

SURVEY AND BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF SOME COMMON ORNAMENTAL PLANTS IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY MINNA, BOSSO CAMPUS

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ABSTRACT

A survey of ornamental plants was carried out around Federal University of Technology Minna (FUTM)Bosso campus Niger State in May 2021. The survey was intended to obtain critical information about the ornamental plants that are used within the campus. Standard procedures were followed for the identification and description of the common ornamental plants. Original coloured photographs of the ornamental plants were also taken for proper documentations. These ornamental plants were then classified based on their relative abundance, mode of propagation, habits, parts associated with aesthetic and other uses aside for beautification. Thirty-five (35) ornamental plant species were identified; from the results obtained, it was deduced that *Ixoracoccinea* has the highest number recorded (1366) with percentage relative abundance of 27.293 % while the lowest in number was *Cycasrevoluta* (1) with percentage relative abundance of 0.020 %. It was also recorded that there are different mode of propagations for the ornamental plant species which include stem cuttings, by seed, by fruits, air layering, root cuttings, grafting and offshoot. These ornamental plants that are propagated by stem cuttings had the highest number with percentage of 31.429 % and the least mode of propagation was by grafting (2.857 %). The ornamental plants encountered based on their habits include trees (51.429 %) shrubs (31.429 %) and the least was herbs (2.857 %). Therefore, it was concluded that FUTMBosso campus is endowed with numerous ornamental plants that cut-across different forms of habits.

Keywords: *Ornamental Plants, Documentations, Relative abundance, Propagation, Habits*

INTRODUCTION

Ornamentals are plants that are cultivated for decorative reasons in gardens and landscape design project as houseplants, cut flowers and specimen display Oloyede (2012). The art and science of cultivating ornamental plants is called Floriculture (Dadang *et al.*, 2020). Accordingly, Jessica (2013) mentioned that ornamental plants are cultivated for decoration, rather than by product from plants and food. The cultivation of ornamental plants comes under floriculture and tree nurseries, which is a major branch of horticulture. Olaniyan (2017) expatiated that horticulture is a branch of Agriculture, which deals with the production, processing, storage and marketing of fruits, vegetables spices and ornamental plants (Olaniyan, 2017). Osawuru and Ogwu (2021) noted that all plants are considered necessary and can potentially serve to fulfil one or more of our basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing as well as environmental integrity (aesthetic values). Plant product refers to goods and services derivable from plants and may include whole plant or plant

part (used as ingredients and condiments). Ornamental plants have their ways in home gardens but their relative importance vary in different gardens and places and also depending on the researchers' interests. Thus, in certain works on home gardens, the ornamentals are excluded; for example, because its presence is considered temporary and hard to count (Vlkova *et al.*, 2010). Many studies about home gardens in rural area signify that food and medicinal plants are more abundance than ornamentals (Aworinde *et al.*, 2013). Various methods of cultivating and keeping ornamental plants have been identified; they may be cultivated in a flower bed, shaped into a hedge or placed in a sunny apartment window. They are most often intentionally planned for aesthetic appeal, but a plant that occurs naturally and enhances the landscape could also be considered ornamental. While the most widely use of ornamental plant is their visual effect, they serve obvious reason and are used in landscapes throughout the home to beautify the surrounding (Sani *et al.*, 2016). It has been further stressed that numerous