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Abstract

The municipality of Astacinga, located in the west-central portion of the state of Veracruz, occupies part of the Sierra of Zongolica. Cultural elements from ancestral times prevail in this area, such as the Nahuatl language, customs, and knowledge of plant resources. These factors and the lack of botanical studies motivated this effort to record information on the uses of the local flora. Reports from informants and collections of botanical specimens were obtained during a year and a half. An inventory of 154 species was obtained, distributed among 17 categories of use. The most important category consisted of the medicinal plants with 88 records, followed by 28 ornamental, 23 edible, 19 ceremonial, 15 fuel, 7 forage, 7 living fences and 6 timber; the rest of the species were listed in other categories. In general the various plants are gathered or grown for self-consumption, with the exception of the timber and fuel species that are sold outside of the municipality. There is little management of species except in a very few cases of medicinal plants.

Keywords

Astacinga, Sierra of Zongolica,
useful flora, medicinal flora, edible flora, ornamental
flora, fuel, timber

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