



Checklist of plants of Rashad and Alabassia localities (eastern Nuba Mountains), South Kordofan Sudan

Ismail Mirghani Ismail^{1*} and Alawia Abdalla Elawad²

¹ Agricultural Research Corporation, Forestry Research Centre, P.O. Box 13391, Khartoum, Sudan

² Department of environmental sciences, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, AlNeelain University, Khartoum, P.O. Box 12702, Sudan

* Corresponding author. E-mail address: ismail.mirghani@yahoo.com

Abstract: This study identifies and documents species of the native flora the low rainfall woodland savanna of Rashad and Alabassia localities (eastern Nuba Mountains), Sudan. This study identified 260 species belonging to 176 genera and 59 families, including five new records to the flora of the Sudan. The flora is comprised of a variety of different life-forms. Most are phanerophytes 40%, therophytes 35%, and chamaephytes 21%; the remaining are geophytes, hydrophytes, hemicryptophytes and epiphytes. The majority of the plant species have important economic uses.

Key words: flora, vegetation of Sudan, biodiversity, lifeforms, economic uses

INTRODUCTION

A thorough knowledge of the flora of a certain area is an essential prerequisite to sound land-use policy. The present study fills a gap in our knowledge of the flora of Rashad and Alabassia localities, eastern Nuba Mountains, Sudan. Furthermore, this contribution provides a reliable scientific basis for the assessment of the production potential and management of plant resources in the study area.

The flora of the Nuba Mountains is rarely covered in literature, either on its own or as part of the larger Sudan flora. The earliest collections from the area was reported by Massey (1926) who recorded three grasses. Shortly thereafter, Broun and Massey (1929) included 128 plant species from the area. In works of Andrews (1950, 1952, 1956) only 24 plant species from the area were recorded. Elamin's (1990) publication on the trees and shrubs of the Sudan included 66 woody plant species from the Nuba Mountains.

The flora of certain locations, including some special habitats, in the Nuba Mountains has been studied. El Ghazali (1985) recorded 178 medicinal plants from the eastern Nuba Mountains. Ismail (2007) studied the woody vegetation of Rashad district and recorded 87

indigenous species and 15 exotic species.

The region in the eastern Nuba Mountains ,selected for the present study, exhibits wide topographical variation which is reflected in the diversity of vegetation. This study aims to identify and document the flora of the eastern Nuba Mountains and consequently to contribute in updating the flora of Sudan. Vouchered specimens also contribute the reference collection in the Forestry Research Centre herbarium at Soba, Sudan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The study area is located in the northern part of the eastern Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan state, Sudan, and includes two localities (Rashad and Alabassia), extending from 11°33' to 12°33' N and from 031°08' to 031°18' E. (Figure 1). Most of study has scattered isolated hills and it is dissected by many seasonal watercourses. The Rashad and Alabassia localities occupy an area of 7872 km² (Adam et al. 2012). The study area classified as low rainfall woodland savanna (Harrison and Jackson 1958).

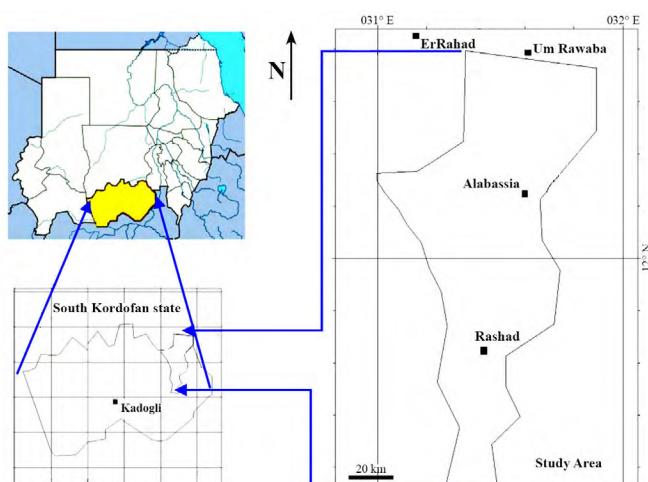


Figure 1. Study area: Rashad and Alabassia localities, South Kordofan state, Sudan.

Specimen collection and identification

Plant specimens were collected during 2010–2011. The collection procedure followed methods described by Lawrence (1969) and Forman and Bridson (1991). Specimens were identified using Broun and Massey (1929), Andrews (1950, 1952 and 1956), and Elamin (1983, 1990). Identified specimens were confirmed with authenticated herbarium specimens in the Forestry Research Centre Herbarium at Soba.

Recent literature was consulted for current plant names: Friis and Vollesen (1998, 2005) and The Plant List (2013). The list of families covered in this study was arranged according to the Linear Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (LAPG) III (Haston et al. 2009), while subfamilies, genera, and species are arranged alphabetically within the families. Vernacular names and economic uses given were compiled from local people and available literature. The life-forms of plants were based on Raunkjaer (1934).

RESULTS

A detailed botanical account on the flora is given in the form of a checklist. Altogether 260 plant species, belonging to 59 families and 176 genera (Table 1) were identified. This number exceeds the number of species recorded previously from the Nuba Mountains.

The flora is grouped into 11 clades. Most of the species

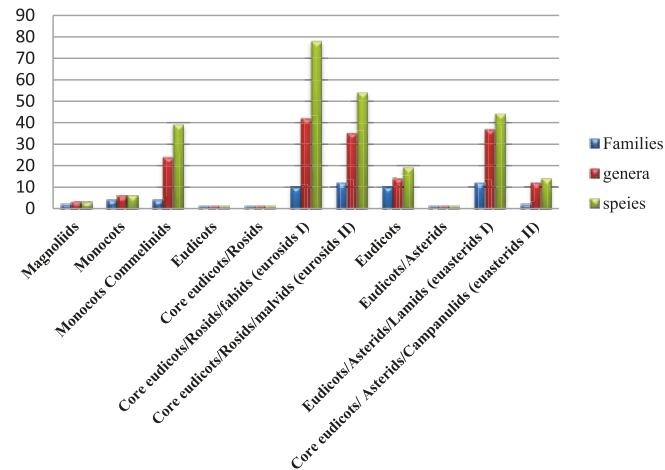


Figure 2. The plant species, genera and families included by clades.

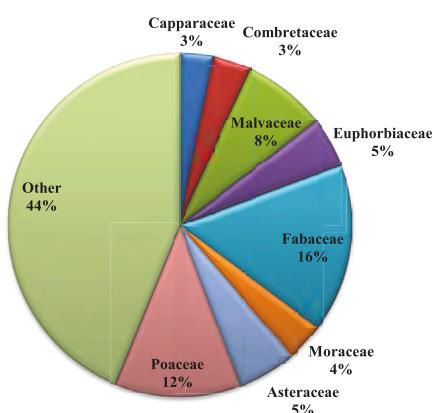


Figure 3. Distribution of plant species by family.

belong to the core eudicots/rosids/fabids (eurosids I) (78 species, 42 genera and 10 families); core eudicots/rosids/malvids (eurosids II) (54 species, 35 genera and 12 families); eudicots/asterids/lamids (euasterids I) (44 species, 37 genera and 12 families); monocots commelinids (39 species, 24 genera and four families) and each of the other clades include less than 20 species (Figure 2). The families Fabaceae (Leguminosae), Poaceae and Malvaceae are well represented in the flora of South Kordofan. Asteraceae and Euphorbiaceae are moderately present, while other families had between one and nine species (Figure 3).

In this study, five species were added to the flora of Sudan: *Ludwigia adscendens* (Onagraceae), *Commicarpus chinensis* (Nyctaginaceae), *Crotalaria lanceolata* (Fabaceae), *Goniocaulon indicum* (Asteraceae) and *Tetrapogon tenuellus* (Poaceae).

DISCUSSION

Most of the plant species of the study area have important economic uses. The study area is considered as important sources for animal wellbeing; 26% of the species are fodder plants. However, an important alternative to fodder is woody vegetation, which is browsed by animals during the dry season. Both herbaceous and woody plants (39%) are used for medicinal purposes. Large trees and shrubs (7% of total flora) are utilized for timber that is used for making furniture, tool handles, and as building material (roofing, fencing, etc.). Timber is used for building material and other domestic uses such as roofing, fencing and as tool handles. Species used for fuel wood (8%) are important source of energy. Plants (15%) also have edible fruits that are important during periods of famine. Some species (2%) produce gums: gum arabic from *Acacia senegal* and frankincense gum from *Boswellia papyrifera* and *Commiphora africana* Figure (5).

Endangered species

This survey found that a number of economically important woody plants may be endangered. This includes *Borassus aethiopum*, a tree that is extensively cut for roof poles when mature; its germinating seeds are also dug for food ("Halook"). It is now only in protected

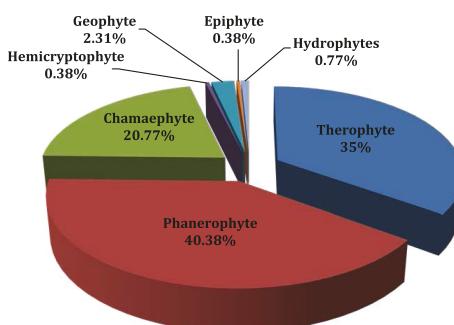
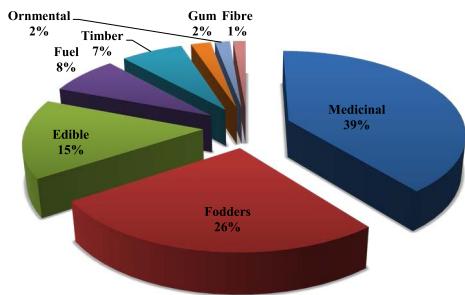


Figure 4. Life-form categories.

**Figure 5.** Economic uses of plant species.

areas such as gardens and around houses. *Hyphaene thebaica* was found only around houses as well. *Cordia africana* was observed only in gardens and around houses but were growing naturally. No regeneration of *Boswellia papyrifera* was recorded at the sites studied.

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Table 1. Checklist of Flora of Rashad and Alabassia localities, Nuba Mountains, Sudan. Life forms: Ph = phanerophyte, Th = therophyte, Ch = chamaephyte, G = geophytes, Hy = hydrophyte, He = hemicryptophyte, Ep = epiphyte. Economic uses: Fd = fodder, M= medicinal, T = timber, Fu = Fuel wood, Ef = edible fruit, G =gum.

Taxa	Species	Vernacular name	Life form	Uses
Clade Magnoliids				
Order Piperales				
Family Aristolochiaceae				
Subfamily Aristolochioideae	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i> Lam.	Um Jalajil,	Ch	M
Order Magnoliales				
Family Annonaceae	<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Per.	Harhar, Gishta	Ph	T, M,E
	<i>Xylopia acutiflora</i> (Dunal) A. Rich.	Kurnagang	Ph	T, M,E
Clade Monocots				
Order Alismatales				
Family Araceae				
Subfamily Aroideae	<i>Amorphophallus abyssinicus</i> (A. Rich.) N. E. Br.		G	E
	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i> L.		Hy	M
	<i>Stylochaeton hypogaeus</i> Lepr.	Basal Elkilab	G	M,E

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Table 1. *Continued.*

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Table 1. Continued.

Taxa	Species	Vernacular name	Life form	Uses
	<i>Ficus ingens</i> Miq.	Gumaiz	Ph	E
	<i>Ficus platyphylla</i> Del.	Gumaiz	Ph	M
	<i>Ficus populifolia</i> Vahl.	Gumaiz	Ph	E
	<i>Ficus sycomorus</i> L.	Gumaiz	Ph	E
	<i>Ficus thonningii</i> Blume.	Irkabi	Ph	M
Order Cucurbitales				
Family Cucurbitaceae				
Subfamily Cucurbitoideae	<i>Ctenolepis cerasiformis</i> (Stocks) C. B. Clarke.	Sim Elter	Th	M
	<i>Cucumis metuliferus</i> E. Mey. ex Naudin	Tibish Elkilab	Th	M
	<i>Cucumis prophetarum</i> L.	Fagoos Elmarfae'en	Th	M
	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Molina) Standley	Garaa or Bukhsa	Th	M
	<i>Luffa cylindrica</i> (L.) M. J. Roem.	Leef	Ch	M
	<i>Momordica balsamina</i> L.	Erra Iri	Th	M
Order Malpighiales				
Family Euphorbiaceae				
Subfamily Acalyphoideae	<i>Acalypha indica</i> Linn.		Th	M
	<i>Cephalocroton cordofanus</i> Hochst.		Ch	Fd
	<i>Dalechampia scandens</i> L. var. <i>cordofana</i> (Webb) Müll.	Abu Liseig	Th	
	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Khirwa	Ph	M
Subfamily Crotonoideae	<i>Croton zambesicus</i> Muell.	Um Ghilela	Ph	M
	<i>Jatropha aethiopica</i> Muell.	Abu ofein	Ch	M
Subfamily Euphorbioideae	<i>Euphorbia candelabrum</i> Trémaux ex Kotschy	Shagar El-sim	Ph	M
	<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> Wild.		Th	M
	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Um libena	Th	M
	<i>Euphorbia prostrata</i> Ait. Hort.	Um libena	Th	M
	<i>Euphorbia venenifica</i> Tremaux ex Kotschy	Shagar El-sim	Ph	M
Family Phyllanthaceae	<i>Bridelia micrantha</i> (Hochst) Baill.	Reel	Ph	T, Fu, M
Family Passifloraceae				
Subfamily Passifloroideae	<i>Adenia venenata</i> Forssk.	Kudur	Ph	M
Clade Core eudicots/Rosids/malvids (eurosid II)				
Order Myrtales				
Family Combretaceae	<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i> (DC.) Guill. & Perr.	Sahab	Ph	T, Fu, Fd, M
	<i>Combretum aculeatum</i> Vent.	Shuhiet	Ph	Fu, Fd, M
	<i>Combretum collinum</i> subsp. <i>binderianum</i> (Kotschy) Okafa.	Elhabeel	Ph	T, Fu
	<i>Combretum glutinosum</i> Perr. ex DC.	Habeel	Ph	Dyes
	<i>Combretum hartmannianum</i> Schwein f. Beitr.	Habeel	Ph	M
	<i>Combretum molle</i> R.Br. ex G. Don.	Habeel	Ph	T, Fu, M
	<i>Guiera senegalensis</i> J. F. Gmel.	Ghibaish	Ph	Fu, M
	<i>Terminalia brownii</i> Fresen	Subagh	Ph	T, M
	<i>Terminalia laxiflora</i> Engl. & Diels Monogr.		Ph	T, M
Family Lythraceae	<i>Ammannia auriculata</i> Willd.	Tamr Elfar	Th	M
	<i>Woodfordia uniflora</i> (A.Rich.) Koehne.	Wad Am Elshai	Ph	G
Family Onagraceae				
Subfamily Ludwigioideae	<i>Ludwigia erecta</i> (L.) Hara.		Th	Fd, E
	<i>Ludwigia adscendens</i> (L.) Hara.		Hy	M
Order Sapindales				
Family Burseraceae	<i>Boswellia papyrifera</i> (Del.) Hochst.	Taragtaraq	Ph	G, M, Fu
	<i>Commiphora africana</i> (A. Rich) Engl.	Gaffal	Ph	G,
Family Anacardiaceae	<i>Lannea humilis</i> (Oliv.) Engl.	Leyun	Ph	E, M
	<i>Lannea fruticosa</i> (Hochst. ex A. Rich.) Engl.	Leyun	Ph	T
	<i>Lannea schweinfurthii</i> (Engl.) Engl.	Rutrut	Ph	E, M, Fd
	<i>Lannea schimperi</i> (Hochst. ex. A. Rich.) Engl.	Elmilaïs, Amzaq	Ph	Fu, E
	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i> (A. Rich.) Hochst.	El Homeid	Ph	T, E, M
Family Sapindaceae	<i>Allophylus africanus</i> P. Beauv.		Ph	M
	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L.		Th	M
Family Rutaceae	<i>Vepris nobilis</i> (Del.) Mziray	Fideila	Ph	M
Family Meliaceae	<i>Khaya senegalensis</i> (Desr.) A. Juss.	Mahogani	Ph	T, M
	<i>Trichilia emetica</i> Vahl.	Dimso	Ph	T
Order Malvales				
Family Malvaceae				
Subfamily Bombacoideae	<i>Adansonia digitata</i> Linn.	Tabaldi	Ph	E, M, Fd, E, Fb

Continued

Table 1. Continued.

Taxa	Species	Vernacular name	Life form	Uses
Subfamily Grewioideae	<i>Corchorus pseudocapsularis</i> Schweinf.		Th	Fd
	<i>Corchorus tridens</i> L.	Khodra	Ch	E
	<i>Grewia bicolor</i> Juss.	Basham	Ph	Fu, Fd
	<i>Grewia flavescentia</i> Juss.	Khlekhsan	Ph	Fu, E, Fd, M
	<i>Grewia mollis</i> Juss.	Basham	Ph	Fu, E
	<i>Grewia tenax</i> (Forsk.) Fiori.	Elgudem	Ph	Fu, E, Fd
	<i>Grewia villosa</i> Willd.	Tikko	Ph	Fu, E, M
	<i>Triumfetta pentandra</i> J.M. Garg	Abu liseig	Ch	Fd, E, M, Fd,
Subfamily Malvoideae	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L.) Moench	Weika	Th	E
	<i>Abutilon angulatum</i> (Guill. & Perr.) Mast.	Amboru	Ch	Fb
	<i>Azanza garckeana</i> (F. Hoff.) Exell & Hillcoat.	Nakhgar	Ph	E, G
	<i>Hibiscus diversifolius</i> Jacq.		Ch	Fb, M
	<i>Hibiscus vitifolius</i> L.		Th	Fb, M
	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> L.	Kirkaiya, Kenaf, Til	Ch	Fb
	<i>Sida alba</i> Linn.	Um-shadia	Ch	M
	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L.	Nayada	Ch	M
	<i>Wissadula amplissima</i> (L.) R. E. Fr. Kongl.		Ch	M
Subfamily Sterculioideae	<i>Sterculia setigera</i> Del.	Tartar	Ph	G, M
	<i>Waltheria indica</i> L.	Erg Elnal	Ch	M
Order Brassicales				
Family Salvadoraceae	<i>Dobera glabra</i> (Forssk.) Juss. ex Poir.	Mikah	Ph	Fd,
Family Capparaceae	<i>Boscia angustifolia</i> A. Rich.	Elsereh, Serha	Ph	Fu, E, Fd, M
	<i>Boscia senegalensis</i> Lam.	Mikhet, Kursn	Ph	E, Fd, M
	<i>Cadaba rotundifolia</i> Forssk.	Kurmut	Ph	Fd, M
	<i>Capparis decidua</i> (Forsk.) Edgew.	Tundub	Ph	Fu, E, Fd
	<i>Capparis tomentosa</i> Lam.	Murdur	Ph	Fd, M
	<i>Crateva adansonii</i> DC.	Dabkar	Ph	T, Fu, Fd
	<i>Maerua angolensis</i> DC.	Shagar Eldoud	Ph	T, Fd, M
Family Cleomaceae	<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L.	Tamaleka	Ch	E
Clade Eudicots				
Order Santalales				
Family Olacaceae	<i>Ximenia americana</i> L.	Kalto	Ph	E, Fd, M
Family Loranthaceae	<i>Tapinanthus globiferus</i> (A. Rich.) Tiegh.	Anaba	Ep	Fd, M
Order Caryophyllales				
Family Tamaricaceae	<i>Tamarix nilotica</i> (Ehrenb.) Bunge	Tarfa	Ph	T
Family Plumbaginaceae				
Subfamily Plumbaginoideae	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.		Ch	M
Family Caryophyllaceae	<i>Polycarphae corymbosa</i> (L.) Lam.	Um Fara	Th	O
Family Amaranthaceae				
Subfamily Amaranthoideae	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Fakhah	Th	M
	<i>Amaranthus graecizans</i> L.	Lisan Elteir	Th	Fd
	<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i> L.	Khadiga kouro	Th	Fd
	<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.	Danab Elkalib	Ch	O, M
	<i>Celosia trigyna</i> L.		Th	M
	<i>Pupalia lappacea</i> (Linn) Juss.	Abu Luseg	Ch	M
Subfamily Gomphrenoideae	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i> Kunth.	Haskaneet	Ch	Fd
Family Aizoaceae				
Subfamily Sesuvioideae	<i>Zaleya pentandra</i> (L.) C.	Rigl Eltir	Ch	M, Fd
Family Nyctaginaceae	<i>Boerhavia africana</i> Lour.	Abu Libin	Ch	M
	<i>Boerhavia chinensis</i> (L.) Rottb.		Ch	E, M
	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	Um Shiraya	Th	M
	<i>Boerhavia erecta</i> L.	Gashayt Elter	Th	E, Fd, M
Family Molluginaceae	<i>Glinus lotoides</i> L.	Raba'a	Th	M, Fd
Family Portulacaceae	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.	Rigla	Th	E
Clade Eudicots/Asterids				
Order Ericales				
Family Ebenaceae	<i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i> Hochst. ex A. DC.	Goghan	Ph	T, E, Fd, M
Clade Eudicots/Asterids/Lamids (euasterids I)				
Order Gentiales				
Family Rubiaceae				
Subfamily Cinchonoideae	<i>Sarcocapnos latifolius</i> (Smith) E. A. Bruce.	Karmadoda	Ph	E, M

Continued

Table 1. Continued.

Taxa	Species	Vernacular name	Life form	Uses
Subfamily Ixoroideae	<i>Catunaregam nilotica</i> (Stapf.) Tirveng. <i>Feretia apodantha</i> Del. <i>Gardenia ternifolia</i> var. <i>jovis-tonantis</i> (Welw.) Verdc. <i>Meyna tetraphylla</i> (Schweinf. ex Hiern) Robyns. <i>Vangueria madagascariensis</i> Gmel.	Shagart Elmarfaein Shai Elbitera Baggis Simeim Kirkir	Ph Ph Ph Ph Ph	Fu, M E, M E E
Subfamily Rubioideae	<i>Oldenlandia corymbosa</i> L. <i>Spermacoce pusilla</i> Wall.	Bushari Tamar Elfar	Th Th	M M
Family Loganiaceae	<i>Strychnos innocua</i> Del.	Um Bikhesa	Ph	E, T, Fd, M
Family Apocynaceae				
Subfamily Apocynoideae	<i>Adenium obesum</i> (Forssk.) Roem & Schult.	Shagar Elsim	Ph	O, M
Subfamily Asclepiadoideae	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton) Dryand. <i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk.) Cheov.	Elushar Ch	Ph Ch	M
Unplaced in an order				
Family Boraginaceae	<i>Cordia africana</i> Lam.	Gimbeel	Ph	T, E
Order Solanales				
Family Convolvulaceae	<i>Astripomoea lachnosperma</i> (Choisy) A. Meeuse <i>Ipomoea cordofana</i> Choisy. <i>Ipomoea sinensis</i> (Desr.) Choisy. <i>Ipomoea eriocarpa</i> R. Br. <i>Ipomoea calophylla</i> Fenzl. <i>Merremia aegyptia</i> (L.) Urb.	Um Ghaleila Tabar Hantut Um She`era Erg M'oterash	Ch Th Th Th Th	M Fd Fd Fd M M
Family Solanaceae				
Subfamily Solanoideae	<i>Datura innoxia</i> Mill. <i>Physalis peruviana</i> L. <i>Solanum coagulans</i> Forssk. <i>Solanum hastifolium</i> Hochst. ex Dunal. <i>Solanum incanum</i> L. <i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. <i>Withania somnifera</i> (L.) Dunal.	Sikeran kurm kurum Gubein Gubein Um Gibin gibin Morgan, Sim Elfar	Ch Ch Ch Ch Th Ch	M M M M M M
Order Lamiales				
Family Scrophulariaceae	<i>Striga hermonthica</i> (Del.) Benth.	Bouda	Th	M
Family Pedaliaceae	<i>Rogeria adenophylla</i> J.Gray ex Del.		Ch	M
Family Lamiaceae	<i>Sesamum radiatum</i> Schumach. <i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i> (L.) R. Br. <i>Leucas martinicensis</i> R. Br. <i>Ocimum americanum</i> L.	Simsim Eljebal Kashaw Baraw Rehan	Th Ch Th Ch	E, M M M M
Family Acanthaceae				
Subfamily Acanthoideae	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> L <i>Barleria steudneri</i> C. B. <i>Blepharis linariifolia</i> Pers. <i>Dicliptera verticillata</i> (Forsk.) Christens. <i>Hypoestes verticillaris</i> (L. f.) Solander ex Roem. & Schult. <i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schumach.) Heine. <i>Monechma debile</i> (Forssk.) Nees. <i>Peristrophe paniculata</i> (Forsk.) Brummitt.		Ch Ch Th Th Ch Abu Shweika Th Abu Rukab	M M Fd M E, M, Fd M Th M, Fd
Family Bignoniaceae	<i>Kigelia africana</i> (Lam.) Banth. <i>Stereospermum kunthianum</i> Cham.	Um Shutour Khashkhash abiad	Ph Ph	T, M Fu, M, Fd
Family Verbenaceae	<i>Clerodendrum capitatum</i> (Willd.) Schumach. & Thonn. <i>Vitex doniana</i> Sweet.		Ch Um-Togulgul	M T, E, M
Clade Core Eudicots/ Asterids/Campanulids (euasterids II)				
Order Asterales				
Family Asteraceae				
Subfamily Asteroideae	<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC. <i>Blainvillea gayana</i> Cass. <i>Bidens bipinnata</i> L. <i>Bidens chippii</i> (M.B.Moss) Mesfin. <i>Chrysanthellum indicum</i> DC. <i>Dicoma tomentosa</i> Cass. <i>Goniocaulon indicum</i> C. B. Clarke <i>Pentanema indicum</i> (L.) Y. Ling <i>Pseudoconyzza viscosa</i> (Mill.) D'Arcy	Hurab hawsa Um shoka	Th Th Th Th Th Ch Ch Th E, M	M M E, M M M M M M E, M

Continued

Table 1. Continued.

Taxa	Species	Vernacular name	Life form	Uses
	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> subsp. <i>brasilicum</i> (Vell.) O. Bolos & Vigo	Ramtook	Ch	M
	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (L.) L.	Moleita	Th	M
	<i>Vernonia adoensis</i> Schultz-Bip. ex Walp.		Ch	M, O
	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> Del.		Ph	M
Order Apiales				
Family Apiaceae				
Subfamily Saniculoideae	<i>Steganotaenia araliacea</i> Hochst.	Damin Ashara	Ph	Fu, M