**From Himba Indigenous Knowledge to Engineered Fe2O3 UV-Blocking Green Nanocosmetics**

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**Abstract**

**This contribution reports on the physical properties of the natural Namibian red Ochre used by the Himba Community in a form of the so called Otjize as an effective UV-blocking cream & solar heat reflector. The morphological & crystallographic studies validated its nano-scaled dominating phase of rhombohedral α-Fe2O3 nanocrystals mainly with an amount of a hydrolized form in a form of γ-FeOOH. The optical investigations validated its effectiveness as a significant UV-blocking & solar heat IR reflector. In addition, such nanocrystals exhibited a non-negligible antibacterial response against E. Coli & S. Aurus. While this study confirms the effectiveness of the indigenous Otjize as an effective skin protection cream with a sound antimicrobial efficacy against e-Coli & S-Aurus.**

**Keywords: Nanomaterials, Himba, Otjize, Nano Fe2O3, Optical selectivity, UV radiations protection, antibacterial.**