

EXTRACTS FROM MELZIAN'S BINI DICTIONARY: PLANT NAMES IN EDO LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Edo [Bini] language is spoken in Oredo, Orhionmwon, and Ovia Local Government Areas of Edo State, Nigeria. Few reports have been dedicated solely to the vocabulary of plant names in Edo language and the available records are scattered in different checklists with varying levels of comprehensiveness. The 233-page “Bini-English Dictionary” by Hans Melzian published in 1937 contains a rich collection of Edo plant names complemented with corresponding scientific names equivalents. In this study, an inventory of Edo plant names in the dictionary was collated, characterized based on habit, native origin and utility and compared with five existing Edo plant names checklists for congruency. A total of 309 plants were inventoried out of which only 284 plants (91.9%), distributed in 67 families could be verified to known scientific taxa. The top four most prevalent families were: Fabaceae 55 (17.8%), Dioscoreaceae 19 (6.4%), Annonaceae and Malvaceae 15 (8.5%). The frequency of distribution based on growth form categories was: trees 190 (63.5%), vines 43 (14%), shrubs 24 (9.4%), herbs 26 (8.6%), lianas 6 (2%), grasses 4 (1.3%) and ferns 3 (1%). Congruency between Edo plant names listed in Melzian dictionary with other checklist by authors revealed that Dalziel had the highest with 234 plants or 75.7%, followed by Kennedy 184 plants (60%), Keay 120 plants (38.8%), Irvine 80 plants (25.9%), Gill 60 plants (19.4%) and Olorode 49 plants (15.9%). Majority (82%) of the plants are native plants and only 33 (11%) were of exotic origin. This finding suggests that the Edo plant names listed in the Melzian’s dictionary may have been unknown and unavailable as a reference resource to other authors until now. The checklist generated from this study therefore, spotlights Melzian’s contribution of plant names in Edo language as well as contribute additional names to the existing pool. It also highlights the status of some plants in Benin City in the 1930s, while providing a historical benchmark for evaluating new plant introductions, the fate of others that may have become rare or probably extinct due to overexploitation or habitat loss. Overall, the checklist provides a veritable preliminary template on which a more comprehensive plant name vocabulary in Edo language could be developed in the future.

Keywords: Melzian, Edo, Bini, Plant names, Folk Taxonomy, Checklist, Benin City, Ethnobotany, Economic botany.

INTRODUCTION

According to Dennett (1904), there are many theories on the origin of Bini (Edo) language. The language is said to belong to the *Efa* (Bondarenko and Roese, 1998) or people of what was then called the district of Bini in the western division of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate. Others with an Efa dialect are the people of the Esan ethnic group, previously referred to as “Ishan”. The people of Ora (= Kukuruku country) are said to understand more Bini than Yoruba. The people of Ehin and the Oras understand one another's language, and the Ehin people are said to bear Yoruba [names]. The Ehin people were then partly under the government of the Lagos Protectorate and partly under that of Southern Nigeria. This Edo speaking area is currently known as Edo State in the south-south geo-political region of Nigeria (Fig. 1). In addition to people in Edo state, Williamson (1970) included the Urhobo and Isoko tribes of Delta State as part of the Southern Edo and Degema, Engennei and Epie of Rivers and Bayelsa States respectively as part of the Delta Edo.

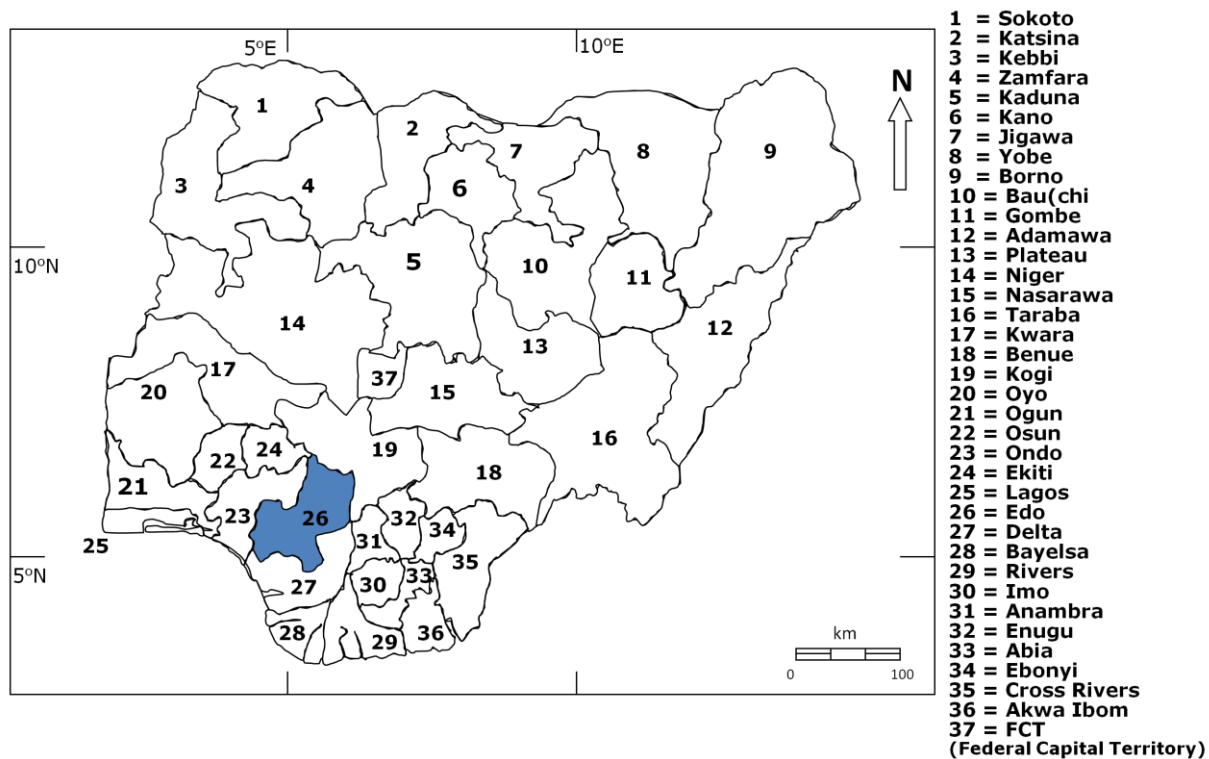


Fig. 1. A political map of Nigeria showing 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and the area occupied by Edo speaking peoples in the present Edo State (shaded) of mid-western Nigeria.

The terms Edo or Bini (Benin) are used interchangeably (Thomas, 1910; Omijeh 1973). Dennett (1904) reported that some have argued that the Edo language is related to the Yoruba tongue while others have said that it is simply a dialect of Yoruba, but that it has no troublesome accents to be overcome, the intonation and accentuation of the Yoruba proving a great obstacle to the European who tried to learn that otherwise rather easy language. Some of the first documented works on Bini language were those

by Dennett (1904) and Thomas (1910). The Edo language is spoken in Oredo, Orhionmwo, and Ovia Local Government Areas of Edo State, Nigeria (Omozuwa, 1989).

Dr. Hans Melzian was one of the first people to explore the linguistic diversity of the Edo (Bini) language in southern Nigeria which was presented in a 233-page book published in 1937 and titled “*A Concise Dictionary of Bini Language of southern Nigeria*”. According to Melzian (1937), three previous studies on the Edo language were available prior to his contribution. The first was from N.W. Thompson’s *Report on the Edo speaking peoples*, vol. 1 published in 1911; the second was an unpublished manuscript on Bini vocabulary compiled by the Roman Catholic Mission in Benin City and the third, is a 1932 typescript titled “A Bini dictionary (Bini-English and English-Bini)” (Butcher, 1932).

Folk conceptualisation of the living world with special reference to classification of plants often termed as vernacular plant names feature prominently in most plant taxonomy literature (Kakudidi, 2004; Randriatafika and Rabenantoandro, 2008). Local plant names have many uses and applications such as in scientific studies (e.g. plant taxonomy, ethnobotany, phytogeography, anthropology, biology, pharmacology, etc.) and in the fields of linguistics, education, culture and historical studies (Madulid, 2005). In addition to being useful identification tools, they also help to bridge communication gap between traditional herbalists and medicinal plants researchers in making direct linkages to local herbal remedies. Out of the over 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria, only a few have documented evidence of plant vernacular names available in learned journals, checklists or book formats, some of which include; Vischer (1936), Yoruba (Gbile, 1984); Hausa (Dalziel, 1916; Blench, 2007); Ijaw (Williamson, 1970). Currently, there is no published book on plant names in Edo and Igbo language. Available checklists of Edo plant names are scattered and not compiled in a comprehensive vocabulary book format. Some of these can be found in the following sources: “Forest flora of Southern Nigeria” (Kennedy, 1936), “The Bini as a botanist: some notes on the Benin vernacular names of plants” (Hide, 1943), “The Useful Plants of West Tropical Africa” (Dalziel, 1937), “Economic plants in a rural Nigerian market”(Johnson and Johnson, 1976), “West African Botany” (Irvine, 1977), “Trees of Nigeria” (Keay, 1989), “Taxonomy of West African Flowering Plants” (Olorode, 1984) and “Ethnomedical Uses of Plants in Nigeria” (Gill, 1992).

The Melzian’s “Bini Dictionary” (Melzian, 1937) is one of such checklists and contains a rich collection of plant names in the Edo language, majority of them with corresponding botanical name equivalents. The objective of this study was to extract these plant names in a checklist format and highlight their current status with regard to botanical nomenclature, common names, uses and native origin. Comparisons with six other published records were made to authenticate the Edo plant names and establish degree congruity between Edo plant names in Melzian’s dictionary with other checklists.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The 233-page book titled *A Concise Dictionary of the Bini Language of Southern Nigeria* (Melzian, 1937), henceforth referred to as “Melzian’s Bini dictionary” was evaluated for its contents pertaining to plant names in Edo or “Bini” language, botanical classification and characterization and their uses.

To assess if Edo plant names mentioned in the Melzian’s dictionary was in agreement with previously published checklists and to determine if it was probably utilized in compiling them, a comparative analyses was made. The following six sources were examined: “Forest flora of Southern Nigeria” (Kennedy, 1936), “The Useful Plants of West Tropical Africa” (Dalziel, 1937), “Trees of Nigeria” (Keay, 1989), “West African Botany” (Irvine, 1977), “Taxonomy of West African Flowering Plants” (Olorode, 1984) and” Ethnomedical Uses of Plants in Nigeria” (Gill, 1992). Edo plant names cited in Melzian but absent in all these references were considered new and classified as such while those whose taxonomic status could not be determined were isolated in a different group.

For each of the listed plants, the current taxonomic status, common names, and phytogeographic status were accessed from the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN), a USDA-ARS sponsored online database (USDA-ARS, 2012). Primary use profiles were sourced from Bosch *et al.*, (2002).

RESULTS

Species composition

A total of 309 plants with Edo plant names were documented in the Melzian's Bini dictionary, out of which 284 plants (91.9%) had identifiable scientific names while the remaining 25 plants (8.1%) had no scientific designations (Table 1). The identified species were distributed in 67 plant families comprising taxa ranging from 1 to 55. The family Fabaceae was the most prevalent with a total of 55 species or 17.8% of the overall total, followed by Dioscoreaceae with 19 species (6.14%), Annonaceae and Malvaceae 15 species (4.85%) each (Fig. 2). Species distribution within the family Fabaceae, based on subfamilies was: Papilionoideae 20 species (6.5%), Caesalpinoideae 18 species (5.8%) and Papilionoideae 17 species (5.5%).

Growth habit

Distribution of the plants based on growth habit (Table 2) shows that only 299 out of 309 plants could be taxonomically classified based on growth habit. Trees were the most predominant with 190 plants representing 63.5% of the total. Others were vines 43 (14%), shrubs 27 (9.4%), herbs 26 (8.7%), liana 6 (2.0%), grasses 4 (1.3%) and the least ferns with 3 representatives or (1%).

Plant with incorrect scientific names

An inventory including detailed commentaries (Table 3) show 17 plant names or 5.5% of the scientific names mentioned in Melzian's Bini dictionary were with doubtful botanical designations. Suggestions of the corrected name for some are provided.

Plants of unknown taxonomic status

Forty-five (45) plants accounting for 14.6% of the overall plants listed in Melzian dictionary had Edo names but without corresponding scientific name (Table 4.)

New Edo plant names

Forty-three (43) approximately 14% of plant names collated from the Melzian dictionary (Table 5) have not been previously reported in any of the other published checklists.

Phytogeographic status

Majority 253 (81.9%) of the plants mentioned in Melzian's Bini dictionary are native plants. Only 33 (10.7%) were introduced exotics while the remaining 23 (7.4%) were unclassified (Table 6).

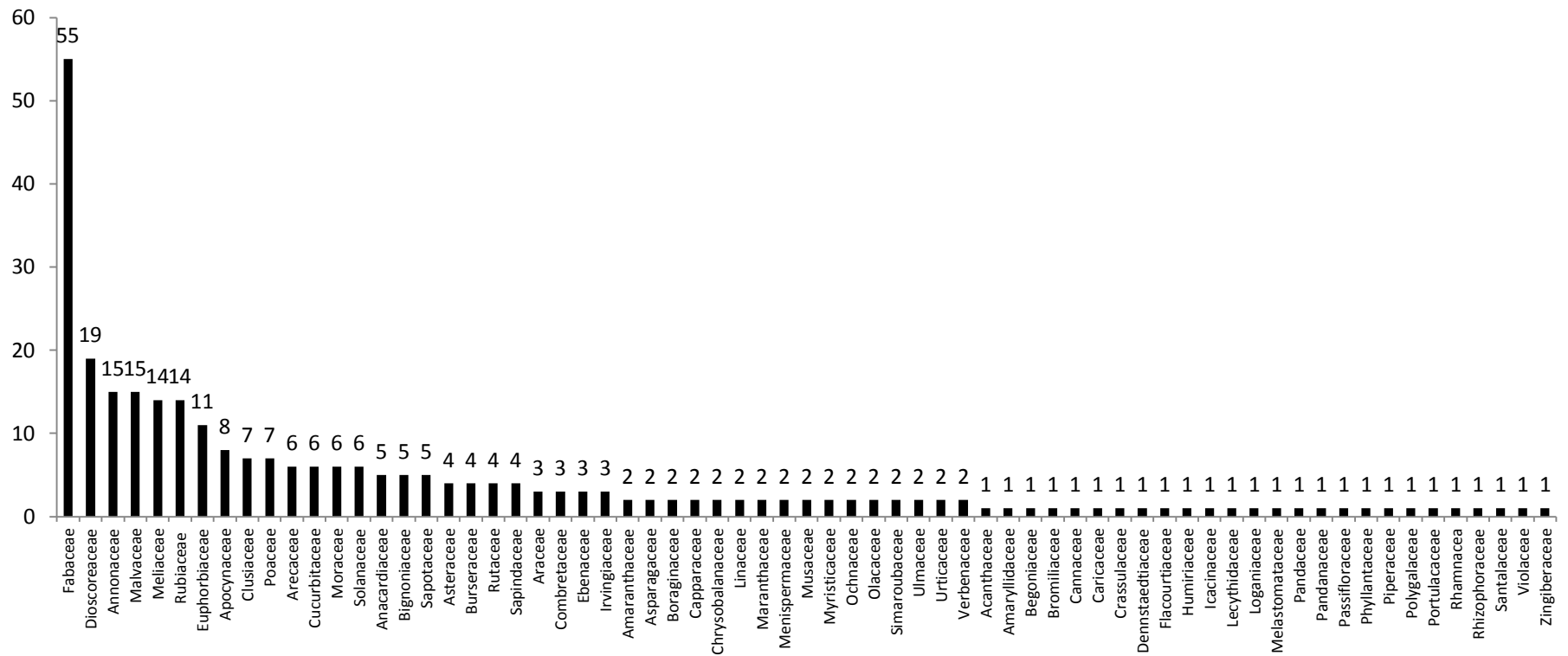


Fig. 2. A summary of the frequency distribution of plant taxa grouped by families cited in Melzian’s Bini Dictionary.

Table 2. Summary distribution of growth habits among plants listed in Melzian's Bini Dictionary.

Plant habit	Number of plants	%
fern	3	1.0
grass	4	1.3
liana	6	2.0
herb	26	8.7
shrub	28	9.4
vine	42	14.0
tree	190	63.5
Total	299	

Table 3. A summary of misidentified plants showing reference page in the Melzian's Bini Dictionary and additional notes.

S/N	Edo name	Page No.	Misidentified plants with notes
1	Akhuebo	15	<i>Klainedoxia grandifolia</i> a tree (see Keay, 1989 p332) was probably misidentified and presented as a creeper. Melzian did express uncertainty about the correctness of the distribution of the Latin terms here.
2	Akosa	7	Identified as <i>Tetrastemma dioicum</i> by Melzian but this name was referred to as <i>Uvariopsis dioica</i> by Keay (1989); elsewhere, Melzian identified <i>Uvaria macrotricha</i> as "Akoso". <i>Tetrastemma dioicum</i> Diels is a synonym of <i>Uvariopsis dioica</i> (Diels) Robyns & Ghesq. (Plant list, 2010). There were available references linking <i>T. dioicum</i> with <i>Uvariopsis dioicum</i> . Dalziel (1937) mentioned <i>Uvaia afzelii</i> whose Edo name was Akoa or Akosso.
3	Aza	16	Melzian referred to this term as <i>Mussaenda elegans</i> . Dalziel (1937) reports that two species, <i>Mussaenda elegans</i> and <i>Paullina pinnata</i> are both called "Aza".
4	Azimomo	16	"Azimomo" was labelled as <i>Pachystela micrantha</i> but associated with <i>Afrosersalisia afzelia</i> (see Keay page 449). Elsewhere as <i>Synsepalum stipulatum</i> and <i>S. dulcificum</i> (Soladoye <i>et al.</i> , 2005)
5	Eghogho	31	Labelled as both <i>Trichilia prieuriana</i> and <i>Duboscia viridifloa</i> Keay (1989, pp350, 448) confirmed <i>T. prieutiana</i> as "Eghogho", while Dalziel (1937, p97) and Keay (1989, p114) identified <i>D. viridifolia</i> as "Opheghede"
6	Egwa	49	No plant creeper by the name <i>Hippocarpus</i> sp could be found in literature, this name was probably referring to <i>Hippocratea</i> sp a liana. Dalziel (1937) however associated "Egwa" with <i>Clerodendron thomsonae</i> (see page 455). It was called "Egua" and linked with <i>Hippocratea kennedyi</i> Hoyle (see Kennedy (1936) page 144).
7	Ekiawa	34	The name literally mean "dog penis" by the shape of the fruits associated with two different unrelated plants, <i>Callichilia stenosepala</i> (<i>Hedranthera barteri</i>) (Apocyanaceae) and <i>Erythrina</i> sp. (Fabaceae, Papilionoideae), Dalziel (1937) linked this same name to <i>Angylocalyx olygophyllus</i> but confirmed that the Yorubas also called both <i>Callchilla</i> , <i>Anglocalyx</i> and others by the name "Oko aja" which share similar meanings with the Edo name. <i>Erythrina senegalensis</i> the most common species of the genus was called "Eranigbonyakehi" (Dalziel, 1937; Gill, 1992). On page 39 Melzian referred to <i>Erythrina senegalensis</i> as "Erhannigbonyakehi" (tree which foreigners, Igbos) take to construct their Ehi). It is possible that there was a mix up somehow.

S/N	Edo name	Page No.	Misidentified plants with notes
8	Ekpogho-eze	53	<i>Macrolobium limba</i> (<i>Gibbertiodendron limba</i>) is associated with "Oghaba" (<i>Macrolobium macrophylla</i>) by Gill (1992). Keay (1989) however had separate names for both, "Ekpogoi-eze" for <i>Gibbertiodendron dewevrei</i> and "Oghaba" for <i>Anthonotha macrophylla</i> . Kennedy (1936) associates the name with <i>Macrolobium dewevrei</i> .
9	Erhenbavbog o	40	Referred to as <i>Enantia affinis</i> instead of <i>Enantia chlorantha</i>
10	Ewohobitan	56	Melzian (1937) spelt it as <i>Cola caricifolia</i> , while Hutchinson and Dalziel, (1958); Bosch <i>et al.</i> , 2002 spelt it differently as <i>Cola caricaefolia</i> . Keay (1989) ascribed the term to <i>Cola hispida</i> (see page 133 and 449)
11	Ohun	140	Melzian appeared uncertain about the true identity of this plant and called it <i>Xylophia</i> sp?. Kennedy (1936) and Dalziel (1937) called it Ohun-egbo in Edo and identified as <i>Hexalobus monopetalus</i> .
13	Orinri(n)	148	?? <i>Vitex cienkowskii</i> (<i>Vitex doniana</i>), was described as a "creeper" similar to the herb <i>Talinum triangulare</i> or "Ebedondon" and tentatively labelled as <i>V. cienkowskii</i> , a medium sized tree, common in the savannas. Dalziel (1937) correctly identifies "Oriri" as <i>Vitex grandifolia</i> , also a medium sized tree related to <i>V. cienkowskii</i> and a commoner species in the forest regions. Kennedy (1936) agrees with Melzian and associates the name with <i>Vitex cienkowskii</i> , a synonym of <i>Vitex doniana</i> but described it as a tree.
14	Ukpakon and Ukpakenka	204	These names were jointly ascribed to <i>Hymenostygia afzelii</i> and <i>Lonchocarpus griffonianus</i> . Dalziel (1948) however associated "Ukpakenka" with <i>Hymenostygia afzelia</i> and the name <i>Ukpakon</i> is linked to <i>Olax subscorpioidea</i> (Olacaceae). <i>Lonchocarpus griffonianus</i> is referred to as "Ehiengbo" or "Ehrenyegbo".
15	Urhuaro, Orho	168, 209	Melzian called this plant a cactus and Kennedy associated the names with <i>Hugonia platysepala</i> . Elsewhere, Urhuaro was referred to as <i>Nesogordina papaverifera</i> (see page 59, Soladoye <i>et al.</i> , 2005).
16	Uruhe	210	<i>Pterocarpus mildbraedii</i> called Urube in Olorode (1988). Kennedy (1936) referred to the same tree as "Uruhe" or "Uluhe".
17	Unyeghen	208	Melzian called this plant <i>Monodora cornifolia</i> instead of <i>Monodora tenuifolia</i> (see Kennedy (1936) and Keay (1989).

Table 4. A summary of listed Edo plant names found in Melzian's Bini Dictionary (page number indicated) but with no corresponding scientific equivalents. (Suggestions with notes on probable botanical names are included).

	Edo name	Page No.	Description with some suggested botanical name equivalents
1	Akenhien	7	<i>Albizzia</i> sp. Dalziel (1937 see page 212) has previously included this name among species of this genus with doubtful application to definite species.
2	Akhwae	15	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (<i>Caesalpinia crista</i>)
3	Akhwekhe	15	<i>Klainedoxia grandifolia</i> , (<i>Irvingia grandifolia</i>)
4	Arebun	11, 36	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.
5	Asuen	208	<i>Glyphaea brevis</i>
6	Aya, Ihomwegbe, Ihomwebho	15, 85	A kind of grass (<i>Panicum maximum</i> ?)
7	Ebahen	26	fern
8	Ebahenegieghe	26	small fern
9	Ebahenoginonba	26	large fern
10	Ebe-eni	27	<i>Thalia geniculata</i> . A kind of leaf (not elephant grass) used as thatch. Last five years and seven years if heated constantly.
11	Ebubule	28	<i>Crassocephalum crepidoides</i>
12	Egbogho	31	Native tobacco, much planted in farm. <i>Nicotina rustica</i>
13	Egwa	49	<i>Hippocarpus</i> sp. (<i>Hippocratea</i> sp., <i>Loeseneriella</i> sp.). <i>Clerodendron thomsoniae</i> ?
14	Emile	37	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp. (red yam)
15	Emotan	37	<i>Pterocarpus mildbraedii</i> (Uruhe)
16	Enwamwi-erimwi		<i>Dracaena lassima</i>
17	Ere	40	Same as "Ikpakpa" (probably derived from Yoruba) (see Dalziel (1937, p254)
18	Erherhe	40	----
19	Erhuru	36, 40	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp (red and white yam)
20	Esikpogho	102	----
21	Eteziza, Ehoh-eziza	58	<i>Cymopogon citratus</i> ?
22	Evbegabari	56	<i>Cola nitida</i>
23	Igbi	84	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.
24	Igwewe	83	----
25	Ihiehie, Ikpakpalo	88, 92	<i>Sphenostylis stenocarpa</i>
26	Ihunhun	88	<i>Vossia cuspidata</i> ?
27	Ikpo-bhukho	52, 93	<i>Capsicum annum</i> , The name refers to "seed or faeces of he-goat". A kind of pepper, the grains (fruits) are said to reach the size of tomatoes, not as hot as Akpoko and Ehien-ekha.
28	Iramwinran	42,89, 98	<i>Lemna equinoctalis</i> (duckweed)
29	Iri-erimwi	96	

	Edo name	Page No.	Description with some suggested botanical name equivalents
30	Isanhiamwen	99	<i>Maba chrysantha</i> (<i>Diospyros atropurpurea</i> , <i>D. dendo</i>)
31	Oberhekoko	156	<i>Parkia bicolor</i>
32	Obhiakhe	104	<i>Nauclea diderrchii</i>
33	Oghodogbo	163	<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>
34	Okhwenkhwen	172	<i>Acacia ataxacantha</i>
35	Olika niri	143	<i>Ritchiea fragariodora</i>
36	Olikanerhan	143	<i>Ritchiea capparoides</i>
37	Olusea	36	A variety of yam
38	Ometo	166	<i>Dioscorea odoratissima</i> , a yam, the rope of which coils considerably.
39	Osan	168	<i>Icacina trachantha</i>
40	Owegbe	171	<i>Lophira alata</i>
41	Ubo	194	<i>Landolphia owariensis</i>
42	Ugbugbe	198	A tree with scaffold on which victims of certain Bini sacrifices (to the sun and rain) were sacrificed.
43	Ugo	36	<i>Diocorea praehensilis</i>
44	Ukhurhoho	213	<i>Detarium senegalensis</i>
45	Ukpereghodin	204	Plant with very sweet fruit used as cough medicine for children. The leaf is used in composing charms.

Table 5. Prospective contribution of new Edo plant names mentioned in Melzian's Bini Dictionary but not previously reported in other published checklists.

S/N	Edo plant name	Page No.	Probable botanical equivalent or description
1	Akhwae	15	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (<i>Caesalpinia crista</i>)
2	Akpoko	8	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>
3	Alaka	8	----- (A creeper that has the ability to coil)
4	Alala	8	----- (A creeper that can grow long, mostly used to tie yam).
5	Alrhaba-nofua	8	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>
6	Arebun	11, 36	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp
7	Asuen	208	<i>Glyphaea brevis</i>
8	Aya, Ihomwegbe, Ihomwebho	15, 85	----- (A kind of grass, probably <i>Panicum maximum</i> ?)
9	Ebahen	26	----- (fern)
10	Ebahenegieghe	26	----- (small fern)
11	Ebahenoginonba	26	----- (large fern)
12	Ebe-eni	27	<i>Thalia geniculata</i> (A kind of leaf (not elephant grass) used as thatch. Lasts 5 years and 7 years with regular heating)
13	Ebhokhoize	44	----- (Rice cake, native rice).
14	Ebubule	28	<i>Crassocephalum crepidoides</i>
15	Egbogho	31	<i>Nicotina rustica</i>
16	Emile	37	<i>Dioscorea dumetorum</i> (red yam)
17	Emotan	37	<i>Pterocarpus mildbraedii</i> (Uruhe)
18	Erherhe	40	<i>Cucumeropsis mannii</i> ?
19	Erhuru	36, 40	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp. (red and white yam)
20	Esikpogho	102	-----
21	Etiziza	58	<i>Cymbopogon citrates</i> ? (A plant used by "doctors" in every kind of medicine in order to ensure quick action)
22	Igbi	84	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.
23	Igwewe	83	----- ("goat's knee"; its leaves are used to smoothen newly made clay pots).
24	Ihunhun	88	<i>Vossia cuspidata</i> ?
25	Ikpo-bhukho	52, 93	<i>Capsicum annum</i> , The name refers to "seed or faeces of he-goat". A kind of pepper, the grains (fruits) are said to reach the size of tomatoes, not as hot as Akpoko and Ehien-ekha.
26	Iramwinran	42,89, 98	<i>Lemna equinoctalis</i>
27	Iri-erimwi	96	----- (Creeper of the underworld. A wild creeper that makes a natural knot).
28	Isanhiamwen	99	<i>Maba chrysantha</i>
29	Itehie	102	----- (A very small kind of tomato, said to taste bitter and believed to originate from the faeces of the bird Asese)
30	Itoto	102	----- (A kind of cane, root is used as a medicine, and also as a magic preparation for making "ones body smooth and fleshy")
31	Iyokho-oto	107	? <i>Stylochiton lancifolius</i> , ? <i>Stylochiton warneckeii</i> ("cocoyam of the ground", (a lily) planted in pots at shrines of Osun)
32	Kokomeme	113	-----
33	Ogbigbo	211	----- (leaf used in making a black coloured border (Usie) on

S/N	Edo plant name	Page No.	Probable botanical equivalent or description
			lower part of walls in Bini houses)
34	Ogigba	136	<i>Dioscorea praehensilis</i> ("Wild yam" in the bush, not eaten).
35	Olika niri	143	----- (A creeper, its roots are used in curing a disease called "black tongue")
36	Olusea	36	----- (A variety of yam)
37	Ometo	166	<i>Dioscorea odoratissima</i> (A yam, the rope of which coils considerably).
38	Oruruebo	148	? <i>Dracaena</i> sp (A shrub used to demarcate boundaries)
39	Osan	168	<i>Icacina trachantha</i> ? (A kind of creeper, the root is about as big as a yam. The leaf is called "ebosan")
40	Ugbugbe	198	----- (A tree with scaffold on which victims of certain Bini sacrifices (to the sun and rain) are made).
41	Uhoboriabe	200	<i>Dioscorea manganotana</i> ? (the name literally means "the Sobos (Urhobos) are guilty")
42	Ukhurhoho	213	<i>Detarium senegalense</i>
43	Ukpereghodin	204	<i>Dioscoreophyllum cumminsi</i> ? (Plant with very sweet fruit used as cough medicine for children. The leaf is used in composing charms).

Table 6. A summary of the phytogeographic status of plants mentioned in Melzian’s Bini dictionary.

Origin	Number of plants	%
Native	253	81.9
Exotic/ Alien	33	10.7
Unidentified	23	7.4
Total	309	

Comparative studies

Comparative analysis of plants with Edo plant names in the Melzian’s Bini Dictionary with other published checklists (Fig. 3), showed that Dalziel (1937) had the highest degree of congruency with 234 plants representing an overall percentage frequency of 75.4%, followed by Kennedy (1936) with 184 plants (60%), Keay (1989), 120 plants (38.8%), Irvine (1977), 80 plants (25.9%), Gill (1992), 60 plants (19.4%) and Olorode (1984), 49 plants (15.9%).

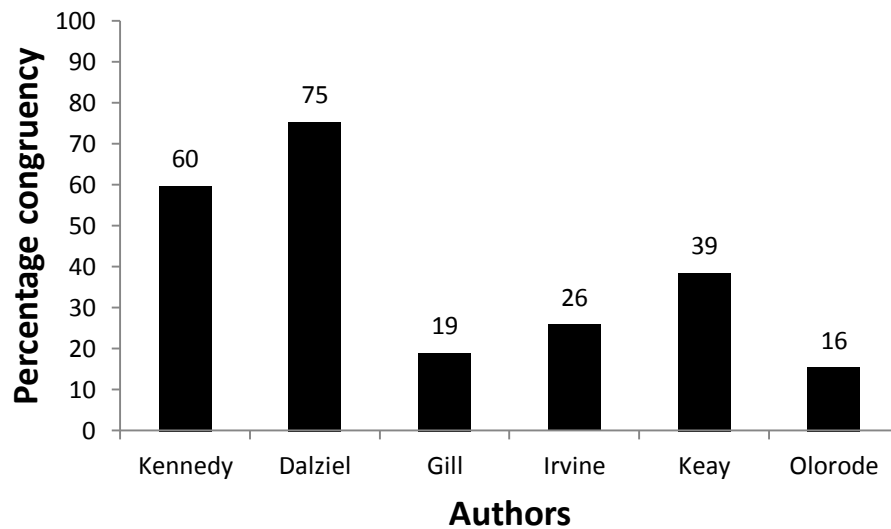


Fig. 3. Percentage distribution of degree of congruency of Edo plant names cited in Melzian dictionary compared with checklists by other authors.

Table 1. Catalogue of plants cited in Melzian's Bini dictionary showing names, family group, habit, native origin, use and reference page.

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
1	Abokpo	<i>Diospyros crassiflora</i> Hiern	Ebenaceae	Nigerian ebony	tree	Native	Timbers	2
2	Agba	<i>Grossweileroendron balsamiferum</i> Harms	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)	Agba	tree	Native	Timbers	3
3	Aghako	<i>Xylopi villosa</i> Chipp	Annonaceae	Aghako	tree	Native	Timbers	4
4	Aghakoeze	<i>Isolona campanulate</i> Engl. & Diel.	Annonaceae	Sour Sop		Exotic	Medicine	4
5	Aghanokpe	<i>Mimusops djave</i> Engl. (<i>Tieghienella heckelii</i> Pierre ex A.Chev.)	Sapotaceae	False Shea Butter nut	tree	Native	Timbers	4
6	Akata	<i>Rauvolfia vomitoria</i> Afzel.	Apocynaceae	Serpent wood	tree	Exotic	Medicine	6
7	Akenhien	<i>Albizia</i> sp	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	7
8	Akensi	<i>Hylodendron gabunense</i> Taub.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)	akensi	tree	Native	Timbers	7
9	Akhuebo	<i>Klainedoxia grandifolia</i> Engl. (<i>Irvingia grandifolia</i> (Engl.) Engl.)	Irvingiaceae	-----	tree	Native	Spices & condiments	15
10	Akhuekpu	<i>Mucuna flagellipes</i> Hook.f.	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	-----	vine	Native	Medicine	15
11	Akhwae	? <i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (L.) Roxb. (<i>Caesalpinia crista</i> auct. Amer.)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)	bonduc, grey nicker-bean	vine	Native	Fruits	15
12	Akhwekhwe	<i>Irvingia grandifolia</i> (Engl.) Engl. (<i>Klainedoxa grandifolia</i> Engl.)	Irvingiaceae	-----	tree	Native	Stimulants	15, 137
13	Ako	<i>Dennettia tripetala</i> Baker f.	Annonaceae	Pepper fruit	tree	Native	Spices & condiments	6
14	Akosa	<i>Tetrastemma dioicum</i> Diels (<i>Uvariopsis dioca</i> (Diels) Robyns & Ghesq.)	Annonaceae	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	7
15	Akoso	<i>Uvaria macrotricha</i> (<i>Uvaria afzelii</i> Scott-Elliot)	Annonaceae	cluster pear	shrub	-----	Medicine	7
16	Akpano	<i>Tricalysia africana</i> (? <i>Tricalysia</i>	Rubiaceae	-----	shrub	Native	Timbers	8

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
		<i>biafrana</i> Hiern)						
17	Akpoko	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i> L.	Solanaceae	chillies, bird pepper	herb	Native	Timbers	8
18	Akume	<i>Pterocarpus soyauxii</i> Taub.	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	padauk/mukwa {coral wood}	tree	Native	Timbers	7
19	Akuobisi	<i>Okoubaka aubrevillei</i> Pellegr. & Normand	Santalaceae	big tree, death tree	tree	Native	Medicine	7
20	Alaka	-----	-----	-----	vine	-----	Fruit	8
21	Alala	-----	-----	-----	vine	-----	Fruit	8
22	Aleke	-----	-----	-----	vine	-----	Vegetables	170
23	Alimoi-negieghe	<i>Citrus limon</i> (L.) Burm.f., <i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> (Christm. & Panzer) Swingle	Rutaceae	Lemon	tree	Exotic	Medicine	8
24	Alimoi-nekhua	<i>Citrus sinensis</i> (L.) Osbeck	Rutaceae	sweet orange	tree	Exotic	Timbers	8
25	Alrhaba-nofua	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i> (A.Juss.) Müll.Arg	Apocynaceae	para-rubber	tree	Exotic	Fruit	11
26	Alubarha	<i>Allium cepa</i> L.	Amaryllidaceae	Onion	herb	Exotic	Fruit	8
27	Amama	<i>Ficus asperifolia</i> Miq.	Moraceae	Sand paper tree	tree	Native	Vegetables	9
28	Anyerhan	<i>Distemonanthus benthamianus</i> Baiill.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)	African satinwood, Yellow satinwood	tree	Native	Medicine	9
29	Anyo	<i>Funtumia elastica</i> (Preuss) Stapf	Apocynaceae	black rubber	tree	Native	Timbers	11
30	Apopo	<i>Lovoa klaincana</i> Pierre ex Sprague	Meliaceae	Bini or African walnut	tree	Native	Essential oil & exudates	10
31	Araba-nekhwi, Anyo	<i>Funtumia elastica</i> (Preuss) Stapf	Apocynaceae	Rubber tree	tree	Native	Essential oil & exudates	10, 11
32	Arebun	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	Dioscoreaceae	white yam	vine	Exotic	Carbohydrate	11, 36

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
33	Arinya	<i>Afzelia africana</i> Sm. ex Pers., <i>A. bella</i> Harms and <i>A. bipidensis</i> Harms}	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	African mahogany	tree	Native	Timbers	12
34	Asakpen	<i>Dioscorea alata</i> L.	Dioscoreaceae	White yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	12
35	Asivin	<i>Phyllanthus discoideus</i> (Baill.) Müll.Arg. (<i>Margaritaria discoidea</i> (Baill.) Webster)	Phyllantaceae	Asivin	tree	Native	Timbers	12
36	Asuen	<i>Carpolobia lutea</i> G.Don	Polygalaceae	cattlestick, Hausa stick	shrub	Native	Timbers	13
37	Asuen, Unwarhiontengbo	<i>Grewia coriaceae</i> Mast.	Malvaceae (Tiliaceae)		tree	Native	Fuel plants	208
38	Asun, Asun nekhwi, Asun-nokwa, Uri-nokwa	<i>Randia coriacea</i> K.Schum.	Rubiaceae	indigoberry	shrub	Native	Dyes & tannins	13
39	Atan	<i>Canthium glabriflorum</i> Hiern	Rubiaceae	-----	tree	Native	Fruit	13
40	Aya, Ihomwegbe, Ihomwebho	<i>Panicum maximum</i> Jacq.?	Poaceae	Guinea grass?	Grass	Native	Medicine	15, 85
41	Aza	<i>Mussaenda elegans</i> Schumach. & Thonn.?, <i>Paullina pinnata</i> L. ?	Rubiaceae	-----	vine		Dyes & tannins	16
42	Azimomo	<i>Pachystela micrantha</i> (A. Chev.) Hutch. & Dalziel (= <i>Synsepalum afzelii</i> (Engl.) T.D. Penn.)	Sapotaceae	African Sersalisia	tree	Native	Medicine	16
43	Basabasa	<i>Funtumia africana</i> (Benth.) Stapf.	Apocynaceae	Bush rubber	tree	Native	Medicine	18
44	Dabadogan	<i>Parinari robusta</i> Oliv. (= <i>Maranthes robusta</i> (Oliv.) Prance)	Chrysobalanaceae	Mahogany nut	tree	Native	Forage	23
45	Eba	<i>Lophira procera</i> A.Chev.	Ochnaceae	Bongossi	tree	Native	Essential oil & exudates	26
46	Ebaghadeha	<i>Allophyllus africanus</i> P.Beauv.	Sapindaceae	African false currant	shrub	Native	Ornamentals	26
47	Ebahanhi	<i>Piper umbellatum</i> L.	Piperaceae	Cow-foot leaf	shrub	Native	Medicine	26
48	Ebahen	-----	-----	-----	fern	-----	-----	26

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
49	Ebahenegieghe	-----	----	----	fern	----	-----	26
50	Ebahenoginonba	-----	----	----	fern	-	Vegetables	26
51	Ebakpa	<i>Milletia thonningii</i> (Schumach. & Thonn.) Baker	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	-----	shrub	Native	Ornamentals	27
52	Ebe-afò	<i>Dissotis rotundifolia</i> (Sm) Triana	Melastomataceae	Dwarf Tibouchina, Pinklady	herb	Native	Vegetables	27
53	Ebedondon, Ebe-unwomwe	<i>Talinum triangulare</i> (Jacq.) Willd.	Portulacaceae	Water leaf	herb	Native	Vegetables	27, 148
54	Ebe-eni	<i>Thalia geniculata</i> L.	Maranthaceae	Bent alligator flag	herb	Native	Fibres	27
55	Ebegogo, Ebogogo	<i>Carapa procera</i> DC.	Meliaceae	Ito	tree	Native	Medicine	27
56	Eben	<i>Mitragyna macrophylla</i> Hiern (= <i>Mitragyna stipulosa</i> O.Kuntze)	Rubiaceae	Abura	tree	Native	Timbers	47
57	Ebenoyoba, Oruebebe, Ebenagbengbe	<i>Monodora myristica</i> (Gaertn.) Dunal	Annonaceae	Calabash nutmeg	tree	Native	Species & condiments	27
58	Ebhokhoize	-----	-----	-----	tree	-----	-----	44
59	Ebi-eba, Asoso	<i>Thaumatococcus daniellii</i> (Benn.) Benth. ex B. D. Jacks.	Maranthaceae	Katemfe, Miracle berry	herb	Native	Species & condiments	12, 27
60	Ebi-gho edore	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	Asteraceae	billygoat weed	herb	Exotic	Medicine	27
61	Eb-isungu	<i>Mormodica charantia</i> L.	Cucurbitaceae	African cucumber, balsam-apple	vine	Native	Vegetables	27
62	Ebi-taba	<i>Nicotina tabacum</i> L.	Solanaceae	tobacco	herb	Exotic	Stimulants	102
63	Eb-itete	<i>Amaranthus caudatus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	bush greens	herb	Exotic	Cereals & Pulses	27, 208
64	Ebo	<i>Pandanus candelabrum</i> P.Beauv.	Pandanaceae	screw pine	shrub	Native	Fibers	47, 142
65	Ebubule	<i>Crassocephalum crepidioides</i> (Benth.) S.Moore	Asteraceae	Red flower rgaleaf	herb	Native	Vegetable	28

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
66	Ebumwe	<i>Manniophyton africanum</i> Müll.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Salt leaf	liana	Native	Fibers	27
67	Ede	<i>Avicennia germinans</i> (L.) L.	Acanthaceae	black mangrove	tree	Native	Timbers	28
68	Edia-nukpakon	<i>Dioscorea alata</i> L.	Dioscoreaceae	White yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrate	28
69	Edin-ebo	<i>Ananas comosus</i> (L.) Merr.	Bromiliaceae	Pinnacle	herb	Exotic	Fruits	49
70	Edu	<i>Garcinia kola</i> Heckel	Clusiaceae	Bitter kola, false cola	tree	Native	Stimulants	49
71	Edueni	<i>Pentadesma butyracea</i> Sabine	Clusiaceae	Elephant bitter kola	tree	Native	Vegetable oils	49
72	Egbogho	<i>Nicotina rustica</i> L.	Solanaceae	native tobacco, wild tobacco	shrub	Native	Stimulants	31
73	Eghoen	<i>Terminalia superba</i> Engl. & Diels	Combretaceae	White afara	tree	Native	Timbers	51
74	Eghogho	<i>Trichilia prieuriana</i> A.Juss.	Meliaceae	-----	tree	Native	Auxiliary plants	31
75	Eghogho, Okpeghede	<i>Duboscia viridiflora</i>	Meliaceae	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	31
76	Eghonebi	<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i> A.Chev.	Combretaceae	Black afara	tree	Native	Timbers	51
77	Egwa	<i>Hippocratea kennedyi</i> Hoyle.	Hippocrateaceae	-----	liana	Native	Ornamentals	49
78	Ehien	<i>Capsicum</i> sp.	Solanaceae	pepper	herb	Native	Spices & condiments	52
79	Ehien nekhwa, Ikpobhoukho	<i>Capsicum annum</i> L.	Solanaceae	big pepper, Guinea pepper	herb	Native	Spices & condiments	52
80	Ehienedo	<i>Aframomum melegueta</i> K.Schum.	Zingiberaceae	Alligator pepper	herb	Native	Medicine	52, 138
81	Ehien-egbo	<i>Lonchocarpus griffonianus</i> (Baill.) Dunn (= <i>Millettia griffoniana</i> Baill.)	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	-----	tree	Native	Medicine	52
82	Ehun-ogo	<i>Trema guineense</i> Schumach. & Thonn. (= <i>Trema orientalis</i> (L.) Blume)	Ulmaceae	Charcoal tree	tree	Exotic	Auxiliary plants	52
83	Ekasa	<i>Omphalocarpum procerum</i> P.Beauv.	Sapotaceae	-----	tree	Native	Medicine	33
84	Ekhimi	<i>Piptadenia africana</i> Hook.f. (<i>Piptadeniastrum africana</i> (Hook.f.)	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Ekhimi	tree	Native	Timbers	57

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
		Brenan)						
85	Ekiawa	<i>Callichilia stenosepala</i> Stapf. (= <i>Hedranthera</i> sp., <i>Angylocalyx</i> sp.)	Apocynaceae	-----	shrub	Native	Ornamentals	34
86	Ekiawa	<i>Erythrina senegalensis</i> A.DC.	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	Coral flower	shrub	Native	Ornamentals	34
87	Ekpaghudo	<i>Albizzia zygia</i> (DC.) J.F. Macbr.	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Albizia	tree	Native	Timbers	35
88	Ekpapakogho	<i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i> Engl.	Burseraceae	Bush candle tree	tree	Native	Essential oil & exudates	35
89	Ekpekukpeku	<i>Pierreodendron africanum</i> (Hook.f.) Little	Simaroubaceae	Pierre's tree	shrub	Native	Medicine	35
90	Ekpiro	<i>Chrysophyllum africanum</i> A.DC.	Sapotaceae	African star apple	tree	Native	Fruits	53
91	Ekpoghoe	<i>Berlinia heudelotiana</i> Baill., <i>Berlinia auriculata</i> Benth.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)	Berlinia	tree	Native	Timbers	53
92	Ekpoghoei	<i>Berlinia bracteosa</i> Benth.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)	-----	tree	-----	Timbers	53
93	Ekpogho-eze	<i>Macrobium limba</i> Scott-Elliot (<i>Gibertiodendron limba</i> (Scott-Elliot) J.Leonard)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	53
94	Ekuzo	<i>Ongokea klaineana</i> Pierre (= <i>Ongokea gore</i> (Hua) Pierre)	Olacaceae	Ekuzo	shrub	Native	Timbers	34
95	Elu	<i>Indigofera arrecta</i> Hochst. ex A.Rich	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	African indigo	tree	Native	Dyes & tannins	54
96	Emile	<i>Dioscorea dumetorum</i> (Kunth) Pax	Dioscoreaceae	red yam	vine		Carbohydrates	37
97	Emotan	<i>Pterocarpus mildbraedii</i> Harms	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	-----	tree	Native	Vegetables	37
98	Emowe, Edia nupakon	<i>Dioscorea rotundata</i> Poir (<i>Dioscorea cayenensis</i> Lam.)	Dioscoreaceae	white Guinea yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	36
99	Emunomuerhan	<i>Begonia manii</i> Hook.f.	Begoniaceae	-----	vine	Exotic	Vegetables	54
100	Enwamwi-erimwi	<i>Dracaena laxissima</i> Engl.	Asparagaceae	-----	tree	Native	Medicine	38
101	Enwinwa	<i>Lannea acidissima</i> A.Chev. (<i>Lannea</i>	Anacardiaceae	-----	tree	Native	Vegetables	54

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
		<i>acida</i> A.Rich.)						
102	Ere (Ikpakpa)	<i>Phaseolus lunatus</i> L.	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	Lima bean	vine	Exotic	Cereals & Pulses	40
103	Erhannobayakpotihiedore	<i>Distemonanthus benthamianus</i> Baill.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	African satinwood, Yellow satinwood	tree	Native	Timber	39
104	Erhenbavbogo	<i>Enantia affinis</i> , <i>E. chlorantha</i> Oliv.	Annonaceae	Africa yellow wood	shrub	Native	Timber	40
105	Erhenrhan	<i>Erythrina senegalensis</i> A.DC.	Fabaceae (Papilionaceae)	Coral tree	tree	Native	Medicine	39
106	Erherhe	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	40
107	Erhukoko	<i>Sterculia oblonga</i> Mast.	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)	Yellow sterculia	shrub	Native	Timbers	39
108	Erhunrhumwekita, Erhurhumwesi	<i>Amphimas pterocarpoides</i> Harms	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	Lati, bokanga	tree	Native	Medicine	55
109	Erhuru	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	Dioscoreaceae	red and white yam	vine		Carbohydrates	36, 40
110	Esalebo, Ebesalebo	<i>Canna indica</i> L.	Cannaceae	herb	herb	Exotic	Carbohydrates	41
111	Eseghasagh	<i>Tetrapleura tetraptera</i> (Schumach. & Thonn.) Taub.	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Aridan fruit	tree	Native	Medicine	41
112	Esikpogho	-----	-----	-----	shrub	-----	-----	102
113	Eteziza, Ehoh-eziza	<i>Cymbopogon citrates</i> (DC.) Stap-	Poaceae	lemon grass, fever grass	Grass	Exotic	Essential Oils & Exudates	58
114	Evbe	<i>Cola acuminata</i> (P.Beauv.) Schott & Endl., <i>C. verticillate</i> (Thonn.) Stapf.	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)	Kolanut	tree	Native	Stimulants	56
115	Evbegabari, Igbanja, Eve-Igabari	<i>Cola nitida</i> (Vent.) Schott & Endl.	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)	Hausa cola	tree	Native	Stimulants	56, 84
116	Evboha	<i>Cola heterophylla</i> (P.Beauv.) Schott & Endl.	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)	wild cola, bush kola	tree	Native	Fruits	56
117	Evbohobitan	<i>Cola caricifolia?</i> (= <i>Cola caricaefolia</i> (G.Don.) K.Schum.	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)	monkey cola, wild cola	tree	Native	Fruits	56
118	Ewai	<i>Polyalthia suaveoleus</i> Engl. & Diels	Annonaceae	Golden shrimp plant	tree	Native	Timbers	57

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
119	Ewai	<i>Cola verticillate</i> (Thonn.) Stapf.	Malvaceae (Sterculiaceae)	Bush kolanut	tree	Native	Medicine	56
120	Ibu, Ibutowae, Ibutamwe	<i>Conopharyngia pachysiphon</i> (Stapf) Stapf, <i>C. penduliflora</i> Stapf. (<i>Tabernaemontana pachysiphon</i> Stapf)	Apocynaceae	Ibu		Native	Medicine	80
121	Idanwesin	<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i> (Lam.) Oken	Crassulaceae	Air plant/Life plant	herb	Exotic	Medicine	80
122	Igahri	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz	Euphorbiaceae	Cassava	shrub	Exotic	Carbohydrates	82
123	Igbi	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	Dioscoreaceae		vine	Native	Carbohydrates	84
124	Igedu	<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i> (Sprague) Sprague	Meliaceae	Sapele mahogany	tree	Native	Timbers	82
125	Igedu-noho	<i>Entandrophragma septentrionale</i> A.Chev., <i>E. macrophyllum</i> A.Chev., <i>E. rederi</i>	Meliaceae	Gedunogho	tree	Native	Timbers	82
126	Ighimiakhia	<i>Tetrapleura tetraptera</i> (Schumach. & Thonn.) Taul,	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Aidan tree	tree	Native	Medicine	85
127	Igiedudu	<i>Diospyros piscatoria</i> Gürke	Ebenaceae	Igiedudu	tree	Native	Medicine	82
128	Igorua, Ukpu	<i>Dioscorea alata</i> L.	Dioscoreaceae	water-yam	vine	Exotic	Carbohydrate	82, 205
129	Igwewe	-----	-----	-----	shrub	-----	-----	83
130	Ihemwe	-----	-----	-----	vine	-----	-----	87
131	Ihieghe	<i>Myrianthus arboreus</i> P.Beauv.	Urticaceae (Cecropiaceae)	Cork wood	tree	Native	Vegetables	88
132	Ihiehie	<i>Sphenostylis stenocarpa</i> (A.Rich.) Harms	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	yam-bean	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	88
133	Ihion	<i>Luffa aegyptiaca</i> Mill.	Cucurbitaceae	dishrag gourd, loofah	vine	Exotic	Vegetables	88
134	Ihunhun	<i>Vossia cuspidate</i> (Roxb.) Griff.?	Poaceae	Hippo grass	herb	Native	Forages	88
135	Ikan	<i>Eremospatha macrocarpa</i> (G.Mann & H.Wendl.) H.Wendl	Arecaceae	Small rattan palm	liana	Native	Fibers	66, 90, 186
136	Ikiabho, Ikiabho-ebhu, Ebe-dondon	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L.) Moench	Malvaceae	Ocro (Okra)	herb	Exotic	Vegetables	27, 105

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
137	Ikhimwi	<i>Newbouldia laevis</i> Seem ex Bureau	Bignoniaceae	Ikhimwi	tree	Native	Auxiliary plants	105
138	Ikpakpalo	<i>Phaseolus lunatus</i> L.	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	Lima bean	vine	Native	Cereals & Pulses	92
139	Ikpekhie	<i>Sphenostylis stenocarpa</i> (A.Rich.) Harms	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	yam-bean	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	40, 92
140	Ikpen	<i>Dioscorea cayensis</i> Lam.	Dioscoreaceae	red yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	36, 92
141	Ikpo-bhukho	<i>Capsicum annum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Capsicum pepper	herb	Exotic	Spices & condiments	52, 93
142	Ikpogi	<i>Citrullus vulgaris</i> Eckl. & Zeyl. (<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai)	Curcubitaceae	Egusi	vine	Native	Vegetables	92
143	Ikposa, Ukposa	<i>Monodora brevipes</i> Benth.	Annonaceae	Yellow-flowed nutmeg	tree	Native	Spices & condiments	27, 94
144	Inyi (Iyin)	<i>Erythrophleum macranthum</i> Harms ex Holland	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)	The sasswood tree	tree	Native	Medicine	96
145	Iramwinran	<i>Lemna equinoctalis</i> Welw.	Araceae	Duckweed	herb	Native	Auxiliary plants	42,89, 98
146	Iri-erimwi	-----	-----	-----	liana	-----	-----	96
147	Isan-ahiamwen	<i>Maba chrysantha</i> Gürke	Ebenaceae	Amelia	tree	Native	Fuel plants	99
148	Isawewe	<i>Arachis hypogea</i> L.	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	groundnut, peanut	herb	Exotic	Cereals & Pulses	99
149	Iseghegwe	<i>Citrullus vulgaris</i> Eckl. & Zeyl.	Cucurbitaceae	melon	vine	Native	Vegetables	100
150	Itehie	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	102
151	Itoto	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	102
152	Itue	<i>Harungana madagascariensis</i> Lam. ex Poir	Clusiaceae	Dragon's blood tree/praying hands	tree	Native	Timbers	103
153	Ivi-romila	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i> var <i>idolatraca</i> A.Chev.	Arecaceae	King palm var. Idolatraca	tree	Native	Auxiliary plants	159

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
154	Iyokheze	<i>Rinorea elliotii</i> Engl., <i>Rinorea welwitschii</i> (Oliv.) Kuntze	Violaceae	Health violet-bush	tree	Native	Cereals & Pulses	107
155	Iyokho	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott, <i>Xanthosoma sagittifolium</i> (L.) Schott	Araceae	arum, cocoyam, colocasia, elephant's-ear, taro	herb	Exotic	Carbohydrates	107
156	Iyokho-oto	? <i>Stylochaeton lancifolius</i> Kotchy & Peyr., ? <i>Stylochiton warneckeii</i> Engl.	Araceae	Warneck's Ground Arum, lily root	herb	Native	Carbohydrates	107
157	Ize, Ovokho	<i>Treculia africana</i> Decne.	Moraceae	Wild jackfruit, Africa boxwood	tree	Native	Fruits	44, 108
158	Iz-ebo	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	Poaceae	European rice	grass	Exotic	Cereals & Pulses	108
159	Izeni, Izokhaen	<i>Allanblackia floribunda</i> Oliv.	Clusiaceae	Elephant rice	tree	Native	Timbers	108
160	Kokomeme	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.	Cucurbitaceae	cucumber	vine	Exotic	Vegetables	113
161	Likiba	<i>Pausinystalia johimbe</i> (K.Schum.) Pierre	Rubiaceae	Yohimbi, Idiagbon	tree	Native	Timbers	120
162	Likiba, nikiba	<i>Coryanthe pachyceras</i> K.Schum.	Rubiaceae	Yohimbi, Idiagbon	tree	Native	Medicine	120
163	Likiba, nikiba	<i>Pausinystalia talbotii</i> Wernham	Rubiaceae	Yohimbi, Idiagbon	tree	Native	Timbers	120
164	Likiba, nikiba	<i>Pausinystalia brachthyrs</i> K.Schum.	Rubiaceae	Yohimbi, Idiagbon	tree	Native	Timbers	120
165	Likiba, nikiba	<i>Pausinystalia macroceras</i> (K.Schum.) Pierre	Rubiaceae	Yohimbi, Idiagbon	tree	Native	Timbers	120
166	Obadan	<i>Ficus vogellii</i> (Miq.) Miq.	Moraceae	strangling fig	tree	Native	Ornamentals	156
167	Obanabe	<i>Sphenocentrum jollyanum</i> Pierre	Menispermaceae	Sphenocentrum	shrub	Native	Medicine	156
168	Oberhekoko	<i>Parkia bicolor</i> A.Chev.	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	African locust bean	tree	Native	Timbers	157
169	Obhiakhe	<i>Nauclea diderrichii</i> (De Wild. & T.Durand) Merr.	Rubiaceae	Opepe	tree	Native	Timbers	104
170	Obobo nekhwi	<i>Guarea thompsonii</i> Sprague & Hutch.	Meliaceae	Sweet cedar, black cedar	tree	Native	Timbers	133

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
171	Obobo nofua	<i>Guarea kennedyi</i> Burt. Davy	Meliaceae	Africa cedar, white cedar	tree	Native	Timbers	133
172	Odo, Odo ninia	<i>Afzelia bipindensis</i> Harms.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	Afzelia	tree	Native	Timbers	134
173	Odonowae	<i>Rhizophora racemosa</i> G.Mey.	Rhizophoraceae	Red mangrove	tree	Native	Fuel plants	134
174	Ogbigbo	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	211
175	Ogemwe	<i>Barteria nigritiana</i> Hook.f., <i>B. fistulosa</i> Mast.	Passifloraceae	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	161
176	Oghaba	<i>Macrobium macrophyllum</i> (P.Beauv.) McBride (<i>Anthonatha macrophylla</i> P.Beauv.)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	Africa rosewood	tree	Native	Timbers	139
177	Oghede negieghe	<i>Musa sapientum</i> L.	Musaceae	Banana	herb	Native	Fruits	163
178	Oghedebo	<i>Musa paradisiacal</i> L.	Musaceae	plantain	herb	Native	Carbohydrate	163
179	Oghede-egbo	<i>Anonidium manii</i> (Oliv.) Engl. & Diel.	Annonaceae	Bush plantain	tree	Native	Fruit	163
180	Ogheghe, Okhikhan	<i>Spondias mombin</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	yellow mombin, hog plum	tree	Native	Fruits	139
181	Oghodogbo	<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i> Schumach.	Poaceae	Elephant grass	grass	Native	Forage	163
182	Oghohan	<i>Musanga smithii</i> R.Br.	Urticaceae (Cecropiaceae)	Umbrella tree	tree	Native	Timbers	139
183	Oghoye Oghoyeneguaebo	<i>Parinari um glabrum</i> (<i>Parinari glabra</i> Oliv.= <i>Maranthes glabra</i> (Oliv.) Prance)	Chrysobalanaceae	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	139
184	Ogi	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai	Cucurbitaceae	bitter gourd, wild melon, egusi watermelon	vine	Native	Vegetables	135
185	Ogi-ekpoghoe	<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i> (Sprague) Sprague	Meliaceae	Assi, Assie sapelli, Sapele-mahogany	tree	Native	Timber	135
186	Ogigba	<i>Dioscorea praehensilis</i> Benth.	Dioscoreaceae	bush yam, forest yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	136
187	Ogikhimwi	<i>Kigelia africana</i> (Lam.) Benth.	Bignoniaceae	Sausage tree	tree	Native	Medicine	136

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
188	Ogiovu	<i>Antiaris africana</i> Engl. (<i>Antiaris toxicora</i> Lesch.)	Moraceae	false iroko	tree	Native	Timbers	136
189	Ogo	<i>Raphia vinifera</i> P.Beauv.	Arecaceae	Bamboo palm	tree	Native	Fibers	161
190	Oguangho	<i>Khaya ivorensis</i> A.Chev.	Meliaceae	Benin mahogany	tree	Native	Timbers	137
191	Ogwaga, Erh-ogwega	<i>Detarium senegalense</i> J.F. Gmel.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	Senegal dattock	tree	Native	Timbers	137
192	Ogweg-odin	<i>Klainedoxia gabonensis</i> Pierre ex Engl.	Irvingiaceae	-----	-----	Native	Timbers	137
193	Ogwi	<i>Irvingia gabonensis</i> Aubry. Lecomte ex (O'Rorke) Baill.	Irvingiaceae	Bush mango	tree	Exotic	Medicine	138
194	Ogwi-ebo	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	Mango	tree	Exotic	Fruits	138
195	Ohaha	<i>Macaranga barteri</i> Müll. Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Ohaha	tree	Native	Fuel plants	140
196	Ohia	<i>Celtis soyauxii</i> Engl., <i>Celtis zenkeri</i> Engl.	Ulmaceae	Nettle tree, hackberry	tree	Native	Timbers	140
197	Ohiomwe	<i>Dialium guineense</i> Willd.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	Black velvet	tree	Native	Timbers	140
198	Oho	<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i> (Sprague) Sprague	Meliaceae	Sapele wood	tree	Native	Timbers	140
199	Ohun	<i>Hexalobus monopetalus</i> (A.Rich) Engl. & Diels.	Annonaceae	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	140
200	Oka	<i>Zea mays</i> L.	Poaceae	Corn {maize}	grass	Native	Cereals & Pulses	164
201	Okan	<i>Cylicodiscus gabunensis</i> Harms	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	African green heart	tree	Native	Timbers	141
202	Okha	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Malvaceae (Bombacaceae)	Cotton tree	tree	Native	Fibers	171
203	Okhikhan	<i>Spondias mombin</i> L.	Anarcadiaceae		tree		Fruits	155
204	Okhuen	<i>Ricinodendron africanum</i> MüllArg.	Euphorbiaceae	African nut tree	tree	Native	Timbers	155
205	Okhwaba	<i>Homalium macroptera</i> Gilg.	Flacourtiaceae	-----	-----	-----	Medicine	155

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
		<i>(Homalium longistylum</i> Mast.)						
206	Okhwe	<i>Plukenetia conophorum</i> Müll.Arg. = <i>Tetracarpidium conophorum</i> (Müll.Arg) Hutch. & Dalziel	Euphorbiaceae	African walnut	vine	Native	Fruits	155
207	Okhwen, Okuen	<i>Brachystegia eurycoma</i> Harms	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	Okwen	tree	Native	Timbers	172
208	Okhwenkhwen	<i>Acacia ataxacantha</i> DC.	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Benin rope acacia	shrub	Native	Auxiliary plants	172
209	Oko	<i>Fagara kennedyi</i> Burt. Davy	Rutaceae	-----	-----	-----	Timbers	142
210	Okpagma	<i>Pentaclethra macrophylla</i> Benth.	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Okpagma	tree	Native	Timbers	143
211	Okpagma-eze	<i>Calpocalyx brevibractcatus</i> Harms	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	River Okpagma		Native	Timbers	143
212	Okwekwe	<i>Markhamia lutea</i> (Benth.) K.Schum.	Bignoniaceae	Markhamia	tree	Native	Timbers	142
213	Olika niri	-----	-----	-----	vine	-----	-----	143
214	Olikanerhan	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	143
215	Olimehi, Emile, Uhoboriale	<i>Dioscorea dumetorum</i> (Kunth) Pax	Dioscoreaceae	red yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	36, 143
216	Olusea	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	Dioscoreaceae	-----	vine	Native	Carbohydrate	36
217	Oma	<i>Cordia millenii</i> Baker	Boraginaceae	Africa cordia/omah	tree	Native	Timbers	144
218	Ometo	<i>Dioscorea odoratissima</i>	Dioscoreaceae	Red yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	166
219	Omi	<i>Dioscorea rotundata</i> Poir.	Dioscoreaceae	White Guinea yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	144
220	Omu	<i>Entandrophragma candollei</i> Harms	Meliaceae	Cedar kokoti/omu	tree	Native	Timbers	145
221	Omwe	<i>Combretum platypterum</i> (Welw.) Hutch. & Dalziel	Combretaceae	Bush willow trees	liana	Native	Vegetables	153
222	Onankhen	-----	-----	-----	vine	-----	-----	156
223	Onusee	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	Dioscoreaceae	-----	vine		Carbohydrates	145
224	Onye	<i>Uapaca heudelotii</i> Baill.	Euphorbiaceae	Sugar plum	tree	Native	Timbers	167

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
225	Oporhipo	<i>Sterculia tragacantha</i> Lindl.	Malvaceae	African tragacanth	tree	Native	Essential oil & exudates	167
226	Orherhe	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (L.) Millsp. ?	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	-----	vine		Cereals & Pulses	168
227	Orimwighughu	<i>Anthocleista vogelii</i> Planch.	Loganiaceae	Forest big leaf	tree	Native	Medicine	148
228	Orinri	? <i>Vitex cienkowskii</i> Kotschy & Peyr. (? <i>Vitex doniana</i> Sweet) (<i>Vitex grandifolia</i> Gürke)	Verbenaceae	black plum	tree	Native	Timbers	148
229	Oriwo	<i>Venonia amygdalina</i> Delile (= <i>Gymnanthemum amygdalina</i>)	Asteraceae	Bitter leaf	shrub	Native	Vegetables	147
230	Oriwoeni	<i>Vernonia conferta</i> (<i>Gymnanthemum conferta</i> Benth.)	Asteraceae	-----	tree		Medicine	147
231	Oro, Urhuagho	<i>Hugonia platysepala</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	Linaceae	Eye blinder		Native	Medicine	168
232	Orumwu	<i>Pachylobus edulis</i> G.Don , <i>Dacrodies edulis</i> (G.Don) H.J. Lam	Burseraceae	Bush butter tree, native pear	tree	Native	Fruits	148
233	Orunwun-eze, Orumwun-egbo	<i>Pachylobus barteri</i> Engl.	Burseraceae	Native pear	tree	Native	Fruits	148
234	Orunwun-unghiokhio	<i>Pachylobus barteri</i> Engl.	Burseraceae	-----	-----	Native	Fruits	148
235	Oruruebo	? <i>Dracaena</i> sp.	Asparagaceae	-----	-----			148
236	Osan	<i>Icacina trachantha</i> Oliv. ?	Icacinaceae	-----	liana	Native	Carbohydrates	168
237	Ositua	<i>Baphia pubescens</i> Hook.f.	Fabaceae (Papilionaceae)	Benin camwood	tree	Native	Dyes & tannins	149
238	Osuonbon	<i>Kigelia africana</i> (Lam.) Benth.	Bignoniaceae	Sausage tree	tree	Native	Medicine	150
239	Otien	<i>Chrysophyllum albidum</i> G.Don	Sapotaceae	Star apple/otien	tree	Native	Fruits	150
240	Otien ogi-orion, Otienware	<i>Ochrocarpus africanus</i> Oliv.	Clusiaceae	“Mammy Apple”	tree	Native	Vegetable oils	150
241	Otien-emme	<i>Panda oleosa</i> Pierre	Pandaceae	-----	tree	Native	Vegetable oils	150

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
242	Otu	<i>Cleistopholis partens</i> (Benth.) Engl. & Diels	Annonaceae	Salt-and-oil tree/otu	-----	Native	Fibers	150
243	Otua	<i>Baphia nitida</i> Lodd.	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	Camwood	tree	Native	Dyes & tannins	151
244	Ovalo, Ogi-ovalo	<i>Trichilia heudelotti</i> Planch.	Meliaceae	-----	-----	Native	Timbers	152
245	Ovekhe	<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i> K.Schum.	Malvaceae	Obeche	tree	Native	Timbers	152
246	Oviakhe	<i>Sarcocephalus esculentus</i> Sabien	Rubiaceae	African peach	tree	Native	Fruits	153
247	Ovin-edun	<i>Garcina polyantha</i> Oliv. (<i>Garcina smeathmannii</i> (Planch. & Triana) Oliv.)	Clusiaceae	-----	tree	Native	Medicine	170
248	Ovin-inyi	<i>Erythrophleum guineense</i> G.Don, <i>E. micrantha</i> Harms ex Holland	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Ordeal tree, Red water tree	tree	Native	Medicine	170
249	Ovinoka	<i>Fillaeopsis discophora</i> Harms	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	170
250	Ovinunnie, Aghako	<i>Xylopiya quintasii</i> Engl. & Diels.	Annonaceae	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	170
251	Oviogiekue, Oviogierhakhoto	<i>Maesopsis eminii</i> Engl.	Rhamnaceae	-----	tree	Native	Auxiliary plants	153
252	Owegbe	<i>Lophira alata</i> Banks ex P.Gaertn.	Ochnaceae	Red oak	tree	Native	Timbers	171
253	Owewe	<i>Combretodendron africanum</i> (Welw. ex Benth) Exell	Lecythidaceae	-----	tree	Native	Timbers	154
254	Owi	<i>Buchholzia coriacea</i> Engl.	Capparaceae	Musk tree/owi	tree	Native	Timbers	154
255	Oyo	<i>Raphia vinifera</i> P.Beauv.	Arecaceae	Raffia palm	tree	Native	Fibers	156
256	Oziya	<i>Daniellia thurifera</i> Benn.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	African balsam/oziya	tree	Native	Timbers	156
257	Ubanenze	<i>Ochrocarpus africanus</i> Oliv.	Clusiaceae	African apple	tree	Native	Timbers	194
258	Ubelu	<i>Strombosia pustulata</i> Oliv.	Olacaceae	Ubelu	tree	Native	Timbers	194
259	Ubo	<i>Landolphia owariensis</i> P.Beauv.	Apocynaceae	White rubber vine	vine	Native	Essential oil & exudates	194

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
260	Uban	<i>Vitex rivularies</i> Gürke	Verbenaceae	Wild pepper tree	tree	Native	Medicine	194
261	Udegwogho	<i>Swartzia fistuloides</i> Harms (<i>Bobgunnia fistuloides</i> (Harms) J.H.Kirkbr. & Wiersema)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	Udoghogho/ezi	tree	Native	Timbers	195
262	Udin	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i> Jacq.	Arecaceae	Oil palm tree	tree	Native	Vegetable oils	195
263	Udin	<i>Dioscorea alata</i> L.	Dioscoreaceae	water-yam	vine	Exotic	Carbohydrates	195
264	Uduohogho	<i>Sterculia tragacantha</i> Lindl.	Malvaceae (Sterculoideae)	African tragacanth	tree	Native	Essential oil & exudates	195
265	Ufua	<i>Dioscorea dumetorum</i> (Kunth) Pax	Dioscoreaceae	red-yam, biter yam, cluster yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	196
266	Ugangan	<i>Bridelia micrantha</i> (Hochst.) Baille	Euphorbiaceae	Assas	tree	Native	Timbers	196
267	Ugangan	<i>Cuviera nigrescens</i> (Scott.Elliot) Wernham	Rubiaceae	-----	shrub	Native	Fibers	196
268	Ugbezagho	<i>Antrocaryon micraster</i> A.Chev. & Guill.	Anacardiaceae	Antrocaryon	tree	Native	Timbers	198
269	Ugbodokosa, Ukpakosa	<i>Randia cladantha</i> K.Schum. (<i>Aoranche cladantha</i> (K.Schum.) Somers)	Rubiaceae	-----	tree	Native	Medicine	198
270	Ugbokha	<i>Bombax buonopozense</i> P.Beauv.	Malvaceae (Bombacaceae)	Red flower silk cotton tree	tree	Native	Fibers	198
271	Ugbongbon	<i>Kigelia africana</i> (Lam.) Benth.	Bignoniaceae	Sausage tree	tree	Native	Medicine	198
272	Ugbore	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i> (Jacq.) R.Br. ex G.Don	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	African locust bean	tree	Native	Spices & condiments	198
273	Ugbugbe	-----	-----	-----	tree	-----	-----	198
274	Ugo	<i>Diocorea praehensilis</i> Benth.	Dioscoreaceae	wild yam, bush yam	vine	Native	Carbohydrates	36
275	Ugu	<i>Sacoglottis gabonensis</i> (Baill.) Urb.	Humiriaceae	Bitter bark tree	tree	Native	Medicine	197
276	Uguomaifian	<i>Discoglypremma coloneura</i> Prain	Euphorbiaceae	-	tree	Native	Medicine	197

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
277	Ugwekpokin	<i>Hannoa klaineana</i> Pierre & Engl.	Simaroubaceae	Ugwekpokin	tree	Native	Timbers	197
278	Uhoboriabe	<i>Dioscorea mangenotana</i> J.Miége ?	Dioscoreaceae	red-yam	vine	Exotic	Carbohydrates	200
279	Uhoru, Uhoru-ebo	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.	Caricaceae	pawpaw, European pawpaw	tree	Exotic	Fruits	200
280	Ukhankhan	<i>Fagara macrophylla</i> (Oliv.) Engl., <i>Zanthoxylum gillettii</i> (De Willd.) Waterman	Rutaceae	African satinwood, candlewood	tree	Native	Timbers	213
281	Ukhu	<i>Alstonia congensis</i> Engl.	Apocynaceae	Alstonia	tree	Native	Timbers	213
282	Ukhourhoho	<i>Detarium senegalense</i> J.F.Gmel.	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	Senegal dattock	tree	Native	Timbers	213
283	Ukwerhe	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> L.	Poaceae	sugarcane	shrub	Exotic	Carbohydrates	163, 214
284	Ukpakenka	<i>Hymenostygia afzelia</i> (Oliv.) Harms	Fabaceae (Caesalpinoideae)	-----	tree	Native	Ornamentals	28
285	Ukpakenka Ukpakon	<i>Lonchocarpus griffonianus</i> (Baill.) Duno (= <i>Milletia griffoniana</i> Baill.)	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	- -----	tree	Native	Medicine	204
286	Ukpe nekhwi	<i>Phialodiscus unijugatus</i> Radlk. (<i>Blighia unijugata</i> Baker)	Sapindaceae	Blighia	tree	Native	Fruits	204
287	Ukpe nofua	<i>Blighia sapida</i> K.D.Koenig	Sapindaceae	Ackee tree	tree	Native	Fruits	204
288	Ukpereghodin	-----	-----	-----	-----	Native	-----	204
289	Ukputu	<i>Bosquiea angolensis</i> Ficalho (= <i>Trilepisium madagascariense</i> DC.)	Moraceae	-	tree	Native	Fruits	205
290	Uloko	<i>Milicia excelsa</i> (Welw.) C.C.Berg	Moraceae	Iroko tree	tree	Native	Timbers	206
291	Umaza	<i>Staudtia stipitata</i> Warb. (<i>Staudtia kamerunensis</i> Warb.)	Myristicaceae	Bokapi	tree	Native	Timbers	206
292	Ume	<i>Pterocarpus osun</i> Craib	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	Akume tree	tree	Native	Timbers	206
293	Umonkhan	<i>Pycnanthus kombo</i> (Baill.) Warb.	Myristicaceae	African nutmeg	tree	Native	Vegetable oils	207
294	Unien, Ovinunie, Aghako	<i>Xylopia aethiopica</i> (Dunal) A.Rich.	Annonaceae	African (Ethiopian)	shrub	Native	Spices &	207

S/N	Edo name	Species	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Primary use	Page No.
				pepper			condiments	
295	Unwarhiontengbo, Asuen	<i>Grewia coriaceae</i> Mast.	Malvaceae (Tilioideae)	Wirewood/ desert oak	tree	Native	Fuel plants	208
296	Unwerhiontan	<i>Glyphaea laterifolia</i> (<i>Glyphaea brevis</i> (Spreng.) Monach.)	Malvaceae (Tilioideae)	Atori, masqurade stick	shrub	Native	Auxiliary plants	66, 207
297	Unwonwe	<i>Alchornea cordifolia</i> (Schumach. & Thonn.) Müll.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Christmas tree	shrub	Native	Medicine	208
298	Unyeghen	<i>Monodora cornifolia</i> (<i>Monodora tenuifolia</i> Benth.)	Annonaceae	Yellow flowering nutmeg	tree	Native	Spices & condiments	208
299	Urhuaro	<i>Hugonia platysepala</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	Linaceae	Liana	shrub	Native	Medicine	168, 209
300	Urighon	<i>Cordia aurantiaca</i> Baker	Boraginaceae	Urighoe	tree	Native	Ornamentals	209
301	Urua	<i>Borassus flabellifera</i> L.	Arecaceae	Sugar palm	tree	Native	Carbohydrates	50, 210
302	Uruhe	<i>Pterocarpus mildbraedii</i> Harms	Fabaceae (Papilionoideae)	Canwood	tree	Native	Vegetables	210
303	Utantan	<i>Lecaniodiscus cupanioides</i> Planch	Sapindaceae	Utantan	tree	Native	Fruits	211
304	Uviam	<i>Tetrorchidium didynostemon</i> (Baill.) Pax & K.Hoffm.	Euphorbiaceae	-----	tree	Native	Medicine	211
305	Uvinesan	<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i> (Sprague) Sprague	Meliaceae	Assi, Assie sapelli, Sapele-mahogany	tree	Native	Timbers	212
306	Uwowanugu	<i>Albizzia ferruginea</i> (Guill.&Perr.)Benth	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Albizia	tree	Native	Timbers	212
307	Uwowenabafan	<i>Albizzia sassa</i> MacBride (= <i>Albizzia gummifera</i> (Gmel) C.A.Smith	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Peacock flower	tree	Native	Timbers	212
308	Uwowe-nolagbabo	<i>Albizzia sassa</i> MacBride, <i>Albizzia adianthifolia</i> (Schumach.) W.Wight	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	flat-crown albizia, West African albizzia	tree	Native	Medicine	212
309	Uwowe-nolemare	<i>Albizzia zygia</i> (DC.) J.F.Macbr.	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	African walnut, Nongo, Okuro, Albizia	tree	Native	Timbers	212

Discussion

One of the inherent downside of oral tradition (transmission of information through oral means only) is the inability to guarantee a faithful transmission and the intact preservation of indigenous knowledge through time. Unfortunately this has been the bane of most cultures in Africa where oral tradition is practiced. A timely documentation in literary form before much external influences takes toll by diluting many vital but essential details (Singh, 2008). Vital cultural attributes such as local plant names, intricate religious protocols and medicinal practices are the most likely to become eroded with time even more so, if a less accommodating culture becomes dominant such as the English culture through colonialism. It is on this premise that one could begin to appreciate the invaluable contribution of the Melzian Bini dictionary to the famed and rich culture of the great Benin Kingdom. Newman (1939) correctly recognized the essence of the dictionary when he noted that “To the ethnographer this dictionary will be valuable because of the cultural data that the compiler freely supplies to explain the meaning and reference of terms”.

Out of the 309 plant names recorded in the Melzian’s dictionary, only about 75% were accounted for in the book “Useful Plants of West Tropical Africa” (Dalziel, 1937), - an Appendix to the multiple volume “Flora of West Tropical Africa” (FWTA) (Huchinson and Dalziel, 1954; 1958; 1963; 1968 and 1972). Irvine (1938) had described this appendix as the most complete list of published vernacular names of plants from Senegal to the Cameroons, including both British and French colonies and mandates. The lower frequency of congruency recorded for Kennedy (1936) and Keay (1989) may most likely be due to emphasis on economic plants and especially tree species the latter.

Vernacular names have been useful in tracing origin of cultivated crops (Berket-Smith, 1943; Madulid, 2005). The high frequency of native plants and the high incidence of members of the Fabaceae from the Melzian Edo plants checklist suggest the likelihood that Benin City area may constitute a centre of diversification of these plants especially members of the Fabaceae. The low occurrence of ferns and grasses including maize (=Oka in Edo) (Johnson and Johnson, 1976), and their apparent poor representation in Edo folk plant taxonomy as presented in Melzian dictionary may be attributable to the pristine nature of the forests environment at that time which would have precluded the open degraded environment most preferred by grasses and ferns.

The rich collection of Edo plant names in the Melzian’s Bini Dictionary confirms the assertion that African languages are wonderfully prolific in names of plants (Dalziel, 1916, Anonymous, 1917). The flora of southern Nigeria (Kennedy, 1936), was probably the first documented evidence on Edo plant names in the literature and this was closely followed by Melzian dictionary (summarized in this article) but published in 1937. Subsequent major works listing Edo plant names after Melzian’s dictionary include: Dalziel (1937), Hide (1943), Johnson and Johnson, (1976), Irvine, (1977), Olorode, (1988), Keay (1989) and Gill (1992) and none of them cited Melzian (1937). Overall, only a few references in the literature cited the Melzian dictionary with respect to its content of plant names e.g. Hardie (1963) who made a cursory reference to it while discussing the dreaded “juju” tree *Okoubaka aubreville* known as Akuobisi in Edo language.

The absence of some of the Edo plant names mentioned in Melzian's Dictionary in other published records supports the argument that the dictionary was not used as reference in the compilation of these checklists and that the authors may not have been privy to its botanical richness inherent in the dictionary.

According to Melzian (1937), most of the plant names used in the dictionary were sourced from the Forestry Department list provided by one R. A. Sykes, Esq., while for Kennedy (1936), and later, Dalziel (1937), their sources were the numerous circle officers of Forestry and Agricultural Departments who contributed notes and names with their specimens and others who had compiled the list of names. Irvine (1977) who visited Benin in 1948 and included Benin names in the revised second edition of his book, credited his source of Edo plant names to one Mr. E.C. Rowlands of School of Oriental studies, University of London while the vernacular Edo names of trees reported in Keay (1989) were credited to Dr Joyce Lowe of University of Ibadan. Olorode (1984) and Gill (1992) did not indicate their sources of Edo plant names. These evidences therefore, suggest that the Melzian dictionary may have somewhat remained unknown to the scientific (especially botanical) community until now. This is most evident when compared with Kennedy (1936) which although published a year earlier than Melzian (1937), has attracted considerably more reviews and citations in scientific literature (see Dalziel, 1937; Hutchinson and Dalziel, 1958; Johnson and Johnson, 1976). The limited exposure of Melzian dictionary may have been occasioned by the fact that by its title "Bini Dictionary" appears to conceal its rich contents of plant names and thus was only be sought after by linguistic scholars and not botanists. It is worthy of note that this paper was made possible because of the collaborative interaction between the first author (a botanist) and the second author (a linguist), who also was the owner of the copy of Melzian dictionary that was received. It is hoped that this article would bring this important contribution to a broader scientific audience.

The Edo plant names checklist presented in this paper marks the second commentary on the Melzian (1937) treatise. The first commentary on Melzian's dictionary was an index of English-Edo wordlist and a short dictionary (Munro, 1967). Even after 75 years after Melzian dictionary was written, this extract of plant names checklist is most significant as it not only spotlights the relevance of the dictionary to Edo culture but brings to the fore some undocumented Edo plant names as well as provide a general overview of plant life in Benin City during the 1930's. The checklist would serve as a valuable template to achieving a more comprehensive vocabulary of Edo plant names in the future.

Conclusion

The main significance of this study includes helping to spotlight contributions of Melzian's dictionary to the promotion of Edo folk taxonomy of plants to the scientific (and most especially the indigenous botanically community in Nigeria). In addition, plant names that were not previously documented provide additional plant names to the checklist already in existence. This article also provides some sort of verification or authentication of plant names already mentioned in literature. In particular, this checklist also brings to the fore and provides some insight into the existence and usage of some the common plants found in Benin City in the 1930s. This information is invaluable in that it provides

additional plant materials for medicinal plants researchers as well as assists ecologists in charting and understanding past and current conservation status of the plants. Furthermore, it serves as a veritable historically benchmark for evaluating recent plant introductions and the fate of others that have become rare or probably extinct due to overexploitation or habitat loss. Finally, the checklist of vernacular plant names in Edo language would facilitate the integration of Edo ethnobotany with different research and conservation programmes, and provide scientists with a quick reference in making accurate scientific extrapolations when working with traditional herbalists. It would also provides a preliminary template on which a more comprehensive Edo plant name vocabulary and database could be developed in the future. The list would be an invaluable resource for plant names covering Benin (Edo), Esan (Ishan) and to some extent the northern tribes of Estako and Afemai areas.

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