

# Folk classification criteria of Karite (*Vitellaria paradoxa* cf Gaertn) in Benin shea parklands

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## 1. Background

- *Vitellaria paradoxa*, a Sapotaceae native to West Africa, commonly referred to as shea tree.
- A useful wild species that makes contribution to the household economy of many rural families in Africa.
- Local knowledge and perception are determinant to undertake the domestication of the species.
- This study documents local knowledge and examines influence of sociocultural factors on shea morphotypes classification criteria.

## 2. Materials and Methods

- Semi-structured surveys were carried out with 405 farmers in five shea parklands in Benin (Fig. 1)
- Data analysis: Frequency of citation, Chi-square analysis, Factorial Correspondence Analysis.

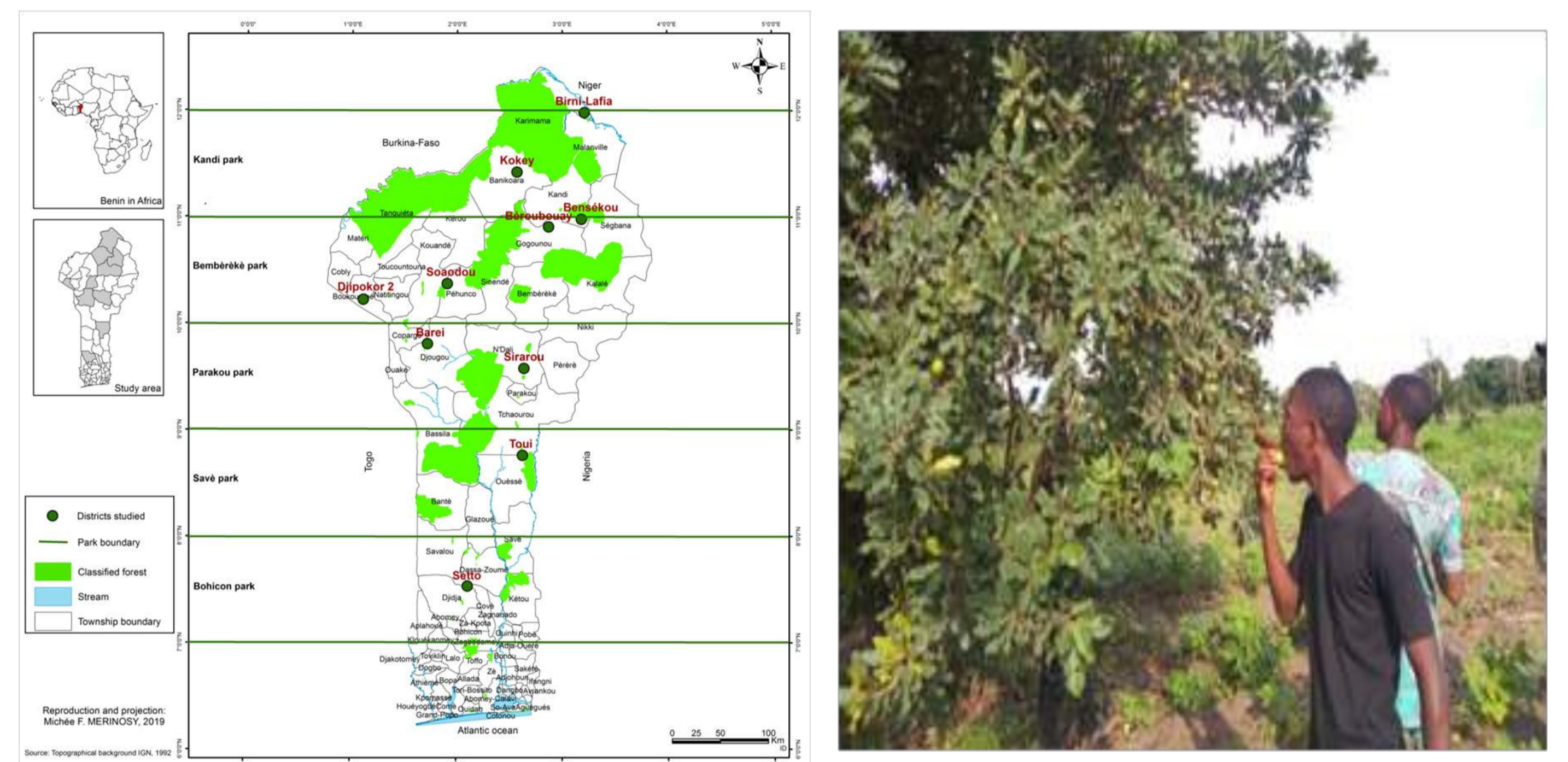


Fig. 1. Survey areas and Shea parkland in Benin

## 3. Results and discussion

13 morphotypes based on top 5 most mentioned criteria were recorded in the five shea parklands of Benin.



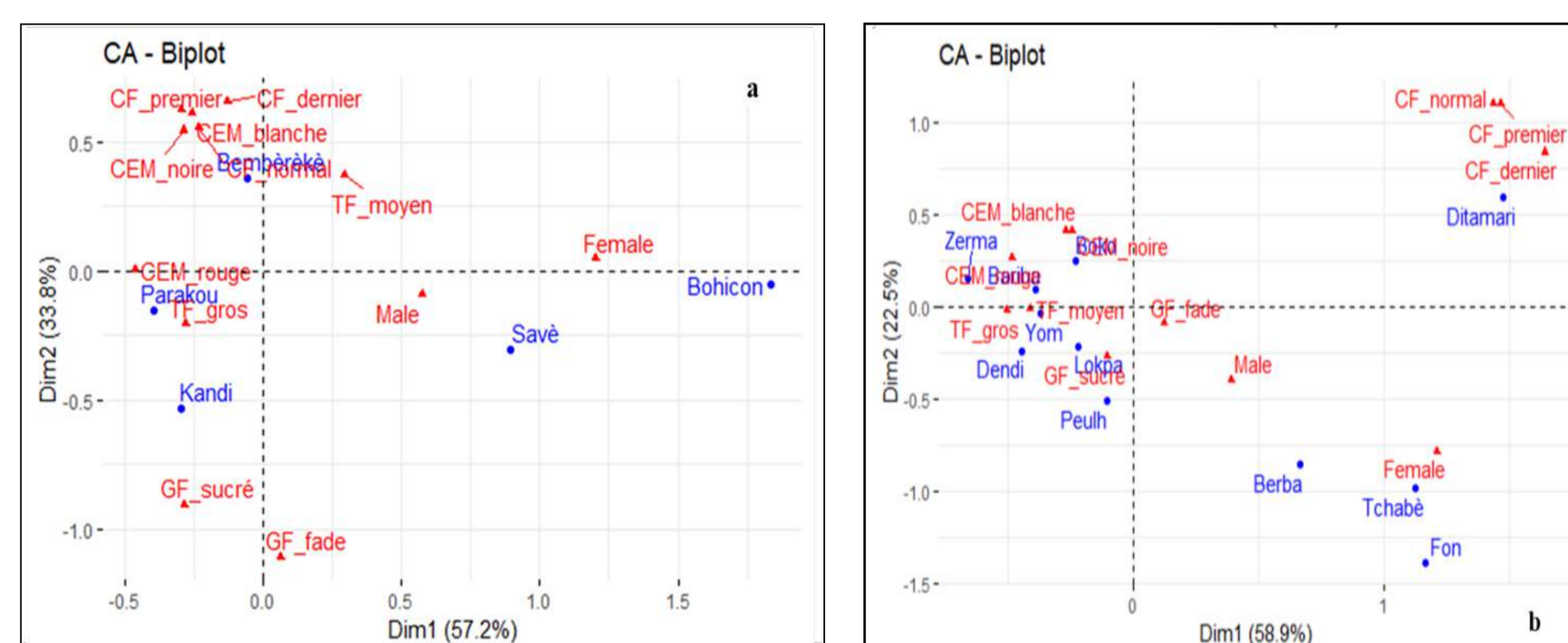
Black bark

White bark

Medium fruit size

Diversity of shea morphotypes in Shea parks of Benin.

Park	Shannon
Bembèrèkè	2.002
Bohicon	0.693
Kandi	1.394
Parakou	1.734
Savè	1.743



FCA biplot showing Shea morphotypes and parks (a), and sociolinguistic groups (b).

With exception to gender, all socio-demographic factors very significantly influence the relative frequency of the 13 main shea morphotypes ( $P < 0.001$ ).

## 4. Conclusion

Shea diversity reported by farmers represents a robust background for the implementation of domestication and breeding programs in Benin.

## References

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- Sandwidi A, Diallo BO, Lamien N, et al (2018) Participatory identification and characterisation of shea butter tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa* C.F. Gaertn.) ethnovarieties in Burkina Faso. Fruits 73:141–152. doi: 10.17660/th2018/73.3.1.

## Acknowledgement

