Establishing a preliminary ethnobotanical portrait of traditional edible, medicinal and technological plants, mosses and lichens of Ikaluktutiak, Kugaaruk, Uqsuqtuuq and Taloyoak (Kitikmeot, Nunavut)

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INTRODUCTION

Traditional berries, edible and medicinal plants are an integral part of the Inuit food system, culture and identity. However, factors influence harvesting opportunities. The Kitikmeot is home to a wide diversity of Inuit cultural practices, Inuktitut dialects and landscapes.

- Existing ethnobotanical literature inadequately captures these variations (only Kugluktuk supported by Davis & Banack, 2012).
- Limited access to Inuit traditional knowledge and Arctic species hampers efforts to local cultivation.

This project aims to establish a portrait of the Kitikmeot plants of interest for communities and to better understand their cultivation potential.

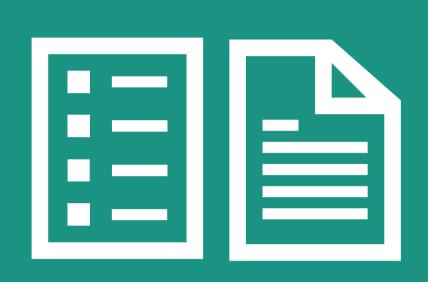
METHODOLOGY

Open-ended questions plants, mosses, lichens and mushroom (fresh or dried specimens, pictures)

Discussion on changes in the tundra: abundance, distribution, taste, new species, etc.

Anterior cultivation efforts of tundra/southern plants





RESULTS

Taxa can be divided in 6 categories: edible, medicinal, tools, fire usage, indicators and ornamentals.

Table 1. Examples of taxa mentioned during the 2024 interviews.

	Inuktitut/	Taxa	Part used	Usages
	Inuinaqtun name			
Cyperaceae	Kanguriaq	Eriophorum spp.	Achene	Fire, tool
Ericaceae	Kabla	Arctous alpina	Berries	Edible, medicinal
	lqshut, lqshutit	Cassiope tetragona	Whole plant burned for tea and as a mat under caribou skin	Edible, fire, tool
	Paurnaq	Empetrum nigrum	Berries	Edible, medicinal
	Qihirtut	Rhododendron tomentosum	Boiled leaves for tea	Edible, medicinal, fire
	Kikutigirnaq	Vaccinium uliginosum	Berries	Edible, medicinal, fire
	Kingminak/Atungauriaq	Vaccinium vitis idaea	Berries	Edible, medicinal, fire
Fabaceae	Airaq	Oxytropis maydelliana	Cleaned roots	Edible
Onagraceae	Paunnak	Chamanerion latifolium	Fowers	Edible, medicinal, fire
Poaceae	lvik	Leymus mollis	Whole plant	Fire, tool
Polygonaceae	Qunglit/Hirnaq	Oxyria digyna	Leaves and stem	Edible, medicinal
Rosaceae	Arpiq	Rubus chamaemorus	Fruit	Edible, medicinal
Salicaceae Saxifragaceae	Quarait/Urpiyak Kakillarnat	Salix spp. Saxifraga tricuspidata	Branch Boiled leaves for tea	Medicinal, fire, fool Edible, medicinal



1. Meetings and on-the-land activities



2. Some of the taxa identified during the interviews

CONCLUSION

This project will have recorded some of the traditional knowledge about plants used by the Kitikmiut as well as their wishes to cultivate them.

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Quanaqqut, nunallaami Iqaluktuuttiami, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, Uqhuqtuuq Thank you, to the community of Iqaluktutiak, Kugluktuk, Taloyoakmilu, Ukiuqtaqtumi Qaujimajait Kanadami, Nunavut Kavamanga Kugaaruk, Uqsuqtuuqand Taloyoak, Polar Knowledge Canada, Havagvik Aanniaqtailinikkut/Kitikmeot, Sentinel North, Laval University the Government of Nunavut-Department of Health/Kitikmeot, Council of Canada) ikajuutikkut, maniliqtuutikhanik ilaunikkullu uumani Sentinel North, Laval University and the Arctic and Northern gaujiharnirmi. ٩٥١-٩٠١٠ مُدُكُ ١٩٥٥ عُنْ ١٩٥٥ عُنْ ١٩٥٥ عُنْ ١٩٥٥ إِنْ ١٩٥٥ الكُهُ ١٩٥٥ إِنْ ١٩٥٥ عُنْ ١٩٥٥ إِن المه والمها إلى المها المها إلى ചര്യാ their support, funding and participation in this research.







