

Short communication

Edible insect of the Teke people in the Republic of Congo

Jedlive insekty naroda Teke v Republikě Konga

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ABSTRACT

For thousands of years, insects have formed an important part of the diet of the Teke ethnic group living in the Plateaux Department of the Republic of Congo in Central Africa. In total, 23 species of edible insects were registered. The most widely consumed are the members of the orders Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, and Coleoptera. The edible species are listed, together with their names in Teke.

ABSTRAKCIJNY

V těčenji tysícev let insekty tvorili važnú časť diety etničnej grupy Teke žijúcej v kongyjskym departamentě Plateaux v Centralnoj Afrikě. Vkupě zapisane byli 23 vidy jedlivyh insektov. Najvéce jedanyh insektov jest iz ředa Orthoptera, Lepidoptera i Coleoptera. Jedlive vidy insektov sūt tu spisane s jih imenami v jězyku Teke.

Keywords: Teke, edible insects, Republic of Congo, Central Africa

The Teke ethnic group inhabits the Plateaux Department, Republic of Congo. They are called 'Mbéti' and 'Tegue' in the Western Cuvette Department, 'Nzabi' in the Niari Department, and 'Bouenza' in the region of Pool. The Teke people, or Tékés, also inhabit regions in the west of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Batèkè Plateau in Gabon.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, over 2.5 billion people worldwide are using insects as food today. Entomophagy is the most widespread in Asia, Africa, and South America. Bani^{1,2} as well as Asseh and Sito³, Madzou Ondzala⁴, Dzono⁵, and Conche⁶ wrote previously about edible insects in the Republic of Congo.

During my field research in the Plateaux Department, the Tekes people acquainted me with the species they consume. Sample specimens were collected and identified. A list of edible species is provided in Tab. 1.

The species consumed in the Republic of Congo are also highly valued by other ethnic groups, as well as Teke diasporas in Benin and France. Their use enables the Teke people to counter nutritional deficiencies in their diet and the sale of edible insects, whether obtained by collecting in nature or breeding, can provide a significant side income for households as well as progressively create new employment opportunities in insect breeding and processing. In connection with climate change and the exhaustion of the natural resources, the

development of insect breeding is desirable worldwide, even urgently necessary.

References

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- ⁶ CONCHE, S. Gestion et filières de commercialisation des Produits Forestiers Non Ligneux (PFNL) dans le cadre de la certification FSC dans la région de Pokola (République du Congo) Mémoire de fin d'études de Mastère Forêt, Nature et Société, 2008, 117 pp.

Order	Family	Species	Name in Teke
Dictyoptera	Termitidae	<i>Macrotermes falciger</i> (Gerstäcker, 1891)	Ampè
Orthoptera	Acrididae	<i>Coryphosima stenoptera</i> (Schaum, 1853)	Mpaï
		<i>Homoxyrhopes punctipennis</i> (Walker, 1870)	Mpaï
		<i>Parapropacris notata</i> (Karsch 1891)	Mpaï
		<i>Tristria</i> sp.	Mpaï
		<i>Occidentosphena uvarovi</i> (Rehn, 1942)	Mpaï
Orthoptera	Gryllidae	<i>Brachytrupes membranaceus</i> (Drury, 1770)	Nzié
	Tettigoniidae	<i>Ruspolia</i> sp.	Mpaï
Coleoptera	Curculionidae	<i>Rhynchophorus phoenicis</i> (Fabricius, 1801)	Atsouolo
Lepidoptera	Notodontidae	<i>Antheua</i> sp.	Batoko
	Psychidae	<i>Eumeta</i> sp.	Kintsami
		<i>Imbrasia anthina</i> (Karsch, 1892)	Yenayè/Sanikoko
		<i>Imbrasia alopia</i> Westwood, 1849	Kinkélé
		<i>Imbrasia epimethea</i> (Drury, 1773)	Mibzié
		<i>Imbrasia oyemensis</i> Rougeot, 1955	Miko
		<i>Imbrasia obscura</i> (Butler, 1878)	Kinkélé
		<i>Imbrasia petiveri</i> Guérin-Méneville, 1845	Kinkélé
		<i>Imbrasia</i> sp.	Kinkélé
		<i>Lobobunaea phaedusa</i> (Drury, 1782)	Mbaka