

## Introduction

The use of medicinal plants for grass-cutter pathology treatment is the result of Beninese herbal therapists trial who had endogenous knowledge throughout their experience in pharmacopoeia and who have started grass cutter breeding. The objective is to create an index of medicinal plants used in grass cutter farms and standardize their use.

## Methodology

An exploratory survey has been performed in grass-cutter farms implemented in real milieu in southern Benin to inventory medicinal plants in use, their instructions for use and their efficiency. Samples of medicinal plants were collected and identified in the National herbarium at the University of Abomey-Calavi's in Benin.

## Results

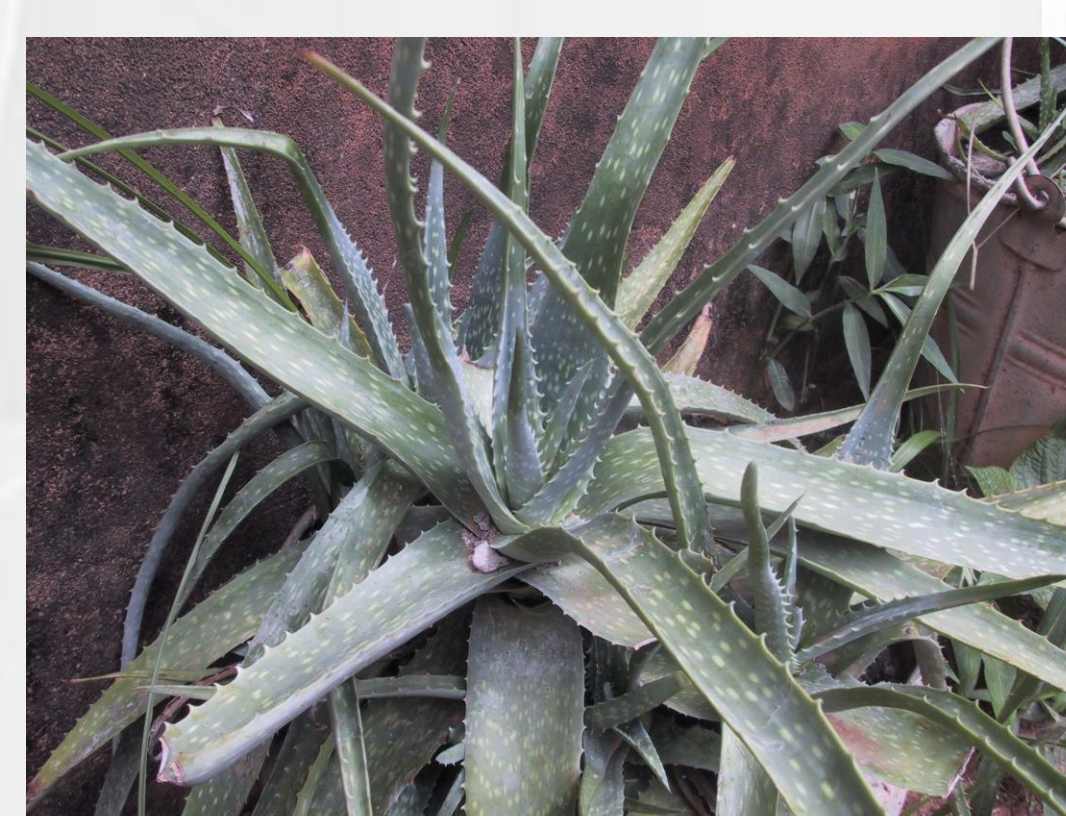
The results analysis shows that 75% of interviewed grass-cutter breeders trust the veterinary pharmacopoeia because of its cheapness and effectiveness. Twenty (20) medicinal plants were inventoried namely: *Aloes barbadensis*, *Cajanus cajan*, *Calotropis procera*, *Carica papaya* (male), *Cassia occidentalis*, *Citrus aurantifolia*, *Crateava religiosa*, *Eucalyptus camadulensis*, *Fagara zanthoxyloides*, *Heliotropium indicum*, *Jatropha multifida*, *Mallotus oppositifolius*, *Momordica balsamina*, *Morinda lucida*, *Newboudia leavis*, *Ocimum basilicum*, *Ocimum gratiticum*, *Psidium guajava*, *Talinum triangulare* and *Vernonia amygdalina*. Leaves were the most valorised organs of these plants and used in 96% of cases. Leaves powder was administered to the animal in 51% of cases at variable doses in g/kg of live weight (LW). All medicinal plants in powder were incorporated into concentrated feed that was distributed to diseased animals. Other plants were administered after decoction and maceration to sick bred grass-cutters at variable doses in ml/kg of LW. Microbial affections were treated with leaves of *Crateava religiosa*, *Cajanus cajan*, *Heliotropium indicum* and *Ocimum gratiticum*. Respiratory disorders were treated with *Ocimum basilicum* and *Eucalyptus camadulensis*. The average recovery rate of treated animals with medicinal plants was 80%. Disorder at birth (dystocia) was controlled with the root of male papaya (*Carica papaya*) and *Mallotus oppositifolius*. Papaya seeds were used as anthelmintic with a good result, but studies are in progress after information on the contraceptive effect of *Carica papaya* seeds on female rabbit.



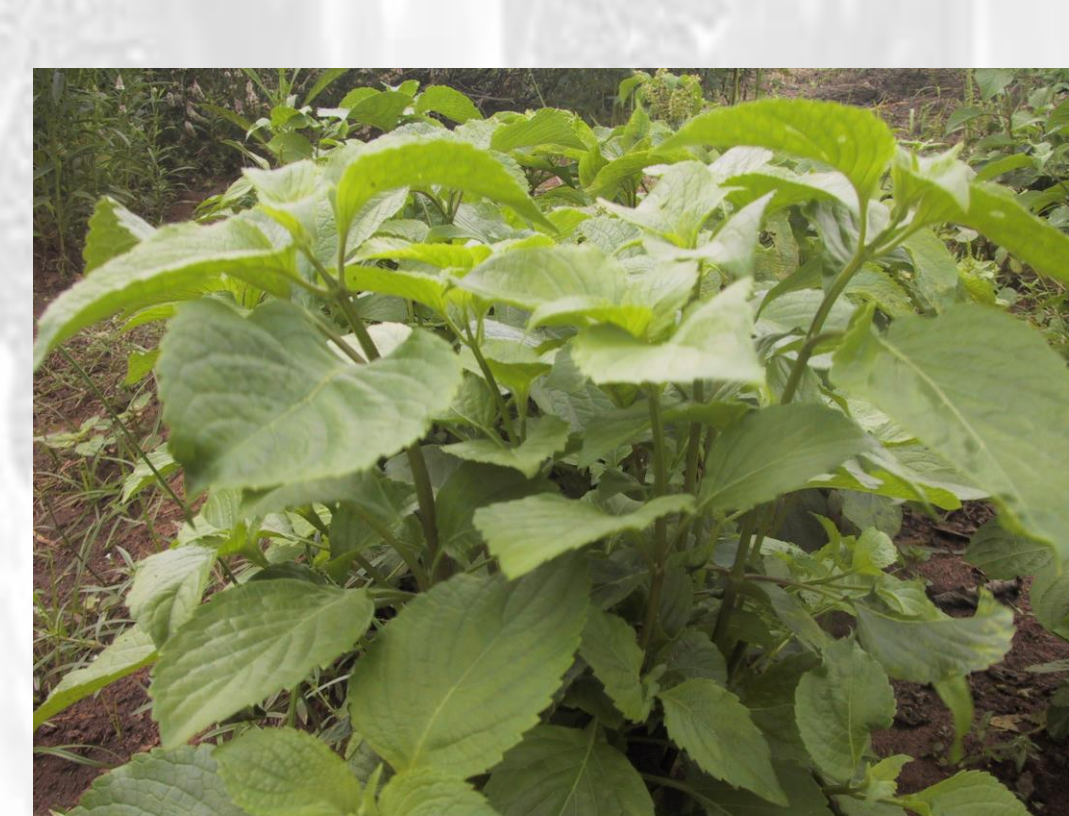
*Crateava religiosa*



*Momordica balsamina*



*Aloes barbadensis*



*Ocimum gratiticum*



*Citrus aurantifolia*



*Psidium guajava*



*Vernonia amygdalina*



*Ocimum basilicum*



*Newboudia leavis*



*Morinda lucida*



*Calotropis procera*



*Cajanus cajan*



*Heliotropium indicum*



*Eucalyptus camadulensis*



*Talinum triangulare*



*Cassia occidentalis*



*Mallotus oppositifolius*



*Carica papaya*



*Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides*



*Jatropha multifida*

## Conclusion

Medicinal plants constitute an inexhaustible natural wealth and it is necessary to pay a particular attention to safeguard the health of the bred grass cutter for which no specific veterinary drugs are available. Grass cutters treatment on the basis of medicinal plants is effective and cheaper than common drugs. Research should now work out the posology for common diseases treatments with medicinal plants to remedy the problems of sub-dosage and overdose of current products as well as to confirm or to refute the current preparations.

## References

- Mensah G. A. & Ekué M. R.M., 2003. L'essentiel en aulacodiculture. RéRE/KIT/IUCN/C.B.D.D., République du Bénin/Royaume des Pays-Bas. ISBN: 99919-902-4-0, Bénin. 160 p.  
Sobakin L. J., 2004. Inventaire des plantes médicinales utilisées dans les aulacodicultures installées dans les communes de Cotonou et d'Abomey-Calavi au sud du Bénin. Mémoire/LAMS/Bénin. 53 p.