

Project Update: August 2014

I started this project around March 2014 by going to Kigoma Region, Tanzania and met with local herbalists who use various plant species from and around Gombe National Park for treatment of various diseases including bacterial and fungal infections. I discussed with them on the use of plants species for medicinal purposes and its conservation importance for the benefit of the local communities and wild-animals particularly chimpanzee found in the Greater Gombe Ecosystem. We discussed also the importance of considering health issues on the use of these plants by human being. We agreed on the importance of combining indigenous knowledge with science to reveal critical information that can be used to improve their indigenous knowledge, conservation practices and community health. We took an example of *Sterculia quinqueloba*, a plant species used by chimpanzee as food supplement and by human being for medicinal purposes. Through discussion I also realised that there is other plant species *Canthium crassum* which is used to treat the same infectious diseases and also used by chimpanzee as food supplement. In both tree no evaluation have been done to determine its antimicrobial and cytotoxicity efficacy.

After that I collected the samples; leaves, stem barks and root barks for laboratory analysis.



Fig 1 &2: Drying the plants parts under the shade and pulverising it to get the fine particles



Fig 3&4: Extraction process from the plant parts



Fig 5: Testing for antimicrobial activity

Currently I am finalising the laboratory work for reporting and further analysis