**Application of a new ethnobotanical method “PSSVV”** **in collecting data from traditional healers**

Chantal Shalukoma(1, 5), P. Duez(2), C. Stévigny(3), J. Bogaert (4), M.Visser(1)

*(1) Université libre de Bruxelles. Faculty of Sciences. Research Unit of Landscape Ecology and Plant Production Systems. Brussels, Belgium. E-mail: chantalshalukoma@gmail.com*

*(2) Université de Mons. Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy. Unit of Therapeutic Chemistry and Pharmacognosy. Mons, Belgium.*

*(3) Université libre de Bruxelles. Faculty of Pharmacy.Department of Pharmacognosy, Bromatology and Human Nutrition.Brussels Belgium.*

*(4) Université de Liège - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech. Unité Biodiversité et Paysage. Gembloux Belgium*

*(5) Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature. Lomami National Park, Kindu*, *DR Congo.*

**Description of the subject**. Ethnobotanical studies have successfully applied a series of methods to collect data. The method we set up and experimented deals with the ethnicity and geographical location of healers who were not willing to entirely share their local traditional knowledges.

**Objective.** This method was investigated for its reliability in an ethnobotanical survey conducted through a the Kahuzi-Biega national park, in Eastern DR Congo. The survey involved 88 traditional healers from four ethnic groups. From 2010 to 2012, data on treated pathologies and used plants were collected and taxonomically verified.

**Method**. The method “PSSVV”, a demanding method in terms of resources and time, was applied to ensure the reliability of data. It is synthetized through four steps: Pre-survey (PS), Survey (S), Data Verification (V), Data Validation (V). The goals of the study were largely explained to healers recognized as “specialists” who were mostly individually interviewed in 33 villages adjacent to the forest.

**Result.** Our studies indicate an excellent convergence of collected data. The method has been reliable, despite the challenge of collecting data that reflect true ethnobotanical practices.

**Conclusion.** This exploratory application of the “PSSVV” method suggests that this technique is helpful to record reliable data. But it deserves to be popularized so that it can be tested by others scientists for best conclusions, mostly where the access to data is difficult.

**Keywords.** Ethnobotany, Survey method, indigenous knowledge, Democratic Republic of Congo.

-Shalukoma C, Bogaert J, Duez P, Stévigny C, Pongombo C, Visser M, 2015. Les plantes médicinales de la région montagneuse de Kahuzi-Biega, RD Congo :utilisation, accessibilité et consensus des tradipraticiens Bois et Forêts des Tropiques, 326, 4, 43-55.

-Shalukoma C, Duez P, Bigirimana J, Bogaert J, Stévigny C, Pongombo C, Visser M, 2016. Characterization of traditional healers in the mountain forest region of Kahuzi-Biega, South-Kivu, DR Congo. Biotechnologie, Agronomie, Societé, Environement,20,1, 25-41.

-Mathur M, Sundaramoorthy S, 2013. Census of Approaches Used in Quantitative Ethbobotany. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedecine 7, 1, 31-58.

-Heinrich M, Ankli, Frei B, Weimann C, Sticher O, 1998. Medicinal Plants in Mexico, Healer’s Consensus and Cultural Importance. Social Science and Medecine, 47,1859-71