

**CHARACTERIZATION AND ANALYSIS OF SOME
NATURAL DYES FROM SELECTED PLANTS IN UGANDA**

BY

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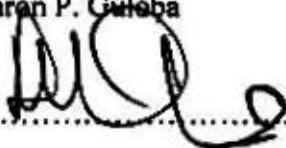
**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES,
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES FOR THE AWARD OF THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CHEMISTRY OF
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

AUGUST 2012

DECLARATION

I declare that the work presented in this thesis is my own and that it has not been submitted for any degree in this or any other University of Higher Institution of Learning. All the information in this thesis is based on my own findings except in literature citations.

Wanyama Aaron P. Guleba

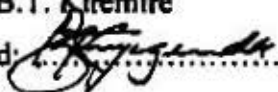
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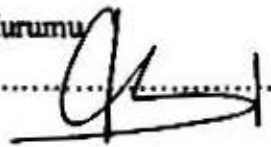
APPROVAL BY SUPERVISORS:

This final thesis has been submitted with the approval of the following Supervisors:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to extend my greatest appreciation and gratitude to Prof. B.T. Kiremire of the Department of Chemistry, Makerere University, for all his advice, support and guidance offered to me during the entire period of my research and for all the patience exhibited in reading my draft and final work. I will always remember his openness and friendly nature and approach to difficult issues in my research which helped me carry on to the end of my studies. I wish also to express my sincere gratitudes to Dr. J.S. Murumu, my second supervisor for his invaluable support, encouragement and guidance throughout my research work. Their technical advice, suggestions and constructive criticisms brought this study to its rightful conclusion. I will forever be indebted to them for the rest of my life.

I am very grateful to Mr. Stephen Mulinda, a Senior Technician in the Chemistry Department at Makerere University for his technical support during this study. I would like to thank immensely Kyambogo University for having paid all my tuition and research fees. I will always cherish this honour and gesture with invaluable gratitude from the bottom of my heart. I am also grateful to Mr. Ssalongo Kawuma and Ms Aisha Namusisi, laboratory attendants in the Chemistry Department at Kyambogo University for their support during field collections of the potential dye-yielding plants mentioned in the interviews especially from the central region of Uganda. And to Ms Keneema Gaudensia, Secretary in the Dean's Office, Faculty of Science, Kyambogo University for her invaluable assistance in typing all the manuscripts and the final draft of the thesis.

My appreciation also goes to Dr. David L.N. Hafashimana, a Senior Research Officer and Conservationist with the National Forestry Resources Research Institute in Nakawa division for his assistance in providing all the botanical names and species of the majority of the local plants used in this study. I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Prof. R.H. Wardman, Head of the School of Textiles and Design at the Heriot - Watt University in the United Kingdom for accepting, at short notice and at no cost to assist with the colour measurements of all the dyed fabric samples which were sent to him at different times during the course of this study. His intervention and assistance rescued me from a very difficult situation where I would have virtually got stuck when it came to colour characterization of the natural dyes selected in this study because of the absence of specialized laboratory

ABSTRACT

Forty different plant species with potential to yield natural dyes were collected from different parts of Uganda between 2004 and 2008. Extraction of the plant materials was done using distilled water after heating for 30 minutes and cooling the contents of the beaker, after which dyeing of 100% cotton pieces of fabrics was carried out using crude extracts from each selected plant species. The colours developed on each fabric sample varied from plant to plant depending on the nature, structure and composition of the colour components found in each crude plant extract, the geographical location of the plants, the mordant used, the fabric support and the liquor ratio employed during the dyeing process.

Colour was evaluated using spectral reflectance values measured by the Datacolour SF600 spectral reflectance spectrophotometer. The colour developed on some of the dyed cotton fabrics was evaluated for colour fastness and colour characterization using the CIE:Lab colour order system. The shade variation was mordant dependent and the values of the hue angle correlated between the colour appearance of the dyed fabric samples and the phenolic composition of the plant extracts. The surface colour yield on cotton fabrics of some of the natural dyes investigated was determined using the Kubelka-Munk equation and was found to vary from plant to plant. Some of the natural dyes notably *Albizia coriaria*, *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Morinda lucida*, *Syzygium cordatum* and *Mangifera indica* were evaluated and exhibited good colour fastness properties, had no adverse effects on test animals, occupied mainly the yellow-red quadrant of the colour space diagram and contained in their molecular structures characteristic colour moieties capable of dyeing textile materials as potential alternatives to synthetic dyes.