

# Ethnobotany Lab 9.

## Imptoving North Dakota Ethnobotany Database

April 11, 2013

**Background** There is a database about North Dakota native plant uses, ([http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_310/nd\\_ethnobotany.htm](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310/nd_ethnobotany.htm)). However, it is still on “beta” stage because it contains mistypes, row duplications and does not reflect the biggest source of North American ethnobotany: book of D.E.Moerman (1998).

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

1. Download the scanned copy of Moerman’s book (this was put on-line for education purposes only and **not** for distribution): [http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_310/moerman1998\\_native\\_amer\\_ethnobotany.djvu](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310/moerman1998_native_amer_ethnobotany.djvu)
2. Download the database source (Excel spreadsheet): [http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol\\_310/nd\\_ethnobotany.xls](http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310/nd_ethnobotany.xls). Open it.
3. You will be assigned several letters from plant scientific names, these are only rows you should work with, please **delete** all other rows and save it with a new name (use “your” letters, like “o\_p\_q.xls”).
4. Try to correct all misspellings (especially in plant names).
5. Try to merge duplicated rows (with same plant name). The content of other cells should be concatenated.
6. Search through the Moerman book for names of seven tribes which are present in North Dakota: Chippewa, Cree, Dakota, Lakota, Mandan, Ojibwa, Sioux. Find plants associated with these tribes (only from “your” letters). If the plant name is already in database, add information to the existing row. If not, add new row. Do not forget to list the source in the last cell (e.g., “Moerman, D.E. (1998) Native American Ethnobotany, p. 512”).
7. When finish, save the 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. This will be your report.