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Stem anatomy of three *Chrysophyllum* species (Sapotaceae) and their relevance for taxonomy (systematic botany)

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The stem anatomical features of three species of *Chrysophyllum* namely: *C. albidum* G. Don; *C. cainito* Linn. and *C. subnudum* Baker were investigated using standard anatomical techniques with slight modification. The outcome of the result showed numerous vessels in *C. cainito* but few in *C. albidum* and *C. subnudum*. The number of rays are multiseriate in *C. albidum* and *C. cainito* but uniseriate in *C. subnudum*. The shapes of vessels ranged from oval to circular in *C. albidum* but circular to rectangular in *C. cainito* and *C. subnudum*. There is a presence of pith and sclerenchyma cells in all the three species investigated. The results clearly distinguished *C. albidum* from *C. subnudum*, hence the difference showed reason for each to exist as distinct specie whereas the similarities showed reasons for them to be placed under the same genus *Chrysophyllum*.

Biography

Mbagwu F N is currently working as an Associate Professor. He attended Umuaka High School 1984 and Rivers State School of Arts and Science in 1987. He obtained his BSc in Botany from University of Port Harcourt 1988-1992, MSc in Plant Taxonomy from Imo State University in 1997 and PhD in 2005 from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike Abia state in Plant Taxonomy and Biosystematics. He is currently a Lecturer at Imo State University owerri Nigeria. He has published up to 52 journals articles.

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