussive, demulcent, and expectorant loosening activities. Fresh leaf (external) Used for wounds. Root (decoction, oral) used for kidney stones, lung ailment, ulcers. Root (decoction, oral) used for cough, stomachache. Aqueous extract of stem (oral) used for tuberculosis.^[37]

***Gongronema latifolium* Bentham (Apocynaceae)**

Infused leaves can be used as a home remedy for dysentery and intestinal worms. The leaves can be chewed raw or infused water can act as fast relief for catarrh, congested chest, running nose and cough.^[38]

***Irvingia gabonensis* (Aubry-Lecomte) exO'Rorke) Bill (Irvingiaceae)**

The powdered kernels of *Irvingia gabonensis* can be used as an astringent applied to soothe burns.^[25]

***Mangifera indica* Linnaeus (Anacardiaceae)**

Traditionally aqueous extract of *Mangifera indica* L. used in Cuba for its analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and immune-modulatory properties. In several medicinal systems such as India, Brazil, Haiti, Ghana, Benin, Bangladesh, the fruit, seed, leaves, root and bark of *M. indica* have been used in the treatment of different ailments. Some of which include; Hypertension, diabetes, Hepatic disorders, gastric disorders, asthma, mouth sores, leucorrhea, bleeding hemorrhoids, lung hemorrhage, nerve disorders, syphilis, cough, liver diseases, urinary tract infections, rheumatism.^[39]

***Moringa oleifera* Lam (Moringaceae)**

Roots and fruits are antiparalytic. The roots are also laxative, expectorant, diuretic and good for inflammations, throat, bronchitis, piles and cures stomatitis, urinary discharges and obstinate asthma. The root juice of *Moringa oleifera* when mixed with milk helps to cure lower back pain as it contains analgesics called moringine and moringinine.^[40] Its roots are also prescribed for the treatment of snakebites and scorpion stings. Its leaves are antihelmentic, aphrodisiac and cure hallucinations, dry tumors, hiccough and asthma.

Moringa flowers are a rich source of potassium and calcium. They are also used in the folk remedies for tumors. They also act as hypocholesterolemic and antiarthritic agents and helps to cure urinary problems and cold.^[41] Immature pods can be used in the diet of an obese person In India it is used traditionally as antifungal, stimulant, diuretic, tonic, fried pods for diabetes, decoction is used as a gargle in hoarseness and sore throat.

***Musa acuminata* Colla (Musaceae)**

In Northern Nigeria, its fruit peels are used in the treatment of hypertension and related cardiovascular diseases while in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria *M. acuminata* is used traditionally for the treatment of anaemia. In Brazil its inflorescences are used as therapeutic nutritional complements. In Ayurveda traditional system its peel is used for the management of diabetics.^[42]

***Musa paradisiaca* Linnaeus (Musaceae) PCG/UNN/0353**

In Ayurveda traditional system of medicine it is utilized in the treatment of bronchitis and cough, antidote for snake bite, Asthma, burns, diabetes, dysentery, excessive menstrual flow, fever, gangrene, gout, head ache, stomach aches and lack of appetite.^[43]

***Nauclea diderichii* (de Wild & T. Durand) Merr (Rubiaceae)**

The roots are credited with diuretic properties and used for the treatment of anaemia. Bark decoctions are taken in Sierra Leone and Ghana against stomach-ache and malaria. In Côte d'Ivoire the bark is sometimes used to treat fever and jaundice. In Nigeria bark preparations are used against fever and malaria, and as antiperiodic, appetizer and diuretic. In Gabon a bark infusion is drunk against fever. In Congo bark decoctions are taken or the leaf pulp is rubbed in for the treatment of fever, stomach problems, gonorrhoea and menstruation problems, while a bark infusion is taken as a vermifuge. In DR Congo bark decoctions are drunk for the treatment of hepatitis, and drunk or used as a wash as a vermifuge. Hausa/Fulani tribes in Keffi, Nasarawa State Nigeria, *N. diderrichii* is used for the treatment of skin infections.^[44]

***Nauclea latifolia* Smith (Rubiaceae)**

Traditionally, infusions and decoctions of the bark and leaves of *N. latifolia* are used in West and South Africa in the treatment of stomach ache, fever, tuberculosis, diarrhoea, malaria.^[45] In Niger State, Nigeria roots and major ingredients of *N. latifolia* are used in treatment of respiratory illnesses such as tuberculosis, asthma, bronchitis, cough and cold.

***Ocimum gratissimum* Linnaeus (Lamiaceae)**

In the coastal areas of Nigeria, the plant is used in the treatment of epilepsy, high fever and diarrhoea. In the Savannah areas decoctions of the leaves are used to treat mental illness. Also used in the management of the baby's cord, to keep the wound surfaces sterile. It is also used in the treatment of fungal infections, fever, cold and catarrh. Brazilian tropical forest inhabitants use the root decoction as a sedative for children. In Kenya and sub Saharan African communities, the leaves when rubbed between the palms and sniffed serves as a treatment for blocked nostrils, they are also used for abdominal pains, sore eyes, ear infections, coughs, barrenness, fever, convulsions, and tooth gargle, regulation of menstruation and as a cure for prolapse of the rectum.^[46] In India, the whole plant has been used for the treatment of sunstroke, headache, influenza, as a diaphoretic, antipyretic and for its anti-inflammatory activity.

***Persea Americana* Miller (Lauraceae)**

In ethno-medicine the seed of *P. americana* (avocado seed) has diverse applications, ranging from the treatment of dysentery, intestinal parasites, toothache, diarrhea, skin treatment and beautification. The leaves decoction is used in Cameroon for the treatment of diabetes, toothache, malaria, high blood pressure, and to relief painful menstruations. In Mexico, the crude or toasted seed is used in the cure of fungal and bacterial infections, alongside the treatment of asthma, high blood pressure, and rheumatism.^[47] Also, its seeds are used for the prevention of cardio-vascular diseases. Various parts are used to treat diarrhea, dysentery caused by helminths and amoebas, toothache, intestinal worms, diabetes, skin rashes, infectious processes caused by fungi and bacteria, asthma, high blood pressure and rheumatism, malaria and typhoid fever.

***Petersianthus macrocarpus* (P.Beauv.) Liben (Rubiaceae)**

The stem is used in the treatment of pulmonary trouble, the bark is abortifacient, anodyne, ecbolic, emetic, treatment of arthritis, rheumatism, heart diseases and as a laxative. In Nigeria it is used in the treatment of pains, headache, recurrent fever and malaria. The aqueous extract of the bark is used traditionally in the treatment of constipation, haemorrhoids, venereal diseases and as abortifacient. Traditionally, it is used in South Eastern Nigeria, Ghana and Cameroun in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders, cancer, malaria also for relief from pain and fever associated with malaria.^[48] The aqueous extract of the stem bark is used in the treatment of constipation, haemorrhoids, and venereal diseases and as an abortifacient.

Also, in Ghana poultice and decoction of its leaves is used in the treatment of boils. It has been reported as being used ethnomedicinally in Cameroun for the treatment of prostrate diseases. It is used in the folkloric medicine of the South Eastern part of Nigeria (where it is called owewe) for the relief of many ailments including pains, and re-current fever associated with malaria and as an anti-cancer agent. The plant is also used as traditional folk medicine in Cameroon for the treatment of different infections and disorders like gastrointestinal disorders (e.g. dysentery).^[49]

***Psidium guajava* Linnaeus (Myrtaceae)**

The guava leaves can be used in the form of an infusion or decoction for the treatment of diarrhea (especially in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), pain, fever, cough, diabetes, hypertension, wounds, spasms, and rheumatism. Decoction and poultice of the roots of guava are used as astringents, for ulcers, wounds and diarrhea. Barks of *Psidium guajava* has been reported for their astringent, febrifuge, antiseptic properties.^[50]

***Securida calongepeduncula* Fresen (Polygalaceae)**

In African traditional medicine, the whole plant, leaves, roots and stembark of *S. longepedunculata* is used for the treatment of several ailments, such as; Venereal diseases, syphilis, dysentery, malaria, typhoid, pains, fever, epilepsy, pneumonia, tuberculosis, headaches, abortion, constipation, coughs, sexual boost, toothache, rheumatism, skin cancer, skin infections, contraceptive purposes amongst others.^[51] Various preparations from the plant's roots have been applied to wounds, sores and also used as a contraceptive.

***Strophanthus hispidus* De Candolle (Apocynaceae)**

Traditionally it is used in the treatment of rheumatism, arthritis, stroke and heart failure. Decoctions of leaf, stembark or root are externally utilized in the Savannah Zone of West Africa for the treatment of skin diseases and leprosy. Also various parts of the plant are used as analgesic and in the treatment of diabetes, snake bites, sexual diseases, dysentery, malaria, inflammatory, heart failure, gonorrhea, constipation, and ulcers.^[52]

***Tapinanthus globiferas* (Richard) van Tieghem (Loranthaceae)**

In Nigeria the whole plant *T. globiferus* is used locally by the traditional herbalist for the treatment of various diseases including stroke and diabetes. It is used as an herbal cure for hypertension, ulcer, heart disease and diabetics in Akwa Ibom State. Aqueous leaves extract

of *Tapinanthus globiferus* have been used in traditional medicine in the management of epilepsy, hypertension, relief pain, tinnitus and Trypanosomiasis.^[53]

***Uvaria chamae* P. Beauv. (Annonaceae)**

Infusions of *Uvaria chamae* are used for gonorrhea and jaundice and treating many ailments; including diarrhea, gastroenteritis, inflamed gums, wounds, dysentery, sore throats, sickle cell disease, stroke, and cancer.^[54]

***Vernonia amygdalina* Delile (Compositae)**

In Nigeria, it has been used widely in folk medicine as anti-malaria, purgative, antiparasitic, treatment of eczema and for maintaining healthy blood glucose levels. Also, in Africa it is used traditionally for the treatment of infertility, diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases and gastrointestinal problems,^[55] antihelminth, antimalarial, laxative, digestive tonic, appetizer, and febrifuge.^[56] In some African countries including Ethiopia, *V. amygdalina* is among medicinally significant plants used against malaria, helminth infections, gastrointestinal disorders, and fever. It is also used to promote wound healing. And to treat microbial infections. The leaves can be taken as an appetizer and the water extract as a digestive tonic. These are largely consumed by the female Hausas in their belief that it makes them more sexually attractive. In Northern Nigeria, it has been added to horse feed to provide a strengthening or fattening tonic called *Chusar Doki* in Hausa. The leaves have also been used in Ethiopia as hops in preparing tela beer.^[57] The leaves are widely used for fevers and are known as a quinine-substitute in Nigeria and some other African countries. The young leaves are used in folk medicine as antihelmintic, antimalarial, laxative/purgative, enema, expectorant, worm expeller and fertility inducer in sub-fertile women. Many herbalists and naturopathic doctors have recommended the aqueous extracts for their patients as treatment for emesis, nausea, diabetes, loss of appetite, induced abortion, dysentery and other gastrointestinal tract problems.^[55]

***Xylopia aethiopica* (Dunal) A. Rich. (Annonaceae)**

Xylopia aethiopica is used traditionally in the treatment of several ailments such as; dysentery, cough, malaria, cancer, aches and pains, biliousness, uterine fibroid, bronchitis etc. A fruit extract, a decoction of the bark or that from the fruit is useful in the treatment of bronchitis and dysenteric conditions. In Congo, it is used against the attacks of asthma, stomach aches and rheumatism.^[58] Among the conditions treated with *X. aethiopica* in traditional medicine are cough (fruits and roots of the plant) bronchitis, dysentery and

biliousness (fruits and stem bark) and boils and sores (leaves and bark).^[59] In Ivory Coast, it is utilized as a postpartum tonic, promotes fertility and eases childbirth. Also, its leaves and bark are used to manage wounds, boils, cuts and sores.

***Zingiber officinale* Roscoe (Zingiberaceae)**

Z. officinale has anti-nausea and antiemetic activities. It is used for its protective effects against respiratory disorders, treatment of catarrh, rheumatism, nervous diseases, gingivitis, toothache, asthma, stroke, constipation and diabetes in the traditional medicines of many countries. *Z. officinale* has been used traditionally in African, Caribbean, Ayurveda, Chinese medicinal systems to cure diseases such as; cough, asthma, nausea, loss of appetite, constipation, indigestion, pain amongst several other uses. For the treatment of arthritis, hypertension, muscular aches, rheumatism, cramps, dementia, and sore throats.^[60]

Table 1: Medicinal Plants used in treating diabetes in Nsukka LGA, Enugu State, Nigeria, their common Name and Local names.

S/No	Plant Botanical Name (Family)	Common Name	Igbo name	Plant part	Habitat
1	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L.) Moench Malvaceae	Okro	Okwuru	Fruit	Shrub
2	<i>Acanthus montanus</i> (Nees) T. Anderson, Acanthaceae	Mountain thistle	Agamusoso	Leaf	Tree
3	<i>Allium cepa</i> , Linnaeus, Liliaceae	Onion	Yabas	Bulb	Herb
4	<i>Allium sativum</i> , Linnaeus, Liliaceae	Garlic	Galik	Bulb	Herb
5	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> , (Linnaeus) Burm, Liliaceae	Aloe vera	Alo vera	Leaf	Shrub
6	<i>Alstonia boonei</i> De Wild, Apocynaceae	Cheese wood	Egbu	Bark	Tree
7	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> Linnaeus Anacardiaceae	Cashew	Kashu	Leaf / bark	Tree
8	<i>Annona muricata</i> , Linnaeus Annonaceae	Soursop	Sawashop	Leaf/ fruit	Tree
9	<i>Anthocleista vogelii</i> Planch Gentianaceae	English cabbage tree	Odogwu	Leaf/ root	Tree
10	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Jus Meliaceae	Neem	Dongoyaro	Leaf	Tree
11	<i>Buchholzia coriacea</i> Engler Capparaceae	Wonderful kola	Wondafu Kola	Nut	Shrub
12	<i>Carica papaya</i> Linnaeus Caricaceae	Pawpaw	Okwuru Bekee	Unripened fruit/ root	Tree
13	<i>Chrysophyllum albidum</i> G. Don Sapotaceae	African cherry	Udara	All parts	Tree

14	<i>Cinnamomum verum</i> J. Presl. (Lauraceae)	Cinnamon	Cinnamon	Bark	Tree
15	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> (Chrism) Swingle Rutaceae	Lime	Oromankirisi	Leaf / fruit	Tree
16	<i>Citrus limon</i> (Linnaeus) Burman Rutaceae	Lemon	Lemon	Fruit	Tree
17	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> Linnaeus Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber	Kukumba	Fruit	Herb
18	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (de Candolle) Stapf Poaceae	Lemon grass	Lemon grass	Leaf	Grass
19	<i>Dioscorea alata</i> . Linnaeus (Dioscoreaceae)	Watershyam	Abala	Fruit	Root
20	<i>Garcinia kola</i> Heckel Clusiaceae	Bitter kola	Akiilu	Nut	Tree
21	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linnaeus Fabaceae	Liquorice	Likworice	Leaf	Herb
22	<i>Gongronema latifolium</i> Benth. Apocynaceae	Amaranth globe	Utazi	Leaf	Herb
23	<i>Irvingia gabonensis</i> (Aubry-Lecomte) ex O'Rorke Bill Irvingiaceae	African mango	Ogbonno	Bark	Tree
24	<i>Mangifera indica</i> Linnaeus Anacardiaceae	Mango	Mangoro	Leaf / bark	Tree
25	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam Moringaceae	Moringa Drumstick tree Horseradish tree	Agbadi	Leaf/seed/ root	Tree
26	<i>Musa acuminata</i> Colla Musaceae	Red banana	Ogede	Un-ripped fruit	Tree
27	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> Linnaeus Musaceae	Plantain	Ojioko	Un-ripped fruit	Tree
28	<i>Nauclea diderichii</i> (de Wild & T. Durand) Merr Rubiaceae	Pin cushion tree Brimstone tree, African peach (En). Acajou jaune d'Afrique, acajou jaune du Gabon,	Uvuruuso	Root	Tree
29	<i>Nauclea latifolia</i> Smith Rubiaceae	African peach	Uvuruili	Root	Tree
30	<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> Linnaeus Lamiaceae	Scent leaf, Basil	Nchanwu	Leaf	Herb
31	<i>Persea americana</i> Miller Lauraceae	Avocado Pear, alligator pea	Ube oyibo	Dried seed / leaf	Tree

32	<i>Petersianthus macrocarpus</i> (P.Beauv.) Liben Rubiaceae	stinkwood tree (English), Esia (Ghana), Abalé (France), Owewe (Nigeria), soap tree	Anwushi	Leaf	Tree
33	<i>Psidium guajava</i> Linnaeus Myrtaceae	Guava	Gova	Leaf	Tree
34	<i>Securidacalonge pedunculata</i> Fresen. Polygalaceae	African violet tree	Aga egu	Leaf	Tree
35	<i>Strophanthus hispidus</i> De Candolle Apocynaceae	Kombe seed	Kagoro	Root	Shrub
36	<i>Tapinanthus globiferas</i> (Richard) Van Tieghem (Loranthaceae).	African mistletoe	Owube	Leaf	Shrub
37	<i>Uvaria chamae</i> P.Beauv. Annonaceae	Black pepper	Uda-egu	Seed	Tree
38	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> Delile Compositae)	Bitterleaf	Olugbu	Leaf	Herb
39	<i>Xylopi aethiopica</i> (Dunal) A. Rich. Annonaceae	Ethiopian pepper	Uda	Seed	Tree
40	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe Zingiberaceae	Ginger	Jinja	Rhizome	Herb

Table 2: Some compounds isolated from the plants used for the treatment of diabetes in Nsukka LGA.

S/ No	Plant Botanical Name (Family)	Plant part	Isolated compound(s)
1	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L.) Moench (Malvaceae)	Fruits	5,7,3',4'-tetrahydroxy-4''-O-methyl flavonol -3-O- β -D- glucopyranoside, 5,7,3',4'-tetrahydroxy flavonol -3-O-[β -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)]- β -Dglucopyranoside ^[61] scopoletin 7-hydroxy-6-methoxychromen-2-one has been isolated ^[62]
2	<i>Acanthus montanus</i> (Nees) T. Anderson (Acanthaceae)	aerial parts leaves	β -sitosterol-3-O- -D-glucoside, palmitic acid linaroside ,homoplantagenin , 5, 7, 3'-trihydroxy6,4'-dimethoxy flavone-7-O-glucoside, shikimic acid,protochatecuicacid, blepharin and acetoside ^[63] 2,6-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-methyl phenol,allyl(2tetrahydrofuryl methoxy)dimethylsilane, sulfurous acid cyclohexylmethyl hexyl ester, alpha-methyl 4methylmannoside, hexadecanoic acid methyl ester,

			11-octadecenoic acid methyl ester, docosane, N,Ndimethylvaleramide and 2,6,10,15-tetramethyl heptadecane. ^[64]
3	<i>Allium cepa</i> , Linnaeus (Liliaceae)	bulb	kaempferol, quercetin,isorhamnetin, and isorhamnetin-4'-O-β- D-glucopyranoside. ^[65] Quercetin 3,40-diglucoside, quercetin 40monoglucoside, peonidin glucoside, petunidin glucoside, andmalvidin glucoside, myricetin, quercetinaglycone. ^[66] Polyphenols-Kaempferol, Quercetin, Ferulic acid, Chlorogenic acid, Gallic acid Organic acids-Pyruvic acid, Succinic acid, Ascorbic acid, Oxalic acid, Tartaric acid, Citric acid, Malic acid, di- and trisulfides. Alliucide G, (Z,Z)-d,l-2,3-dimethyl-1,4-butanthiol-S,S'-dioxide. ^[67]
4	<i>Allium sativum</i> , Linnaeus (Liliaceae)		S-allylcysteinesulphoxide, Allicin, allicin, alliin, diallyl sulfide, diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide, ajoene, and S-allyl-cysteine. diallyl thiosulfonate (allicin), diallyl sulfide (DAS), diallyl disulfide (DADS), diallyl trisulfide (DATS), E/Z-ajoene, S-allyl-cysteine (SAC), and S-allyl-cysteine sulfoxide (alliin). ^[68]
5	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> , (Linnaeus) Burm (Liliaceae)		lophenol, 24-methyl-lophenol,24-ethyl-lophenol, cycloartanol, and 24-methylene-cycloartanol. ^[69]
6	<i>Alstonia boonei</i> De Wild (Apocynaceae)	Fresh leaves stem	2,10-Dodecadien-1-ol,3,7,11- trimethyl-, (E)-, 9-Octadecenoic acid(Z) -, 2, 3-dihydroxypropyl ester, Oleic Acid, 1-(+)-Ascorbic acid2,6-dihexadecanoate, 3-O-Methyl-d-glucose, 2-Undecenoic acid, Hydroquinone, 8-Methylenecyclooctene-3,4-diol, Beta.,beta.-Galactonicphenylhydrazide. ^[70] 3β-hydroxyolean-12-ene (β-amyrin) and 3βacetoxylurs-12-ene (α-amyrin acetate) ^[71] ursolic acid, β-amyrin, Lupeol is also known as (3β)-Lup-20(29)-en-3-ol
7	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> Linnaeus (Anacardiaceae)	cashew nut powder	cardoltriene [5-(8Z,11Z)-8,11,14-Pentadecatrien-1-yl-1,3-benzenediol], cardol diene [5-(8Z,11Z)-8,11-Pentadecadien-1-yl-1,3-benzenediol]. Cardanoltriene[3-(8Z,11Z)-8,11,14-Pentadecatrien1-ylphenol]. ^[72] cardanolmonoene [3-(8Z)-8-Pentadecen-1-ylphenol], anacardic acid diene [2-Hydroxy-6-(8Z,11Z)-8,11pentadecadien-1-ylbenzoic acid], and anacardic acid monoene [2-Hydroxy-6-(8Z)-8-pentadecenylbenzoic acid].androstane steroid 3-[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-17-[o(phenylmethyl)oxime]-(3α,5α)-androstane-11,17dione.2-trifluoroacetoxydodecane Oleic acid 1-cyclohexylnonene Octadecanoic acid, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl ester Benzoic acid 17-(5-ethyl-6-

			methylheptan-2-yl)10,13dimethyl,3,4,7,8,9,11,12,14,15,16,17dodecahydro-1Hcyclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-yl ester. Anacardic acid ^[73]
8	<i>Annona muricata</i> Linnaeus (Annonaceae)	Leaf Seed	Annoionol A, annoionol B, annoionol C, annoionoside, vomifoliol, roseoside, turpinionoside A, citroside A, blumenol C, (+)-epiloliolide, loliolide, (1S,2S,4R)-trans-2-hydroxy-1,8-cineoleb-Dglucopyranoside, (Z)-3-hexenyl b-D-glucopyranoside andrutin ^[74] . β -caryophyllene, δ -cadinene, epi- α -cadinol, α -cadinol.annonamine, (R)-O,O-dimethylcocclaurine, (S)-norcorydine and (R)-4'-O-methylcocclaurine. argentinine, catechine, chlorogenic acid, epicatechine, kaempferol, kaempferol 3-O-rutinoside, quercetin3-O-glucoside, quercetin 3-Oneohesperidoside, quercetin 3-O-robinoside, quercetin 3-O-a-rhamnosyl-(1-6)-b-sophorside, quercetin 3-O-a-rhamnosyl and quercetin-Orutinoside annomuricin A, annomuricin B,annomuricin C, muricatocin A, muricatocin B, and muricatocin C. Muricoreacin and Murihexocin C, Annomuricin E, Annonacin, robinetin, taxifolin (+), quercetin, apigenin-6-C-glucoside, gallic acid, and luteolin 3'7-di-O-glucoside. Cinnamic acid, coumaric acid, daidzein, emodin, gallocatechin, genistein, glycitein, homooorientin, isoferulic acid, and vitexin. ^[75] Acetogenins- joolanin, squamocin, desacetylavaricin, chamuvarinin, triproxyrollin, dieporeticanin-1, dieporeticanin-2 and dieporeticeninJoolanin cis-bullatencin, bullatencin, annotemoyin-1, solamin, uvariamicin-I, II, -III, cis-eticulatacin and cis-uvariamicin-I andchamuvarinin. ^[76]
9	<i>Anthocleista vogelii</i> Planch (Gentianaceae)	stem bark	1-Hydroxy-3,7,8-trimethoxyxanthone, Sesquiterpene, Triterpenoid, Anthocleistenoloide. ^[77]
10	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss (Meliaceae)		isoprenoids (like diterpenoids and triterpenoids containing protomeliacins, limonoids, azadirone and its derivatives, gedunin and its derivatives, vilasinin type of compounds and C- secomeliacins such as nimbin, salanin and azadirachtin) and non-isoprenoids,An average composition of neem oil fatty acids is, Linoleic acid,Oleic acid ,Hexadecanoic acid, Octadecanoic acid along with alphaliolenicacid and 9-hexadecenoic acid. ^[78]
11	<i>Buchholzia coriacea</i> Engler (Capparaceae)		Beta-sitosterol and α -sulphur. ^[79]
12	<i>Carica papaya</i>	leaves	2-methoxy-4-vinylphenol. ^[80]

	Linnaues (Caricaceae)		
13	<i>Chrysophyllum albidum</i> G. Don (Sapotaceae)	Stem bark	Stigmasterol, epicatechin, epigallocatechin, Eleagnin and procyanidin B5. 1-Nonadecene, Linoleic acid ethyl ester, Octadecanoic acid, methyl ester, 11-Octadecenoic acid methyl ester, 9,12-octadecadienoic acid methyl ester, Hexadecanoic acid ethyl ester, 6-Octadecanoic acid, (z)-octadecanoic acid, 2,2,3-Trimethyl-2-3-methyl-buta 1,3-dienyl Squalene, Chondrillasterol, 7,22- Ergostadienone, 17-(1,5-Dimethyl-3-phenylthiohex-4-enyl)-4, Beta.-Amyrin, Lup-20(29)-en-3-ol, acetate, (3- beta) and Phthalic acid, di(2-propylpentyl) ester. ^[81]
14	<i>Cinnamomum verum</i> J. Presl (Lauraceae)	bark	Trans-cinnamaldehyde, 1,2-naphthalenedione, Ethanone, Borneol, 2H-1-benzopyran-2-one, 3-methyl-4undecene, and 3- phenyl-2-propenal. ^[82]
15	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> (<i>Chrism</i>) <i>Swingle</i> (Rutaceae)	Peel and leaves	3,7-dimethyl-2,6-octadien-1-ol, geraniol, <i>E</i> -citral, <i>Z</i> -citral, and β -ocimene Limolinene, β -lpinene, γ -terpinene, citral, sabinene, citronella, geranial, linalool α -thujene, α -phellandrene, caryophyllene oxide, β -santalene, ^[83] Hesperitin, naringin, tangeretin, naringenin, erioctrin, hesperidin, Bergapten, bergamottin, bergapitol, byakangelicin, citropten (limettin), imperatorin, isoimperatorin, isopimpinellin, phellopterin, prangol, scopoletin, 5-geranyloxypsoralen, 5-geranyloxy-7-methoxycoumarin. 5,8-dimethoxy-psoralen (isopimpinellin), 5,7-dimethoxycoumarin, 3-methyl-1,2cyclopentanedione, 1-methoxy-cyclohexene, corylone, palmitic acid, α -terpineol, and umbelliferone. ^[84]
16	<i>Citrus limon</i> (Linnaues) Burman (Rutaceae)	Juice	Caffeoyl N-Tryptophan, hydroxycinnamoyl-Oglucoside acid, vicienin 2. Eriocitrin, kaempferol-3-O-rutinoside, quercetin-3-rutinoside. Limonin, nomilin, eriodictyol, neoeriocitrin, isonaringin, naringin, hesperidin, neohesperidin, and limonin 6,8-di-C- β -glucosyldiosmin (LE-B) and 6-C- β -glucosyldiosmin, β -pinene, terpinen-4-ol m, α -terpinolene geranial, neral, α -bisabolol, (E)- α -bisabolene, β -santalene, (Z)- α -bisabolene Camphenol, 6-methyl-5hepten-2-one. ^[85]
17	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> Linnaues (Cucurbitaceae)	Stem	(2S,3S,4R,10E)-2-[(2'R)-2-hydroxytetracosanoylamino]-1,3,4-octadecanetriol-10-ene, 1-O β -D-glucopyranosyl-(2S,3S,4R,10E)-2-[(2'R)-2-hydroxy-tetracosanoylamino]-1,3,4-octadecanetriol-10-ene and soya-cerebroside I, ar-turmerone, β -sesquiphellandrene, and curcumenol, Curcumin ^[86]
18	<i>Cymbopogon citratrus</i> (de		Geranial, neral α -cardinol, selina-6-en-4-ol, β -eudesmol, geranial, Citral α , citral β (neral), nerol,

	Candolle) Stapf (Poaceae)		geraniol, citronellal, terpinolene, geranyl acetate, myrcene, terpinol, ethylheptenone, cymbopogone, cymbopogonol, luteolin, Dipentene, Limonene, Linalool, Borneol β -myrcene, Citronello. ^[87]
19	<i>Dioscorea alata</i> Linnaeus (Dioscoreaceae)	Tubers Tuber Peel Tuber	Hydro-Q(9) chtomene, gamma-tocopherol-9, RRR α -tocopherol, coenzyme Q(9), 1-ferloylglycerol. ^[88] Diosgenin. ^[89] 3,3-dihydroxy-5-methoxybibenzyl or batatasin III. ^[90] 3-O-(6-O-(6-O-(E)-sinapoyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl)- β -D-glucopyranosyl)-7-O-(6-O(E)-sinapoyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl)cyanidin, 3-O-(6-O-(3-O-(β -Dglucopyranosyl)-6-O-(E)-sinapoyl-Dglucopyranosyl)- β -D-glucopyranosyl)cyanidin, 3-O-(6-O-(6-O-(E)-sinapoyl- β -Dglucopyranosyl)- β -Dglycopyranosyl)peonidin, 3-O-(6-O-(6-O-(E)feruloyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl)- β -Dglucopyranosyl)cyanidin, alatanin A, alatanin B, alatanin C, and 3-O-(6-O- β -D-glucopyranosyl)- β -Dglucopyranosyl)cyaniding. ^[91]
20	<i>Garcinia kola</i> Heckel (Clusiaceae)	seed	linoleic acid, 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid and 2,3-dihydro-3,5-dihydroxy-6-methyl ester, naringin-7-rhamnoglucoside (4', 5, 7-trihydroxy flavanone, rhamnoglucose), 1 pentadecanecarboxylic acid, (Z)-11-Octadecenoic acid and octadecanoic acid, 2-(2-hydroxyethoxy) ethyl ester. ^[92]
21	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linnaeus (Fabaceae)	Roots	Glycyrrhizin, glycyrrhetic acid 3-O-glucuronide, glycyrrhetic acid glycycomarin, glycyrin and glycyrol, liquiritin and liquiritigenin, isoliquiritigenin and licochalcone, glabridin, dihydrostilbenes. 3,3',4,4'-tetrahydroxy-2'-methoxy-5-prenylchalcone, 5'-formyl glabridin, (2R,3R)-3,4',7-trihydroxy-3'prenylflavanone, 7,8-dihydroxy-4'-methoxy-6prenylisoflavanone. ^[93] Echinatin, lichocalcone B, morachalcone A, 2',3,4'-trihydroxy-3'- γ,γ -dimethylallyl-6'', 6''-dimethylpyrano[2'',3'': chalcone, 1-(2',4'dihydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-3-(4''-hydroxyphenyl)1-propanone, kanzonol Y, (3R)-vestitol, (3R)2',3',7-trihydroxy-4'-methoxyisoflavan, kanzonol X, glabridin, 4'-O-methylglabridin, 3'-hydroxy-4'-O-methylglabridin, hispaglabridin A, hispaglabridin B, glabrene, kanzonol W, labrocoumarin, shinpterocarpin, O-methylshinpterocarpin, licoagrocarpin, licoflavanone A, glabrol, shinflavanone, euchrenone a5, xambioona, gancaonin L, glabrone, kanzonol U, and 8,8-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H,8Hpyrano[2,3-f]chromon-3-ol, Glycyrrhizin, Glycyrrhetic acid,

			Liquiritin, Isoliquiritin, glabrene, hispaglabridins A and B, glabridin, ^[94] isoliquiritin, isoliquiritinapioside, neoliquiritinapioside, liquiritinapiosideliquiritigenin, isoliquiritin, licuraside, glycycomarin, glycyrin, glycyrol and liquiritigenin, isoliquiritigenin, licochalcone A and glabridin. rhamnoliquirilin, liquiritigenin, prenyllicoflavone A, glucoliquiritinapioside, 1-methoxyphaseolin, shinpterocarpin, shinflavanone, licopyranocoumarin, glisoflavone, licoaryl coumarin, and coumarin-GU-12, and saponins, namely, glycyrrhizin, isoprenoid-substituted phenolic constituents (isoangustone A, semilicoisoflavone B, licoriphenone, and 1-methoxyficifolinol), kanzonol R (prenylated isoflavan derivative), ^[95]
22	<i>Gongronema latifolium</i> Benth (Apocynaceae)		Cinchonidine, Oxoasosanine, Lupanine, Buphanidine, (Alkaloids), Hyperoside, Quercetin and Kaempferol. ^[96]
23	<i>Irvingia gabonensis</i> (Aubry-Lecomte) ex O'Rorke) Bill (Irvingiaceae)		3,8-Tri-O-methyl ellagic acid, methyl-ellagic acid-O-rhamnosyl-rhamnoside, mono-methyl-ellagic acids, di-O-methyl ellagic acids, kaempferol 3-O-glucoside and quercetin 3-O-rhamnoside, isomangiferin. ^[97]
24	<i>Mangifera indica</i> Linnaeus (Anacardiaceae)	Leaves Leaves	mangiferolate A and mangiferolate, gallic acid, 3,4-dihydroxy benzoic acid, gallic acid methyl ester, gallic acid propyl ester, mangiferin, (+)catechin, (-)epicatechin, quercetin O-glycosides, one kaempferol O-glycoside, four xanthone C-glycosides and the flavonolhexoside, Phellandrene, α -pinene, ambolic acid, ascorbic acid, β -carotene, gallic acid, gallotannic acid, mangifelic acid, mangiferol peroxidase, phenyl alanin and proline. ^[98] Mangiferin, isomangiferin, and homomangiferin catechin-(4 α →8)-catechin, catechin-(4 α →6)-catechin, and epicatechin-(4 β →8)-catechin, have been isolated for the first time in addition to the known flavanols catechin, epicatechin, and epigallocatechin. Epigallocatechin-3-O-gallate-(4 β →8)-epigallocatechin-((4 β →8)-catechinK. Mangiferin, friedelin and lupeol ^[99]
25	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam (Moringaceae)	Seed Leaves leaves, seed and flower Stem Root	4-[(α -L-rhamnosyloxy)benzyl] nitrile or niazirine., O-ethyl-4-[(α -L-rhamnosyloxy)benzyl] thiocarbamate or niazimicine. ^[100] tangutorid E, tangutorid F, niazirin, benzaldehyde 4-O- α -L-rhamnopyranoside, 4-O- β -D-glucopyranoside benzoic acid, 4-caffeoylquinic acid, methyl 4-caffeoylquinic acid, methyl 4-caffeoylquinic acid, uridine, adenosine, quercetin

			<p>3-O-β-D-glucopyranoside.^[101]</p> <p>3-O-(6'-O-oleoyl-β-D-glucopyranosyl)-βsitosterol,β-sitosterol-3-O-β-D-glucopyranoside, niazirine, β-sitosterol, and glycerol-1-(9-octadecanoate), niazimicine.</p> <p>Roridin E, Veridiflorol, 9-Octadecenoic acid 9-Octadecen – 1- ol, (Z) – (CAS) cis - 9 – Octadecen – 1 – ol, Oleol, Satol, Ocenol, Sipo, Decanoic acid, Dodecanal.^[102]</p> <p>niazinine A, niazinineBniazinine, niazimicine, and niazinine A + B.^[103]</p> <p>Tricosanoic acid. gamma-sitosterol, Stigmasterol,Cholest-5-en-3-ol Benzyl isothiocyanate, O-ethyl benzyl thiocarbamate, 4-(a-L-rhamnopyranosyloxy) benzylnitrile (niazirin), N-ethoxythiocarbonyl-4-(a- rhamnopyranosyloxy) benzylamine (niazimicin), benzylamine.^[104]</p>
26	<i>Musa acuminata</i> Colla (Musaceae)		kaempferol-3-O-rutinoside and rutin
27	<i>Musa paradisiacal</i> Linnaues (Musaceae)	Peels	Ellagic acid, gallic acid , ferulic acid , o-coumaric acid , catechol , salicylic acid ,cinnamic acid , rutin, myricetin , and naringenin, lutein, α - and β -carotene, auroxanthin, violaxanthin, neoxanthin, β - cryptoxanthin, isolutein, and α - cryptoxanthin. ^[105]
28	<i>Nauclea diderichii</i> (de Wild &T.Durand) Merr (Rubiaceae)		Harman, 3-Carbomelhoxyharman, I-Carbomelhoxyharman, I-Corboxomidonorhorman, 3-Acefyl-5-carbomefhoxy pyridin, 3-Corbomefhoxy-5-(1'-hydroxyefhy1)pyridine. Quinovic acid glycosides. ^[106]
29	<i>Nauclea latifolia</i> Smith (Rubiaceae)		<i>trans</i> -3,4-dihydroxycinnamic acid (caffeic acid), quercetin, quercetin-3-O- β -glycopyranoside, 3-caffeoylquinic acid (chlorogenic acid), and 3,5-O-dicaffeoylquinic acid. ^[107]
30	<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> Linnaues Lamiaceae	leaves	Eugenol, 1,8-cineol vicenin-2 and chicoric acid, L-caftaricacid , L-chicoricacid, eugenyl- β -Dglucopyranoside and vicenin-2. Thujone, Thujanol, Borneol (1,8 cineole), Linalool, Eudesma-4(14), 11-diene, 1-terpinen-4-ol, 1-Terpinen-4-ol, Durenol. ^[108]
31	<i>Persea americana</i> Miller (Lauraceae)	leaves	(<i>E,Z,Z</i>)-1-Acetoxy-2-hydroxy-4-oxo-heneicosa-5,12,15-triene. Persin(<i>Z,Z</i>)- 1. (acetyloxy). 2-hydroxy. 12,15 _heneicosadien.4_ one). ^[109]
32	<i>Petersianthus Macrocarpus</i> (P.Beauv.) Liben (Rubiaceae)	Stem bark	Petersaponins III and IV (21-O-benzoyl-22-Oacetylbarritogenol C and 21-O-2-furoxyl-22-Otiglobarrintogenol. 3,3'-Dimethoxy ellagic acid and 3,3'-dimethoxy-4O-/1-D-glucopyranosyl ellagic acid. ^[110]

33	<i>Psidium guajava</i> Linnaeus (Myrtaceae)	leaves	Corosolic acid, (2 α -hydroxyursolic acid), Jacoumaric acid, 16,24,25-Trihydroxy-3-oxoeuph-7en-21-oic acid, 2,3-Dihydroxy-12-oleanen-28-oic acid; 3-O-(3,4-Dihydroxy-E-cinnamoyl), GuajadialB, Medicagenic acid, 4,23-Dihydroxy-22-oxo-3,4seco-12-oleanen-3- oic acid. ^[111] (Z)-3-hexenal, 3-sulfanyl-L-hexanol, 4- hydroxyl-2,5-dimethyl-3(Sh)-furannone, 3-Sulfanylhhexyl acetate, hexanal, ethylbutanoate, cinamyl acetate and methional, Morin-3-O- α -lyxo-pyranoside, morin-3- α -arabinoside, nguajavarin and quercetin. 20 β -acetoxo-2 α 3 β -dihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid (guavanoic acid) and 2 α ,3 β -dihydroxy-24- <i>p</i> -z coumaroyloxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid (guavacoumaric acid), (2 α -hydroxyursolic acid, jacoumaric acid, isoneriu-coumaric acid, asiatic acid, ilelatifol D and β -sitosterol-3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside), betulinic acid and lupeol. ^[112]
34	<i>Securidacalonge pedunculata</i> Fresen. (Polygalaceae)		Securidacaside A, securidacaside B, 3-O- β -Dglucopyranosylpresenegenin-28-O- β -Dapiofuranosyl-(1,3)- β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1,4)[β -Dapiofuranosyl-(1,3)]- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1,2)-{4O-[(E)-3,4,5trimethoxycinnamoyl]}- β -Dfucopyranosyl ester, Quercetin-3-O-D-xyloside, Δ Stigmasterol-3-O-D-glucopyranoside, β -D-(3,4-disinapoyl)fructofuranosyl- α -D(6sinapoyl)glucopyranoside and β -D-(3-sinapoyl)fructofuranosyl- α -D(6sinapoyl)glucopyranoside. ^[113]
35	<i>Strophanthus hispidus</i> De Candolle (Apocynaceae)		Strophanthidin, Sarmentocymarin and Sametogenin. ^[114]
36	<i>Tapinanthus globiferas</i> (Richard) van Tieghem (Loranthaceae)		Lupeol, Lupeol Acetate. ^[115]
37	<i>Uvaria chamae</i> P.Beauv. (Annonaceae)	Root stem	Chamuvaritin Grandifloranol, zeylenone. Dimetoxyp-cymene, t-cadinol, methylthymol. stigmasterol and betasitosterol. ^[116]
38	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> Delile (Compositae)	Flower Leaf	Luteolin, Tricosane, Vernolid, Isorhamnetin. Vernolide and vernodalol. ^[117]
39	<i>Xylopia aethiopica</i> (Dunal) A. Rich. (Annonaceae)	Fruits	3-carene, eucalyptol, 2-hydroxy-4-methylbenzoic acid, abietic acid, 3,21-dihydroxypregnan-4-oneXylopioxyde (16,17 β -epoxy-15-oxo-ent-kauran-19oic acid), 15 α -acetoxo-ent-kaur-16-en-19 oic acid (xylopic acid), 15-oxo-ent-kaur-16-en-19-oic acid, and ent-kaur-16-en-19-

			oic acid. Xylopic acid. ^[118]
40	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe (Zingiberaceae)	Rhizome Powdered rhizome	shogaols, gingerols, shogaols and gingerdiols, [6]-gingerdiol 3,5-diacetates. ^[119] 6-gingerol, 8-gingerol, and 10-gingerol, methyl-6gingerol, 6-gingerdiol, acetoxy-10-ingerol, diacetoxy-4-gingerdiol and diacetoxy-8-gingerdiol, methyl diacetoxy-6-gingerdiol, 1-dehydro-6gingerdione, and diacetoxy-8-gingerdiol. ^[120]

DISCUSSION

Diabetes of all types can lead to complications in many parts of the body and can increase the overall risk of dying prematurely. Possible complications include heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, leg amputation, vision loss and nerve damage. In pregnancy, poorly controlled diabetes increases the risk of fetal death and other complications. Diabetic retinopathy is an important cause of blindness and occurs as a result of long-term accumulated damage to the small blood vessels in the retina. Diabetes is among the leading causes of kidney failure.^[121] The antidiabetic use of these plants in Nsukka LGA is not an isolated case neither is it by chance because the result of our review of available literature showed that most of the plants have similar use in other places as demonstrated by scientific investigations. There are many pharmacological active compounds isolated from the plants [Tables 2]. Considering the fact that some of these plants are used as food or components of foods it can be said that people in some areas knowingly or unknowingly take medicinal items as food. The shift in nutritional preferences in favour of processed food items can at least in part explain the generation difference in incidence of the diseases with the older generation having a lower case.

CONCLUSION

There are plants with diverse medicinal activities and uses in the forests and gardens of Nsukka LGA of Enugu state Nigeria. Though a great percentage of the plants identified as being used in the treatment of diabetes in Nsukka LGA of Enugu state is low compared to the many plants in our forests with other activities. Irrespective of culture and/or geographical location the world is united in the use of plants as therapeutic agents.

Conflict of interest

None to declare.

Authors' contributions: Odoh UE, Uzor PF and Osadebe PO designed the work. The interview was conducted by Ezema CO and data compiled by Ezema CO under the supervision of Odoh UE, Osadebe PO and Uzor PF. Literature search and data analysis were done by Odoh UE, Chukwuma MO, Ezema CO, Odoh LC and Agubata CW. The first draft of the manuscript was written by Odoh UE, Chukwuma MO and Ezema CO. All authors approved the final draft of the manuscript.

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Abbreviations

LGA	Local Government Area
WHO	World Health Organization
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
GDM	Gestational Diabetes Mellitus
BMI	Body mass index
OGTT	Oral glucose tolerance test
FPG	Fasting plasma glucose

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