

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51675

Date: 19-05-2025

**Title: CONTRIBUTION OF NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS TO HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN THE MOYEN-CHARI PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN CHAD**

### Recommendation:

**Accept as it is.....YES.....**

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			√	
Techn. Quality		√		
Clarity			√	
Significance		√		

**Reviewer's Name:** Tahir Ahmad

**Reviewer's Decision about Paper:** **Recommended for Publication.**

**Comments** (*Use additional pages, if required*)

### **Reviewer's Comment / Report**

#### **General Assessment:**

The manuscript presents a significant and well-documented ethnobotanical study exploring the role of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in contributing to household food security in the Moyen-Chari Province of Chad. By focusing on four cantons—Niellim, Balimba, Djoli, and Kokaga—the study captures a rich spectrum of local knowledge and practices around edible woody species. The research offers valuable insight into the role of wild food plants in the diets of rural communities, particularly during food-scarce periods.

#### **Abstract:**

The abstract effectively summarizes the scope, methodology, key findings, and implications of the research. It provides detailed data on species distribution and consumption patterns across

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cantons and identifies key threats to edible woody species. The statistical breakdown of preferences and usage patterns enhances the precision of the abstract. The relevance of the study to food security, species conservation, and rural development is clearly presented.

### **Keywords:**

The keywords—Contribution, Moyen-Chari, local perceptions, Chad, food vegetation—are appropriate and align well with the subject matter of the study. They capture the geographic, thematic, and conceptual core of the research.

### **Introduction:**

The introduction offers a comprehensive overview of the contextual background related to NTFPs in sub-Saharan Africa, drawing on a broad range of literature. It establishes the socio-economic importance of wild edible plants, particularly during lean seasons, and their role in supporting vulnerable communities. The references cited are relevant, current, and regional, enhancing the credibility of the study's positioning within existing scholarship. The justification for the study is clearly articulated, and the introduction flows logically into the research objectives.

### **Objectives and Scope:**

The study's objective—to assess the contribution of NTFPs to food security in four cantons—is well defined and well supported by the methodological design. The choice of cantons offers diversity in ecological and social conditions, enriching the analysis.

### **Methodology:**

The methodology section is concise yet informative. The use of ethnobotanical surveys with 200 respondents across the four cantons ensures a balanced representation. The classification of species by organ used (leaves, fruits, seeds, etc.) and frequency of use provides strong empirical grounding. The selection criteria and categorization of plant species demonstrate a systematic approach.

### **Findings and Discussion:**

The findings are clearly presented, with quantitative data illustrating species preference, regional variation, and consumption trends. The comparative approach between cantons is effective in highlighting ecological and cultural variability. The identification of dominant

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species—such as *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Detarium microcarpum*, and *Parkia biglobosa*—is well supported by the data. The study also identifies key environmental and anthropogenic threats, offering a nuanced understanding of the sustainability of NTFP use.

### Structure and Clarity:

The manuscript is logically organized and clearly written. The scientific terminology is used appropriately, and the overall tone is academic and objective. The flow from abstract to findings is smooth, and each section reinforces the central theme of food security through forest resource use.

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### Conclusion:

This manuscript provides a valuable contribution to the understanding of the role of non-timber forest products in household food security in southern Chad. The detailed ethnobotanical data, combined with regional analysis, make it a meaningful resource for policy-makers, conservationists, and scholars interested in sustainable rural development, forest resource management, and food systems resilience.

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