

Uses and importance of wild fungi: traditional knowledge from Tshopo province in Democratic Republic of Congo

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Background and problem statement

- Rainforests from Tshopo host many fungal taxa and habitats
- Wild fungi constitute important NTFPs that provide various substances and services (food, medicine, source of income, etc.)
- Fungi play key role in social life and culture of people
- Knowledge on locally used fungi used to implement and enhance strategies for conservation of both fungi and their habitats.

- Unfortunately:**
- ❑ Mushrooms' uses significance and knowledge vary with people culture and categories
 - ❑ Part of knowledge on mushrooms lost across generation and scanty studies exist from Tshopo

➔ **So:** Need of documents on locally used fungi

Researches objectives

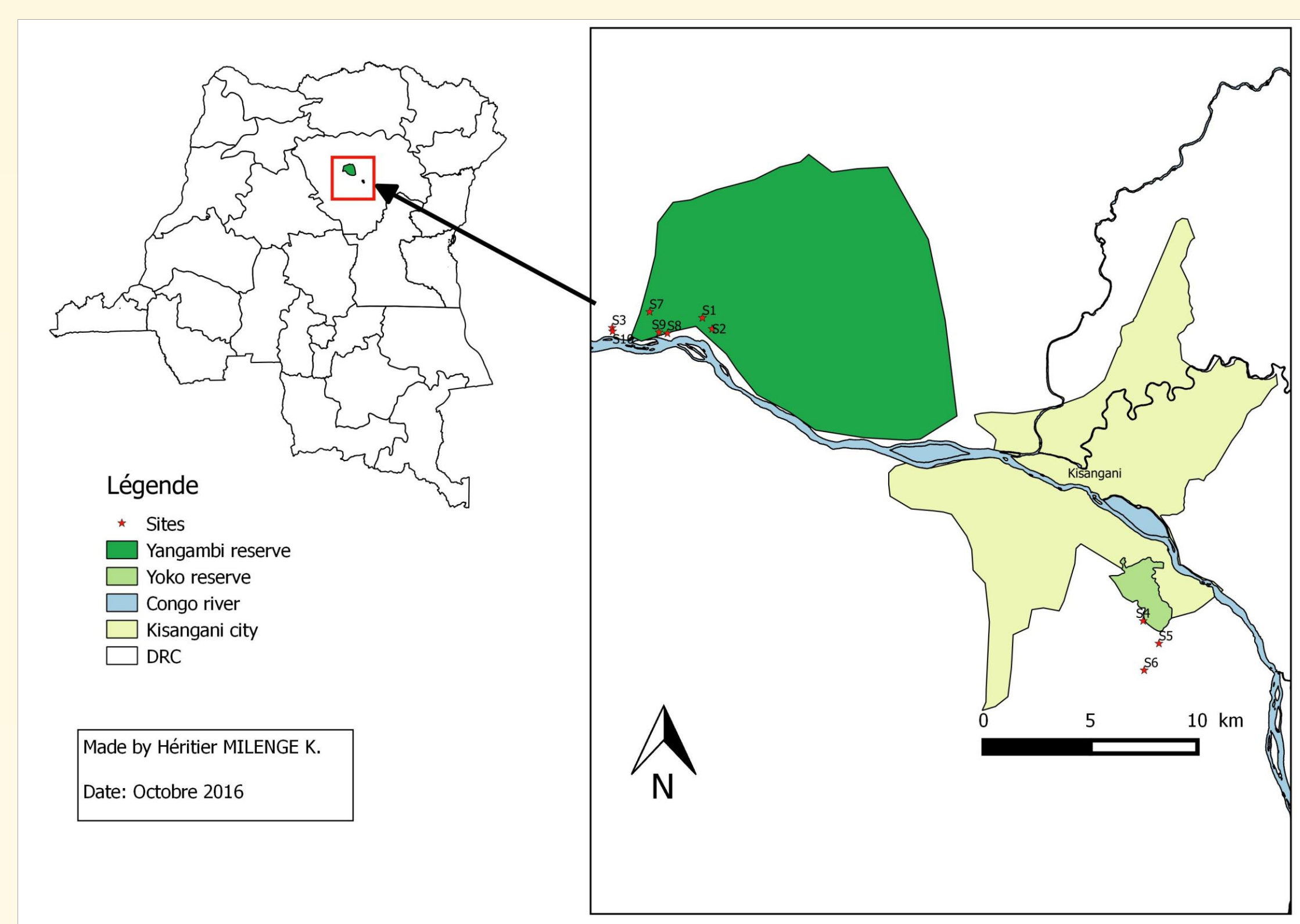
- ❖ To document and share knowledge on locally used fungi
- ❖ To promote services and substances provided by wild fungi

Used methods

Sampling methods and data analysis

- Interviews involved six ethnic groups (Kumu, Turumbu, Topoke, Lokele, Ngelema and Ngando)
- Analyzed data included reported use (RU), relative importance (RI) and cultural significance (CS).
- Excel and R software used for basic statistics and analysis

Study area and sites



Results

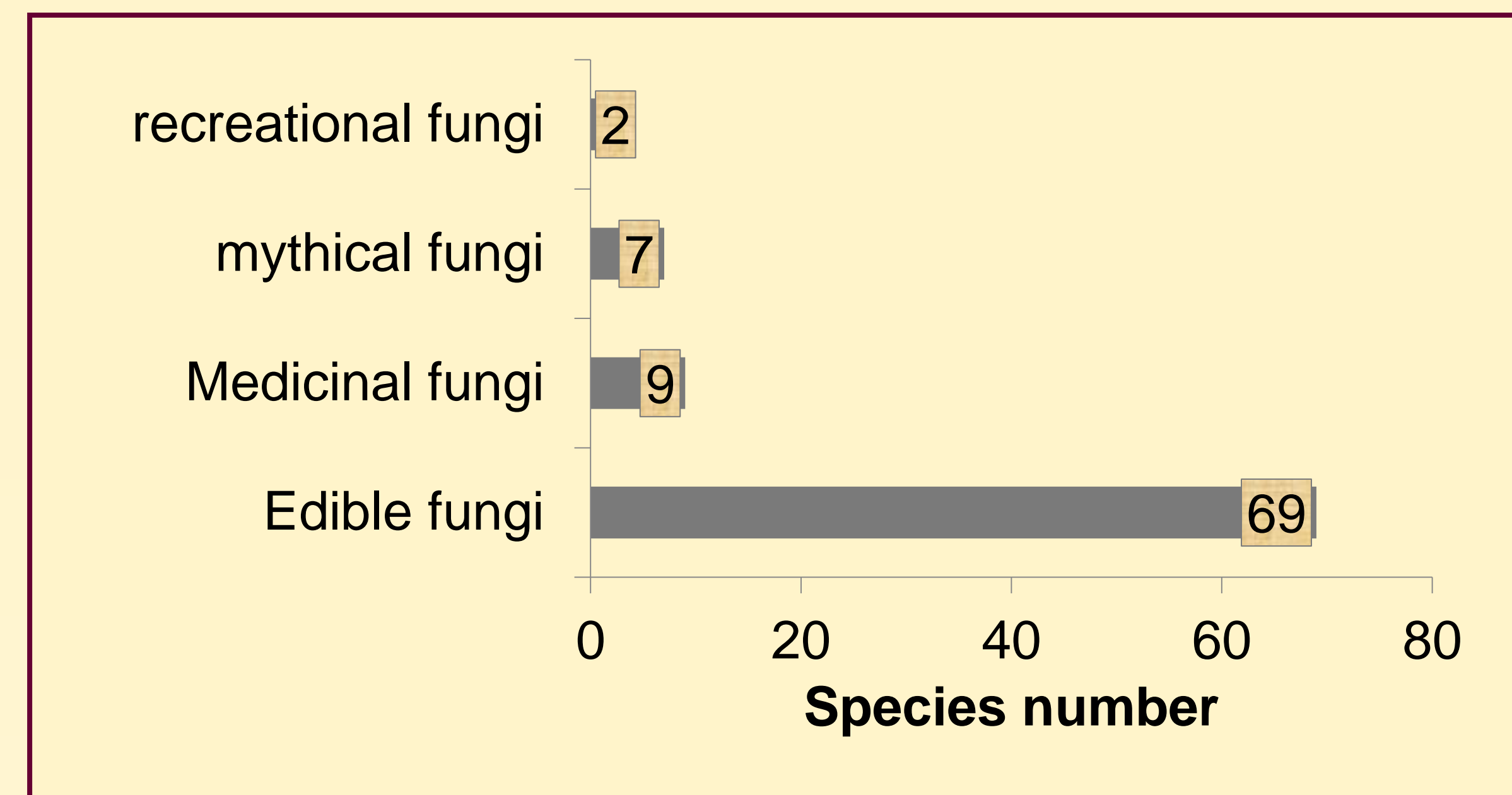


Fig 1. Number of reported fungal species by use category

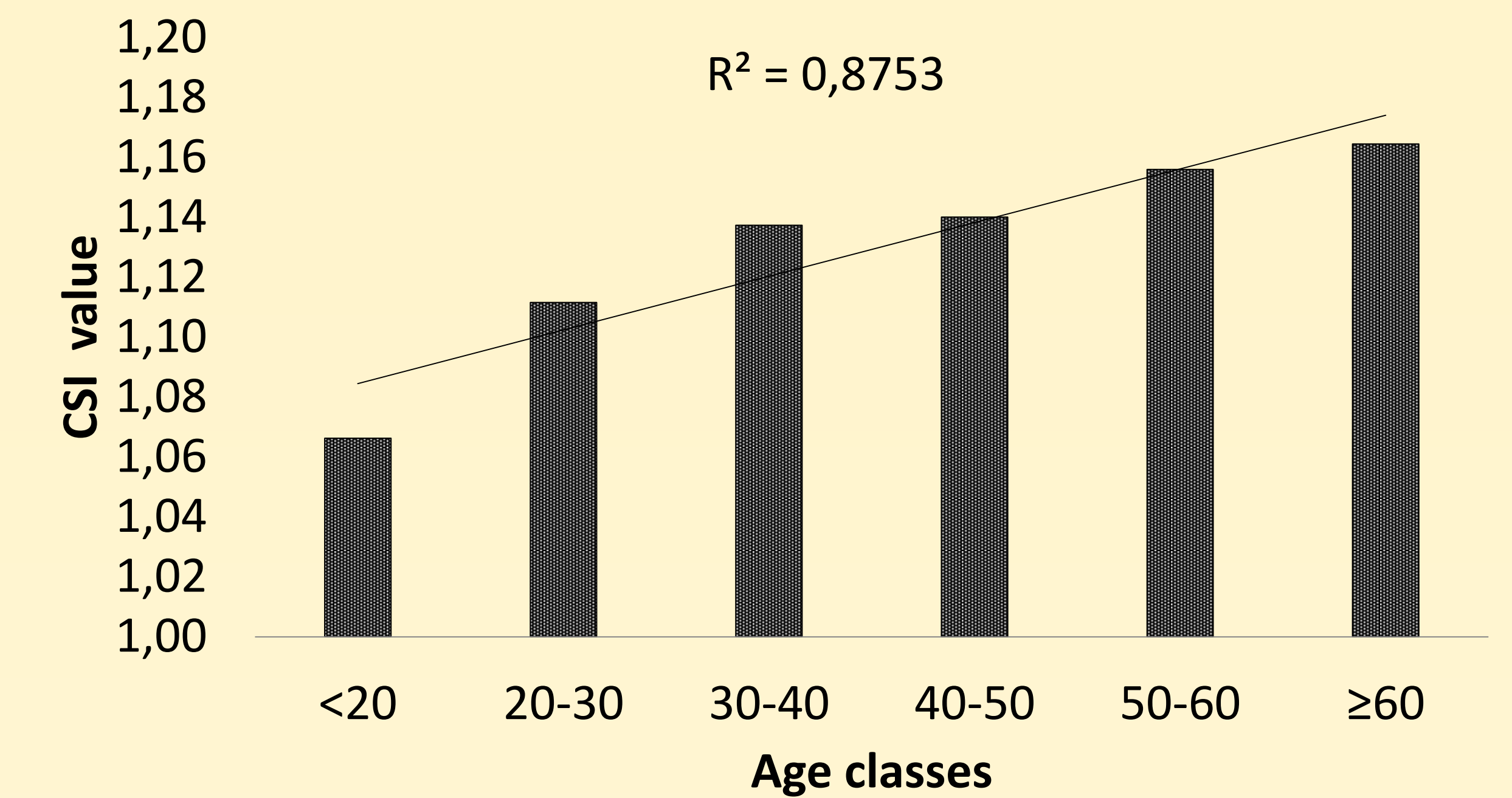


Fig 2. Variation of cultural significance by age class

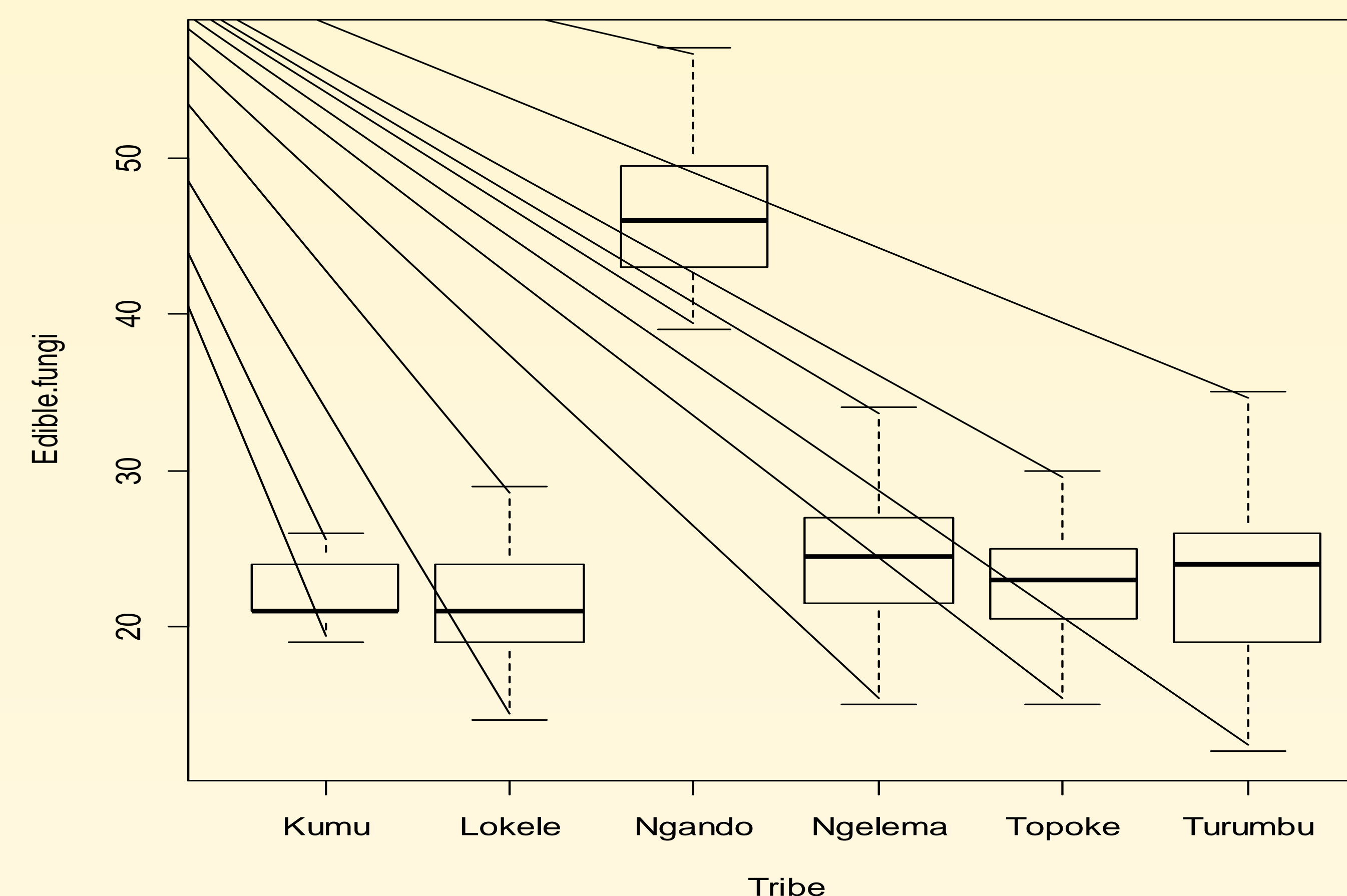


Fig 3. Number of eaten fungi within tribes assessed

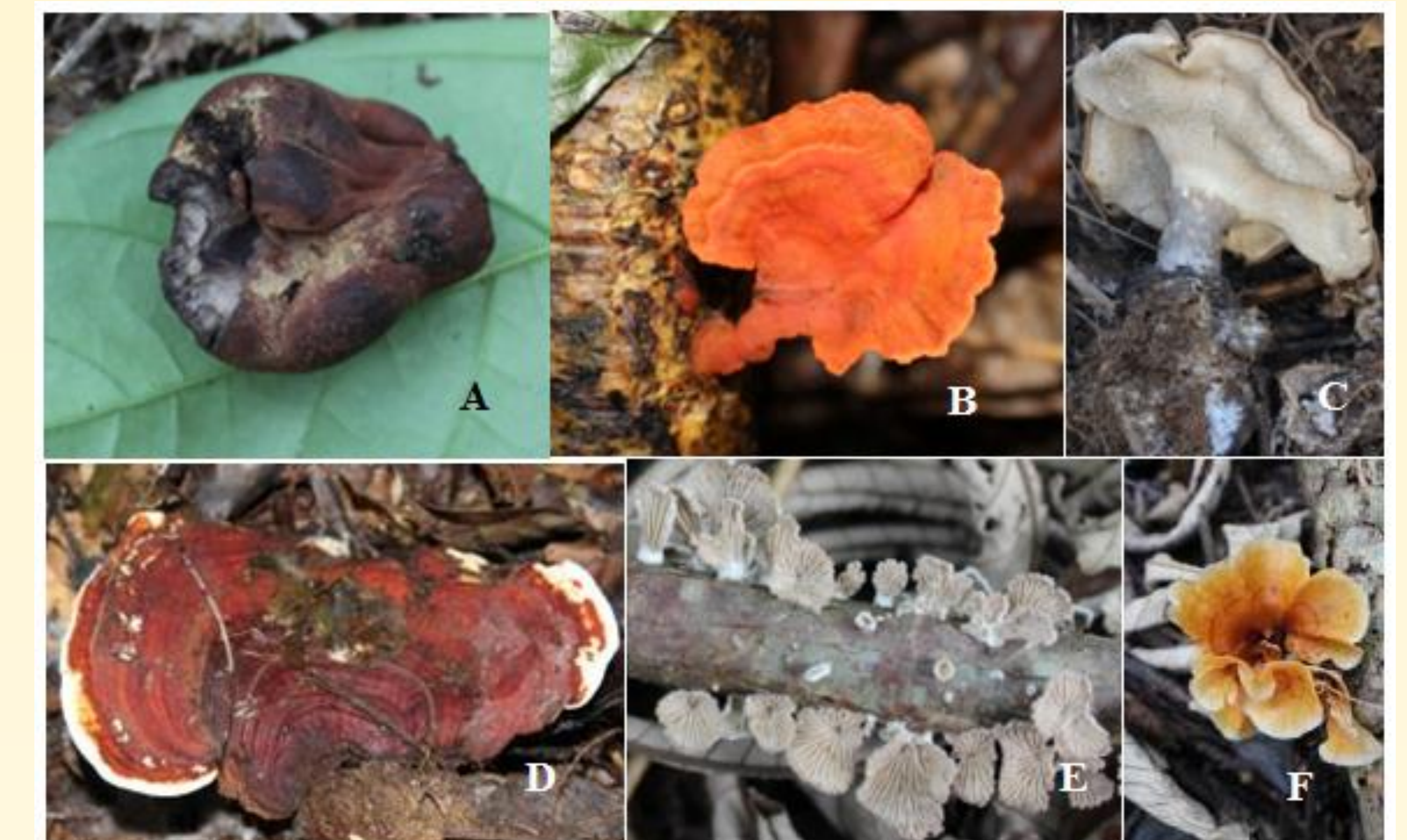


Fig 4. Most important medicinal fungi. A: *Daldinia eschscholtzii*, B: *Pycnoporus sanguineus*, C: *Pleurotus tuber-regium*, D: *Ganoderma* sp., E: *Schizophyllum commune* and F. *Cotyldia aff. aurantiaca*.

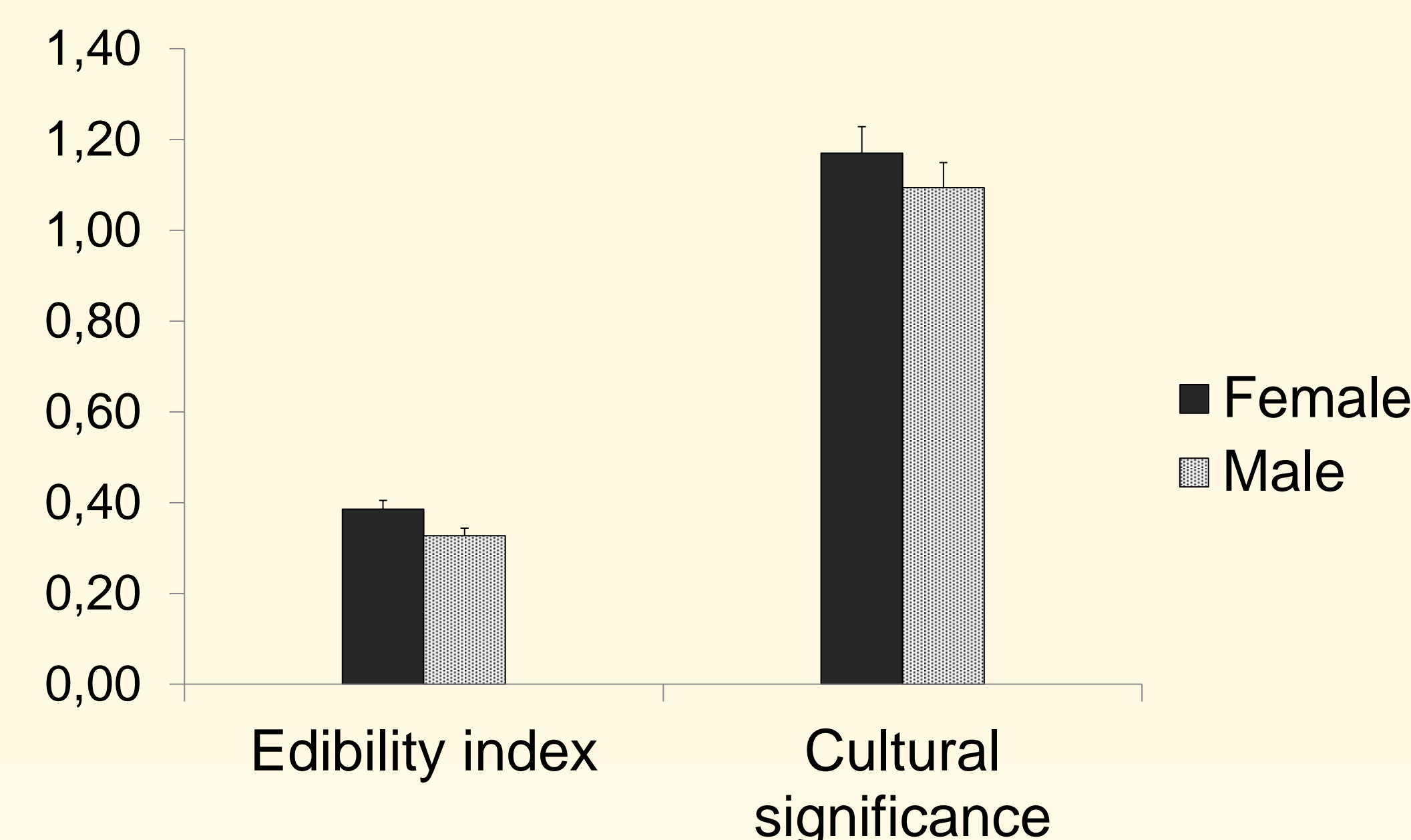


Fig 5. Variation of cultural significance by gender

Conclusion:

- Woody-decaying fungi (ex *S. commune*, *Lentinus squarrosolus*, *Auricularia* spp.) reported most eaten and appreciated
- *Daldinia eschscholtzii* is the most important medicinal fungi
- *Pleurotus tuber-regium* remains the most used fungi
- Ngando people provide higher cultural significance on mushrooms' uses
- Kumu people have less knowledge on mushrooms' due to taboos