Medicinal Herb and Clinic Use in Mpala, Kenya

Carly Bonnet ● 2019 ● Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; GHP

**Objectives**

To determine:
- Variables which influence use of medicinal herbs versus medical clinic
- Frequency of illness
- Frequency of use of different medicinal herbs
- Methods of preparation/dosage etc.

**Methods**

- Conducted interviews in villages around Mpala Research Center, Kenya

**People**
- Herbalists, Citizens, Community Leaders, Clinic Doctor and Nurses

**Villages**
- Il-motick, Sugatan, Leikiji, Kuija

**Interviews**
- Frequency of illness incidence, treatment, frequency of use of clinic, herbs used, dosage (and over dosage), preparation, transmission of information, age, gender

**Preliminary Results**

**Herbs most commonly used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herbs</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makutikuti</td>
<td>39 (24.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kukulai</td>
<td>38 (24.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekirigidi (orange croton)</td>
<td>34 (21.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menagi</td>
<td>13 (8.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipiiwaa</td>
<td>9 (5.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seketet</td>
<td>8 (5.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leparnunyo</td>
<td>7 (4.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Moving Forward**

- Chemical Composition Analysis of commonly referenced herbs in Nairobi Laboratory
- Compare intended herb use and expected human health benefits
- Investigate significance of variables contributing to use of medical clinic vs. use of herbs (i.e., distance from clinic, age, type of disease, village...)
- Spread of information (within and between communities)

**Points of Interest**

- Individual vs. Clinic reports of disease
- Correlation between age and use of clinic
- Plans of new clinic

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