



Research article

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-Fagbohunge 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.

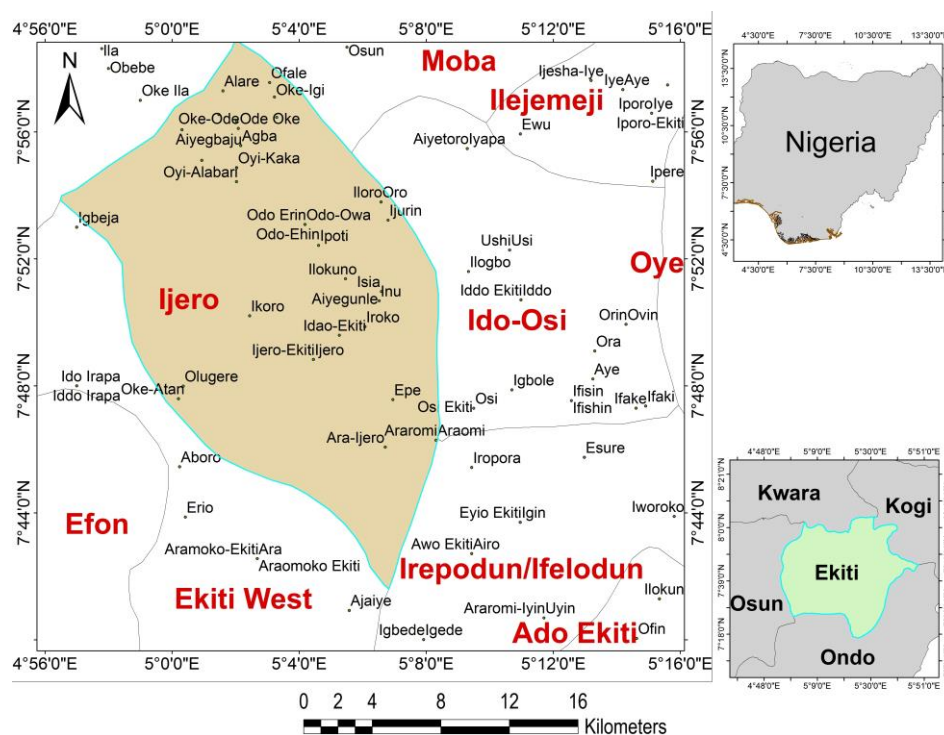


Figure 1. Map of Ekiti State showing location of the study area.

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 Caesalpiniaceae 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,

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.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Papilionaceae	Climber
2.	<i>Acalypha fimbriata</i> Schumach. et Thonn.	Euphorbiaceae	Herb
3.	<i>Acalypha godseffiana</i> Mast.	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub
4.	<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC.	Asteraceae	Herb
5.	<i>Achryanthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Herb
6.	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	Asteraceae	Herb
7.	<i>Albizia ferruginea</i> (Guill. & Perr.) Benth.	Mimosaceae	Tree
8.	<i>Albizia lebeck</i> (L.) Benth	Mimosaceae	Tree
9.	<i>Albizia zygia</i> (DC) J.F. Macbr.	Mimosaceae	Tree
10.	<i>Alchornea laxiflora</i> (Benth.) Pax et K. Hoffm.	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub
11.	<i>Allophylus africanus</i> P. Beauv	Sapindaceae	Tree
12.	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) R. Br. ex DC.	Amaranthaceae	Creeper
13.	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Herb
14.	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Herb
15.	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	Tree
16.	<i>Anthocleista djalensis</i> A Chev.	Loganiaceae	Tree
17.	<i>Anthonotha macrophylla</i> P.Beauv.	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree
18.	<i>Antiaris toxicaria</i> A.Chev.	Moraceae	Tree
19.	<i>Aspilia africana</i> L.	Asteraceae	Herb
20.	<i>Asystasia gangetica</i> (L.) T. Anderson	Acanthaceae	Herb
21.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Tree
22.	<i>Baphia nitida</i> Lodd.	Papilionaceae	Tree
23.	<i>Basella alba</i> L.	Basellaceae	Climber
24.	<i>Berlinia grandiflora</i> (Vahl) Hutch. & Dalziel	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree
25.	<i>Bidens pilosa</i> L.	Asteraceae	Herb
26.	<i>Bixa orellana</i> L.	Bixaceae	Shrub
27.	<i>Blepharis maderaspatensis</i> (L.) B. Heyne ex Roth	Acanthaceae	Herb
28.	<i>Blighia sapida</i> Koenig	Sapindaceae	Tree
29.	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Herb
30.	<i>Borreria ocymoides</i> (Burm. f.) DC.	Rubiaceae	Herb
31.	<i>Brachystegia eurycoma</i> Harms	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree
32.	<i>Brsocarpus coccineus</i> Schumach. Et Thonn.	Connaraceae	Climber
33.	<i>Caesalpinia pulcherima</i> (L.) Sw.	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub
34.	<i>Calopogonium mucunoides</i> Desv.	Papilionaceae	Creeper
35.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton) Dryand.	Asclepiadaceae	Shrub
36.	<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i> SW.	Sapindaceae	Climber
37.	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.	Caricaceae	Shrub
38.	<i>Centrosema pubescens</i> P. Beauv	Papilionaceae	Climber
39.	<i>Chasmanthera dependens</i> Hochst.	Menispermaceae	Climber
40.	<i>Chassalia kolly</i> (Schumach.) Hepper	Rubiaceae	Shrub
41.	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i> King & Robinson	Asteraceae	Herb
42.	<i>Cissampelos owariensis</i> P. Beauv. ex DC.	Menispermaceae	Climber
43.	<i>Cissus aralioides</i> (Welw. ex Baker) Planch.	Vitaceae	Climber
44.	<i>Cissus arguta</i> Hook.f.	Vitaceae	Climber
45.	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> Swingle	Rutaceae	Tree
46.	<i>Citrus paradisi</i> Macfad	Rutaceae	Tree
47.	<i>Citrus sinensis</i> (L.) Osbeck.	Rutaceae	Tree

48.	<i>Clerodendrum capitatum</i> (Willd.) Schum. & Thonn.	Verbenaceae	Shrub
49.	<i>Clerodendrum splendens</i> G.Don.	Verbenaceae	Climber
50.	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.	Arecaceae	Tree
51.	<i>Cola acuminata</i> (P.Beauv.) Schott & Endl.	Sterculiaceae	Tree
52.	<i>Combretum platypterum</i> Welw. ex M.A.Lawson	Combretaceae	Climber
53.	<i>Combretum racemosum</i> P.Beauv.	Combretaceae	Climber
54.	<i>Crescentia cujete</i> L.	Bignoniaceae	Tree
55.	<i>Croton lobatus</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Herb
56.	<i>Croton zambesicus</i> Mull.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Tree
57.	<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Solanaceae	Shrub
58.	<i>Duranta repens</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Shrub
59.	<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Herb
60.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Herb
61.	<i>Euphorbia hyssopifolia</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Herb
62.	<i>Ficus exasperata</i> Vahl.	Moraceae	Tree
63.	<i>Ficus mucoso</i> Ficalho	Moraceae	Tree
64.	<i>Ficus sur</i> Forssk.	Moraceae	Tree
65.	<i>Fimbristylis</i> sp.	Cyperaceae	Sedge
66.	<i>Gliricidia sepium</i> (Jacq.) Walp.	Papilionaceae	Tree
67.	<i>Glyphaea brevis</i> (Spreng.) Monach.	Tiliaceae	Shrub
68.	<i>Gmelina arborea</i> Roxb.	Verbenaceae	Tree
69.	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i> Mart.	Amaranthaceae	Herb
70.	<i>Gossypium barbadense</i> L.	Malvaceae	Shrub
71.	<i>Helianthus annuus</i> L.	Asteraceae	Shrub
72.	<i>Hewittia sublobata</i> (L.f.) Kuntze	Convolvulaceae	Climber
73.	<i>Holarrhena floribunda</i> T. Durand & Schinz	Apocynaceae	Tree
74.	<i>Hoslundia opposita</i> Vahl	Lamiaceae	Shrub
75.	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> (L.) Poit.	Lamiaceae	Shrub
76.	<i>Indigofera spicata</i> Forssk.	Papilionaceae	Creeper
77.	<i>Ipomoea alba</i> L.	Convolvulaceae	Climber
78.	<i>Ipomoea asarifolia</i> (Desr. et Schult.) Roem. et Schult.	Convolvulaceae	Creeper
79.	<i>Ipomoea involucrata</i> P. Beauv.	Convolvulaceae	Climber
80.	<i>Ipomoea nil</i> (L.) Roth	Convolvulaceae	Climber
81.	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub
82.	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub
83.	<i>Lecaniodiscus cupanioides</i> Planch. ex Benth.	Sapindaceae	Tree
84.	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> (Lam.) de Wit	Mimosaceae	Tree
85.	<i>Lonchocarpus sericeus</i> (Poir.) HB & K.	Papilionaceae	Tree
86.	<i>Luffa acutangula</i> (L.) Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Climber
87.	<i>Macrosphyra longistyla</i> (DC.) Hiern	Rubiaceae	Shrub
88.	<i>Mallotus oppositifolius</i> (Geiseler) Mull. Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Herb
89.	<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> (L.) Garcke	Malvaceae	Herb
90.	<i>Mariscus alternifolius</i> Vahl	Cyperaceae	Sedge
91.	<i>Martynia annua</i> L.	Martyniaceae	Shrub
92.	<i>Melanthera scandens</i> (Schum. et Thonn.) Roberty	Asteraceae	Herb
93.	<i>Microdesmis puberula</i> Hook.f. ex Planch.	Pandaceae	Shrub
94.	<i>Millettia thonningii</i> (Schum. et Thonn.) Baker	Papilionaceae	Tree
95.	<i>Mimosa invisa</i> Mast	Mimosaceae	Creeper
96.	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Shrub
97.	<i>Mitracarpus scaber</i> Zucc. ex Schult. et Schult.	Rubiaceae	Herb
98.	<i>Momordica charantia</i> L.	Cururbitaceae	Climber
99.	<i>Momordica foetida</i> Schumach	Cururbitaceae	Climber
100.	<i>Morinda lucida</i> Benth.	Rubiaceae	Tree
101.	<i>Morus mesozygia</i> Stapf. ex A.Chev.	Moraceae	Tree
102.	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> (L.) DC. var <i>pruriens</i>	Papilionaceae	Climber
103.	<i>Myrianthus arboreus</i> P.Beauv	Moraceae	Tree
104.	<i>Nauclea latifolia</i> Sm	Rubiaceae	Shrub
105.	<i>Nelsonia canescens</i> (Lam.) Spreng.	Acanthaceae	Herb

106.	<i>Newbouldia laevis</i> (P. Beauv.) Seems. Ex Bureau.	Bignoniaceae	Tree
107.	<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Shrub
108.	<i>Olyra latifolia</i> L.	Poaceae	Grass
109.	<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> (L.) P.Beauv.	Poaceae	Grass
110.	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i> (Jacq.) R.Br. ex G	Mimosaceae	Tree
111.	<i>Parquetina nigrescens</i> (Afzel.) Bullock	Periplocaceae	Climber
112.	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.	Passifloraceae	Creepers
113.	<i>Paullinia pinnata</i> L.	Sapindaceae	Climber
114.	<i>Peperomia pellucida</i> (L.) H. B. et Kunth.	Piperaceae	Herb
115.	<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk.) Choiv.	Asclepiadaceae	Climber
116.	<i>Phaulopsis barberi</i> T.Anders.	Acanthaceae	Herb
117.	<i>Phaulopsis falcisepala</i> C.B. Clarke	Acanthaceae	Herb
118.	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schum. et Thonn.	Euphorbiaceae	Herb
119.	<i>Phyllanthus mellerianus</i> (Kuntze.) Exell	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub
120.	<i>Phyllanthus odontadenius</i> Mull.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Herb
121.	<i>Physalis angulata</i> L.	Solanaceae	Herb
122.	<i>Physalis micrantha</i> Link.	Solanaceae	Herb
123.	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.	Portulacaceae	Herb
124.	<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.	Myrtaceae	Tree
125.	<i>Pupalia lappacea</i> (L.) Juss.	Amaranthaceae	Herb
126.	<i>Rauvolfia vomitoria</i> Afzel.	Apocynaceae	Tree
127.	<i>Ricinidendron heudelotii</i> (Baill.) Pierre ex Heckel	Euphorbiaceae	Tree
128.	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub
129.	<i>Ruellia tuberosa</i> L.	Acanthaceae	Herb
130.	<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> L.	Scrophulariaceae	Herb
131.	<i>Secamone afzeli</i> (Roem. et Schult.) K. Schum.	Asclepiadaceae	Climber
132.	<i>Securinega virosa</i> (Roxb. ex Wild) Baill.	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub
133.	<i>Senna alata</i> (L.) Roxb.	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub
134.	<i>Senna hirsuta</i> (L.) Irwin & Barneby	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub
135.	<i>Senna obtusifolia</i> (L.) Irwin & Barneby	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub
136.	<i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub
137.	<i>Senna siamea</i> (Lam.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree
138.	<i>Senna sophera</i> (L.) Roxb.	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub
139.	<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.	Pedaliaceae	Herb
140.	<i>Setaria longiseta</i> P.Beauv.	Poaceae	Grass
141.	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f.	Malvaceae	Herb
142.	<i>Sida corymbosa</i> L.	Malvaceae	Herb
143.	<i>Sida urens</i> L.	Malvaceae	Herb
144.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Creepers
145.	<i>Solanum torvum</i> Sw.	Solanaceae	Shrub
146.	<i>Spigelia anthelmia</i> L.	Loganiaceae	Herb
147.	<i>Spilanthes filicaulis</i> (Schum. et Thonn.) C. D. Adams.	Asteraceae	Creepers
148.	<i>Spondias mombin</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	Tree
149.	<i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i> P.Beauv.	Poaceae	Grass
150.	<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i> (Rich.) Schau.	Verbenaceae	Shrub
151.	<i>Stachytarpheta indica</i> (L.) Vahl	Verbenaceae	Herb
152.	<i>Strophanthus sarmentosus</i> DC.	Apocynaceae	Climber
153.	<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i> Gaertn.	Asteraceae	Herb
154.	<i>Tecoma stans</i> (L.) Juss. ex Kunth	Bignoniaceae	Shrub
155.	<i>Tectona grandis</i> L.f.	Verbenaceae	Tree
156.	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i> A. Gray.	Asteraceae	Shrub
157.	<i>Trema orientalis</i> Blume	Ulmaceae	Tree
158.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Asteraceae	Herb
159.	<i>Urena lobata</i> L.	Malvaceae	Shrub
160.	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> Del.	Asteraceae	Shrub
161.	<i>Vernonia cinera</i> (L.) Less.	Asteraceae	Herb
162.	<i>Voacanga africana</i> Stapf.	Apocynaceae	Tree
163.	<i>Waltheria indica</i> 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.	Arecaceae	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.	Caesalpiaceae	5	10	6.1
12.	Caricaceae	1	1	0.6
13.	Combretaceae	1	2	1.2
14.	Connaraceae	1	1	0.6
15.	Convolvulaceae	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
Total		130	163	100%

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 (Poaceae), 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-Fakin 2008, Ariwaodo *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
<i>Ipomoea</i>	4
<i>Senna</i>	6
<i>Albizia, Citrus, Euphorbia, Ficus, Phyllanthus, Sida</i>	3
<i>Acalypha, Amaranthus, Cissus, Clerodendrum, Combretum, Croton, Jatropha, Momordica, Phaulopsis, Physalis, Solanum, Stachytarpheta, Vernonia</i>	2
<i>Abrus, Acanthospermum, Achrysanthes, Ageratum, Alchornea, Allophylus, Alternanthera, Anacardium, Anthocleista, Anthonotha, Antiaris, Aspilia, Asystasia, Azadirachta, Baphia, Basella, Berlinia, Bidens, Bixa, Blepharis, Blighia, Boerhavia, Borreria, Brachystegia, Brsocarpus, Caesalpinia, Calopogonium, Calotropis, Cardiospermum, Carica, Centrosema, Chasmanthera, Chassalia, Chromolaena, Cissampelos, Cocos, Cola, Crescentia, Datura, Duranta, Fimbristylis, Gliricidia, Glyphaea, Gmelina, Gomphrena, Gossypium, Helianthus, Hewittia, Holarrhena, Hoslundia, Hyptis, Indigofera, Lecaniodiscus, Leucaena, Lonchocarpus, Luffa, Macrophyra, Mallotus, Malvastrum, Mariscus, Martynia, Melanthera, Microdesmis, Millettia, Mimosa, Mirabilis, Mitracarpus, Morinda, Morus, Mucuna, Myrianthus, Nauclea, Nelsonia, Newbouldia, Ocimum, Olyra, Oplismenus, Parkia, Parquetina, Passiflora, Paullinia, Peperomia, Pergularia, Portulaca, Psidium, Pupalia, Rauwolfia, Ricinidendron, Ricinus, Ruellia, Scoparia, Secamone, Securinega, Sesamum, Setaria, Spigelia, Spilanthes, Spondias, Sporobolus, Strophanthus, Synedrella, Tecoma, Tectona, Tithonia, Trema, Tridax, Urena, Voacanga, Waltheria</i>	1

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

Family	Climber	Creeper	Grass	Herb	Sedge	Shrub	Tree
Acanthaceae	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
Amaranthaceae	-	1	-	5	-	-	-
Anacardiaceae	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Apocynaceae	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Arecaceae	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Asclepiadaceae	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Asteraceae	-	1	-	9	-	3	-
Basellaceae	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bignoniaceae	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Bixaceae	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Caesalpinaceae	-	-	-	-	-	6	4
Caricaceae	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Combretaceae	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Connaraceae	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convolvulaceae	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cucurbitaceae	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cyperaceae	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Euphorbiaceae	-	-	-	8	-	7	2
Lamiaceae	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Loganiaceae	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Malvaceae	-	-	-	4	-	2	-
Martyniaceae	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meliaceae	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Menispermaceae	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mimosaceae	-	1	-	-	-	-	5
Moraceae	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Myrtaceae	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nyctaginaceae	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Pandaceae	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Papilionaceae	3	2	-	-	-	-	4
Passifloraceae	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Pedaliaceae	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Periplocaceae	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Piperaceae	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Poaceae	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Portulacaceae	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Rubiaceae	-	-	-	2	-	3	1
Rutaceae	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Sapindaceae	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Scrophulariaceae	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Solanaceae	-	1	-	2	-	2	-
Sterculiaceae	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tiliaceae	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ulmaceae	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Verbenaceae	1	-	-	1	-	3	2
Vitaceae	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

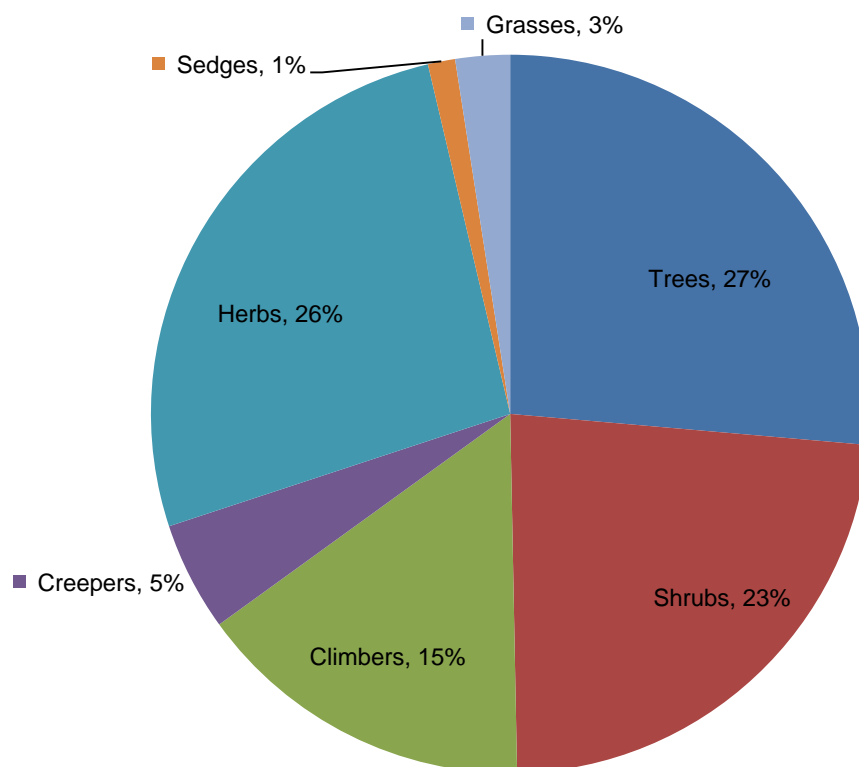


Figure 2. Species distribution across habits.

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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