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JOS VAN DER MAESEN & AKPOVI AKOÈGNINOU

Notulae Florae Beninensis 3. – Botanical collectors in Benin

Abstract

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A list of botanists who have worked in Benin and made collections is provided. Biographical data, the number of samples gathered and the herbaria where the collections are deposited are given, so far as known. It becomes apparent that only few botanists have collected larger numbers of samples and that in Europe only few herbaria house a good collection from Benin.

Introduction

Knowledge of the plants of West Africa and their systematics started, as anywhere, with the collections made by various explorers that served for taxonomic research in a number of botanical institutions. These used to be located in Europe, but increasingly the African herbaria are joining the mainstream of taxonomy. Most of the earlier material, and particularly the type material, is to be found in the main herbaria of the former colonising powers, although the usual exchange between them brought about a more equitable coverage of tropical countries in their collections.

This paper enumerates the collections made in the Republic of Benin, the former Dahomey. The country became Protectorate or Colony of Dahomey in 1894, after the conquest of the Kingdom of Abomey, and part of l'Afrique Occidentale Française (French West Africa) between 1894 and 1960. The boundaries of today's Benin were (re)delimited in 1879, 1898 and 1907. In 1975 the country's name was changed to the People's Republic of Benin, but generally Republic of Benin is used nowadays.

Brief accounts on the botanical exploration of West Africa are by Keay (1953) and Davy de Virville (1954). Hepper (1962) gave a first list of the plant collectors in West Africa since 1860 and Hepper & Neate (1971) provided a more extensive list. Hepper (1976) added data on Isert and Thonning and their collections, while Hepper (1979) mapped the state of the botanical exploration of West Africa at that time. The activities of Dutch collectors in Africa were documented by De Bruijn (1980), Van der Maesen (1993) and Breteler & Sosef (1996), while Jansen (1996) detailed the contributions to economic botany in Africa, including Benin. For a general overview of the most recent explorative collaborations in Africa and the Association pour l'Étude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique Tropicale (AETFAT) see Demissew (2000). A valuable general source is Index Herbarium 2. Collectors (1954-88). Adjanohoun & al. (1989) and Delvaux & al. (1997) gave first lists of botanists who collected in Benin.

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In 1965 only the coastal area of Benin was well explored, the rest of the country was considered poorly known (Léonard 1965). Beninese exploration of the country's flora started in 1970 with the foundation of the Université National du Bénin, now Université d'Abomey-Calavi, and their active botanists. However, little material became available as duplicates elsewhere. For logistic reasons, the southern half of the country has been better explored than the north and in 1979 Benin south of 9°N was already classified as botanically well known (Hepper 1979), according to the criterion that more than three times as many specimens as the number of species present have been collected. The northern half of the country was classified as moderately known.

The present list includes the data on botanists and botanical collectors in Benin from the above sources and further supplements them. The list looks impressive, but one has to realise that few collectors contributed more than some dozens or a few hundred specimens. The collection in the newly constructed Herbier National du Bénin, inaugurated on 26.3.2002, now includes about 30 000 samples. Its herbarium acronym by Adjanohoun & al. (1989) is COT, but the acronym accepted by Index Herbariorum is BENIN. Duplicates are slowly becoming available via WAG. The Brahms database in Wageningen (WAG) stood at 23 487 records for Benin on 10 November 2004.

From several collectors no further data could be detected in the sources available to us. We welcome additions and corrections.

Plant collectors in Benin

Colonial period (before 1960)

Adam, Jacques-George (France, Paris, 9.12.1909-6.1.1980) collected ± 1590 numbers in French West Africa in 1946-48, preserved at P; duplicates of his collections may be found at COI, IFAN, K, LAMCO and UPS.

Annet, Emile (France, 1847-?) collected in 1912 some 300 numbers near the coast of Dahomey, preserved at P. He further collected in Togo and Cameroon in 1916-20.

Arnaud, Gabriel (1882-1957), administrator, mycologist and phytopathologist, came to Cotonou in 1907 and collected in 1908-10 in Dahomey and Niger; his collections are at MPU.

Aubréville, André (France, 1897-1982) served in the Forestry Service of Ivory Coast till 1955. Collected widely in W Africa from 1916 onwards, in 1936 in Dahomey; collections at P.

Bardau collected in 1910; material preserved at P, grasses at K.

Boudet, Gabriel (25.3.1931), member of the research staff of ORSTOM, collected in W Africa in 1958; collection at ALF and P.

Boughey, Arthur Stanley (UK, 1938) visited Dahomey in 1950; collection at BM, GC, K.

Burton, Sir Richard Francis (UK, Elstree, 19.3.1821 – Italy, Trieste, 20.10.1890), British consul in Fernando Po and Biafra, collected a few plants on his official visit to the Kingdom of Abomey and King Glele in 1863-64; his collection is at K.

Chevalier, Auguste Jean Baptiste (France, Domfront, 1873 – Paris, 3. or 4.6.1956) collected in total no less than about 90 000 numbers, mainly in the French colonies in Africa and Indo-China. From January to June 1910 he travelled in Dahomey, having paid a short earlier visit to Cotonou from 1.-4.7.1902. His numbers 21 871-24 268 from Dahomey are mainly at P, some at K and elsewhere, e.g. at WAG.

Clayton, William Derek (UK, Croydon, 24.7.1926) collected in 1955 in Dahomey while being Federal Ecologist in Nigeria; collection at K, FHI and WAG.

Cole, A. A. (UK) collected in 1890 plant samples for trade purposes, e.g. in Little Popo; collection at K.

Cordioux collected in 1880; collection at P.

Debeaux, Jean Odon (France, Agen, 6.8.1826 – Toulouse, 20.2.1910) collected in 1895 (IC) and March 1900 in Cotonou, also in 1902; collection at BM, K, P and WAG.

Debeaux, G. collected in Benin in 1954; collection at P.

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Don, George Jr. (UK, Forfarshire, 17.5.1798 – Kensington, 25.2.1856) collected in W Africa in 1822 (e.g. Ouidah) on the Horticultural Society of London Expedition to W Africa and South America; collection at BM, also CGG, COI, E, K and OXF.

Dumont (France), from SOGETHA, collected in Niger in 1967; collection at P.

E(s)tève (France), agriculturalist, collected in ± 1901 in Dahomey; collection at P. He also collected in Gabon.

Ferlus collected in 1904; collection at P.

Frahm-Leliveld, Johanna Adolphina (The Netherlands, Delfzijl, 8.6.1902 – Bennekom, ± 1990), agronomist and cytologist at the Department of Tropical Crops of Wageningen Agricultural University 1948-70. She travelled to several African countries and visited Benin in 1957, where she collected seeds of *Leguminosae* and some vouchers e.g. in the environs of Kétou. The specimens from Benin and those grown in the greenhouses for her cytological work are at WAG.

Gaillard, Georges (France, Sergey, 15.1.1865 – Valleyres sur Rances, 16.6.1929) was a mission doctor and collected in Dahomey in 1905 and in Niger, N Nigeria and E Cameroon around 1907; collections at P.

Gironcourt, George de (France), Pasture Officer, collected some 130 specimens from N Dahomey and the Niger valley in 1908-09; collection at P and some at B. Some localities cannot be traced back, presumably pertaining to nomadic campsites.

Isert, Paul Erdmann (Germany, Angermünde, 20.10.1756 – Ghana, Christiansborg Castle, 21.1.1789) was a physician and explored Dahomey (and the later Togoland) in 1785, among his West African (mainly Ghanaian, then Danish Guinea) travels from 1783-86. Ouidah and Savi were some of the places where he collected. Isert's African collections are mainly at C, further material is at B-Willd, GH and LZ.

Keay, Ronald William John (UK, Richmond, 20.5.1920 – Cobham, 17.4.1998) collected in W Africa between 1942 and 1962, including Dahomey; collection at BM and K, also FHI and FHO. He was the chief editor of the second edition of the Flora of West Tropical Africa (1954-72).

Laffite (France), army officer (Lt. Col.), collected in Dahomey around 1937; collection at P and IFAN.

Le Testu, Georges Marie Patrice Charles (France, Caen, 8.1.1877 – Caen, 14.4.1967) worked in Dahomey for an Agricultural Company from 1900-02 and collected c. 300 numbers, which are at B, BM, BR, CN, FHO, IFAN, K, P and WAG. He also collected in Mozambique and Gabon, where he was administrator.

Ménager, Père (France) collected some plants from the coast (Agoué) in 1874; collection at P.

Morton, John Kenneth (UK, Tamworth, 3.1.1928) visited the Atacora Mountains in Dahomey and Togo in 1953. His numbers A 4259 to A4642 were collected there and are at BM, K and WAG.

Newton, Francisco Xavier Oakley de Aguiar (Portuguese of British origin, 1864 – Portugal? Matozinhas, 1909) collected in Dahomey in 1882-83; collection at B and K.

Nouvel, A., French Commissioner of Police, collected mosses in Dahomey in 1901 with E(s)tève; collections at P.

Palisot de Beauvois, Ambroise Marie François Joseph (France, Arras, 27.7.1752 – Paris, 21.1.1820) travelled to Dahomey and the kingdoms of Oware (now Warri) and Benin, both in Nigeria, in 1786-87, and published a "Flore d'Oware et de Benin" (1803-20). He was the first naturalist who visited the general region. His types are at G (Reliquae Palisotianae), many duplicates at P (Delessert & de Jussieu) and some other herbaria (GH). Several collections were burned in Oware in 1791, when the English destroyed the trading station, but parts had been sent to de Jussieu in Paris.

Poisson, Eugène Adrien (France, 1871 – Benin, Cotonou, 22.5.1910) promoted the exploitation of palm oil as agent for the Association Cotonnière Française in Dahomey and collected in 1875-92; collection at A, BR, K, MO, P and WAG.

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Rodrigues collected in 1911; collection at P.

Spire, Camille Joseph (France) collected around 1911 e.g. in Dahomey; collection mainly at P.

Villiers, André (France), taxidermist/entomologist, collected in Dahomey in 1939 (also on Mt Cameroon); collection at P.

His son(?) **Jean-François Villiers** (France, Paris, 1943 – Neuilly-Plaisance, 22.3.2001) was a specialist in *Mimosoideae* but passed away before his planned contribution to the Flora of Benin was written. He has determined several Benin specimens of mimosoids.

Vuillet, J., a French entomologist, collected some plants in West Africa, in 1911 also in Dahomey; collection at P.

Post-colonial period (since 1960)

Adjakidjè, Victor (Beninese, born in Ivory Coast, Treichville, Abidjan, 21.7.1945) botanist, obtained his doctorate in Bordeaux III in 1984, since then Assistant Professor in the Université Nationale du Bénin and participant of the Equipe Laboratoire de Botanique UNB (1984-86) and the project Flora of Benin. Thesis vouchers at BORD, other collections at BENIN, BR, BRLU and WAG.

Adjanohoun, Edouard J. (Benin, Ouidah, 5.11.1928), Professor of Botany in Abidjan (1960-70) and first Rector of the Université National du Bénin (1970-75) in Cotonou and Abomey-Calavi. Collected in Dahomey numbers 1-547 in 1961-65, and numbers 1-635 in 1966. The samples of his thesis from Ivory Coast are at ABI, where he obtained his PhD degree, some duplicates at K, P, UCI. Retired as professor in Bordeaux III in 1990, presently he is occupied with the management of the Botanical and Zoological Garden in Abomey-Calavi, next to the University.

Adjobo, Raoul (Benin, Agbore, Cotonou, 1973), technical assistant in the project Flora of Benin 1997-2002, managed the Herbier National (BENIN) and has participated in several collecting trips; collection at BENIN

Adomou, Aristide Cossi (Benin, Abomey-Calavi, 2.8.1970) accompanied several collecting trips and made vouchers for his PhD thesis research (2000-04); collections at BENIN, some duplicates at WAG.

Agbani, Onodjè Pierre (Benin, Sokponta, 1.12.1961), junior botanist and contributor to the Flora of Benin in 1997-2001, collected a number of plants under his own name, but was also instrumental in many field trips within Benin.

Ahanchédé, Adam (Benin, Diho, Savè, 8.11.1959), agronomist and weed scientist of the FSA, Université d'Abomey-Calavi in Benin and participant in the project Niébé 1997 onwards. Collected 60 samples in connection with the search for alternative hosts of parasites of *Vigna unguiculata,* the cowpea. Collection at BENIN.

Aké Assi, **Laurent** (Ivory Coast, Agboville, 10.8.1931), Professor (retired) at the University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Director of the Centre Floristique, avid collector and generalist in the West African flora, collected in Benin in 1967 (numbers 9547-9604), 1970 (11130-11206), 1973 (11895-12472), 1986 (17301-17528) and 2000 (20357-20383). Specimens mainly at UCJ, some at P, BENIN and WAG, also K, IFAN, UPS. His consultancy missions and plant determinations have been very valuable for the National Herbarium and the present herbarium project.

Akoègninou, Akpovi (Benin, Savalou, 1950), Maitre-Assistant and Chef-adjoint of the Département de Biologie Végétale of the Université Nationale du Bénin, Chief of the project Flora of Benin and one of the Chief Editors. Participated in the Equipe Botanique (1984-86). Collections at BENIN and WAG.

Ataholo, Mandingo (Congo D. R., Kisangani, 7.16.1964) 89 samples from 1996 from Benin are at FR.

Ayichédéhou, Myriam (Benin, Cotonou, 22.5.1971, married Sekloka in 2000) phytosociologist trained in ULB, Brussels, Belgium. Her 1996-98 collection from central Benin fallow lands

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(581 species, 623 numbers, c. 2000 sheets) is at BRLU and BR, some duplicates are at BENIN and WAG.

Bambara, Alain (Burkina Faso, Garango, 10.9.1972), technician at OUA, collected in 2003 along with Thiombiano.

Boni, Yacoubou (Benin, Yakou, Nikki, 1968), with the PADEB project Promotion of Cattle Husbandry in Parakou until September 2003; collection at BENIN, also 28 vouchers at FR.

Bouharmont, Jules Michel Ghislain (Belgium 19.7.1929) collected 40 samples in 1966-67; duplicates at BR.

Broadbent, **John Antony** (UK, Windsor, 6.2.1940) collected in Dahomey in 1966, while he was microbiologist at the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute; collection at K.

Brunel, Jules F. (France, 1905?) affiliated with the Université du Bénin at Lomé, Togo, and one of the editors of the Flore analytique du Togo; collection at B, BR.

Dalebroux, Raymond (Belgium) collected c. 40 numbers in 1966-67, preserved at BR.

Dan, Bai Sèwèdo (Celine) (Benin, Abomey, 10.7.1954) did research in Togbota (2000-2001) and Lokoli (2002-2003); collection at BRLU, some duplicates at BENIN.

Dansi, Alexandre (Benin, Bohicon, 2.5.1966) collected mainly live *Dioscorea* (560) and *Digitaria* (70) for gene banks; c. 150 herbarium specimens at BR.

Delvaux, Claire (Belgium, Ixelles, 26.6.1966) collected in 1993, mainly *Poaceae,* about 350 specimens at BRLU.

De Kimpe (Belgium, La Hulpe, 28.2.1927) worked for INEAC and FAO, collected in 1964; 15 vouchers at BR.

De Koning, Jan (The Netherlands, Middelburg, 31.7.1943) collected around Porto Novo on 25.6.1970, mainly medicinal plants. His numbers 796-844 are at WAG. Prefect of the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden, retired 2004.

De Souza, Simone Guigues (France, Digne-les-Bains, 3.12.1935) went to Benin in 1962 as a teacher and taught systematic botany at the UNB from 1970 (when it was created) up to 1993. All present senior botanists at the University and many other students received their training from her and Dr Paradis. She started and built up the herbarium collection from 1970 onwards and produced three fascicles of a Flora of Benin: 1. A catalogue of species, 2. An illustrated treatise of 78 species of the littoral, and 3. The names and uses of plants in the national Beninese languages.

De Wit, Hendrik Cornelis Dirk (The Netherlands, Purmerend, 24.10.1909 – Doorwerth, 16.3. 1999) professor of plant systematics of the tropics and subtropics, initiated and built the plant taxonomy with special reference to Africa in the Wageningen Agricultural University. He visited Dahomey twice, to supervise the research of Van der Zon and Grubben in Ouando near Porto Novo. As far as can be ascertained, he did not himself collect in the country.

Equipe du Laboratoire de Botanique UNB. Consisting of Adjakidjè, Akoègninou, de Souza, Dossou, Essou and Profizi, this group added important collections to the herbarium in 1984-86 and later.

Equipe de Recherches du Paturages. This group in the UNB, consisting of the botanist of the previous group and Jean-Philippe Somda, collected in 1985 and 1986; collections at BENIN.

Ern, Hartmut (Germany, Solingen, 10.9.1935) Oberkustos at B for living collections, of the *Leguminosae* in the herbarium from 1975, and Deputy Director from 1979. He contributed especially the *Leguminosae* and *Umbelliferae,* and the introduction to the Flore analytique du Togo. He travelled in Togo in 1976, 1977 and 1978, and also visited Benin, where he determined many *Leguminosae.* His Togolese collections are at B, duplicates at K and WAG.

Ertz, Damien (Belgium 1977) collected lichens in Benin; collections at BR and LG.

Essou, Jean-Pierre (Benin, Kinkinhoué, 17.6.1946), Maître-Assistant in the UNB, presently UAC, participates in the project Flora of Benin. Participated in the Equipe Botanique and directed a number of excursions since 1998. The material used for his theses (1987, 1991) is at BORD; more recent collections are at BENIN, BRLU, WAG.

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Froment, Didier (Belgium, Schaerbeek, 4.-9.1927 – Bruxelles, 2.7.1998) worked for FAO in Benin in 1961-62 and collected in the Sô valley and Cotonou region. His c. 200 numbers (no. 1000-1199) are at BR.

Green, A. A. (USA) studied the vegetation and wildlife of the Parc Penjari in 1977-79.

Grubben, Gérard J. H. (The Netherlands, Maasbree, 4.8.1938), project leader and Director of NEDERF (Fondation Néerlandaise pour la Création de Jardins Familiaux) in Porto Novo from 1968-1973. 26(?) vouchers of his work on leaf vegetables, including those on amaranths for his thesis (1975) are deposited in WAG. Van der Zon & Grubben (1976) published a booklet on 69 leaf vegetables in S Dahomey.

Guinko, Sita (Burkina Faso, Lergo, 1942), Professor of Botany and Plant Biology, and Vice-President, University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) since 1992, made some collections in Benin e.g. with the ACCT mission in 1986. From 1971-74 he prepared a PhD thesis on the swampy savannes in S Dahomey. Certain vouchers in BENIN.

Hahn-Hadjali, Karen (USA, Pasadena, 9.12.1962), botanist of the university of Frankfurt am Main, project coordinator for "Phytodiversity of the Sahelian and Sudanian zones of West Africa", collected 188 numbers in 1998-2001 whilst on projects in Benin; collection at FR.

Harlan, Jack R. (USA, Washington, 7.6.1917 – New Orleans, 26.8.1998) visited many W African countries in 1967-68 to search for wild relatives of crop plants. His vouchers are at ILL. In Dahomey he collected 9 samples of *Sorghum* around Abomey and Bohicon, 2 samples of *Pennisetum* in the same area, and 1 sample in Cotonou in January 1968.

Hermans, Merel (The Netherlands, Tegelen, 22.9.1979), biology student at Wageningen University, spent four months of research in Benin at the UNB (2001). She collected herbs of medicinal value on markets, sold to combat malaria, totalling 148 accessions, preserved at WAG.

Houinato, Marcel (Benin, Abomey, 31.1.1961) obtained his PhD with Prof. Lejoly in ULB, Belgium. Vouchers for his research are at BRLU, some at BENIN.

Houngnon, Paul (Benin, Kétou, c. 1943, Benin, Cotonou, 22.2.2001), Director of the National Herbarium of Benin at UNB, during and after the time of the co-operation with Germany's GTZ (1980ies). Retired in 1994, but continued to partake in the expeditions of the project Flora of Benin, his last field trip in April 2000. Collected in total 7813 numbers preserved at BENIN, since 1998 duplicates also at WAG.

Komkouen collected in Benin in 1985, vouchers at BENIN.

Kreis, Marc (Luxemburg, 1.7.1963), a collection 242 sheets of 1987 is at BRLU. At present he is Counsellor to the Luxemburg Ministry of Agriculture.

Krohmer, Julia (Germany, Überlingen, 29.5.1967), botany student of the university of Frankfurt am Main, collected in 1999/2001 specimens for her thesis in Benin and Burkina Faso; 1083 vouchers at FR, some grasses at B.

Küppers, Karin (Germany, Friedberg, 6.4.1957) collected 205 numbers from the Lama forest in 1998, preserved at FR.

Langewiesche, Katrin (Germany, Mannheim, 19.10.1968), ethnobotanist, worked in Péhonko in 2002-2003; 62 vouchers at FR.

Leeuwenberg, Antonius Johannes Maria (Toon) (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 11.8.1930) passed through Dahomey in February 1979 and collected 5 species of *Apocynaceae*. In November 1999 he accompanied van der Maesen on a tour to Benin, and added 2 samples of *Apocynaceae*. He contributed *Apocynaceae* and *Loganiaceae* to the Flore Analytique du Bénin (in preparation).

Lejoly, Jean (Belgium, Malmédy, 18.8.1945), Professor of Plant Systematics and Phytosociology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Within the framework of co-operation with the UNB, now UAC, he visited Benin on an annual basis, for teaching courses and joint research. His voucher specimens are at BRLU, totalling 951 sheets, duplicates are at BR. Supervised many PhD projects in phytosociology of Africa, including those of five Beninese students. He co-authored the *Convolvulaceae* for the Flora of Benin.

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Lisowski, Stanislas (Poland, Wilno, 1924 – Poznan, 2.-5.2002) collected 1161 numbers in Benin from 19 September to 20 October 1999. He contributed the *Asteraceae, Convolvulaceae* and *Scrophulariaceae* to the Flore Analytique du Bénin. He passed away while studying the *Cyperaceae* for the Flora of Benin. Apart from his long experience in Poland and Congo (K) as University Professor, he widely travelled and collected in Africa, Australasia and Kazakhstan.

McDonald, Wayne (USA), Peace Corps volunteer, participated in the ACCT Mission (1986); vouchers at BENIN.

Mission ACCT/Benin, (10.7.-10.8.1986). A large group of mainly African botanists, visited most parts of Benin and carried out ethnobotanical and medical enquiries. Information was obtained from barefoot doctors (guérisseurs), market salespersons, farmers and other villagers. Vouchers are preserved at ABI in the numbered series of Aké Assi, a few duplicates at BENIN.

Müller, Jonas V. (Germany, Mutlangen, 11.2.1973) collected c. 10 specimens in Benin and 950 in Burkina Faso; vouchers from his diploma thesis at the university of Frankfurt am Main are deposited at FR, some duplicates at B, GENT and K; some mosses and liverworts are at BM.

Natta, Armand (Benin, Tanguiéta, 3.5.1972) studied the riparian forests of Benin for his PhD thesis in 2000-02; vouchers at BENIN.

Neumann, Katharina (Germany, München, 15.10.1953) collected 44 numbers in 1996-2000 whilst on projects in Benin; collection preserved at FR.

Newton, Len E. (UK, Barking, 26.9.1936) resided in Ghana 1966-1984 and searched for succulents in Dahomey in 1969, 1972, 1974 and 1975 and 1977, mainly *Aloe* and *Euphorbia*. A few dozen specimens, apart from the living material, were deposited at GC, K and KUU.

Ouédraogo, Amadé (Burkina Faso, Lago, 27.6.1973), student of Ouagadougou University, collected in 2003 along with A. Thiombiano.

Oumorou Aliou, Aboudou Madjidou (Benin, Bassila, 20.4.1962) participated in many inventories in classified forests in central and N Benin; his collection is preserved at BRLU and BENIN. He authored the *Malvaceae* for the Flora of Benin.

Paradis, Guilhan (France, 12.7.1938), teacher at the Lycée Béhanzin from 1966, joined UNB at its inception in 1970, staying till 1977, when he was appointed in Abidjan. Collected together with Mrs de Souza and other Beninese botanists. Now in Corsica. Vouchers at BENIN.

Pauwels, Luc (Belgium, Aalst, 27.10.1929), botanist of long experience in Central Africa and expert in *Gramineae (Poaceae),* made expeditions to Benin in September-October 1994 (numbers 7393-7700) and in January 1996 (7706-7711). He went to W and SE Benin (Sept.-Oct. 1998) up to Matéri and Aguigadji respectively in the framework of the project Flora of Benin (7712-8409). One of the authors of grasses for the Flora of Benin. He is retired collaborator of BR and BRLU, where his collections are preserved, some duplicates at WAG. His Beninese material is kept at BENIN, BR and WAG.

Pierret, Hervé (Belgium) collected in the Batia zone of the Atacora on 31.3.1993 whilst a student; c. 20 samples at BR.

Porembski, Stefan (Germany, Berlin, 9.6.1960) collected c. 300 numbers in Benin (sous préfectures Dassa, Savè, Tchaouron, Bassila and Kandi) in September 1995; collection at ROST and GENT, some duplicates at B and K.

Profizi, Jean Pierre (France, Marseille, 8.6.1954) taught botany and plant ecology at the UNB 1978-1987. His thesis of 1983 on the botany, ecology and ethnobotany of *Raphia* palms in S Benin has been published in Montpellier. His Benin collection is preserved at BENIN and MPU.

Raynal, Jean (France, Rouen, 10.12.1933) worked with ORSTOM from 1959-1963, when he went to the Natural History Museum in Paris. He included Dahomey in his expeditions in 1965, with A. Raynal. 50 vouchers from the coast, like those from other West African countries (1959-1965), are kept at K and P.

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Reyntjes, J., Belgian pasture specialist for FAO. His 1964 collection is not in BR (cf. Index of collectors), perhaps at Gent?

Reiff, Karin (Germany) collected in Benin; grass collection at FR, some sheets at B.

Riedel, Karlheinz (Germany) studied the weed flora of the Mono province for his diploma thesis at the Free University of Berlin in 1985; vouchers are preserved at B.

Risopoulos, Stéphane (Belgium, Brussels, 11.7.1925) collected in Benin in 1963-64; the original samples 1199 to 1228 (mainly grasses) are at BR, duplicates also at K and P.

Rouyn (?) collected in Cotonou, samples at L.

Salzmann, Ulrich (Germany, Wuppertal, 14.5.1963), geographer and palynologist; 35 specimens at FR.

Schmidt, Marco (Germany, Brunswick, 25.6.1973) collected mainly grasses in 2001 for his thesis at the university of Frankfurt am Main.

Scholz, Hildemar (Germany, 27.5.1928), one of the editors of the Flore Analytique du Togo, collected in W Africa 1972-77; collection at B. He paid a visit to Benin in 1974, but did not collect plants.

Sieglstetter, Robert (Germany, Munich, 25.1.1971), student of the university of Frankfurt am Main, collected in N Benin for his thesis research in 1999-2001 (Siegelstetter 2002); 890 vouchers at FR. Author of *Podostemaceae* for the Flora of Benin.

Sinsin, Brice (Benin, Abomey, 3.3.1959) studied at the ULB in Belgium, Professor of Plant Ecology and Conservation of Natural Resources, FSA, UNB, now UAC. Partakes in the expeditions of the PFB; collections at BENIN, WAG. The first 1707 vouchers from his thesis (mainly from the Nikki and Kalalé areas in the Borgou province) are at BRLU, duplicates at BR. Subsequent samples started with number 1 in 1998, but were later renumbered to follow the first 1707 samples.

Sokpon, Nestor (Benin, 15.2.1965) studied in the ULB in Belgium, and after having been Maître-assistant of culture and Forest Ecology, FSA, UAC, now Dean (Director of Research) at the Université de Parakou (founded 2002). His first 241 samples (B1-B241), mainly from Pobè, are at BRLU; the newer collections, commencing with 1 again, at BENIN and WAG.

Souza, S. de, see De Souza, S.

Thiombiano, Adjima (Burkina Faso, Fada N'Gourma, 17.10.1966), scientist in Ouagadougou University, visited the Atacora chain from 5.10.2003; some 200 specimens at OUA.

Van der Maesen, Laurentius Josephus Gerardus (Jos) (The Netherlands, Amsterdam, 18.12. 1944), Professor of Plant Taxonomy, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, co-ordinator of the project Flora of Benin, one of the Chief Editors and author of the legumes and various other families. Collected on short trips with the Beninese botanists during his twice-yearly visits; vouchers at BENIN and WAG.

Van der Burg, W. Joost (The Netherlands, Oss, 30.6.1950), senior seed technologist of Plant Research International, scientist in the Plant Resources of Tropical Africa (PROTA) project, taxonomist of the project Flora of Benin, one of the Chief Editors, and author of the orchids and most other monocotyledons apart from grasses and sedges, and of the ferns. Collected in Benin during various visits; vouchers are preserved at BENIN and WAG.

Van der Zon, Antonius Petrus Maria (The Netherlands, Leiden, 3.6.1948) spent six months in Benin during 1970-71 in the NEDERF project in Porto Novo, as a part of his studies in tropical plant systematics at the then Agricultural University of Wageningen. His collection of leaf vegetables (Van der Zon & Grubben 1976) and other species is preserved at WAG. Duplicates have not been widely distributed. His thesis on the Grasses of Cameroon (Van der Zon 1992) is a useful reference for W Africa too. Now biodiversity specialist in the Dutch Directorate of Development Co-operation (DGIS) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Van Eynatten, C. L. M. (The Netherlands, Prinsenhage, 6.4.1936) collected 146 samples of tropical crops and weeds in Benin in 1967-68, preserved at WAG; some duplicates are still available for exchange.

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White, Frank (UK, Sunderland 6.3.1927 – Taston, 12.9.1994), long time curator at FHO and OXF and author of the AETFAT Chorological Classification of Africa, visited Dahomey in 1965, some vouchers are at K. His main collections are from Nigeria and Cameroon.

Wittig, Rüdiger (Germany, 17.10.1946), Professor of Ecology and Geobotany, university of Frankfurt am Main, leader of the projects "Flora and vegetation of the savannahs of Burkina Faso and Benin, its significance and its change caused by man (1989-2002)" and "Phytodiversity in the Sahelian and Soudanian zone of West Africa (2001 and ongoing)". Collected on short trips along with Beninese botanists and Ataholo, Hahn-Hadjali, Krohmer and Sieglstetter. Vouchers at FR.

Yedomonhan, Hounnankpon (Paul) (Benin, Savalou, 29.6.1970), junior botanist of the project Flora of Benin since 1997. Instrumental in many field trips to gather material for the Herbarium, he only recently collected under his own number. He contributed some taxa to the Flora of Benin.

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