

**COURSE CODE:** BOT421  
**COURSE TITLE:** Nigerian Vegetation  
**NUMBER OF UNITS:** 3 Units  
**COURSE DURATION:** 3 Hours per week

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### **COURSE DETAILS:**

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**Other Lecturer:** **Prof M. Kadiri**

### **COURSE CONTENT:**

A Study of Nigerian forests, savannah grasslands and special emphasis on arid zones.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The course is compulsory for all 400 level students of Botany option of the Biological Sciences Department. The students are expected to attend and participate fully in all the theory and practical classes with not less than 70% attendance.

### **READING LIST:**

### **LECTURE NOTES**

#### **Nigerian vegetation**

Best known vegetations in Nigeria are (1) Savanna and ( 2) Forest

Forest is vegetation that is dominated by tall, mostly evergreen trees and there is hardly any grass to be found in the undergrowth. The undergrowth of evergreen woody species consist of trees ,numerous shrubs and climbers, and few herbs. Fires are seldom seen in forest vegetation because the vegetation is

too damp and the humidity too high. Fire lit by man as a prelude to farming could be seen.

### **DIFFERENT FORMS**

**Wood land:** a lower growing, less dense and less luxuriant vegetation type compared to forest. Commonly seen as savanna wood land (wood land savanna)- a transition between forest and savanna vegetations

**SCRUB** Is formed when the scrub layer or lower tree layer both form a canopy the upper tree layer being sparse and absent. Mostly found in local communities or disturbed ground and several forms are seen e.g scrub woodland, scrub grassland etc.

**Thicket** \_\_\_ described pure local and limited clumps of dense shrub and climbers vegetation and like scrub is usually found where biotic influences are heavy.

**Savanna:** Originally called” savannah” is Caribbean word first used in west indies and South America for grassland with scattered trees. It is used for grassland in which the herbs layer is 2feet 6in high forming a continuous ground cover. Both perennial and annual herbs are plentiful in the bare ground between the grass plants .There could be numerous shrubs up to 30 feet high each.

**Steppe:** Originally a Russian term applied to the treeless temperate land of Russia and Siberia. In Nigeria only the sahel zone has this type of vegetation (eg North – East Nigeria).The sparse grass is less than 2feeth 6 inch.

### **VEGETATIO ZONES OF NIGERIA**

There are tens namely;

- (a) Mangrove swamp forest
- (b) Dry coastal vegetation
- (c) Fresh water swamp forest
- (d) Moist low land forest

- (e) Forest savanna mosaic
- (f) North guinea savanna
- (g) Sudan savanna
- (h) Sahel steppe
- (i) Mountain vegetation

**Mangrove swamp forest.** Dominated by red mangrove (*Rhizophora racemosa*)

(2) Found in places near the coast that is under the influence of brackish water commonly found in Niger Delta.

(3) Found also in low lying swamp land associated with rivers and Lagoon near the coast and under the influence of sea

(4) Vast quantities of mud or silt brought down by rivers are deposited principally on the banks of the various channels and Lagoons making up the swamp.

(5) The silts fall to the bottom when the flow of river water is checked on meeting the rising tides of the sea. Land building is constantly in progress in these areas, channels becoming shallower, islands rising out of the water, and the land extending seawards, imperfectly but steadily.

(6) All mangrove areas are regularly flooded by sea water.

**(7)** Sea water contains 35grams mineral salts, chiefly common salt (NaCl) in every litre .

**(8)** . Salts content of river is quite low (1 ppm) 1ppm= 0.001gram in 1 litre of water.

(9) Brackish water contains mineral salts in concentrations in term between sea and River waters.

(10.) Soil in the mangrove area is poorly aerated, water logged mud

(11) The saline conditions make water absorption difficult inducing a physiological drought

(12) Mangrove has breathing root that emerges from the brackish water at interval.

(13) Floral of mangrove areas include dominant red mangrove (*Rhizophora sp racemosa* ) family *Rhizophoraceae*) about 30 feet high .though could be

higher than this (100ft). Trees regularly felled for fueling. Many number of silts root from the main trunk, the silts roots all bearing many breathing pores ( of value for a plant growing in a poorly aerated mud ) Each silt root gives off many fine rootlets , so many that a thick , felted , peaty mat is formed that one may walk over without inconvenience . Both root types give stability to the plant in the soft rising mud. Additional aerial root may be seen hanging from the branches of the tree.

(14) Red mangrove shows xerophytic characteristics in their leaves; small sizes and shapes and anatomically, a thick upper cuticle and water storing tissue.

(15) Viviparity is seen in red mangrove, the fruits which are 1-seeded berries have the seed germinating while fruits is still hanging on the tree. The radicle emerges from the lower end of the hanging fruit and contains 1-2ft in length. When the seedling falls the seed floats away before being lodged in soil. *Avicennia Africana* is another viviparous species

(16) Species of Red mangrove common in mangrove areas are (a) *Rhizophora racemosa* (*Rhizophoraceae*) the commonest mangrove can attain 150ft under favourable conditions, but tends to be 30ft high as a rule. It is a pioneer species, its seeds readily occupying newly deposited mud, has many flowers inflorescences with thick petals

(b) *Rhizophora harrisonii* is small tree or shrub up to 25ft high . occupies a slightly higher and drier ground than *R. racemosa* and its distinguish from *R. racemosa* by having slender pointed flower buds and radicle not more than 6inches long .

(c) *R. mangle* is a shrub or small tree up to 15ft high and occupying the highest and driest ground . Soil here is peaty, well aerated by burrowing of land crabs and earth worms.

(d) Other mangrove species are

(i) *Lanuncularia racemosa*  
*Conocarpus erectus* } *Combretaceae*

(ii) *Avicennia Africana* ( *Verbenaceae* ) may be seen in great numbers as a shrub near large port or as a large tree in less disturbed habitats near the

fishing beaches in creeks and lagoons. Known as white mangrove and occupies higher ground than R mangle.

(e) Other flora are

(i) Salt water- fern *Acrostichum aureum* characteristics of the older parts of mangrove swamps.

(ii) *Alterathera maritime* (Amaranthaceae)

(iii) *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (Malvaceae)

(iv) *Ipomoea pes-carprae* (Convolvulaceae)

(v) *Dalbergia ecastaphyllum* (Papilionaceae)

### **FRESH WATER SWAMP FOREST**

Occurs as scattered local communities where soil conditions permit, often in river valleys, found in Nigeria, north of Niger Delta mangrove swamps and around fresh water creeks and lagoons and lakes.

Edaphic conditions are

(i) Water abounds in pools and streams

(ii) Soil is water-logged and poorly aerated and poor nutritionally. Free floating and submerged water plants in quieter brackish water and lagoons. In shallower water rooted species eg water-lily (*Nymphaea lotus*, Nymphaeaceae) may be seen. The most common species is *Pistia stratiotes* (Araceae)

Others are *Vossia cuspidata* (floating grass) – along lagoon shore *Cyperus papyrus* (floating sedge) screw pine (*Pandanus candelabrum*) *Raphia sudanica*. (Palmae) – could dominate lagoon areas of swamp. The common tall trees (over 100ft) are *Alstonia* spp (Apocynaceae) *Spodanthus prensii*, *Nauclea* spp (Rubiaceae) (Euphorbiaceae), *Ficus* sp (Moraceae), *Lophira alata* (Ochnaceae) Other rather small tree species of fresh water swamp are (30ft-100ft)

- (I) Alstonia sp. (Apocynaceae)
- (ii) Anthosentema aubryanum (Euporbiaceae)
- (III) Spondianthus preussii (Euporbiaceae)
- (iv) Berlinia bsp. (Caesalpiniaceae)
- (v) Carapa procera (Meliaceae)
- (vi) Grewia coriacea (Tiliaceae)
- (vii) Uapaca spp (Euporbiaceae)

### **MOIST LOWLAND FOREST**

Greatest parts of the forest areas is covered by this kind of vegetation and it constitutes what is popularly thought of as forest. former names includes rain forest lower rain forest , wet or dry evergreen forest , moist semi deciduous forest mixed deciduous forest and closed or high forest. A great deal of lowland forest has been disturbed at one time or the other , usually by farming or by felling .so no forest is truly primary forest in the sense that it has never being disturbed by man . Much of this forest is either farmland under cultivation or fallow land. As such term such as bush fallow forest re-growth and secondary forest are supplied regularly. Mature high forest refers to secondary forest of sufficient age to resemble closely primary.

Mature high forest: The structure of storeyed layers consist of

I emergent tree species (over 120ft high)

li upper storey tree species (over 60-120ft high)

lii lower storey tree species (over 15-120ft high)

Iv shrub layer tree species (over 6-15ft high)

V herb layer tree species (less than 6ft high)

Epiphytes abound e.g. Loranthus in the crowns of lower storey and lower parts of the upper storey.

Climbers are common.

Forest is predominantly evergreen, though number of deciduous species increases towards the northern boundary of the forest.

Emergent species may be either evergreen or deciduous.

Common evergreen are *Lophira alata* and *Tarrietia utilis*

While common deciduous are *Chlorophora excelsa* (milicia) and *Triplochiton scleroxylon* other emergent and upper storey species are

I *Ceiba pentandia* (Bombacaceae)

li *Cynometra ananta* (caesalpiaceae)

lii *Erythrophleum ivorense* (caesalpiaceae)

Iv *Lophira alata* (sapotaceae)

V *Tarrietia utilis* (sterculiaceae)

Vi *Terminalia superba* (combietaceae)

Lower storey species: This include *Diospyris* sp. (Ebenaceae) e.g. *D.mespiliformis* *caloncoba* spp. (Flacourtiaceae) e.g. *C.Echinata*, *C.gilgiana*, *C.glauca*.

The shrub layer of mature forest is evergreen.

Two types of shrubs exist;

One in which branching takes place close to the ground, so that there is no single main stem, and the other in which there is a distinct main axis, making the shrubs resemble small trees (called treelets)

Treelets are usually 10ft high, not more than 6ins in girth, being similar in size to saplings of taller trees which also form part of the shrub layer.

Common seen tree lets are

*Angylocarlyx oligophyllus*( Papilionaceae)

*Chytranthus macrobotrys* (sapindaceae)

*Vernonia conferta* (compositae)

Secondary Forest: This develops whenever the storeyed structure of the forest is disturbed, whether by felling or farming or by the fall of aged and decayed trees during storms.

Forest savanna mosaic consisted of

(I) Inland forest savanna mosaic

(ii )Coastal forest savanna mosaic

(iii) Derived savanna

Consists of some savanna, usually containing forest species as well.

Oil palms are plentiful and regenerate readily (distinctive feature of the zone)

The origin of forest savanna mosaic savanna could have been derived from forest by cleaning, felling, and burning.

Grass species commonly present are

(I )*Andropogon* sp

(ii )*Imperata* sp



(iii )Hyparrhenia sp

(iv )Ctenium newtonii

(V) Monocymbium cerasiiforme

Woody species are fire-tolerant, with thick, corky bark and are deciduous.

Southern Guinea Savanna

Consist of open woodland savanna with tall grasses up to 15ft high in the rains.

There is fire which burns fiercely in the dry season.

Grass species are;

Andropogon spp, Andropogon tectoreum

Pennisetum spp, Pennisetum purpureum

Ctenium nubicum, Panicum maximum

Scattered trees and shrubs present and these are deciduous.

There is two storey canopy which is broken at intervals where grasses and herbs survive.

The taller tree species are more than 20ft high (up to 50ft).

The smaller tree species are between 6 and 20ft.

The shrubs are up to about 10ft high.

Oil palms are confined to the forest outliers in the stream valleys.

Tree species include

Anogeissus leiocarpus (combietaceae)

Cussonia barteri (Araliaceae)

Parkia clappertoniana (Mimosaceae)

*Terminalia* spp (combretaceae)

*Vitex doniana* (Vetbenaceae)

Shrub species (which may grow as small trees) include

*Annona senegalensis* (Annonaceae)

*Oncoba spinosa* (Flacourtiaceae)

*Ximena Americana* (olacaceae)

*Albizia zygia* (mimosaceae)

*Cola millenii* (sterculiaceae)

*Afzelia Africana* (caesalpiniaceae)

*Parinari kerstingii*

*Terminalia macroptera* (combretaceae)

*Acacia gourmaensis* (mimosaceae)

*Albuca nigritans* (liliaceae)

*Nauclea latifolia* (Rubiaceae)

*Combretum* spp (combretaceae)

*Terminalia avicennioides* (combretaceae)

*Hymenocardia acida* (Euphorbiaceae)

Other tree species are

*Adansonia digitata* (bombacaceae)

*Mangifera indica* (Anacardiaceae)

*Parkia clappertoniana* (mimosaceae)

## Northern Guinea Savanna

Grass species in general only grow to 7 or 8ft in height.

Examples of species (tree) are:

*Parkia clappertoniana* (mimosaceae)

*Protea elliottii* (proteaceae)

*Terminalia macroptera*

*Acacia gourmaensis*

*Combretum nigricans*

*Afzelia africana*

*Albizia zygia* (mimosaceae)

*Pseudopondias microcarpa* (Anacardiaceae) *terminalia glaucescens* (combretaceae) *khaya senegalensis* meliaceae *vitex doniana* (Verbenaceae) understoryey species (including climbers) are *dialum guineense* (Caesalpiniaceae) *morelia senegalensis* (Rubiaceae) *saba florida* (Apocynaceae) *opilia celtidifolia* (oppiliaceae) *afzelia Africana* (Caesalpiniaceae)

Grazing keeps the grass short in rocky hills; peculiar species are *Bombax costatum* (Bombacaceae) *steganotaenia* (Umbelliferae)

*Acacia ataxacantha* *combretum* spp.

## **SUDAN SAVANNA**

Considerably drier than the preceding one. Average annual rainfall is 20-40 ins, dry seasons lasting for seven months or more in a year with relative humidity as low as 25% during the dry season.

Tree species are mostly deciduous, with half of them being small leaved like the Acacia. About a quarter of the species are thorny in addition common species are:

### **Upper Storey**

*Balanites aegyptiaca* (Zygophyllaceae)

*Biospyros mespiliformis* (Ebenaceae) *Ficus plantyphylla* (Moraceae)

*Hyphaene thebaica* (palmae)

*Parkia clappertoniana*

*Adansonia digitata* (Bombacaceae)

*Khaya senegalensis* (Meliaceae)

*Tamarindus indica* (Caesalpiniacea)

*Azadiracta indica* (Neem)- (meliaceae)

### **Lower Storey/Shrub Species**

*Anona senegalensis* (Annonaceae)

*Ziziphus mauritiana* (Rhamnaceae)

*Guiera senegalensis* (Combretaceae)

*Xeromphis nilotica* (Rubiaceae)

### **Climbers**

*Acacia ataxacantha* (Mimosaceae) *combretum micraathum* (Combretaceae)

Bush fire is very common barks are resistance

## **Sahel Savanna**

Sometimes called (thorny plant) fine-leaved, *Commiphora africana*

*Acacia senegalensis*, *Acacia nilotica*

*Acacia laeta*

*Acacia seyal*

*Phoenix dactylifera* (date palm) shrubs include

*Calatropis procera* (Asclepiadaceae)

Sahel savanna is found around Lake Chad region in Nigeria

Dicotyledonous families with petals free Almost free or Absent

- Annonaceae
- Combretaceae
- Sterculiaceae
- Malvaceae
- Euphorbiaceae
- Caesalpiniaceae
- Mimosaceae
- Papilionaceae
- Moraceae
- Meliaceae
- Sapindaceae

**Annonaceae:** sweetsop family (Named after the genus – *Annona*, the south American name of the genus). Small trees, shrubs or climbers flowers sepals 3, petal 3 +3 some economics and common species yield fruit and seeds, *Annona* spp are variously known as the soursop, sweetsop

custard apple and they have all been introduced into West African from south America or West Indies e.g. *Cananga odorata* – perfume essence *monodora myristica*, *Annona senegalensis* *monodora tenuifolia*. *Annona senegalensis* (Ewe abo).

### **Combretaceae (Afara Family).**

(After the genus *Combretum* the old latin name of the genus).

Trees, shrubs or climbers some economics and common species; *Terminalia catappa* (Indian almond).

*Terminalia superba* and *T. invorensis* yield the timbers afara and Idigbo which are exported in considered quantities.

*Combretum racemosum*

*Gulera senegalensis*

*Terminalia albida*

*Terminalia macroptera*

### **Sterculiaceae – cocoa family**

(After the genus *sterculia*, from latin meaning ‘dung’referring to the odour of the flowers) some common and economics species.

Cocoa beans are the seeds of *Theobroma cacao* sp seeds of *cola nitida* and *cola acuminata* are traded locally as kola nuts.

*Mansonia altissima* (black walnut)

*Sterculia oblonga*

### **Malvaceae – cotton family**

(After the genus *Malva*, Latin derived from Greek, *malacos* (soft), referring to the skin softening properties of the leaves) shrubs and herbs common species: *Hibiscus sabdariffa* (Ewe, sapa) (okra) or *Abelmoschus esculentus*

*H. mutabilis* cotton (*Gossypium bicultum*)

*H. schizopetalus* hisbiscus cannabis (jute fibre)

### **Euphorbiaceae Cassava Family**

(After the genus *Euphorbia*, named by king Juba of Mauritania after his physician, Euphorbus, who first used the latex of North African species medicinally) *manihot esculentus* some economics species; include cassava, castor oil, rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) *Rucinus cominumis*.

### **Caesalpiniaceae (Pride of Barbados family)**

(After the genus *Casalpinia*, named after Caesalpino, a sixteenth century Italian professor). This family and *minosaceae* and *papilionaceae* are closely related having a pod as their fruit and the tree belong to the order.

Leguminosae, obtained from the proper term for pod, the legume mostly trees and shrubs

Introduced species are

*Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (pride of Barbados) introd from Asia (for shade and ornament) *Delonix regia* (flame of the forest) of flamboyant for shade and ornaments).

*Tamandus indica* (Indian tammind cultivated for its sour fruit.

*Azalia* spp. (After the Swedish professor Afzelius who stayed in Sierra Leone at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century) e.g. *A. africana* *cassia* spp e.g. *C. senna pilosigma thoningi* (Abafe).

### **Mimosaceae (Acacia Family).**

(After the genus *mimosa* from Greek “a mimic” referring to the touch-sensitive leaves common examples :- *Mimosa pudica* sensitive plant).

*Acacia* spp (*Acacia* means point or thorny e.g. *A. albida*, *A. nilotica* an Italian naturalist) e.g. *A. Zygia*.

*Parkia* spp (after Mungo Park, the explorer) locust beans e.g. *P. clappertoniana* (formerly *P. filicoidea*).

(After Mungo park and clapperton brother (explorers))

*P. biglobosa*, *P. bicolor*

### **Papilionaceae (Cowpea Family)**

(from *papilio*- abutterfly, referring to the shape of the corolla).

Common species: include edible beans eg *cajauns* *cajan* (pigeon pea): *ewe otiti*

*Vigna unguiculata* (cowpea)

*Arachis hypogea* (groundnut)

*Voandzeia geocarpa* (Bambara groundnut) *Baphia nitida*.

*Crotalaria naragutensis*

*Abrus precatorius* (ewe mesin mesin)

### **Moraceae (Breadfruit Family)**

(After the genus, *morus*, the classical name of the mulberry)

Common species

*Morus alba* and *M. nigra* (white and black mulberries)

*Milicia excelsa* (iroko tree)

*Treculia Africana* (Breadfruit)

*Ficus carpensis* (ewe opoto)



### **Meliaceae (Mahogany Family)**

(After the genus, melia, the greek name of the genus)

Common species

*Azadirachta indica* (nleem)

*Swietenia* spp. (American mahoganies)

*Cedrela* spp. (American cedars)

*Khaya* spp cafrican mahogany eg *sapeles utile*, *omu khaya senegalensis*

*Pseudocedrela kotschy* (Ewe onigbegi).

### **Sapindaceae (Akee apple family)**

After the genus *sapindus*, the soapberry, from latin “soap

e.g. *Blighia sapida*

*lacanodiscus cupanioides* (Ewe nka)

dicoty ledonous families with joined

petals and a superior ovary

1. Sapotaceae
2. Apocynaceae
3. Solanaceae
4. Convolvulaceae
5. Bignoniaceae
6. Acanthaceae
7. Verbenaceae

### **Sapotaceae (sheabutternut family)**

(from *sapota*, a mexicen name)

Common species

*Butyrospermum parkii* (sheabutternut, whose kernel yield edible oil, shea butter or shea oil)

### **Apocynaceae (frangipani family)**

Ornamental species introduced from south America the West Indies e.g. *Nerium oleander* (oleander)

*Lochnera* spp.

### **Solanaceae (Tobacco Family)**

(from Latin word *solanum* meaning “quieting” referring to sedative drug properties of some species).

Important species: include

*Capsicum annuum* (Red pepper)

*C. frutescens* (Hot Chillies)

*Solanum indicum* (solanaceae)

(*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

Tomato, *Solanum melongena* (garden egg)

*Solanum tuberosum* (potato) Irish potato

*Nicotiana glauca* (tobacco)

*Cannabis sativa* (india hemp)

### **Convolvulaceae- sweet potato family**

(After the genus *Convolvulus*, a name referring to the twining habit of the plant)

Common species

*Cuscuta australis* (dodder)

*Ipomoea batatas* (sweet potato)

*Ipomoea aquatic*

### **Bignoniaceae (Jacaranda Family)**

(After the genus *Bignonia*, named after Abbel Bignon, court Librarian to Louis XIV of France)

Most species are climbers and include *Tecoma stans* (yellow tecomia)

*Newbouldia laevis* (Ewe Akoko)

### **Verbenaceae (Teak family)**

Species include *Albizia gmelina* *Gmelia arborea* (Gumbar) introduced from Asia as a shade and fuel tree and for making paper .

### ***Jectona grandis* (teak)**

Dicotyledonous families with joined petals and an inferior ovary

1. **Cucurbitaceae**
2. **Rubiaceae**
3. **Compositae**

### **Cucurbitaceae: (Ground Family)**

(After the genus *Cucurbita*, Latin for “a gourd”) climbing and prostrate herbs with tendrils introduced species include *Cucumis sativus* (cucumber)

*Cucurbita pepo* (pumpkins and squashes) *Cucurbita bitter melon* (*Cucurbita bitter melon*) seeds eaten as egusi.

*C. citrullus* (water melon)

*Telfaria siceraria* (calabash)

### **Rubiaceae- Abura Family**

(After the genus *Rubia*, Latin for “red” because of red dye extracted from the roots of the plant.

Common species include;

*Coffea Arabica*: coffee originally from Arabia and Ethiopia but now grown in Brazil).

*C. liberica* coffee spp

*C. robusta* coffee

*Nauclea latifolia* (Ewe egbesi)

*Morindia incidia* (Ewe oniyo)

### **Compositae: sunflower family**

Common species include sunflower

*Heliathus annus*, *crassocephalum rubens* (Efo ebo)

Other important Dicotyledonous families

1. Amaranthaceae, Anacardiaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Bombacaceae, Connaraceae, Guttiferae, Labiatae, Loganiaceae, Myrtaceae, Ochnaceae, Tiliaceae, Rutaceae, Ulmaceae.

Amaranthaceae

Common species: *Amaranthus hybridus*

Subsp. *Cruentus* (from *A. caudatus*)- spinach

*Celosis argentea* soko

*Vernonia amygyalina* (Iguu)

Common species

*Anacardium occidentale* (cashew nut)

*Mangifera indica* (Indian mango)

*Spondias mombin* (Iyeye)

### **Asclepiadaceae**

Bombacaceae

Common species are

*Adansonia digitata* (Baba)

*Ceiba pentandra* (white silk cotton)- Araba

### **Bambacaceae**

*Bambusa vulgaris* (oparun)

Labiataceae

*Ocimum gratissimum* (Efirin)

### **Rutaceae**

Contains the genus citrus, which orange, lemon, lime and grapefruit

Belong e.g. *Citrus paradisa* (grape fruit)

*Citrus sinensis* (sweet orange)

*Citrus aurantium* (lime orange)

*Citrus reticulata* (Tangerines)

### **Monocotyledonous families**

1. Liliaceae
2. Marantaceae
3. Zingiberaceae
4. Commelinaceae
5. Araceae
6. Amaryllidaceae
7. Palmae

8. Orchidaceae

9. Cyperaceae

10. Gramineae

(Poaceae)

Liliaceae

Family of perennial herbs with rhizomes, bulbs, corms or tubers.

Aloe, Onions, garlic belong here

### **Marantaceae**

Yoruba soft-cane ; Marantochloa cuspidata

Belongs here.

### **Zingiberaceae**

Common species are

Canna-lily,

Zingiber officinale (ginger).

### **Commelinaceae**

(After the genus commelia, named after brother commelin, 17<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch botanist e.g.

commelina spp. (day flower) most are weedy.

### **Araceae: cocoyam family**

After the genus Arum, the ancient latin name for the genus

**Common species are**

Pistia sp. Eg P. stratiotes (floating plant)

Cocoyams eg

*Colocasia esculenta* (old Africa cocoyam)

*Xanthosoma sagittifolia* (New American cocoyam)

**Amaryllidaceae: - Harmattan lily family**

(After the genus *Amaryllis*, a Greek name for a woman and implying beauty).

Common species are

*Hippeastrum equestre* (Harmattan lily)

*Hymenocallis littoralis* (spider-lily)

**Palmae (palm family)**

Common species

Coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*)-introduced

*Roystonea regia* (Cuban Royal palm)

Oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*)

Raphia palm (*Raphia sudanica*)

Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*)

**Orchidaceae- orchid family**

Ornamental plants

**Cyperaceae- sedge family**

Grass-like herbs (nut grasses)

(Poaceae) Gramineae- Grass family

Common species are

*Pennisetum americanum* (millet)

*Oryza sativa* (rice)

*Saccharum officinarum* (sugar-cane)

*Sorghum bicolor* (form *S. vulgare*)-guinea corn

*Zea-mays* (maize)

*Andropogon tectorum* Gamba grass

*Panicum maximum* (Guinea grass)

*Pennisetum purpureum* (elephant grass)

*Triticum durum* : wheat

*Hordeum vulgare*: barley

*Avena*: oat

### **Discareaceae**

*Discorea cavenensis* (Ewe ipepe)

### **Mytaceae**

*Psidium guajava* (Ewe guaga)

### **Potulaceae**

*Tallum triagulase* (Efo Gbure)