

IVth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ETHNOBOTANY (ICEB 2005)

"ETHNOBOTANY: AT THE JUNCTION OF THE
CONTINENTS AND THE DISCIPLINES"

in collaboration with the
INTERNATIONAL FORUM
FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES & HEALTH
(IFSSH) WORLD CONGRESS

21-26 August 2005
ISTANBUL
TURKEY

ABSTRACTS

Hosted and Sponsored by



YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY



TÜBİTAK



TÜBA

CAMARDA Ignazio

Department of Botany and Plant Ecology, University of Sassari, Via Muroni 25, I-07100 Sassari, Italy
camarda@uniss.it

Ethno-Systematic of Sardinian Flora as Scientific System

The nomenclature established by Linneus is a system accepted by total scientific community. In spite of this, people commonly use local names with proper idiom considering scientific names too difficult, because the Latin language is unknown to the majority of persons. The neo-Latin Sardinian language differs from Italian and people, generally, know species only by ancient local names. Both scientific and local names, are based on morphological, ecological, geographical, phenological characters and also other properties. Sardinian names are very numerous and they involve more than the 50% of the species, so that about 1000 entities own a local name. Furthermore, considering that some genera, such as *Aira* or *Medicago*, given difficulties to identify single species also to the botanists, a very large number are really known by people. A single term is used when there aren't possibilities of confusion in the same genus (*Elike* = *Quercus ilex*, *Suverju* = *Quercus suber*, *Kerku* = *Quercus pubescens*). In other cases, like the genus *Cistus*, comparing Latin and local names, it exists a perfect analogy with the binomial system: *Cistus monspeliens* = *Mudecciu nigheddu*, *Cistus albidus* = *Mudecciu biancu*, *Cistus salvifolius* = *Mudecciu vuvulu*. Differences among the villages, sometimes with only few phoneme, sometimes totally different in etymology, show the influences in the Island from different Mediterranean people during millennia of history, and take account also interesting and surprising cultural linkages to the Greek, Punic, Arabic, French and Spanish languages. Collect local names and their correct identification is a basic aim in the study of different aspects of ethnobotany and in a building a comparative framework of ethnobotany in the Mediterranean area.

Monday- Broader Spectrum**CARVALHO Ana Maria, Manuel PARDO DE SANTAYANA & Ramon MORALES**

Dipartimento de Biología, Escola Superior Agrária, Campus de Santa Apolónia, Bragança, Portugal
anacarv@ipb.pt; mpardo@ma-rjb.csic.es; morales@ma-rjb.csic.es

Traditional Knowledge of Basketry Practices and Its Cultural Transmission in a Northeastern Region of Portugal

This poster presents and discusses the local basketry knowledge and weaving skills of both men and women from 25 rural villages of Bragança, a region in the northeast of Portugal. The information was collected through 60 semi-structured interviews and participant observation. Pictures were taken to document the entire weaving process; a collection of artefacts was also established. Data on 30 plants used in the manufacture of baskets or other items were recorded and analysed quantitatively in order to establish the importance of each corresponding species. The collected data shows a high number of species, local traditional practices and different uses related with basketry. Special attention is given to cultural and gender values associated with basketry in that particular region and to the processes of both knowledge loss and transmission. **Monday- Panel 4**

CENTURION-HIDALGO Dora, Jaime Gabriel CAZARES-CAMERO & Judith ESPINOSA-MORENO

Universidad Juarez Autonoma de Tabasco, División Académica de Ciencias Agropecuarias, Av. Universidad s/n, Zona de la Cultura, Villahermosa, Tabasco, México
dora-centurion@usa.net; judith-espinoza@usa.net

Characterization of Food Plants in Tabasco, Mexico

There are three reasons why it is important to rescue and preserve the genetic diversity of plant species potentially important to humans. First, Tabasco state surface that still conserve ecological characteristics of a non disturbed forest is only the 5% of the area recorded in the 50's, being those zones undisturbed by their inaccessibility and isolation. Second, cultural contamination throughout several commercial roads has change the consumption behavior of their inhabitants causing a rejection of their habits and customs. Finally, the only information source about natural habitats and indigenous knowledge of resource management and its use are the elderly people who, after dying, will take with them all this knowledge. Rescuing and characterizing this indigenous knowledge of

Traditional Knowledge of Basketry Practices in a Northeastern Region of Portugal

Carvalho, Ana Maria *, Manuel Pardo de Santayana & Ramón Morales **

*Centro de Investigação de Montanha, Escola Superior Agrária, Campus de Santa Apolónia, 5300 – 007 Bragança. Portugal. anacarv@ipb.pt

**Real Jardín Botánico, Plaza de Murillo 2, E-28014 Madrid. Spain.



1. The study area:

Bragança and Vinhais are included in the mountainous Portuguese northeastern region of Trás-os-Montes called "Nordeste Transmontano", a very isolated rural area, with small villages (most of them less than 100 inhabitants) scattered all over the landscape. The local economy is based on small farming systems, with an important crop production diversity (forestry, livestock, cereals, chestnuts, potatoes, homegardens), a high level of subsistence strategies, and mostly affected by agriculture abandonment and both population ageing and erosion, due to several migratory flows.

3.1 The main results: Aspects of basketry knowledge in the study area

Baskets and other woven or plaited artefacts (shepherd raincoats, hats, brooms, strings, mats, for example) are used since a long time.

All the people interviewed were acquainted with their main uses, with the local nomenclature or with the plants more frequently employed, although only 48% of them are/were weavers, and a few of them are/were considered experts by their neighbours.

Considering the general knowledge of these craftspeople, both men and women know the local weaving techniques and associated practices (plant-based material, how to harvest, to process or to preserve, types of weave, colouring matter, decorations). However, there is a gender bias emerging from the different sex roles and traditional skills or tasks, as some woven items or raw materials are only manufactured by men, for instance, thatched roofs, raincoats, baskets for keeping cereal grains or for harvesting grapes, plaited containers for oxcart, covered jugs, cane furniture or some materials from chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and ash trees (*Fraxinus angustifolia*). In spite of men can make every craft objects.

Globally, the skills required are/were transmitted through generations, from parents to children, by verbal narration simultaneous with practise. Female neighbours otherwise, usually share experiences, beliefs and acquisitions, more frequently than men do.

Nowadays, the weaving techniques, as well some of the woven objects tend to disappear. The principal reasons are the abandonment of traditional farming, the old people incapacities or the partial adoption of modern materials such as plastic.

New social and environmental alternative activities in rural areas, like agro tourism, handicraft exhibitions or workshops are increasing the interest of younger generations which face the old weaving techniques with an innovative behaviour, and adopt new models, shapes, motifs, significances and uses.

2. The methods:

This topic emerged from an ethnobotanical research project carried out in this region, where we have been collecting and documenting plants, uses and tasks for almost four years (2000-2004). Using non-structured interviews as well as participant observation we were able to gather information about basketry and plaited crafts, from 45 informants (27% men and 73% women), between 26 and 93 years old, leaving in 25 villages. The Frequency of Citation and the Informant Consensus Factor (Trotter & Logan 1986 index, the ratio, between the number of use-reports minus the number of taxa used and the number of use-reports minus one) were established.

3.2 The main results: Plants used for basketry and plaited crafts

The number of species reported is 28, included in 13 botanical families. The Informant Consensus Factor is high in general (> 0.9) indicating that the reported species are widely used. Moreover in the subcategory brooms there are more variation in the plant-based material used than in others (e.g. baskets or mats).

Species more frequently cited, are those related with straw, wood strips or rods weaving techniques. Some are employed for several purposes in basketry but also in other categories of use, like medicine, food, agro management or fodder. Rye, wheat, rushes and alder trees are the plants that provide raw materials for a higher number of different objects.



Table 1 - Basketry and plaited artefacts: relevant botanical families, species, frequency of citation (FC) and main uses.

FAMILIES and SPECIES	FC	MAIN USES OF PLANT-BASED MATERIALS
ASTERACEAE <i>Arctium minus</i>	2	little baskets, toys for children
BETULACEAE <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> <i>Corylus avellana</i>	23 3	baskets; oxcarts containers; cane furniture ties, strings
CAPRIFOLIACEAE <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	9	brooms, used only for removing aside the embers in the wood ovens, before putting inside the bread for baking
CISTACEAE <i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	18	brooms, specifically for cleaning wood ovens, before being used for cooking
FABACEAE <i>Adenocarpus complicatus</i> <i>Cytisus grandiflorus</i> <i>Cytisus multiflorus</i> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> <i>Cytisus striatus</i> <i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i> <i>Genista florida</i> subsp. <i>polygalaeophylla</i>	6 2 27 13 6 5 23	yard brooms hard brooms used outside the houses (never inside) coloured and decorated baskets, several weaving techniques; soft brooms, mainly used inside the houses hard brooms used always outside the houses hard brooms used always outside the houses little brushes for dusting the ashes from just baked bread coloured and decorated baskets, several weaving techniques employed; brooms with larger handles
FAGACEAE <i>Castanea sativa</i>	43	resistant baskets for carrying land products; covered jugs
JUNCACEAE <i>Juncus effusus</i>	12	shepherd rain coats; baskets; mats
LAMIACEAE <i>Mentha x gentilis</i>	9	little brushes for watering flour, while preparing bread or cuscus
<i>Satureja hortensis</i>	2	brooms for cleaning the traditional fireplaces
OLEACEAE <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> <i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	21 6	oxcart containers; cane furniture yard and cellar brooms
POACEAE <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> <i>Secale cereale</i> <i>Triticum aestivum</i>	2 33 30	baskets for storing cereal grains or bread baskets for storing cereal grains or bread; hats, strings; mats baskets for storing cereal grains or bread; hats; mats
ROSACEAE <i>Rosa corymbifera</i> <i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	11 8	baskets and mats, epidermis strings for plaiting, with other materials baskets and mats, epidermis strings for plaiting, with other materials
SALICACEAE <i>Populus nigra</i> <i>Salix atrocinerea</i> <i>Salix neotricha</i> (<i>S. fragilis</i>) <i>Salix salviifolia</i>	7 20 25 20	oxcart containers baskets, several shapes and motifs, rods with bark or peeled baskets with plaited motifs, soft red-yellow rods; strings baskets, several shapes and motifs, rods with bark or peeled
SANTALACEAE <i>Osyris alba</i>	5	brooms for fireplaces or wood ovens



Strings made with rye straw, used for tying, for instance, flax bundles before being soaked in water, weaving rods, rushes, firewood or maize stalks and ash trees branches for fodder.

Brooms manufactured with different species of the Fabaceae family. Left to right, *Cytisus multiflorus*, *Cytisus scoparius* and *Adenocarpus complicatus*.

Willow (*Salix atrocinerea* or *S. salviifolia*) baskets, woven and plaited with stems with bark or peeled.



Rye and wheat hats. *Salix neotricha* strings. Chestnut baskets with strips of *Rubus ulmifolius*. Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) baskets.

"Escrinhos" with strips of *Rubus ulmifolius* for storing cereal grains, baked bread or bread dough. A skillful Escrinho maker from Baçal, Bragança.

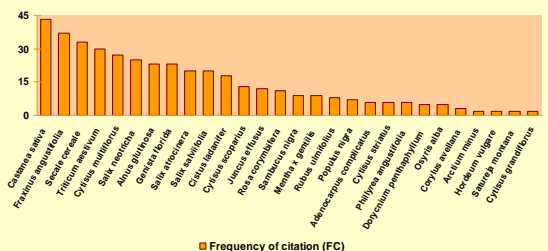


Figure 1 - Species used as raw materials in basketry and plaited artefacts, ranked by the frequency of citation (FC).