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Fulani Pastoralists' Indigenous Knowledge of Plants Used for Cattle Management in Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract

Fulani pastoralists are itinerary by their characteristics in production systems, thereby travelling far away in search of greener pastures for livestock. This act made it extremely difficult for livestock to be managed by means of orthodox, thus, pastoralists often rely solely by traditional means otherwise known as indigenous knowledge. In the light of this, management and production system of Fulani pastoralists in Ido Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria was assessed. Willing Fulani herdsmen (n=51) after due consultation, were closely monitored for 180 days (90 d each of the dry and wet seasons) to elicit information on the use of indigenous knowledge in treating livestock. The plants were identified by their local and scientific names as a result of oral interview of the respondent and the practical use of the plants. The specific part of the plants used was noted. Procedure for the preparation of the plant parts was observed. The use of the prepared mix for treating the specific ailments was evaluated. Plant parts were also analysed qualitatively for saponin, tannin, phenols and steroids; and proximate composition (crude protein, crude fibre, ether extract and ash). Vitellaria paradoxa, *Tamarindus indica*, Sarcocephalus latifolius, Terminalia glaucescens, Terminalia catapa, Lophira alata, Hedeoma drummondii, Lophira lanceolata and Sarcocephalus pobeguinii were often used. The Plant parts used were leaf, bark, root and combinations. The commonly treated issues were loss of appetite, abortion, diarrhoea, constipation, wounds, poor milk production, emaciation, anemia, retained placenta, foot and mouth infection and salivation. Plant parts were boiled in water, potash added, mixed with salt, ground and chopped. Concoction was administered as drenched, licked, robbed, added in water, mixed with feed and tongue washed. Dry matter in the plants ranged from 37.6 % in H. drummondii to 56.3 % in S. pobeguinii. Crude protein, crude fibre, ether extract and ash ranged between 7.8 % in L. lanceolata to 21.7 % in *T. indica*, 15.3 % in T. catapa to 28.6 % in *T. indica*, 9.3 % in H. drummondii to 46.7 % in S. latifolius and 2.0 in H. drummondii to 10.6 % in S. latifolius, respectively. Present phyto chemicals were tannin, saponin, steroid and phenols.

Keywords: Fulani pastoralist, indigenous knowledge, livestock production and management, local plants

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