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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55696

Title: Main medicinal plants used in the traditional treatment of animal diseases in three communes of the Maradi region,

Recommendation:

Accept as it is
Accept after minor revision.....
Accept after major revisionx.....
Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Mohammad Nadeem Khan

Detailed Reviewer's Report

1. General Evaluation

The manuscript presents an ethnoveterinary survey documenting medicinal plants used by livestock breeders in three communes of the Maradi region (Niger). The study is based on a large sample size (457 respondents) and provides valuable documentation of traditional knowledge related to animal health management in rural Sahelian contexts. The topic is relevant to ethnobotany, veterinary public health, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livestock management, particularly in regions where access to modern veterinary services is limited. The manuscript is generally well structured and rich in descriptive data. However, several methodological clarifications, analytical improvements, and language refinements are required before the work can be considered for publication.

2. Comments

2.1 Study Design and Methodology

- The cross-sectional ethnobotanical survey design is appropriate; however, ethical considerations are not sufficiently addressed. The manuscript should explicitly state whether informed consent was obtained and whether the study received approval from a local ethics or research committee.
- The sampling strategy is described as “aléatoire,” but no details are provided on how randomness was ensured. Clarification is required to assess representativeness and potential selection bias.
- The questionnaire design (semi-open) is mentioned, but the key sections/themes of the questionnaire should be summarized for transparency and reproducibility.

2.2 Botanical Identification and Nomenclature

- Scientific names are provided, which is a strength; however:

The manuscript should clearly indicate who performed plant identification and whether voucher specimens were deposited in a recognized herbarium.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Botanical nomenclature should be standardized throughout (italicization, author citations consistency, APG IV usage).

- Some taxa are presented as combined species (“+”) in tables. This practice requires clarification, as it complicates reproducibility and interpretation.

2.3 Data Analysis

- The study relies primarily on frequency of citation (FC). While this is acceptable in descriptive ethnobotany, the analytical depth is limited.
- The inclusion of additional ethnobotanical indices (e.g., Use Value (UV), Informant Consensus Factor (ICF), Fidelity Level (FL)) would significantly strengthen the scientific rigor.
- Statistical tools are limited to Excel; more robust analysis software could be considered or, at minimum, limitations should be acknowledged.

2.4 Interpretation and Discussion

- The discussion appropriately compares findings with previous studies from Niger and neighboring regions; however:

Some comparisons rely on older references. Greater integration of recent ethnoveterinary literature (post-2020) would enhance relevance.

Claims regarding therapeutic efficacy should be framed cautiously, emphasizing that results reflect reported traditional use, not experimentally validated efficacy.

3. Minor Comments

3.1 Language and Style

- The manuscript contains grammatical inconsistencies, typographical errors, and occasional repetition, particularly in the Introduction and Discussion sections.
- A thorough French language revision by a native or professional editor is strongly recommended.

3.2 Tables and Figures

- Tables are rich but very dense. Consider:
 - Splitting Table 1 into multiple tables (e.g., by disease category).
 - Adding clear footnotes for vernacular names and combined plant uses.
- Figures are informative but captions should be more descriptive and self-explanatory.

3.3 Terminology

- Terms such as “*jusqu'à guérison*” and empirical dosage descriptions should be clearly contextualized as traditional practice, not standardized medical recommendations.

4. Strengths of the Study

- Large sample size (457 respondents)
- Comprehensive inventory of 30 medicinal plant species
- Integration of vernacular names, botanical families, plant parts, preparation methods, and administration routes

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- Strong relevance to indigenous knowledge preservation and sustainable veterinary care
- Clear potential for future phytochemical and pharmacological validation
- Absence of experimental or clinical validation
- Reliance on self-reported practices
- Lack of quantitative dosage standardization
- No toxicity or safety assessment
- Limited analytical indices beyond citation frequency