

# Ethnobotany Lab 5.

## Making North Dakota Ethnobotany database

February 24th, 2011

**Background** There are several ethnobotanical databases available ([http://webapps1.lsa.umich.edu/umma/exhibits/plantuse\\_cds1/searchform.asp](http://webapps1.lsa.umich.edu/umma/exhibits/plantuse_cds1/searchform.asp), [http://www.bioversityinternational.org/databases/new\\_world\\_fruits\\_database/search.html](http://www.bioversityinternational.org/databases/new_world_fruits_database/search.html) <http://herb.umd.umich.edu/> <http://www.ars-grin.gov/duke/>), but nothing exist for North Dakota yet.

We will make the prototype today from five literature sources:

1. Densmore, F. (2005) Strength of the Earth, 160 p. [Ojibwe]
2. Gilmore, M.R. (1991) Uses of plants by the Indians of Missouri River region, 160 p. [Dakota]
3. Kindscher, K. (1992) Medicinal wild plants of the prairie, 340 p.
4. Kindscher, K. (1997) Edible wild plants of the prairie, 280 p.
5. Smith, H.H. (1932) Ethnobotany of the Ojibwe Indians, 100 p.

This is a classification you should consider for general plant use characteristic:

1. **Main** plants (most important food sources): grains, starch-containing, legumes
2. **Sugar and oil** plants
3. **Fruits and vegetables**: fruits, vegetables, nuts
4. **Technical**: fiber, wood, latex, dye, feeding
5. **Aromatic and psychoactive**: spices, stimulating, narcotic
6. **Medicinal**: vitamin, ethereal oil, glycoside, alkaloid etc.
7. **Ornamental**: outdoor annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, cut plants, indoor pot plants

**Assignment** Take 80 pages from any book, and extract information into Excel spreadsheet (template is available for download from course Web page, [http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_310/lab\\_05.xls](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310/lab_05.xls)). For Kindsher books, please consider only plants which occur in North Dakota. Please be extremely careful with scientific names, they should be spelled exactly like in the source book!

When finish, save resulted Excel file and send it to me (<mailto:alexey.shipunov@minotstateu.edu>) as an attachment to the email. In the email, clearly state your name.