

11<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Exhibition on

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## Ethno-medicine: Prospects and its research challenges

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Ethno-medicine research and development is an area of investigation and application which combine specialties in different fields of studies or disciplines. Herbal concoctions are used in the treatment of many animals and human diseases with some of them producing toxicity. Some *Solanaceae* such as *Datura*, *Atropa*, and *Hyoscyamus* (henbane) species contains large amounts of atropine, hyoscyamine and scopolamine (hyoscyne). Alkaloids have potent pharmacological action and many are used daily as medicine and are potentially toxic if misused. Acute toxicity of Solanine can happen in animals that ingest excessive amounts of potato/tomato hauls (Dharmanada, 1991). *Citrus aurantifolia* (orange peel) is very popular for the treatment of stomach pains and upsets but contamination with fungal organism could occur resulting in mycotoxicosis following ingestion of the fruit. Accidental *Zygodemos chlorantus* poisoning of sheep was reported by Onyeyili *et.al* (1994) after prolonged grazing. In Nigeria, the animal and human population depends on plants as the major source of food and medicine. The paper will present the current history of medicinal plants in veterinary clinical practice and animal production in Nigeria. The past and present research efforts, as well as scientific technologies for research product development and applications and the future of medicinal plants in veterinary practice, will be fully presented.

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