

(L) = Lucumi, Yoruba

Abre camino (*Eupatorium villosum*), Ochun, Asogwano





Aguacate (*Persea americana*), Oggun,



Alacrancillo, *Heliotropium indicum*, AGUÉYI, Obatala, Ochosi



Alamo *Ficus religiosa* Bo tree, Sacred Fig, Ofa (L). Shango. Ofa in Yoruba means arrow and the leaf is pointed and looks like an arrow.



This tree is called the sacred tree because it is the tree that Budda sat under to reached

enlightenment. He is said have meditated under it for six years. This tree belongs to Shango for certain. It is said that the first time the tambores (drums) were played to Shango, Shango-the orisha who owns the drum, it was under the Alamo tree. Many works can be done for Shango using this herb. When Shango is mad he can be quieted with this herb. When an agbo (ram) is sacrificed to Shango, a leaf of Alamo is placed in his mouth (odun Ifa Otrupon Bara). In the odun Ifa Osa Roso, Shango had closed the roads to Orunmila's house with Alamo, and Orunmila was not able to receive customers, and lost business. His wife, apetebi, told Orunmila that he had forgotten to sacrifice a ram to Shango. After doing this the road was opened up and everything was made clear for him.

Albahaca, (*Ocimum basilicum*), Basil (supermarket), Avericula (L), Ororo (L). Azowano
Babaluaye,
Anyá, Ochun, Yemaya, Oya



Albahaca morada, *Ocimum sanctum*, Oya



Algodon, ORI ORO, EU, OU, OWU, KEOLI , Cotton, Obatala





Algarrobo (*Samanea Saman*) , Shango



Almacigo *ELAPHRIUM* Simaruba (*Bursera simaruba*), IGGI Addam, Moye, ILÚKI,
Shango, Obatala



Almendra, Terminalia catappa, Almond plant, IGGI, Ure, ECUCI, Obatala





Alta Misa, Artemisa, (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), Ragweed, Liniddi (L). Osain, Obatala, Babaluaye. This plant is everywhere. The name “alta misa” means high mass.



Apasote *CHENOPODIUM ambrosioides* (L), Online, Babalu



Anise, (*Pimpinella anisum*), anise (supermrket), Eweise (L) Ochiosi, Azowano Babaluaye, Oshun. Very aromatic, liquorice like.



Atipola, pigweed, Boerhaavia, Atiponla, Obatala, Ifa



Its chant in Osain: 'Atipola ifauro, atipola ifauro, ifa omo, ifa ile ,atipola ifauro.'

Atipola is a very important herb in IFA; The child of Ifa, the house of Ifa.



Boniato (*Ipomoea batatas*) ,potato, Orisha Oko



Boton de Oro, Hairy Indian Mallow, Velvet Leaf, *Abutilon indicum*, Oshun



Belladona (*Kalanchoe brasiliensis*) Obatala



Bleo, Bleo Blanco, Bledo, (*Amaranthus viridis*, *Amaranthus Spinosus*), Pigweed, a form of Callaloo spinach (West Indian supermarkets), Tete, Tete Tegun (L). Obatala.



This plant grows everywhere, all over the world. There is a Yoruba proverb that says “there is nowhere where Tete does not grow”.

In Ifa odun Irete-Obara:

Kos'eniti apa Oba ko ka, kos'eniti Tete ko le te.

No one is beyond the king's rule; no one is beyond the impression of Tete.

In the Regla Ocha, there is Ewe Odundun, Ewe dundun (*Kalanchoe crenata*) or its cousin **Ewe abamoda (*Bryophyllum pinnatum*)** [**Obi abata, obi banja**]. It is called *prodigiosa* in Spanish, (prodigious in

English meaning overly abundant; marvelous, wonderful), *siempre viva*, *yerba bruja*, and the leaf of life. Ewe dundun is regarded as the king of all the herbs and Tete is the second in command, his deputy: Ifa Odun Oturupon Di:

Oni e wijo, e ni Oturupon Di li o jebi. Ola e wijo e ni Ela kose aye rere. O

M'odundun se oba ewe. O mu tete se osorun re.

Today you complain that Oturupon Di is guilty. Tomorrow you will complain

That Ela (Orunmila) is not managing the world well. He made odundun the king of all leaves and tete his deputy.

Ewe dundun and Tete are some of the chief herbs of Obatala. Tete is one of the variations of Calaloo and can be used to prepare the African and Caribbean stew dish known by the same name. There is a story that relates to Callaloo (Kalalu):

Oba is considered the first and legitimate wife of Shango. Shango however liked Oshun because of her beauty, sexuality, and cooking skills. Oya was Oba's good friend but knew of Oba's interest in pleasing Shango. Oya also wanted Shango. She devised a treason plan. She convinced Oshun to lie and tell Oba that the secret to preparing Shango's favorite stew Amala was to use Tete (Callaloo) and in place of meat to substitute her left ear, in place of palm oil to substitute her blood. That way Shango would always listen to her and have her ear. She and Shango would be bound forever. So

Oba immediately went home and cut off her ear and prepared the dish. When she gave it to Shango, Shango ate it and spit it out in disgust. He asked what this was and when he found out he banned Oba from his household. Oba was so embarrassed that she exiled herself to a cave to live a solitary life away from everyone. Oya then became Shango's wife. For this reason the orishas Oya and Oba should never be placed next to each other. The song to Shango that relates of this is:

Amala , Kalalu mala mala (Yam stew with Kalalu, Yam stew)

Amala , Kalalu mala mala

Obinsa fun Shango mala, mala Kalalu (The Women give Shango Yam stew with Kalalu)

As this song is sung, the dance is danced as follows: you cover your left ear with your left hand and you hold out your right palm inside pointing up and you sway from side to side, chanting the chant. This mimics Oba covering her cut off ear and presenting Shango with the igba (bowl) of stew.

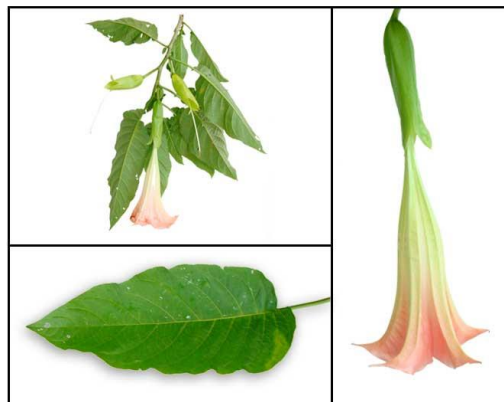
Bleo morado, (*Amaranthus cruentus*), purple pigweed, Tete, (L). Shango, Aganju, Oya. Looks like bleo blanco but is purple or redish in color.



Caimito *CHRYSOPHILLUM* Cainite , Oya, Shango



Campana blanca (*Datura arborea*), Obatala, Oddua



Cardo santo (*Argemone mexicana*), Ochosi, Oggun, Bablu?



Cardón (*Euphorbia lactea*), Cactus plant, Babalu



Canutillo, (Commelina), Asiatic dayflower, Ewe Karodo(L). Yemaya , Obatala.



Canutillo Morado, (Commelina), Asiatic dayflower, Shango,Oya, Yemaya, Ana

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Colonia ALPINIA AROMATICA Oshun



Cucaracha, (Zebrina pendula), Wandering Jew, Anai (L). Yemaya. Cucaracha in Spanish means roach, and its leaves look like the backside of a cockroach.



Ceiba (Ceiba pentandra) Silk Cotton Tree, Scared Tree, Araba, Iroko (L) Shango

See Lydia Cabrera



Caisimon (*Pothomorphe peltata*) Iguedi Ekuua
(L) Shango, Yemaya



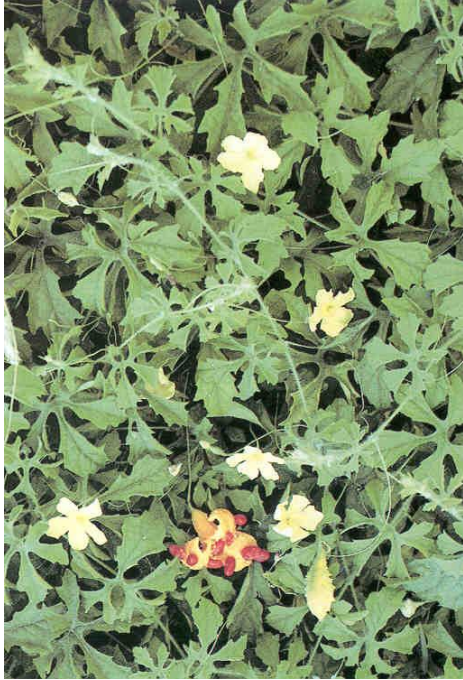
Cordovan , Rhoea discolor, PEREGÚN Tupa PEREGÚN PUPPUÁ, PERUGÚN, Tupa,
Diel, YERE GUN, Aganju, Moses in the Cradle



Croton, *Codiaeum variegatum* , Aganju, Oya



Cundeamor (*Momordica charantia*) ,Azoano, Babaluaye, Shapana



Escoba amarga (*Parthenium hysterophorus*), Babalu



Espanta Muerto, avericulo(L), Eclipta prostrata, False Daisy, Tattoo plant, Used to expel Muerto (death)



Espinaca, (*Spinacia oleracea*), Spinach (supermarket), Obedo, Ewe tutu, Ede(L). Oshun.
Used to make ochinchin, Oshun's favorite dish with shrimp (camarones-Sp) (ede-L).
Used to cover Oshun's relics and to refresh Oshun



Frescura, Artillery Plant, *Pilea microphylla*, Ewe rú matán. Tutu, Ochun, Yemaya, Obatala



Guanabana , *Annona muricata* (L), Obatala



Guava, Guayaba, *Psidium guajava*, (L) kenku ,Elegbana



Helecho, Lecho de rio, (*Osmunda regalis*), Royal Fern, Imoshun, Imo, Iti ibu (L). Oshun.

Grows along streams, lakes and wet meadowlands. Lecho de rio in Spanish means the bottom (bed) of the river



Higuereta blanca [Higuereta] (*Ricinus communis minor*) ,Obatala



Higuereta roja [Higuereta] (*Ricinus communis*), Shango



Itamorreal, *Pedilanthus tithymaloides*, Shango, Ochosi





Jagüey (*Ficus membranacea*) Fiapabba, Afoma,
Uendo (L), Shango, Ochosi



Jobo (*Spondias mombin*) Abba, Okinkan, Wakika, Kinkao (L) Shango



Laurel , Ficus nitida, IGGINILE ITIRI, IGGI GAFIOFO, Elegua



Lechuga, (Lactuca sativa), Lettuce (supermarket), Ilenke (L). Oshun, Yemaya. To decorate and to wash the relics of the Orishas. Oriate can use it to perform ebo estera during Ita ceremony



Llantén, (Plantago major), Common plantain. Obatala, Oduduwa. A major plant for Obatala that is a common weed.



Maiz, Zea mays, Agbado Orisha Oko, Corn



Malanga, (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium*), Elephant Ears, Ewe Ikoko (L), Yemaya. This is a tropical plant, which has been seen growing in New York. It's very important in the ceremony of making ocha, in feeding Yemaya pepeye (duck), and in performing the ebo of estera ceremony. Its tuba is Taro or dasheen, malanga coco yam and the leaves are used to prepare collaloo. It's chant ,suye, in Osain-the sacred ceremony of washing the herbs: 'Ewe Ikoko, ikoko , koko washe melle socuta. Koko ikoko , koko washe melle socuta.'



Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Obatala, Shango, Ibeji



Manto, (*Coleus blumei*), Painted Nettle, Ochare (L). Oya, Aganju, Obatala. A beautiful plant used for decorating and washing Orisha relics.



Maravilla, Four o'clock, *Mirabilis jalapa*, Obatala



Name Dioscorea cayenensis, Spanish Yam, Ishu(L), Orisha Oko



Palma (Roystonea regia) Iroko?Y



Paraíso (*Melia azederach*) Obatala



Pata de gallina, (*Eleusine indica*), Crab grass, Wire grass, Ewe eran (L). Eleggua .The Spanish name translates as “the leg of a chicken” and the three branches of the end of the stem of the plant looks like the foot of a chicken.



Peregun,Obatala,Oggun, Ochosi

Peregun chant in Osain, the sacred ceremony of washing the herbs, without which nothing happens in Ocha or Orisha or Ifa worship, that is to say there is no life in general without plants:
 "Peregun awa batutuo, peregun awa batutu, peregun awa bo mire, peregun awa batutuo."
 The peregun plant refreshes, cools , the peregun plant refreshes, the peregun plant brings me blessings, peregun refreshes.



Peonia, Abrus precatorius, EWERENJENJÉ, Ifa, Obatala

The peonia chant in Osain, the sacred washing of the herbs: Korin(L) song: "Ewerejenje igbo ni o, Ewerejenje igbo ni, (2x), owo ti mo ni ko ito, Ewerejenje igbo ni." Ewerejenje from the forest, ewerejenje in the forest, the money that I have is not enough, ewerejenje in the forest(bring me more money! Since the red beads from the ewerenjenje plant are abundantly numerous). Then the chant continues substituting omo(children) for owo(money), and then substituting Ile(house) for owo, etc.



Perehil, (*Petroselinum crispum*), Parsely (supermrket), Isako (L), Oshun.



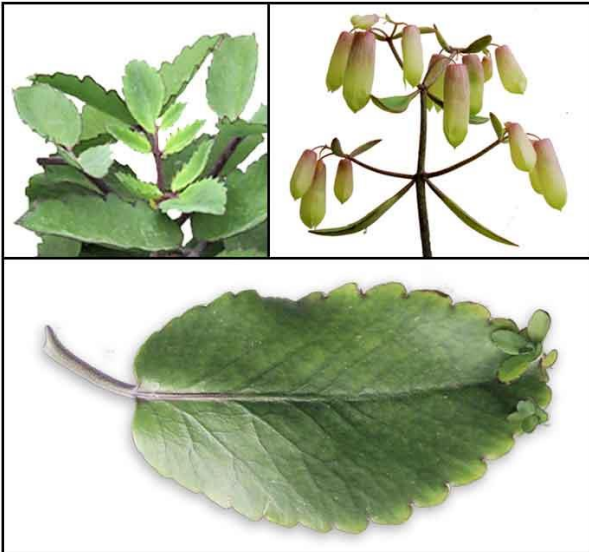
Platano, Banana plant (*Musa*), Shango, Ogede (L)



Platanillo de Cuba (*canna coccinea*) Oshun



Prodigiosa, Ewe Abamoda, *Bryophyllum pinnatum*, Ochosi, Obatala



Ewe Odundun, Ewe dundun (*Kalanchoe crenata*), Obatala



Its chant in Osain: “Chereboro degwao chereboro Ewe Dundun “

Ewe Dun is the chief of all the herbs. Ewe dundun is regarded as the king of all the herbs and Tete is the second in command, his deputy: Ifa Odun Oturupon Di:

Oni e wijo, e ni Oturupon Di li o jebi. Ola e wijo e ni Ela kose aye rere. O

M’odundun se oba ewe. O mu tete se osorun re.

Today you complain that Oturupon Di is guilty. Tomorrow you will complain

That Ela (Orunmila) is not managing the world well. He made odundun the king of all leaves and tete his deputy

Quimbombó okra (*Hibiscus esculentus*) Ila (L), Lady Fingers, Gumbo, Shango, Orisha Oko



Rinrin Ifa Herb , an herb that runs over the ground



Romerillo, (Wedelia, Weddellia rugosa tenuis), Ewe Oluo Agbere (L), Oshun, Obatala. A green plant with pretty little yellow flowers.



Romero (macho?), Pectis linifolia ?, Babalu (Rosemary)



Salvia, (Pluchea odorata), Sweetscent, Salt-marsh, Fleabane, cattle tongue, Babaluaye, Odduwa.



Salvia, Salvia de Castilla (Salvia, *Salvia officinalis*), Sage, garden sage, Kiriwi(L), Babaluaye, Obatala.



Salvadera (*Hura crepitans*) Ewe Gunna, Aronica (L) Shango



Saúco, Sauco blanco, (*Sambucus canadensis*), American Elderberry, elderberry, sweet elder, Obatala, Oshun.



Seso vegetal, (*Blighia sapida*), Ackee, Akee, (West Indian super market), vegetable brain, Obatala. Seso vegetal in Spanish means vegetable brain. The fruit resembles a brain. Ackee comes from the Ashanti Twi language in Ghana. It is used in Ocha to cure insanity when fresh, ripe, not immature or overripe and the seed is removed. Otherwise it is venomous. "Cura la locura... y si se desea vuelve loco tambien". Cures insanity or can cause insanity. It is good for head rogations.



TuaTua, Yemaya, Ochosi, *Jatropha gossypifolia*



Verbena, (*Verbena officinalis*), Verbena, Ewe Orukan (L), Yemaya.



Verdologa, (*Portulaca oleracea*), Gbure (L), Purslane, Pigweed, Little Hogweed, Yemaya.
For baths, omiero, to refresh the orisha Yemaya, and for luck.



Watercrest (supermarket), Berro, Oshun, Yemaya. Used to treat gastrointestinal disorders.



Yagruma (*Cecropia peltata*) Iggi Oggudgu, Laro (L) Shango, Osun, Oya ,Yemaya, Trumpet Tree, Embauba, Trompettier, Snake Wood, Bois Cannon



Yerba buena (*Mentha nemorosa*), Mint, Shango



Yerba fina, (*Cynodon dactylon*), Grass, Ewe Gbegi (L). Eleggua. Ochosi This is the true herb for Eleggua, Eschu. Wherever there is grass, there is Eleggua.



Ewe Shango:

Algarrobo, Alamo, Almacigo, Caimito, Ceiba, Caisimon, Higuereta Roja, Itamorreal, Jaguey, Jobo, Mango, Quimbombo (Ila), Salvadera, Yagruma, Yerba Buena,.

Ewe Obatala:

Ewe Dundun (Prodigosa, siempre viva), Ewe abamoda, Bleo, Sauco, Guanabana, Algodon, almacigo, almendra, altipola, alacrancillo, frescura, peonia, peregun, maravilla, salvia, llanten, mango, higuera blanca, mango, manto, paraíso, alta misa, Canutillo, compaña.

Ewe Babalu:

Altimisa, cundeamor, escoba armarga, salvia, albahaca, romero, anise, apasote

Ewe Oya:

Manto, croton, higuera, cordovan, Canutillo, cucharacha

Ewe Elegua:

Yerba fina, prodigiosa, bleo, pata gallina,