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Full Length Research Paper

Conservation studies on *Telfairia occidentalis* Hook .F. A. indigenous plant used in enthnomedicinal treatment of anemia in Nigeria

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Abstract

Optimum ways of conserving Telfairia occidentalis due to its usefulness to mankind was the basis of this study. Its seed viability potential, seed germination, seedling growth, mean number of seeds per fruit and effect of fruit extract on seed germination were investigated. One hundred percent seed viability was observed inside the fruit, the mean number of seeds per fruit was 71.5. The effect of fruit extract on seed germination was 100% in 100% concentration, 73.3% in 50% concentration, 30.3% in 25% concentration while the control had 20%. It was observed that seed germination decreased with decreasing fruit extract concentration. Seedling survival was 65%. The study revealed seedling growth as the area of problem requiring greater attention for improvement. A central nursery for raising seedlings is recommended for this makes the collection of seeds, seedlings, leaves, roots, research materials etc easily assessable. This has the advantage of research leading to new information and knowledge, more planting material available to farmers, other individuals and ethnomedicinal practitioners who use it to treat anaemia among others. The consumption of T. occidentalis for individual good health and thus a healthy nation is encouraged. Further more, every effort that will keep T. occidentalis save and protected with a view to conserving

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the plant for its value to mankind is advocated.

Key words: Telfairia occidentalis, conservation, viability potential, seedling growth, seed germination.

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