

# Traditional medicine and pharmacopoeia in South West Burkina Faso. Medicinal plants from fallow areas: study, management and promotion

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## Introduction

Fallow areas have an important place in the traditional territory organization in Africa.

- traditional healers : they are mainly specialized in family medicine;
- women's associations : women are used to work in paediatrics, gynecology and obstetrics;
- cattle rearers (peuls) : veterinary medicine.

Traditional medicine and pharmacopoeia are among human activi-

ties. Studies were made both individually and during meetings associ-

- Mimosaceae: 11 species et 33 recipes
- Fabaceae as Caesalpiaceae: 10 species et 50 recipes
- Fabaceae as Papilionaceae: 7 species et 13 recipes

- Gynecology - Obstetrics: plants to aid birth & lactation (Flahaut, 1999)
- Veterinary medicine: intestinal worms, diarrhoea, treatments for pregnant cows, retention of placenta (Olivier, 1999).

(5 species and 24 recipes) are also very often used in traditional medicine.

### Methods of use of traditional drugs

The methods of use differ depending on the kind of medicine, but the most common way is to drink the concoction and to wash oneself or the children (fig. 1);

### Discussion

Results show that:

- Ethnobotanical studies: they permit to register traditional knowledge, only transmitted by oral tradition, with risk of loss when elderly practitioners die. There is a need to develop this kind of studies in Africa because lots of knowledges are not yet registered.

family medicine (Olivier, 1999, Olicard, 1999).

red like in India or China where books have been written in old

- Promote and develop research about biological activities and toxicity of medicinal plants (validation) and develop diffusion of information between researchers and traditional healers in order to:
  - develop the production of traditional drugs from plants, available at community level with standardization of phyto-medicines (*Guiera senegalensis* Lam., Combretaceae as an example, Pousset, 1989);
  - avoid use of toxic plants and propose alternatives (the leaves have to be used instead of roots of *Nauclea latifolia* Sm., Rubiaceae which are toxic, Sourabie et al., 1995).

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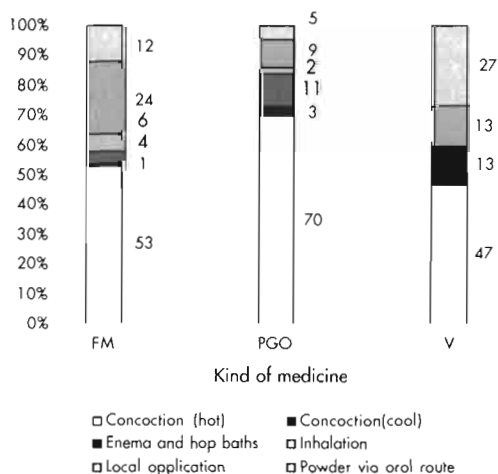
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**Figure 1.** Percentage of methods of use of plants depending of kind of medicine



**Figure 2.** Percentage of plant part used depending of kind of medicine

