

Uses of African cherry (*Prunus africana*) in the Region of Mount Oku, Cameroon

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The African cherry (*Prunus africana*) was once a common tree species on Mount Oku, Cameroon. In the early 1970s, its bark extract was found effective in treating enlarged prostates. It is also extremely important to the four ethnic groups who live on the mountain. The durable wood is favored for tool handles and its names reflect this use. It is also a preferred firewood. Traditional doctors told me it was the most important plant in their practices. This study was the first to document its importance in treating animal diseases. Western herbal market demand threatens to decrease supplies of this multi-use tree. (Poster)