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# Ethnobotanical study of medicinal plants used in Artuma Fursi district, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** Indigenous people of different ethnic groups in Ethiopia are noticeably reliant on traditional medicinal plants for their healthcare due to their effective medicinal values. The study was aimed to document different herbal medicinal plants used and the associated knowledge of herbal medicine in the communities of the Artuma Fursi district.

**Methodology:** Ethnobotanical data were collected through semi-structured interviews, field observations, focused group discussions with the informants selected from the study area. Key informants were selected by purposive sampling technique, while the rest, were selected by random sampling techniques. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics; paired comparison, preference ranking, and informant consensus factor.

**Results:** A total of 86 informants participated in the collection of the ethnobotanical data. A total of 92 medicinal plants were collected and identified. Fabaceae was the highest family cited (11.9%). The study revealed that leaves (31.1%), seeds (19.8%), and roots (12.26%) were the most cited plant parts used for the preparation of herbal medicine by the respondents. The most common method of preparation of herbal medicines was pounding (21.6%) and the most common route of administration was oral route (53.7%). The majority of the medications (60.3%) were prepared without the additive. Charcoal production was the major threat to medicinal plants in the study area.

**Conclusion:** Artuma Fursi district is rich in medicinal plant and the associated indigenous knowledge. The documented knowledge will be helpful for further research in the drug development process.

**Keywords:** Artuma Fursi, Ethnomedicinal, Indigenous knowledge, Herbal medicine, Human ailment

## Introduction

Indigenous people living in different parts of the world have accumulated their local knowledge of plant resources and their uses as herbal medicines for many centuries. In Ethiopia, indigenous people of different ethnic groups are particularly dependent on traditional medicinal plants for their health care due to their

effective medicinal value [1]. Traditional medicine refers to knowledge, skills, and practices based on theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, used for the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness [2]. It plays a significant role in the fulfillment of primary health care needs in developing countries. Medicinal plants which are the basis for traditional medicine provide valuable contributions in treating humans and animals ailments [3]. Herbal medicines are used all over the world and depend on locally existing and available plant resources, which are simply accessible, simple to use, and affordable [4].

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Medicinal plants are those that have active ingredients that help to relieve pain or heal ailments [5]. Due to the significant contributions of traditional practitioners, it has become well-known all across the world [6]. In developing countries, up to 80% of the population relies on medicinal plants for their primary healthcare needs [7]. Traditional medicinal plants are widely used in Ethiopia due to the inadequate coverage of the modern medical system, the scarcity of pharmaceuticals [8], the unaffordability of modern medicine [9], as well as the easy accessibility of traditional medicine.

Because of its long history, traditional medicine has become a vital part of the country's culture. Indigenous peoples in many parts of the country have created their own unique understanding of how to use, manage, and conserve plant resources [10]. It is well-known that traditional medicine knowledge is passed down orally from generation to generation, and that crucial information about the use of plants, such as the part used, mode of drug preparation, method of administration, diseases treated, and others, may be lost or discarded during this process [11].

Traditionally, plants were extraordinarily used in many societies, and are prevalent in African communities who lived in harmony with the natural resources for centuries without bringing any damaging effect on the survival of the biodiversity [12]. However, the survival and lifestyles of indigenous peoples and their long-term accumulated knowledge face challenges because of modernization, genetic erosion of plant and animal resources, low recognition of their knowledge and varied culture, and loss of biodiversity [13].

The current loss of medicinal plants in Ethiopia is due to natural and human-made factors, which are linked to the loss of vital indigenous knowledge of plants [14]. This has an impact on the long-term viability and continuation of traditional medicines, owing to the extinction of medicinal plant species [15]. On the other hand, the growth of contemporary education has exacerbated the loss of knowledge, causing younger generations to underestimate its traditional value. The people who attended modern schools are unwilling to learn from their parents, this is evidence of traditional wisdom steadily vanishing [16]. It is critical to document traditional medicinal plant applications to conserve traditional medicinal plant knowledge [17].

Communities in the Artuma Fursi district, like other communities in Ethiopia, are utilizing herbal medicines to treat both human and animal diseases, but there has not been any scientific research conducted to document the plant use knowledge of the local people to treat various human and livestock diseases. More ethnobotanical investigations are needed to document indigenous

medical knowledge in the country [18]. Hence, the current study focused on documenting traditional medicinal knowledge and recording the list of medicinal plants used to treat human and animal diseases in the Artuma Fursi district.

## Materials and methods

### Description of the study area

Artuma Fursi is a district of the Oromo Nation Administrative Zones in Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia's (Fig. 1). It lies 302 km northeast of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, and 525 km southeast of Bahir Dar, the region's capital. Its absolute coordinates are 10°30'30"–10°34'0"N and 39°55'0"–39°58'30"E and it is bordered on the South Jile, on the West North Shewa Zone, on North Dewe Harawa, and from the East by Afar region, its capital is Chefa Robit town. The district has all four climatic zones (arid, semi-arid, semi-humid, and humid). The highest rain fall received in summer and followed by spring. The mean annual rain fall is 1035 mm [19]. Based on the 2007 national census of Ethiopia; the district had a total population of 82,842, of whom 40,938 are men. The majority of the populations were living in the rural area (92.8) and Muslim (97.76%) [20]. There are 6 health centers and 25 health posts in the district.

### Ethnobotanical data collection

The ethnobotanical data were collected from March 2020 to July 2020. The techniques employed in collecting ethnobotanical data included a semi-structured interview, field observation, and guided field walks with informants to obtain medicinal plants of the locality.

Key informants were selected by purposive sampling technique, while the rest, respondents were selected by random sampling techniques.

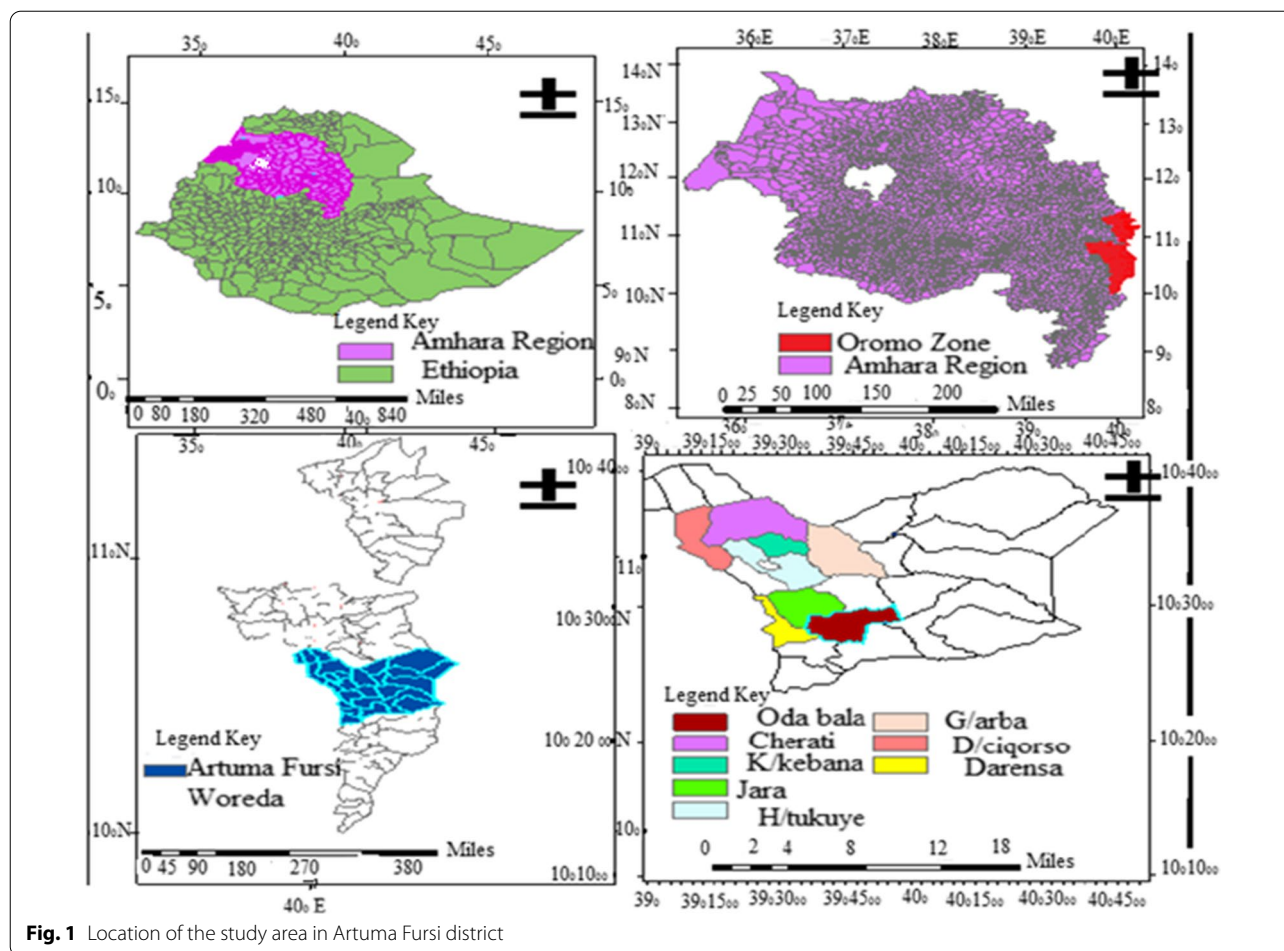
Information about the medicinal plant's local name, plant parts used methods of collecting and preparation, disease treated, the dosage used, route of administration, ingredients added, whether it is wild/cultivated were recorded during the study.

### Ethnobotanical data analysis

Ethnobotanical data gathered through semi-structured interviews and field observation, was analyzed using descriptive statistics; paired comparison, preference ranking, and informant consensus factor [10, 21, 22].

### Informant consensus factor (ICF)

An ICF was performed to establish the relative importance of each use directly from the degree of agreement among respondents. The disease categories were identified based on local explanations, causes of disease and symptoms treated, and the informant consensus factor was calculated



**Fig. 1** Location of the study area in Artuma Fursi district

for each disease category. The ICF was calculated as follows:  $ICF = (nur - ns) / (nur - 1)$ , where, ICF = informants consensus factor, nur = number of use citation in each category, ns = number of species used [23]. The factor provides a range of 0 to 1, where a high value acts as a good indicator for high rate of informant consensus.

**Preference ranking**

A preference ranking was conducted following G Martin [21]. When a variety of plant species are utilized to treat the same health problem, individuals prefer one over the other. Key informants were given the task of comparing the given medicinal plants based on their value, with the highest number (5) given to the medicinal plants they preferred to be the most effective in treating the selected disease and the lowest number (1) given to the medicinal plants they preferred to be the least effective in treating the selected disease.

**Paired comparison of medicinal plants**

A paired comparison was made for five medicinal plants used to treat stomach aches in the study area. Ten key

informants were allowed to give rank to these medicinal plant species based on their efficiency as follows: 1 = least, 2 = good, 3 = very good and 4 = excellent.

**Direct matrix ranking**

Direct matrix ranking was conducted following G Martin [21] and CM Cotton [10] in order to compare the versatile use of a given plant species based on the information gathered from informants. The multipurpose use of plant species includes such as use for food, medicine, firewood and charcoal. Six key informants were selected and ordered to assign use values to each of the attributes. Each chosen key informants was asked to assign use values (5 = best, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = less used, 1 = least used, and 0 = not fencing and furniture). The average score was summed up and ranked.

**Results**

**Information about respondents in the study area**

Information was collected from 86 respondents (70 males and 16 females) using a semi-structured interview, field observation, and guided field walks. The

respondents were sorted into three age groups: young (20–34), 16(18.6%); middle-aged (35–49), 28(32.55%); and elders (50–80), 42(48.83%). Out of this, the elders were dominant.

#### Medicinal plants in the Artuma Fursi district

A total of 92 traditional medicinal plant species were collected and identified for treating human and animal disorders. They were divided into 87 genera and 45 families. The Fabaceae family has contributed the most medicinal plant diversity (11.95%), followed by the Euphorbiaceae family 6 (6.52%) and two families Solanaceae and Rutaceae each represented 5(5.4%). The remaining families are placed according to the species they contain.

#### Medicinal Plants used for the therapeutics of different ailments

Among 92 plant species recognized from the study area, 74 (80.4%) species were used to cure human disease (Table 1), whereas, 10 (10.8%) species were used for animal ailments (Table 3) and 8 (8.69%) species were used for both human and animal (Table 4).

#### Ethnomedicinal plants used to treat human disease

A total of 82 medicinal plant species belonging to 80 genera and 37 families were collected and documented which are frequently used for treating only human ailments in Artuma Fursi District (Table 1). Among the above families, Fabaceae is the leading and contains the highest number of species 11 (13.4%), followed by Euphorbiaceae 6 (7.3%), Rutaceae 4 (4.87%), Solanaceae 4 (4.87%), Asteraceae 4 (4.87%). Three families including, Cucurbitaceae, Brassicaceae, and Oleaceae contain 3 species each.

#### Plant habitats and parts used to treat human ailments

Of all medicinal plants collected and identified, 43 plant species (52.4%), were from natural habitat, while 35 species (42.6%) were from home garden while 4 species (4.8%) were both natural habitat and home garden. The most commonly used plant parts were leaves 31 (32.29%), followed by seed 23 species (23.9%) and roots 11 species (11.4%) whereas 1 species (1.04%) was fruit and leaf (Fig. 2). The highest 41 species (50%) of the remedy were prepared from fresh plants while the remaining were in a dried 33 species (40.2%) and 8 species (9.7%) fresh or dried 8 species (9.7%).

#### Methods of remedy preparation in the study area

The highest method of medicinal plant preparation used to treat human disease was by pounding 21 species (21.9%) followed by crushing and squeezing 19 species (19.79%) and other forms of preparation are also indicated (Fig. 3).

#### Dosage and route of administration

The most-reported route of applications was oral, 65 species (53.12%) followed by topical, 34 species (27.2%), inhalation 9 (7.2%), nasal, 3 species (2.4%).

#### Additives or solvents

With regard to additives the majority of remedies, 54 species (56.25%) were prepared with no additives (Table 2).

#### Adverse side effects

The majority of the medicinal plant species were reported not to possess significant side effects at the administered doses, in which 78 species (81.25%) species with no adverse side effects were followed by 14 species (14.5%) pain, 2 species (2.08%) fever, 1 species (1.04%) frequent urine and 1 species (1.04%) diarrhea.

#### Ethnoveterinary medicinal plants in Artuma Fursi District

A total of 10 Ethnoveterinary medicinal plants species used to treat only animal disease (Table 3). These species belonging to 7 genera and 7 families were recorded in Artuma Fursi District. Family Euphorbiaceae was dominant contained 2(20%) followed by Agavaceae, Polygonaceae, Solanaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Acanteraceae and Moraceae each represented by single species 1(10%). Unlike that of human medicine traditional medicinal healers do not give equal weight for Ethnoveterinary remedy.

Growth form of most Ethnoveterinary medicinal plants were shrubs 6(60%) followed by herbs 3(30%) and least number of growth form used for the preparation of ethnoveterinary medicines are climbers 1(10%) in the district.

#### Medicinal plants used to Treat both Human and Livestock Ailments

8 (8.69%) of species were used for both human and animal. The species used to treat both human and livestock ailments are *Capparis tomentosa* Lam., *Carissa spinarum* L., *Cicer arietinum* L., *Clerodendrum myricoides* (Hochst.) Vatke. *Croton macrostachyus* Del. etc (Table 4). Table 4 shows the name of species, parts used, diseases treated, route of administration, application and dosage.

#### Informant consensus factor (ICF)

The study's findings revealed that diseases that are common in the study area have a higher level of informant consensus (ICF). A medicinal plant with a high ICF indicates the agreement among the informants in treating specific ailments and is well-known among community members (Table 5).

**Table 1** List of medicinal plants used to treat human ailment by Artuma Fursi district

| Scientific name                                  | Family        | Local name   | Plant parts used | Disease treated by plant | Route of administration | The way the plant used | How to prepare the medicines  |
|--|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>Acacia etbaica</i><br>Schweinf                | Fabaceae      | Girar        | R                | Evil eye                 | Nasal                   | Dry/fresh              | Water is added to the root after crashed. After then, a few drops of juice are inhaled                        |
|  |               |              | SB               | Wound                    | Topical                 | Dry                    | The stem bark is roasted, powdered, and sprayed over the wound  |
|  |               |              | R                | Diarrhea                 | Oral                    | Dry                    | One cup of powdered dried root with water is taken  |
| <i>Allium cepa</i> L                             | Liliaceae     | Keyshinkurt  | Bb               | Hypertension             | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The bulb is cut and macerated in water, filtered before being consumed  |
| <i>Allium sativum</i> L                          | Alliaceae     | Nechshinkurt | Bb               | Common cold              | Inhalation              | Fresh                  | The bulb is powdered and smelled  |
|  |               |              |                  | Malaria                  | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The bulb is crushed, combined with butter and pepper powder   |
| <i>Aloe macrocarpa</i> Tod                       | Aloaceae      | Wonde Eret   | L                | Impotency                | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The leaf is cut in to pieces and taken with leaf  |
|  |               |              |                  | Emaciation               | Topical                 |                        | The latex is combined with butter and placed on the penis, after which it is heated by the fire for many days |
| <i>Artemisia abyssinica</i><br>Sch.Bip. exA.Rich | Asteraceae    | Ariti        | L                | Stomach ache             | oral                    | Dry                    | The juice of the crushed leaves is combined with water or honey and taken orally                              |
| <i>Brassica carinata</i><br>A.Braun              | Brassicaceae  | Gomenzer     | SD               | Cancer                   | Topical                 | Dry                    | The seed is pounded and mixed with honey  |
| <i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L                        | Fabaceae      | Lewuz        | SD               | Cough                    | Oral                    | Dry                    | The dry seed is mashed and cooked in water  |
| <i>Brassica nigra</i> (L.)<br>Koch in Rohling    | Brassicaceae  | Senafich     | SD               | Stomach ache             | Oral                    | Dry                    | The decoction of the dried seeds and <i>Lepidium sativum</i> seeds prepared and taken                         |
| <i>Calpurnia aurea</i><br>(Aiton) Benth          | Fabaceae      | Digita       | L                | Body lice                | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The leaf is pounded and soaked in water, is used for bathing  |
|  |               |              |                  | Malaria                  | Oral                    |                        | The leaf is crushed and mixed with garlic leaf and rue fruit and soaked in water                              |
| <i>Capparis tomentosa</i><br>Lam                 | Capparidaceae | Gimero       | SB               | Epidemic                 | Inhalation              | Fresh                  | The bark is pounded and fumigated   |
|  |               |              | L                | Asthma                   | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Decoction is made from the leaves   |
| <i>Capsicum annum</i> L                          | Solanaceae    | Mitmita      | Fr               | Amoeba                   | Oral                    | Fresh/dry              | The fresh fruit or dry is added to food, meat and eaten   |

**Table 1** (continued)

| Scientific name   | Family  | Local name | Plant parts used | Disease treated by plant | Route of administration | The way the plant used | How to prepare the medicines  |
|---|---|------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>Carica papaya</i> L                                    | Caricaceae  | Papaya     | Fr               | Malaria                  | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The fruit is crushed and mixed with water   |
| <i>Carissa spinarum</i> L                                 | <b>Calotropis procera (Ait.) Ait.f.</b> [family Apocynaceae | Agam       | R                | Evil eye                 | Inhalation              | Dry                    | The dried root fumigated  |
|   |   |            | SD               | Eye infection            | Topical                 |                        | Mixed with the charcoal powder, fresh butter and water, and then applied to the affected part of the eye                                      |
| <i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) Ait.f                    | Asclepiadaceae  | Yeginkuas  | Lx               | Hemorrhoid               | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The latex is applied to the anus  |
| <i>Carum copticum</i> D.C                                 | Umbelliferae  | Nechazmud  | SD               | Stomach Discomfort       | Oral                    | Dry                    | Mixed with red pepper (to reduce hotness)   |
| <i>Cicer arietinum</i> L                                  | Fabaceae  | Shimbra    | Wh               | Malaria                  | Oral                    | Dry                    | The whole plant crushed, boiled and drunk   |
|   |   |            |                  | Leech                    | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Smashed, mixed in water and given for cattle  |
| <i>Citrus limon</i> (L.) Burm.F                           | Rutaceae  | Lomi       | F                | Hypertension             | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Fruit juice is mixed with tomato  |
| <i>Citrus aurantium</i> L                                 | Rutaceae  | Komtate    | F                | Amoeba                   | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The fruit is consumed in the morning for 10 days  |
| <i>Citrus medica</i> L                                    | Rutaceae  | Terengo    | L                | Pain attack              | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The leaves boiled and filtrate is drunk   |
| <i>Citrus aurantiaca</i> Swingle                          | Rutaceae  | Birtukan   | L                | Measles                  | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The leaf is mixed with seed of <i>Guizotia abyssinica</i> . Then the mixture is applied on the affected part of the body                      |
| <b>Clerodendrum myricoides</b> ((Hochst.) R. Br. ex Vatke | Lamiaceae   | Misrich    | F&L              | Malaria                  | Oral                    | Dry                    | The leaf and fruits, bulb of garlic, fruits and leaf of rue are mixed powdered and soaked in honey for one day and one glass per day is taken |
|   |   |            | L                | Vomiting                 |                         | Fresh                  | Five leaves is crushed, pressed, and drank after being beaten with water  |
|   |   |            | R                | Constipation             |                         |                        | Crushed and pounded and then given orally   |
| <i>Clematis hirsute</i> Guill. & Perr                     | Ranunculaceae   | Azohareg   | L                | Leishmaniasis            | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The leaf is pounded, and applied on the affected area with salt   |
|   |   |            | R                | Hemorrhoid               |                         |                        | After pounding and roasting; it is applied on the affected area   |
| <i>Coffea arabica</i> L                                   | Rubiaceae   | Buna       | F                | wound                    | Topical                 | Dry                    | The roasted powder is applied to the wound  |
|   |   |            | SD               | diarrhea                 | Oral                    | Dry                    | The powder is mixed with honey and eaten  |

**Table 1** (continued)

| Scientific name                        | Family        | Local name    | Plant parts used | Disease treated by plant | Route of administration | The way the plant used | How to prepare the medicines   |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <i>Combretum collinum</i><br>Fresen    | Combretaceae  | Woyba         | SB               | lower back pain          | Topical                 | Fresh                  | Powdered fresh stem bark is applied on the place of pain   |
|  |               |               |                  | Cosmetics                |                         |                        | The fresh stem bark put in fire; fumigated to the whole body part                                  |
| <i>Combretum molle</i><br>R.Br.exG.Don | Combteraceae  | Abalo         | SD               | Measles (Chiffe)         | Topical                 | Dry                    | Its seed is crushed powdered and mixed with butter and applied on the affected part until recovery |
| <i>Cordia africana</i> Lam             | Boraginaceae  | Wanza         | SB               | Jaundices                | Oral                    | Dry                    | The stem bark is pounded before being boiled in milk. One glass is given orally                    |
|  |               |               |                  | Urinary incontinence     |                         |                        | Pounded dry seed is combined with water. One cup is given per day                                  |
|  |               |               | Lx               | Gastritis                |                         | Fresh                  | The latex is given on an empty stomach   |
|  |               |               | SB               | Leg Wound                | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The stem bark is heated and placed to the wound  |
| <i>Croton macrostachyus</i> Del        | Euphorbiaceae | Bisana        | L                | Ring worm                | Oral<br>Topical         | Fresh                  | Prepare the juice in water and apply it to the affected area of the body                           |
|  |               |               |                  | Wound                    |                         | Dry                    | The shot powder is combined with butter and applied  |
|  |               |               | SB               | Malaria                  | Oral                    | Dry                    | One glass of powdered skin bark mixed with honey is consumed orally                                |
|  |               |               | LX               | To stop bleeding         | Topical                 | Dry                    | Squeeze and tie on the area  |
| <i>Cucumis ficilolious</i><br>A.Rich   | Cucurbitaceae | Yemidirembuay | R                | Wound                    | Topical                 | Fresh                  | Applied to the wound   |
|  |               |               |                  | Diarrhea                 | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The root is crushed and mixed with water before being allowed to drink                             |
| <i>Cucurbita pepo</i> L                | Cucurbitaceae | Duba          | SD               | Tape worm                | Oral                    | Dry                    | It is used to treat tape worm in women who are pregnant. The seeds will be eaten                   |
| <i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.)      | Fabaceae      | Ader          | SB               | Scorpion bite            | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The crushed fresh stem bark is applied to the afflicted area                                       |
| <i>Datura stramonium</i> L             | Solanaceae    | Astefaris     | L                | Baldness                 | Topical                 | Fresh                  | After pounding and squeezing the leaves, it is applied to the Scalp                                |
|  |               |               |                  | Tooth ache               | Oral                    | Fresh/dry              | The seed is ignited, and the resulting smoke is inhaled  |

**Table 1** (continued)

| Scientific name                           | Family         | Local name | Plant parts used | Disease treated by plant | Route of administration | The way the plant used | How to prepare the medicines   |
|---|----------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <i>Dodonaea angustifolia</i> L.f          | Sapindaceae    | Kitkita    | L                | Bone Fracture            | Topical                 | Dry                    | The leaf is crushed, powdered, combined with butter, and applied to the wound as a cream                                       |
|   |                |            |                  | Wound                    |                         |                        | The leaf is chopped, powdered, and combined with butter, administered to the affected area                                     |
|   |                |            |                  | Dysentery                |                         |                        | Fresh  |
| <i>Dovyalis abyssinica</i> (A.Rich.) Warb | Flacourtiaceae | Koshim     | S                | Joint pain               | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The seed is pounded and combined with <i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> latex. The mixture is then tied around the injured leg        |
| <i>Echinops kebericho</i> M               | Asteraceae     | kebercho   | R                | Evil eye                 | Inhalation              | Dry                    | The dried root is crushed; put in fire and the smoke is inhaled  |
| <i>Ehretia cymosa</i> Thonn               | Boraginaceae   | Wulaga     | L                | Leech                    | Nasal                   | Fresh                  | The fresh leaf is pounded, squeezed then applied nasally   |
|   |                |            |                  | Toothache                | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The leaves of <i>Psidium guajava</i> and <i>Calpurnia aurea</i> are crushed and mixed with the leaves of <i>Ehretia cymosa</i> |
| <i>Euclea racemose</i> (DC) Dandy         | Ebenaceae      | Dedeho     | SB               | Tooth ache               | Oral                    | fresh                  | For a while, biting the stem bark between my teeth   |
|   |                |            | L                | Tape worm                |                         |                        | Crushed and combined with water, decanted before being consumed  |
| <i>Euphorbia tirucali</i> L               | Euphorbiaceae  | Kinchib    | LX               | Hemorrhoid               | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The latex is applied on the affected part  |
| <i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i> L           | Euphorbiaceae  | Anterfa    | L                | Leshmaniasis             | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The latex is applied on the affected part  |
| <i>Lantana camara</i> L                   | Verbenaceae    | Eregnakolo | L                | To stop bleeding         | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The leaf is pounded and tied around the area of the body that is bleeding  |
| <i>Ficus sur</i> Forssk                   | Moraceae       | Sholla     | F                | Itching                  | Topical                 | Fresh                  | A mixture of ripe fruit juice and butter is applied on the body  |
|   |                |            | F                | Heart disease            | Oral                    |                        | The Boiled fruit eaten continuously  |
| <i>Ficus vasta</i> Forssk                 | Moraceae       | Warka      | SB               | Eczema                   | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The infusion of the bark is administered to the afflicted area   |



**Table 1** (continued)

| Scientific name                             | Family        | Local name | Plant parts used | Disease treated by plant | Route of administration | The way the plant used | How to prepare the medicines  |
|---|---------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>Guizotia abyssinica</i> (L.F)Cassi       | Asteraceae    | Nug        | SD               | Cough                    | Oral                    | Dry                    | The dried seed is pounded, and mixed with sugar or honey and drunk  |
| <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L                    | Poaceae       | Gebis      | SD               | Diarrhea                 | Oral                    | Dry                    | Seeds are immersed in water and allowed to germinate before being dried, roasted, and pulverized. The powder is then heated in water and drunk till the pain subsides |
| <i>Helianthus annus</i> L                   | Compositae    | Suf        | SD               | Cough                    | Oral                    | Dry                    | The seed is pounded and boiled. Then drunk orally   |
| <i>Impatiens tinctoria</i> Hook.f           | Balsaminaceae | Ensofila   | Rh               | Rheumatism               | Topical                 | Fresh                  | Crushed and roasted rhizomes are administered to the affected area  |
| <i>Jasminum grandiflorum</i> L              | Oliaceae      | Tembelel   | L                | Tape worm                | Oral                    | Dry                    | One spoon full fine powder is mixed with water and then drunk per day until you get relieve   |
| <i>Kalanche petitiaria</i> A.Rich           | Crassulaceae  | Endahula   | L                | Bugunji                  | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The leaf is pressed with water and put on the swollen skin  |
|   |               |            | R                | Tonsillitis              | Oral                    |                        | The root is crushed and pressed with water and a cup is drunk   |
|   |               |            |                  | Wound                    | Topical                 | Fresh                  | Placed on fire and tied on affected site  |
|   |               |            |                  | Ascariasis               | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Squeezed and drunk half cup   |
| <i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Mollina) Standl | Cucurbitaceae | Qil        | L                | Ear infection            | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The ear is irrigated with the water from the leaf   |
| <i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L                   | Lythraceae    | Hina       | L                | Dandruff                 | Topical                 | Dry                    | The leaf is mashed and combined with water then applied   |
| <i>Lens culinaris</i> Medik                 | Fabaceae      | Misir      | SD               | Cough                    | Oral                    | Dry                    | Dried seed and leaf of decoction is given orally  |
| <i>Lepidium sativum</i> L                   | Brassicaceae  | Feto       | SD               | Dysentery                | Oral                    | Dry                    | The seed is pounded, mixed with yoghurt; shaken well and drunk  |
| <i>Linumu sitatissimum</i> L                | Lineaceae     | Telba      | SD               | Wound                    | Topical                 | Dry                    | The seed is mashed, mixed with honey, and applied to the wound as a bandage   |
| <i>Lippia adoensis</i> Hochst. ExWalp       | Verbenaceae   | Kesse      | L                | Eczema, fungal infection | Oral                    | Fresh                  | fresh leaf juice mixed with a small amount of water   |
|   |               |            |                  | Common cold              | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Fresh leaf is pound, diluted with water and given orally  |

**Table 1** (continued)

| Scientific name                          | Family        | Local name  | Plant parts used | Disease treated by plant | Route of administration | The way the plant used | How to prepare the medicines  |
|--|---------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> Mill      | Solanaceae    | Timatim     | Fr               | Heart disease            | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The fresh tomato is eaten occasionally in the morning   |
| <i>Melia azedarach</i> L                 | Meliaceae     | Mim         | L                | Abortion                 | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Squeezed and drunk  |
|  |               |             |                  | Malaria                  | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Squeezed and drunk a cup  |
| <i>Musa X paradisiac</i> L               | Musaceae      | Muz         | Fr               | Headache                 | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The fruit's skin is pilled and tied around the skull  |
| <i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam              | Moringaceae   | Shiferaw    | L                | hypertension             | Oral                    | Dermal                 | Crushed, powdered leaves are combined with heated water   |
| <i>Myrtus communis</i> L                 | Myrtaceae     | Ades        | L                | Stomach ache             | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Chewing and taking the sap  |
|  |               |             |                  | Scabies                  | Topical                 | Dry                    | A dry powder is combined with butter and applied on affected area                                   |
| <i>Nigella sativa</i> L                  | Ranunculaceae | Tikur-azmud | SD               | Headache                 | Inhalation              | Dry                    | The seeds are wrapped in a clean piece of cloth and sniffed after being combined with melted butter |
| <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L                | Lamiaceae     | Zikakibei   | L                | Headache                 | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Fresh leaf juice is given orally  |
|  |               |             |                  | Malaria                  |                         |                        | Fresh juice is given orally   |
|  |               |             |                  | Stomach ache             |                         |                        | Fresh leaf is given for chewing and swallowed   |
| <i>Ocimum lamiifolium</i> Hochst.exBenth | Lamiaceae     | Demakesse   | L                | Sunstrike                | Oral                    | Fresh                  | One cup of the leaf is given orally after it has been pressed with water                            |
|  |               |             |                  | Head ache                | Inhalation              |                        | The leaf is boiled and inhaled  |
|  |               |             |                  | Fibril illness           | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The leaf is squeezed, bathed with it  |
| <i>Olea europaea</i> sub-spp cupsidata L | Oleaceae      | Woyra       | L                | Common cold              | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Squeezed and drunk  |
|  |               |             |                  | Eye irritation           | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The leaf is crushed and pressed with water and applied to the eye                                   |
|  |               |             |                  | Headache                 | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The oil mixed with powdered <i>Echinops kebericho</i> and placed on head                            |
|  |               |             | Lx               | Asthma                   | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The oil mixed with honey and 1/2 coffee cup is taken  |
| <i>Pisum sativum</i> L                   | Fabceae       | Ater        | SD               | Bugunji(Boils)           | Dermal                  | Dry                    | The seed is pounded and placed on the wound until disappearance of the swelling                     |
| <i>Psidium guajava</i> L                 | Myrtaceae     | Zeytune     | F                | Dysentery                | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Amoebic dysentery can be treated using the fruit  |

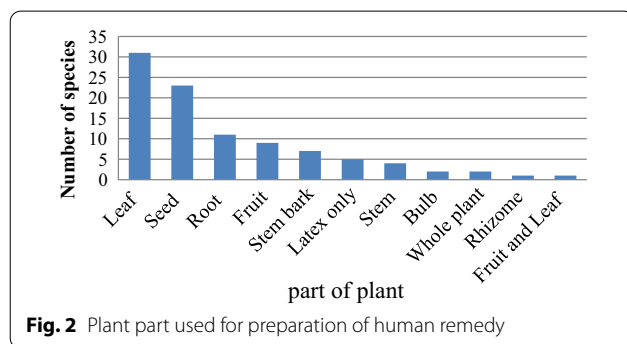
**Table 1** (continued)

| Scientific name                                       | Family        | Local name    | Plant parts used | Disease treated by plant | Route of administration | The way the plant used | How to prepare the medicines  |
|---|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>Podcarpus falcatus</i> (Thunb.) Endl               | Podocarpaceae | Zigba         | L                | Epilepsy                 | Inhalation              | fresh                  | The dry part of the leaf is fumigated after it has been crushed into smaller bits                                   |
| <i>Rhamnus prinoides</i> L'Herit                      | Rhamnaceae    | Gesho         | L                | Scabies                  | Topical                 | Dry                    | The damaged skin is treated with a mixture of powdered leaves and butter  |
|   |               |               |                  | Tonsillitis              | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The fluid is swallowed once the leaf is chewed  |
| <i>Rumex nervosus</i> Vahl                            | Polygonaceae  | Embacho       | L                | Eye disease              | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The eye lash is sprayed with the juice collected from the leaf  |
|   |               |               |                  | Circumcision             | Dry                     |                        | The leaf extract is combined with warmed butter and applied to the wound  |
| <i>Ruta chalepensis</i> L                             | Rutaceae      | Tenadam       | ST               | Common cold              | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The leafy branch is steeped in coffee and consumed  |
|   |               |               |                  | Malaria                  |                         |                        | The branch is boiled with zinger and garlic and then consumed on a daily basis                                      |
| <i>Saccharum officinarum</i> L                        | Poaceae       | Shenkoraageda | ST               | Gastritis                | Oral                    | Fresh                  | Chewing in the mouth the swallowing the juices  |
| <i>Schinus molle</i> L                                | Anacardiaceae | Kundoberberie | Fr               | Jaundices                | Oral                    | Dry                    | The fruit crushed and soaked with milk. One glass is taken daily with <i>Solanum nigrum</i> fruit                   |
| <i>Senna didymobotrya</i> (Fresen.) H.S.Irwin&Barneby | Fabaceae      | Yeferenjdgta  | SD               | Diarrhea                 | Oral                    | Dry/fresh              | The seed is crushed and roasted, then drunk with coffee   |
| <i>Sida schimperiana</i> Hochst.exA.Rich              | Malvaceae     | Chifrig       | L                | Eye defect               | Topical                 | Fresh                  | After combining the leaf with water and squeezing it, the juice is administered as a drop till the patient recovers |
| <i>Sesamum indicum</i> L                              | Pedaliaceae   | Selit         | SD               | Deafness                 | Topical                 | Dry                    | The seed is combined with <i>Guizotia abyssinica</i> seed, pounded, and a small amount of water is added            |
| <i>Solanum incanum</i> L                              | Solanaceae    | Enbuay        | R                | Swelling                 | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The root is mashed, then combined with honey and wrapped in fabric around the diseased area of the body             |
|   |               |               |                  | Abdominal pain           | Oral                    |                        | The fluid is swallowed after chewing the root   |
|   |               |               |                  | Tonsillitis              | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The seed are squeezed and taken orally  |
|   |               |               |                  | Stomach ache             | Oral                    | Fresh                  | The root is chewed and swallowed  |

**Table 1** (continued)

| Scientific name                      | Family        | Local name | Plant parts used | Disease treated by plant  | Route of administration | The way the plant used | How to prepare the medicines  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>Tragia cinerea</i> (Pax) Radel    | Euphorbiaceae | Aleblabit  | R                | Evil eye                  | Inhalation              | Dry/ fresh             | Inhale smoke from a dried or fresh root that has been placed on a fire                    |
| <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L   | Fabaceae      | Abish      | SD               | Varicose vein             | Oral                    | Dry                    | The seed is pulverized, combined with honey, and thoroughly shaken. It is eaten regularly |
| <i>Vicia faba</i> L                  | Fabaceae      | Bakela     | SD               | Swell                     | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The seed is spat on the affected area after being crushed by the teeth                    |
| <i>Ximenia caffra</i> Sond           | Olaaceae      | Enkoy      | SB               | Herpeszoster <sup>a</sup> | Topical                 | Dry                    | Butter is used to apply the powdered bark to the affected area                            |
| <i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe    | Zingiberaceae | Zinjible   | Rh               | Stomach ache              | Oral                    | Dry/fresh              | The bark is peeled off, diced, chewed, and the liquid ingested                            |
| <i>Zizipus spina-christi</i> L. Desf | (Rhamnaceae)  | Kurkura    | L                | Dandruff                  | Topical                 | Fresh                  | The leaf is chopped and the scalp is washed by mixing with water                          |

R root, L leaf, SB stem bark, Fr fruit, SD seed, Sh shoot, St stem, Wh whole plant, Br branches, Rh rhizome, Bu bulb, Lx latex



**Preference ranking**

The preference ranking was conducted for medicinal plants used for treatment of malaria. According to the respondents rank, *Allium sativum* was ranked first and *Clerodendrum myricoides* was ranked second (Table 6).

**Direct matrix ranking for multiple uses of medicinal plants**

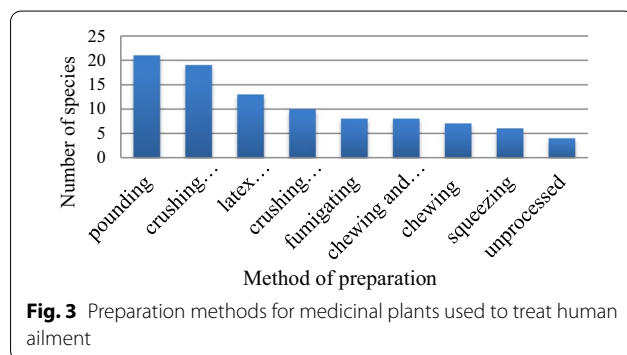
Standard score for direct matrix ranking of six medicinal plants using a range of values from 0 to 5. 5 equals excellent, 4 equals very good, 3 equals good, 2 equals less, 1 equals least, and 0 equals not advantageous (Table 7).

**Paired comparison on medicinal plants**

The paired comparison test was conducted for medicinal plants used for treatment of stomach ache. *Ocimum basilicum* was chosen first, followed by *Zingiber officinale*, *Brassica nigra*, *Artemisia abyssinica*, and *Myrtus communis* (Table 8).

**Threats to medicinal plants in the study area**

Man-made factors that influenced the medicinal plants in the area were charcoal, farming expansion, using trees for firewood, overgrazing, construction, and drought. The factors were ranked according to their degree of harm. Ten respondents were chosen to provide 5 of the



**Table 2** Additives or solvents used for human remedial preparations in Artuma Fursi district

| Additives   | Number of species | Percentage (%) |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| No additive | 54                | 56.25          |
| Water       | 23                | 23.9           |
| Coffee      | 9                 | 9.37           |
| Butter      | 7                 | 7.29           |
| Honey       | 3                 | 3.12           |

most threatening factors and one of the least threatening. Therefore, charcoal was the most threatening factor, scoring 45, and the least threats to medicinal as supposed by informants were grazing, scoring 30 grading of main threats to TMP(R1–R10= Respondents 1–10 and Values 1–5: 1 is the least destructive threat, and 5 is the most destructive one (Table 9).

## Discussion

Elders whose age ranged from 50 up to 80 years were knowledgeable respondents about medicinal plants because of many years of experience about plants than the other age classes, while young ones do not have the attention to understand the medicinal value of plants. In other similar studies conducted by [16, 17, 24] it was also reported that elders were the source of knowledge about medicinal plants. The majority of informants who participated in the interview do not read and write. This indicates that modern education has a greater impact on the loss of knowledge of medicinal plants. When someone gets a modern education they give less weight to traditional medicinal knowledge and they think about its side effects [25]. The majority of males (80.2%) are more knowledgeable than females (19.8%) which could be related to the country's traditional information transmission via the male line [26–28].

Fabaceae have contributed the highest medicinal plant diversity. This result is in line with that of [11, 29], who reported that Fabaceae is the leading family of plants that are used as medicinal plants. Fabaceae is one of the largest families which contributes medicinally important chemical components such as flavonoids, alkaloids, and coumarins [30]. Among the total of 81 species of ethnobotanical plants used to treat human disease and 11 species for animal disease herbs were prevalent, which accounts for 36 species (43.9%). The result was also similar with Megersa et al., kebede et al. and Tilahun et al. [11, 31, 32], who reported herbs as dominant growth form followed by shrubs and trees. However, this result is contrary to that of Alemayehu, Z Asfaw and E Kelbessa [33] who reported shrubs as the most used growth form in the preparation of remedies.

Most people, including herbalists in the study area, do not cultivate medicinal plants to keep their use confidential. In this regard, the finding was similar to that of A Kebede, S Ayalew, A Mesfin and G Mulualem [31] who conducted research in Dire Dawa city. A Tadesse, B Kagne, F Kebede and M Kebede [34], also previously reported that most medicinal plants are mainly collected from wild habitats. The study was also greatly supported by the result of EL Molla [35] in which wild habitats were found to be a major source of traditional medicinal plants. In addition to this, scientific studies partly support the wild collection. The secondary metabolites are responsible for the medicinal value of plants, which need their natural environment under particular conditions of stress and competition that would not be expressed under cultivated conditions.

The plant parts most commonly used were leaves 31 (32.29%) and seed 23(23.9%). This research backs up the findings of Kebede et al. and Gebeyehu et al. [29, 31], who found that leaves were the most often used plant parts for making medicine treat human diseases. According to A Tadesse, B Kagne, F Kebede and M Kebede [34]; M Giday and G Ameni [36] and F Mesfin, S Demissew and T Teklehaymanot [24], leaves were also the most commonly used plant parts followed by roots and seeds. The leaves are active in the process of metabolism and can be easily collected [37]. A highest 41 (50%) number of remedies were prepared from fresh plants and this finding agrees with the study conducted by Tadesse et al., Molla et al., Getaneh et al. [34, 35, 38], in which fresh preparation was greatly utilized for remedy preparation and these have active secondary metabolites significant for the treatment of disease rather than using dried forms of preparation.

The pounding was the highest method of medicinal plant preparation used to treat the human ailments. The pounding was a better way of preparation and no need for extra material to extract the active substances. The study was similar to the results of Tadesse et al. [34], who mentioned pounding as the major method of remedy preparation. The dosages of administration for human ailments in the area were different in terms of age, performance, and other criteria. The dosages were determined by using different local measurements such as cups, glasses, for liquid dosage forms, spoons for powder dosage forms, and fruits in number. A similar study conducted by Gebeyehu et al. and Molla et al. [29, 35] showed medicinal plants do not have an absolute dosage. The oral administration was the most popular and widely utilized mode of administration, followed by cutaneous (dermal) administration. A study conducted by Alemayehu et al. [33], in Minjar Shenkora district, also reported that the most commonly used route of administration was orally followed by dermal application. Oral

**Table 3** List of ethnoveterinary plants used to treat animal ailments in the study area

| Scientific name (family name)                 | Family        | Local name | Part | Disease treated | Root of administration | The way the plant used | Way of preparation   |
|---|---------------|------------|------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <i>Arundo donax</i> (Hudson) Link             | Poaceae       | Shembeko   | St   | Bone fracture   | Topical                | Dry/fresh              | Dried or fresh stem is applied through the affected organ and tilled   |
| <i>Rumex nepalensis</i> Spreng                | Polygonaceae  | Tult       | R    | Loss of weight  | Oral                   | Fresh                  | Crushed and then given to skinned cattle   |
| <i>Ricinus communis</i> L                     | Euphorbiaceae | Gulo       | R    | Sudden sickness | Oral                   | Fresh                  | The root pounded and mixed with cold water   |
| <i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L                    | Solanaceae    | Tinbaho    | L    | Leech           | Oral                   | Fresh                  | The pounded leaf mixed with water, then given to drink   |
| <i>Agave sisalana</i> Perrine ex Engel        | Agavaceae     | Kacha      | LX   | Leech           | Nasal                  | Fresh                  | Its latex is mixed with the pounded leaf of <i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i> , then the fluid is filtered and given to the cattle through nose |
| <i>Maytenus arbutifolia</i> (A.Rich.) Wilezek | Celastraceae  | Atat       | L    | Parasites       | Oral                   | Fresh                  | Leaf decoctions are used to treat external parasites in both domestic and wild animals   |
| <i>Iusticia schimperi</i> Hochst. ex.Nees     | Acanthaceae   | Sensel     | Wh   | Laxative        | Oral                   | Dry                    | The entire plant is crushed, pounded, and then combined with water before being consumed   |
| <i>Gossypium borbadense</i> L                 | Malvaceae     | Tit        | L    | Diarrhea        | Oral                   | Fresh                  | Powdered and mixed with water and given to drunk   |
| <i>Euphorbia abyssinica</i> Gmel              | Euphorbiaceae | Kulkual    | LX   | Rinderpest      | Inhalation             | Dry                    | Fumigating the affected cattle   |
| <i>Ficus carica</i> L                         | Moraceae      | Beles      | L    | Tail sore       | Topical                | Fresh                  | Latex of the plant applied on the tail sore /wound/ formed after operation   |
| <i>Ficus vasta</i> Forssk                     | Moraceae      | Warka      |      | Loss of weight  | Oral                   | Fresh                  | The leaf is crushed and boiled before being fed to skinned cattle  |

R root, L leaf, SB stem bark, Fr fruit, SD seed, Sh shoot, St stem, Wh whole plant, Br branches, Rh rhizome, Bu bulb, Lx latex

route of administration is the simplest and continent route which could be used easily by traditional healer.

The majority of remedies 54 (56.25%) were prepared with no additives. This aligns with the study conducted by Mesfin et al. [39] in Gemad district. However, Getaneh et al. [38] documented the usage of additions such as butter and edible oil for wound and skin illness, as well as coffee, honey, and local beverages like Tela and Areke for plants with a bitter flavor.

The majority of human remedy preparations were harmless, in which 78 (81.25%) species with no adverse side effects. This study shows that most of the traditional medicines prepared by herbalists are free from adverse side effects, so that anyone can take the prepared medications without frustration [40]. But some other medicinal preparation have side effects like pain, frequent urine, fever, and diarrhea. For example, the leaf of *Clematis*

**Table 4** List of traditional medicinal plants used to treat both human and animal ailment

| Scientific name                 | Family        | Local name | Habit | Collection code | Source | Part | Used for | Diseas treated | RA  | Cp | Way of preparation   |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|-------|-----------------|--------|------|----------|----------------|-----|----|--|
| <i>Capparis tomentosa</i> Lamé. | Capparidaceae | Gimero     | S     | MY 10           | W      | SB   | Ca       | Epidemic       | O/N | F  | The bark is crushed and placed on the red hot charcoal and used to fumigate smokes                       |
|                                 |               |            |       |                 | L      | R    | HU       | Asthma         | O   |    | Decoction of the leaves is used for the treatment of asthma.   |
| <i>Carissa spinarum</i> L.      | Apocynaceae   | Agam       | S     | MY 13           | W      | R    | HU       | Evil eye       | N   | D  | Fugmenting smoke of dried root   |
|                                 |               |            |       |                 |        | SD   | Ca       | Eye infection  | E   |    | The charcoal powder is mixed with fresh butter and water, and then stained the affected part of the eye. |
| <i>Cicer arietinum</i> L.       | Fabaceae      | Shimbria   | H     | MY 17           | HO     | Wh   | HU       | Malaria        | O   | D  | Powderd boiled and drunk   |
|                                 |               |            |       |                 | SD     |      | Ca       | Leech          | O   | F  | Smashed, mixed in water and given for cattle   |

**Table 4** (continued)

| Scientific name                                 | Family    | Local name | Habit | Collection code | Source | Part  | Used for | Diseas treated | RA | Cp | Way of preparation   |
|---|-----------|------------|-------|-----------------|--------|-------|----------|----------------|----|----|--|
| <i>Clerodendrum myricoides</i> (Hochst.) Vatke. | Lamiaceae | Misrich    | S     | MY 22           | HO&W   | F & L | HU       | Malaria        | O  | D  | The leaf and fruits, bulb of garlic, fruits and leaf of rue are mixed powdered and soaked in honey for one day one glass |
|   |           |            |       |                 |        | L     | HU       | Vomiting       |    | F  | Five leaves pound with water and crushed, squeezed drunk   |
|   |           |            |       |                 |        | R     | Ca       | Consepstion    |    |    | Crushed and pounded and then given orally  |
|   |           |            |       |                 |        | R     | HU       | Evil eye       | O  | F  | Squeeze and drink orally   |
|   |           |            |       |                 |        | SB    | HU       | Wound leg      | O  | F  | Heat on fire and put on the wound  |



**Table 4** (continued)

| Scientific name                  | Family        | Local name | Habit | Collection code | Source | Part | Used for | Diseases treated | RA | Cp | Way of preparation  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------|-------|-----------------|--------|------|----------|------------------|----|----|---|
| <i>Croton macrostachyus</i> Del. | Euphorbiaceae | Bisana     | T     | MY 28           | W      | L    | HU       | Ring worm        | DM | F  | The shoot is crushed and squeezed in water then directly dropping the juices on injured part. |
|                                  |               |            |       |                 |        | L    | HU       | Cut              |    | D  | The shoot is crushed, powdered and mixed with butter and creamed injured parts                |
|                                  |               |            |       |                 |        | SB   | HU       | Malaria          | O  | D  | The steam bark is crushed, powdered soaked in honey and one glass is taken orally             |
|                                  |               |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Blood clot       | DM | D  | Squeeze and tie on the area   |
|                                  |               |            |       |                 |        | LX   | Ca       | Wound            | DM | F  | Paint the wound area  |

**Table 4** (continued)

| Scientific name                   | Family       | Local name | Habit | Collection code | Source | Part | Used for | Diseases treated | RA | Cp | Way of preparation  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------|-----------------|--------|------|----------|------------------|----|----|---|
| <i>Dodonaea angustifolia</i> L.f. | Sapindaceae  | Kitikita   | S     | MY 33           | W      | L    | CA       | Bone fracture    | D  | D  | The leaf is crushed, powdered, mixed with butter and creamed the wound or affected part   |
|                                   |              |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Wound            |    |    | The leaf is crushed, powdered, mixed with butter and creamed the wound  |
|                                   |              |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Dysentery        | O  | F  | The leaf is crushed, soaked in water with sugar, decanted and one can is taken orally.  |
|                                   |              |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Malaria          |    | D  | The leaf and fruits mixed with one fourth of bulb of garlic, fruits and leaf of rue powdered, soaked in honey and one glass daily |
| <i>Ehretia cymosa</i> Thonn       | Boraginaceae | 5Wulaga7   | T     | MY 36           | W      | L    | Ca       | Leech            | N  | F  | The fresh leaves of <i>Ehretia cymosa</i> is pounded, squeezed then applied nasally   |
|                                   |              |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Toothache        | O  | F  | Crushed and put with leaves of <i>Calpurnia aurea</i>   |

Table 4 (continued)

| Scientific name              | Family   | Local name | Habit | Collection code | Source | Part | Used for | Diseases treated   | RA | Cp | Way of preparation  |
|------------------------------|----------|------------|-------|-----------------|--------|------|----------|--------------------|----|----|---|
| <i>Ficus vasta</i><br>Forsk. | Moraceae | Warika     | T     | MY 42           | W      | L    | Ca       | Loss of weight     | O  | F  | The leaf is crushed, boiled and given for skinned cattle  |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        | SB   | HU       | Eczema             | D  |    | The infusion of the bark is applied on the affected part  |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        | L    | HU       | Wound              | DM | F  | Placed on fire and attach on affected site  |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Ascaris            | O  | F  | Squeezed and drink half cup amount  |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | <b>Common cold</b> |    |    | Fresh leaf pound is diluted with water and given orally   |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | <b>Common cold</b> | O  | F  | Squeezed and drink in cup   |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Malaria            | O  |    | The branches are boiled with rhizome of zinger and bulbs of garlic in the tea and one cup is taken continuously |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Abdominal pain     | O  |    | The root is chewed and the fluid is swallowed   |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | Tonsillitis        | O  | F  | The seed are squeezed taken orally  |
|                              |          |            |       |                 |        |      | HU       | <b>Stomachache</b> | O  | F  | Chew and swallow  |

S shrub, T tree, H herb, C climber, R root, L leaf, SB stem bark, Fr fruit, SD seed, Sh shoot, St stem, Wh whole plant, Br branches, Rh rhizome, Bu bulb, Lx latex, Uf used for, Hu human, Ca cattle, Ra route of administration, O oral, D dermal, N nasal, E eye, Er ear, An anal, Cp condition of plant used, F fresh, D dry, D/F dry or fresh

**Table 5** ICF of the given diseases category

| Type of diseases   | Ns | Nur | ICF  |
|--|----|-----|------|
| Parasite, worm and gastro-intestinal disease                         | 22 | 143 | 0.85 |
| Dermatological problems  | 19 | 104 | 0.82 |
| Swelling, hemorrhoids  | 17 | 37  | 0.55 |
| Respiratory diseases   | 12 | 43  | 0.73 |
| Insect bite and physical damages                                     | 7  | 18  | 0.64 |
| Internal disease diabetes, hypertension and headache                 | 16 | 50  | 0.69 |
| Livestock diseases   | 19 | 57  | 0.67 |
| Organ diseases ear, eye, heart                                       | 8  | 27  | 0.73 |
| Genitourinary problems—gonorrhoea and impotency, urine flow at night | 5  | 7   | 0.33 |
| Evil eye and sun strike  | 6  | 22  | 0.76 |
| Problem of joint and bone  | 5  | 9   | 0.55 |

Ns number of species, Nur number of use report

**Table 6** Preference ranking of medicinal plants used for treating malaria

| Name of species                | Respondents (R1–R7) |    |    |    |    |    |    | Score | Rank |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|------|
|                                | R1                  | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 |       |      |
| <i>Calpurnia aurea</i>         | 3                   | 2  | 3  | 4  | 2  | 4  | 2  | 20    | 4th  |
| <i>Carica papaya</i>           | 5                   | 3  | 3  | 2  | 4  | 2  | 3  | 22    | 5th  |
| <i>Croton macrostachyus</i>    | 4                   | 4  | 3  | 3  | 4  | 3  | 3  | 24    | 3rd  |
| <i>Allium sativum</i>          | 4                   | 4  | 5  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 5  | 30    | 1st  |
| <i>Ocimum basilicum</i>        | 2                   | 2  | 3  | 3  | 3  | 3  | 2  | 18    | 6th  |
| <i>Clerodendrum myricoides</i> | 5                   | 3  | 4  | 3  | 4  | 3  | 2  | 25    | 2nd  |

**Table 7** Standard score for direct matrix ranking of medicinal plants with use diversity

| Major uses   | Medicinal plants         |                        |                  |                             |                      |                      |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|              | <i>Acacia abyssinica</i> | <i>Cordia africana</i> | <i>Ficus sur</i> | <i>Croton macrostachyus</i> | <i>Olea europaea</i> | <i>Schinus molle</i> |
| Firewood     | 5                        | 4                      | 4                | 3                           | 5                    | 5                    |
| Medicine     | 3                        | 3                      | 3                | 4                           | 3                    | 3                    |
| Furniture    | 2                        | 5                      | 3                | 3                           | 4                    | 4                    |
| Construction | 3                        | 5                      | 3                | 4                           | 4                    | 2                    |
| Charcoal     | 4                        | 3                      | 3                | 3                           | 3                    | 3                    |
| Forage       | 3                        | 4                      | 3                | 1                           | 3                    | 2                    |
| Edible fruit | 0                        | 3                      | 2                | 0                           | 0                    | 0                    |
| Total        | 20                       | 27                     | 21               | 18                          | 22                   | 19                   |
| Rank         | 4th                      | 1st                    | 3rd              | 6th                         | 2nd                  | 5th                  |

**Table 8** Paired comparison on medicinal plants

| Medicinal plants            | Respondents |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     | Score | Grade |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|-------|
|                             | R1          | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |       |       |
| <i>Artemisia abyssinica</i> | 3           | 2  | 2  | 4  | 4  | 3  | 2  | 1  | 3  | 2   | 26    | 4th   |
| <i>Zingiber officinale</i>  | 3           | 3  | 4  | 22 | 2  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 1  | 4   | 28    | 2nd   |
| <i>Ocimum basilicum</i>     | 4           | 2  | 4  | 3  | 3  | 3  | 4  | 3  | 2  | 2   | 30    | 1st   |
| <i>Myrtus communis</i>      | 3           | 2  | 3  | 2  | 1  | 3  | 2  | 4  | 1  | 1   | 22    | 5th   |
| <i>Brassica nigra</i>       | 2           | 2  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 3  | 2  | 4  | 3  | 2   | 27    | 3rd   |

**Table 9** Threats to medicinal plants in the study area

| Major threats | Respondents |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     | Score | Rank |
|---------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|------|
|               | R1          | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |       |      |
| Grazing       | 3           | 2  | 4  | 3  | 4  | 2  | 4  | 4  | 2  | 2   | 30    | 6th  |
| Construction  | 4           | 4  | 3  | 5  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 5  | 4   | 41    | 3rd  |
| Agriculture   | 4           | 5  | 3  | 5  | 5  | 4  | 5  | 3  | 5  | 3   | 42    | 2nd  |
| Charcoal      | 5           | 4  | 4  | 5  | 5  | 4  | 5  | 4  | 4  | 5   | 45    | 1th  |
| Fire wood     | 3           | 4  | 5  | 3  | 3  | 5  | 5  | 3  | 4  | 3   | 38    | 4th  |
| Drought       | 3           | 2  | 4  | 3  | 2  | 3  | 3  | 2  | 4  | 4   | 31    | 5th  |

*hirsuta* prescribed for leishmaniasis has serious pain E Hillenbrand [41].

The parasitic worm and gastrointestinal disease had a high ICF value (0.85), followed by dermatological (0.82). According to Heinrich et al. [23], high ICF values were crucial for identifying plants of special interest, in the investigation of bioactive chemicals. Some studies conducted in Ethiopia Hunde et al., Tamene et al., Abiyot et al. [16, 42, 43], have used the method of pair-wise ranking where informants make their choices on an individual basis. Preference ranking, paired comparison, and direct matrix ranking show the preference of medicinal plants over each other. This shows that those people obtain the knowledge via experience and differentiate medicinal plants that are successful in treating humans or their livestock diseases. Based on a preference ranking of six malaria-treating medicinal plants, the first rank was *Allium sativum*, which was the most effective medicinal plant for treating malaria. The study is in line with that of Abiyot et al. [43], in which *Allium sativum* was the most preferred anti-malarial plant.

Studies showed that shrubs were the most extensively utilized growth form in ethnoveterinary medicinal preparation followed by herb and trees. Similar findings showed in [44], show that higher utilization of shrubs followed by herbs in ethnoveterinary remedy preparation in Ankober District.

Some medicinal plants are versatile. It could be used for charcoal, food, firewood, construction, and

furniture production. As shown in the study, *Cordia africana* and *Olea europaea* were ranked 1st and 2nd most chosen medicinal plants by the local community for a range of uses and are the most threatened species. The 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th levels were for *Ficus sur*, *Acacia abyssinica*, *Schinus molle*, and *Croton macrostachyus*, respectively. This suggests that plants were overused for purposes other than medical formulations.

In the Artuma Fursi district, there is a loss of medicinal plants due to artificial factors such as deforestation for different purposes like charcoal. In the study area, many people are economically dependent on charcoal production to fulfill their needs and farming expansion due to population growth. Other main reasons for the loss of medicinal plants in the study area include firewood, construction, grazing, and drought. This study was contrary to the study done by [34], in Guduru district, who identified agricultural growth as the major danger to medicinal plants, followed by firewood and charcoal. The key subjects regarding threats to medicinal plants in the Amaro district were deforestation, followed by agricultural expansion, fire, charcoal trading, firewood collection, overgrazing, and drought [39].

### Conclusion

The study showed a variety of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge about how to use, prepare and administer by the local community of the Artuma Fursi district. The district has a rich diversity of medicinal

plants for the management of human and livestock ailments many of which belong to the Fabaceae family. The plant species reported needs further study for the validation of the claimed pharmacological activities. Additionally, phytochemical screening which is guided by bioactive test is also needed to know the active compound in the reported medicinal plants. Medicinal plant species used in the district were collected from the wild which leads to the over exploitation without limitation. Therefore, awareness creation has to be implemented for the local communities and traditional herbalists on the sustainable use of plants and to cultivate medicinal plants around their homes.

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#### Author contributions

MY designed the study, collected the data, interpreted and analyzed data. SM identified the plants. MY and SM wrote the manuscript. TBB modified the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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#### Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analyzed during this study were included in this manuscript for publication.

#### Declarations

##### Ethics approval and consent to participate

Permission was provided by all participants in this study, including the local study area people. Consent was obtained from the local communities prior to the field data collection and investigations.

##### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

##### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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