

***Warburgia ugandensis*: an ABS issue???**

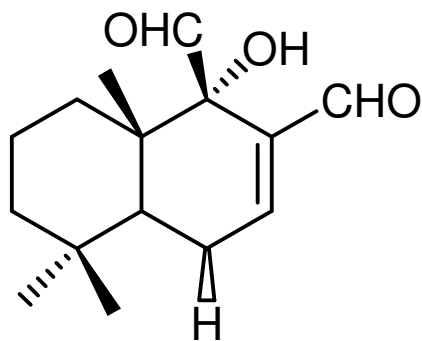
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Introduction

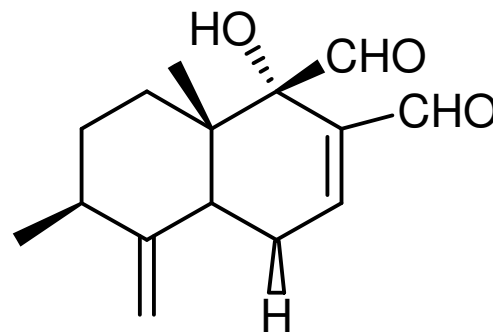
- *Warburgia ugandensis* Sprague is widely distributed across eastern Africa.
- Species is highly valued in traditional herbal therapy
- Cures several ailments- malaria, leishmaniasis, African trypanosomosis, measles, common cold, toothache, stomach ache,
- Currently bark is harvested from the wild

Research done on the species...

- Survey on use (Kariuki and Simiyu, 2005; Maundu & Tengnas, 2005)
- Genetic diversity (Muchugi et al 2007, 2008)
- Genomics (Muge et al 2009)
- Phytochemical activities (Kioy et al., 1990; Sindiga *et al.* 1995; Olila et al., 2001)



Warburganal



Muzigadial

Current research on the species

- *W. ugandensis* leaves contain phytochemicals with high antimicrobial activity
- Leaves not currently used in herbal therapy
- Project proposes to enhance use of leaves in herbal therapy rather than bark



Young *Warburgia ugandensis* planted along Thika Road in Kenya. Note the coppicing ability

The problem

- **80% of Africa's population rely on medicinal plants for health care**
 - Cultural reasons
 - Financial reasons
- **High forest degradation**
 - Over-harvesting of herbal products (bark)
 - Settlement and farming



Bark harvesting from a Warburgia tree

March 2009

Tanzania.....

Much of our field time was spent in Shinyanga and Mwanza regions searching for Warburgia trees that were also known to be abundant in these areas but our efforts almost ended up in vain. Some of our herbarium specimens were also collected from these Forests but Gold mining in the Lake region has turned the Forest reserves as open accessed areas (i.e disturbance is so high). In the past five years, there were businessmen who were coming to buy barks of Warburgia from these surrounding villages at Tsh 20,000 per sack. Therefore, we could just witness standing dried up trees that are debarked from the bottom to the top.

Uganda.....

Apparently, one of the biggest trees was felled and completely debarked at the same time as we were in the forest collecting our samples.





Warburgia ugandensis products from Ruiru Herbalist, Meru Kenya



A *W. ugandensis* herbal product from herbalist in Trans-Nzoia, Kenya



Manufacturer: Bioharmony,
South Africa



Manufacturer: Africa Red Tea
Imports, South Africa

Example of herbal preparations
currently in the market.



THETA and Partners

Creation and applicability of AAMPS [Association for African Medicinal Plant Standards]

African Herbal Antimalaria Meeting, 20-22 March 2006

May *Warburgia* and other medicinal species exploitation not be another *Prunus africana* **ACCESS AND NO BENEFIT SHARING case for Africa**

Thank you

Plant a tree and help in conserving our heritage;

join the **Billion Tree Campaign** www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign