

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE FOOD AND
NUTRIENT VALUES OF THE COTYLEDONS OF *Irvingia
gabonensis* (O'Rocke) Brail and *Irvingia wommbolu***

A.O. ADEOLA AND C. IBEKWE

University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

A comparative study of the food and nutrient value of *Irvingia gabonensis* (O'Rocke) Brail and *Irvingia wommbolu* collected from three sites in Southern Nigeria was undertaken. Data (using a two-way analyses of variance) indicated that significant difference existed in the moisture content between the two species across sites. *I. gabonensis* had a moisture content of 6.93% while *I. wommbolu* had a moisture content of 6.67%. Viscosity was higher for *I. wommbolu* (1317 centipoises) compared with *I. gabonensis* (1433 centipoises). Sugar and starch values (indicators of viscosity) through insignificant were higher, for *I. wommbolu* (6.29 % and 6.76%) compared with *I. gabonensis* (5.77 % and 6.22 %). The oil content of *I. wommbolu* was less than that of *I. gabonensis* with values of 43.04 % and 43.68% respectively. This has implication for storage and shelf life.

Keywords: Multipurpose tree, *Irvingia gabonensis*, *Irvingia wommbolu*, cotyledon, nutrient, viscosity.