



Medicinal plants domesticated, and derived products

Ocimum kilimandscharicum medicinal plant

Ocimum kilimandscharicum is a shrub that grows in some parts of Kenya. In the Luhya languages of the people who live adjacent to Kakamega forest, it is called *Mwonyi* or *Esilokha*. Traditionally, *O. kilimandscharicum* has been used for the treatment of colds and flu, coughs and sore eyes, diarrhea, abdominal pains and measles. It has also been used for repelling mosquitoes and for protecting stored grain. The domestication and cultivation of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* by the community has been undertaken through technical support and capacity building by ICIPE, the University of Nairobi, the Muliru Farmers Conservation Group (MFCG) and Biovision Trust Africa. *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* takes 6 months to mature and requires minimal care and no pest control. Once mature, it thrives as a perennial, and can be harvested three times in a year for more than four years.



Community members harvesting cultivated *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* medicinal plants on their farms adjacent to Kakamega forest. ICIPE and partners have trained the community members in domestication and on-farm cultivation of the medicinal plant.

Through advanced research, ICIPE and its partners have developed a range of products from *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* some of which have been registered as medicines by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Kenya. ICIPE and its partners have transferred technology to the Muliru Enterprise and built its capacity to manufacture and sale these products. The medicinal products include the following: Naturub[®] balm 4g, 7g and 25g for relief of cold, flu, chest congestion and insect bites; Naturub[®] ointment 15g and 30g for relief of muscle aches and pains.

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The Naturub® range of products were the first local herbal medicines to be registered in Kenya as medicines by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB). The packaging of all the community products bears a distinctive message to promote conservation of biodiversity. They are on sale in the market place with participation of various private sector partners including Kamili Nature Brands Limited (KNBL).



A range of medicinal, pest and vector control products developed by ICIPE, University of Nairobi and private sector partners from *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* medicinal plants cultivated by the community, some of which have been commercialized.

Mondia whytei medicinal plant

Mondia whytei is an indigenous medicinal plant that is commonly known as mkombela in Luhya. *Mondia whytei* is a fast growing vine (climber) that used to be common in forests and humid savannahs of tropical and southern Africa. The roots have traditionally been harvested extensively and unsustainably from Kakamega and other protected forests in a well-organized trade leading to scarcity of the plant in these forests.



Traditionally, the roots have been chewed for their sweet aromatic flavour, as an appetizer, aphrodisiac and for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. The roots of *Mondia whytei* used to be extracted extensively from Kakamega forest by the local community. It was later domesticated by the community through technical support by ICIPE and the Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI).

Mondia Whytei plants cultivated on a community member's farm.

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Mondia whytei takes three years to mature. The products, Mondia Tonic® 12 grams and 50 grams were developed from *Mondia whytei* and commercialized with technical assistance from ICIPE and KEFRI. The packaging of all the products bears a distinctive message to promote conservation of biodiversity.



Mondia Tonic nutraceutical products developed by icipe and KEFRI.

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