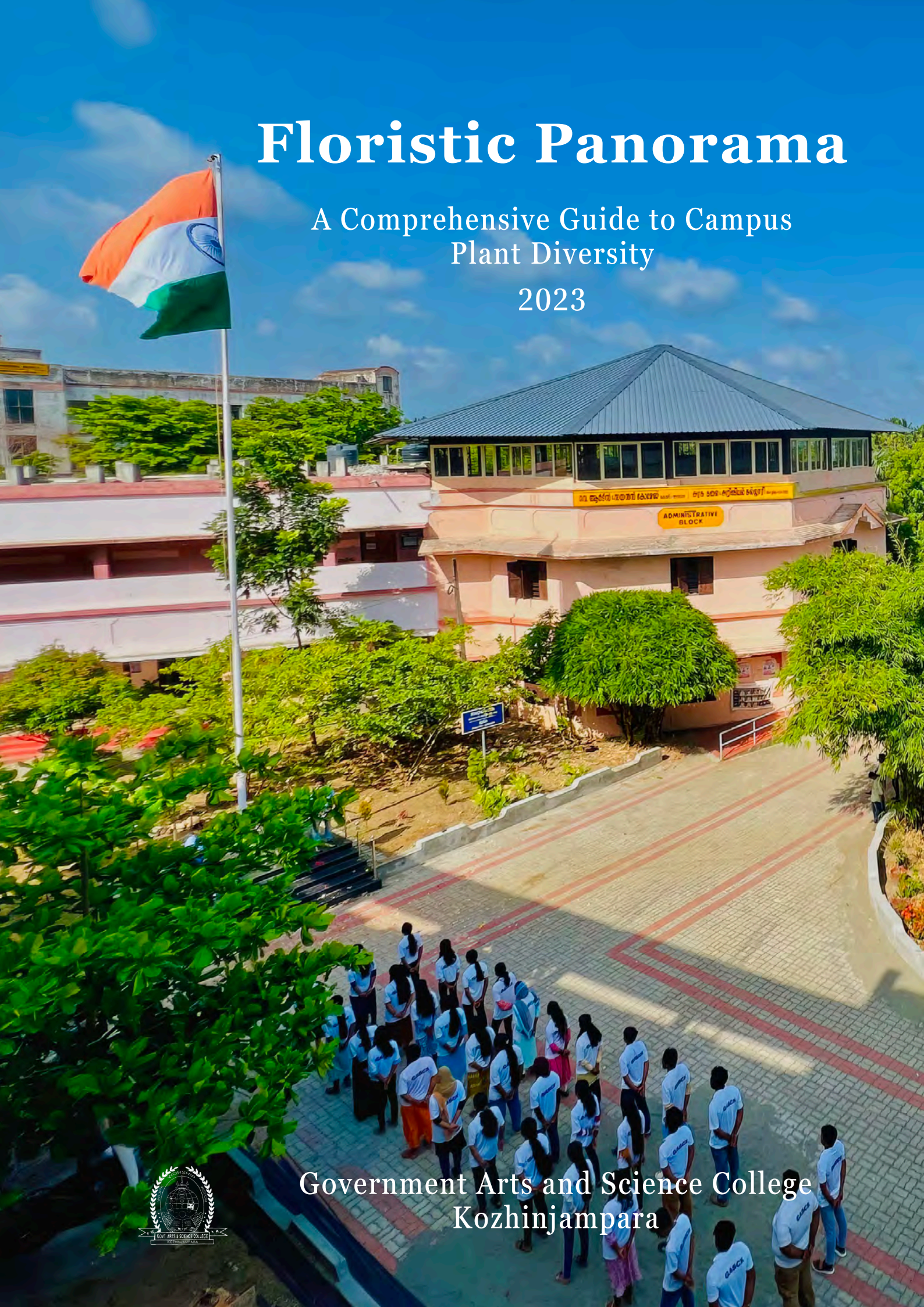


Floristic Panorama

A Comprehensive Guide to Campus
Plant Diversity

2023



Government Arts and Science College
Kozhinjampara

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Floristic Panorama - A Comprehensive Guide to Campus Plant Diversity

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PREFACE

Our college is home to a variety of flora and fauna characteristic of both Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Adopting the Biodiversity Project as one of our best practices, we are committed to the long-term goal of eco conservation and have been trying to instill lessons of the significance of biodiversity conservation among our students. I am extremely pleased that the Biodiversity Club of the college, supported by the theoretical and technical expertise of Aranyakam Nature Foundation, prepared a report on the plant diversity of our campus after systematic documentation through surveys. Let this endeavor inspire our students and faculty in continuing their work towards creating a greener campus environment.

December 10, 2023

Dr. Baby K.
Principal





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am delighted to present the Report on Plant Diversity in the campus of Govt. Arts and Science College, Kozhinjampara, on behalf of the Biodiversity Club of the College. In tandem with the Nature Club, Birds Club, Bhoomitrasena, and the National Service Scheme, the Biodiversity Club has been working towards greening the campus and raising eco-consciousness through various activities. In this effort, we are supported by Aranyakam Nature Foundation, a dedicated NGO working towards a much greener and diverse ecosystem.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. P. S. Easa, Chairperson of Aranyakam Nature Foundation, who has been the guiding light of this venture. It was his vision and co-ordination that led the college into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Foundation in 2022. I sincerely thank Dr. S. Sujanapal (KFRI) Executive Committee Member of the Foundation, for his valuable directions regarding the identification of plant species ideally suited for the locality and for providing us with saplings from KFRI. Shri. B. Sumod (KFRI) and Ms. V. J. Aswani (Govt. Victoria College) deserve special mention for the effort in leading the students through the survey and for putting the report together. Many thanks are due to the Team Aranyakam: Dhruvraj (Managing Trustee), Shri Abhilash Raveendran (Executive), Shri Shameem (Trustee), Dr. Sandeep Das (Trustee) and also the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Palakkad.

I extend my gratitude to the Biodiversity team of our college who have contributed sincerely to the cause. Heartfelt thanks to Prof. Dr. Baby K. (Principal), Dr. Amala A. K. (Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Commerce), Shri Ramesh K. (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Commerce), Shri Prasanth K. V. (Asst. Professor, Dept. of English), Dr. Senthil N. (Birds Club Convenor), Smt. Nimi Narayan (Nature Club Convenor) and Dr. Bindu (NSS coordinator). I thank all the students whose enthusiasm and commitment have made this dream possible.

December 7, 2023

Dr. Srividya S

Biodiversity Club Convenor





SUMMARY

The floral diversity report of the Government Arts and Science College, Kozhinjampara offers an extensive overview of the plant life on campus, situated in the unique ecological setting of the Palakkad Gap in the Western Ghats. The report highlights 255 species across 69 plant families, with a notable presence of both exotic (112 species) and endemic (2 species) plants, underscoring the region's rich botanical diversity. The campus's flora includes 115 medicinal plants, reflecting the area's deep-rooted herbal traditions. This biodiversity is further detailed through classifications based on conservation status, including vulnerable, near threatened, least Concerned, and data deficient categories. The most prominent plant families include Fabaceae, Poaceae, Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, and Malvaceae, with many families represented by only one or two species. This rich plant diversity results from the campus's specific climatic and soil conditions, characterised by the black cotton soil unique to this region of Kerala, which has high clay content and low organic matter. The report is a valuable resource for understanding and conserving the campus' ecological diversity.





INTRODUCTION

The Kozhinjampara Government Arts and Science College in the Palakkad Gap presents a unique blend of natural and academic environments. This gap creates a significant discontinuity in the Western Ghats, leading to a unique microclimate. The campus, nestled in this gap, experiences a drier climate than Kerala's typical wet conditions due to the influence of dry winds from the Deccan plateau. This climatic change not only affects the vegetation but also the local culture.

Covering an expansive 16.5 acres, the college is situated in the Nattukal of Nallepilly Grama Panchayat, approximately 22 km from the Palakkad district headquarters. The campus is surrounded by agricultural fields, which form a natural boundary. Despite the development of built-up areas for academic purposes, most of the campus has retained its wilderness. Since its establishment in 2005, various trees and shrubs have been planted, contributing to a dense plant cover that dominates the landscape.

This blend of academic infrastructure and natural wilderness creates a unique and vibrant campus ecosystem, reflecting the Palakkad Gap's distinct environmental characteristics.

The practice of creating illustrative field guides for plants and animals, particularly birds, is widespread in European and American countries. These guides play an essential role in helping people from all walks of life appreciate the biodiversity in their surroundings. They are available for public spaces, ranging from small street corners to extensive gardens and zoos. Over time, these field guides have significantly enhanced general knowledge about biodiversity and fostered a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

With technological advancements, the format of these field guides has evolved from traditional print versions to digital formats, making them more accessible and interactive.



Despite the widespread availability and success of these guides in temperate regions like Europe and America, such practices are less common in tropical countries known for their rich biodiversity.

One of the main challenges in tropical regions is the sheer number of species present. The biodiversity in these areas is significantly more prosperous than in the temperate zones of Europe or America, making creating comprehensive and affordable field guides more daunting. The complexity and diversity of tropical ecosystems pose significant challenges in documenting and presenting this information in a user-friendly, accurate, and affordable manner. As a result, the development and distribution of field guides in these biodiversity-rich tropical regions remain limited, highlighting a need for more resources and innovative approaches to make this valuable knowledge more accessible to the public.

The publication of field guides and books by dedicated



biologists has been met with great enthusiasm by the general public. These resources, particularly those focusing on birds, have become trendsetters, cultivating a community of bird watchers. Although guides on butterflies in local languages were introduced later, they also inspired many butterfly enthusiasts. This interest has even extended to some avid bird watchers, who have broadened their focus to include butterflies. Additionally, publications about



odonates, spiders, and other animal groups have attracted their own set of admirers. These educational books have been instrumental in changing perceptions, sparking a newfound passion and enthusiasm for wildlife among the general public and students. However, it's noted that resources focusing on plant life still need improvement and further development.

Against this backdrop, an effort was made to document a specific campus's biodiversity comprehensively. This document is presented with the hope that it will assist students and others in observing and understanding the local biodiversity. It is intended to serve as both a reference and a foundational record of the area's significant biological species and could help guide future developmental planning. The document has been carefully compiled to be current and



accessible, presented in a manner that is easy to understand, even for those without a technical background.

Campuses are breeding grounds for nurturing future intellects, where young minds are shaped and developed. They maintain a sense of wilderness, evolving only as the students mature and prepare for their journey beyond academic walls. The flora and fauna of the campus, which have a lasting impact on the students, become treasured memories.

The lush vegetation on campus creates a habitat for diverse wildlife, including birds, butterflies, and other creatures. This natural richness particularly appeals to the younger



generation on campus, especially those with a romantic appreciation for nature. These vibrant ecosystems contribute to the educational experience and enhance the campus's overall ambience, making it a memorable and engaging environment for students.



How did we do this

To initiate nature-related activities on campus, students, under the guidance of their then Principal and Ms. Sreevidya from the English Department, sought assistance from Shri Abhilash, a Trustee of Aranyakam Nature Foundation. The Foundation's Trustees, including Chairman Dr. P. S. Easa, Managing Trustee Shri Dhruv Raj, and Dr. Sandeep Das, visited the college to discuss potential collaborative efforts with the college authorities. This led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the college and the Aranyakam Nature Foundation.

A kickoff event for these joint initiatives was held in the college auditorium. The Trust's Chairman delivered an extensive talk on biodiversity conservation, inspiring students to keenly observe, photograph, and share images of the surrounding wildlife in a dedicated WhatsApp group. A tree-planting program was also organised in the campus, where plant experts like Dr. Sujanapal from the Kerala Forest Research Institute participated in a campus survey, documenting specific plants and identifying planting sites. Various saplings of native trees, provided by KFRI and the Social Forestry division of the Kerala Forest and Wildlife Department, were planted in selected areas.

These activities aimed to raise environmental awareness



among students and encourage their engagement with nature. In the long term, the initiative is expected to enhance the campus environment, creating a serene and natural setting conducive to learning. We recognise the importance of documenting the biodiversity in such a dynamic and life-rich area.

Activities in the campus

Campus Greening

In celebration of World Environment Day, the College and the Aranyakam Nature Foundation launched a green initiative to promote environmental awareness and enhance biodiversity in the campus. Led by Dr P.S. Easa and Dr Sujanapal, the initiative involved planting various species



of tree saplings to create a more diverse and sustainable ecosystem. The program was enthusiastically supported by staff members, including Dr Srividya and Dr. Senthil, and was also aided by the active participation of members from the NSS unit and Bhoomithra Sena. The collaborative effort was made possible with the support of the KSCSTE Kerala Forest Research Institute and Social Forestry Division in Palakkad, ensuring the success of this important environmental



initiative.

Biodiversity Survey

A comprehensive biodiversity survey encompassing fauna and flora was carried out at the College. This endeavour, expertly led by Dr Sujanapal for flora included Shri B. Sumod (KFRI) and Ms. V. J. Aswini (Govt. Victoria College) as key contributors. Crucial involvement also came from members of the college's NSS unit and Bhoomithrasena, who played a significant role in these ecological studies, enhancing the understanding and appreciation of campus biodiversity.



METHODS

Field Inspection and Data Collection

The survey commenced with a detailed field inspection by a team comprising students from the college and experts from the Aranyakam Nature Foundation. This phase involved on-site examination of the campus to identify and catalog the various plant species present.

Photographic Documentation

Each plant species encountered during the field inspection was carefully photographed. These photographs served as a valuable visual record, aiding in the accurate identification and cataloging of the plant species.

Identification and Classification

The identification of plant species, including their scientific names and family classifications, was meticulously carried out. This step was critical for ensuring the accuracy of the survey data.

Literature Review for Medicinal and Cultural Significance

The medicinal and cultural importance of each plant species was determined through extensive literature reviews. This involved delving into scientific and ethnobotanical literature to enrich the understanding of each species' significance.

Analysis and Data Representation

The survey's findings were analyzed to create charts indicating the conservation status of the plants. This analysis also included the classification of plants into categories of exotic and native species, providing a comprehensive overview of the campus's floristic composition.

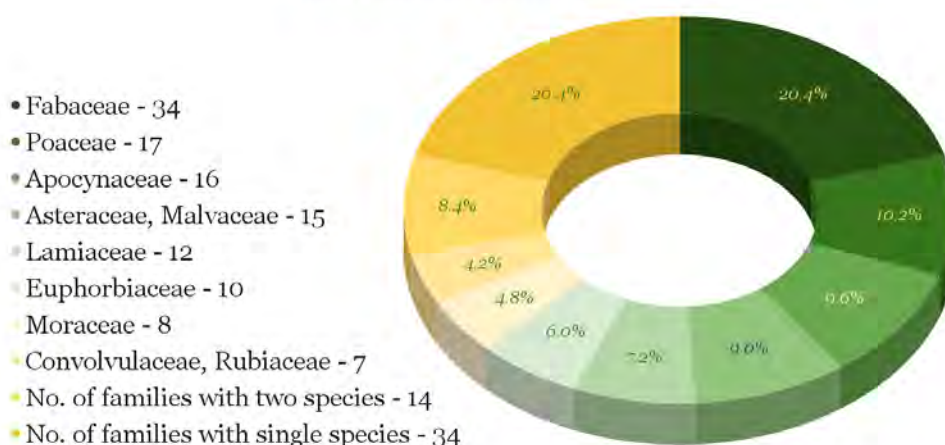




OBSERVATIONS

The floral diversity report of the Government Arts and Science College, Kozhinjampara, presents a comprehensive overview of the campus's plant life, reflecting the unique ecological characteristics of its location in the Palakkad Gap of the Western Ghats. The report details an impressive array of 69 plant families, 206 genera, and 255 species. Among these is a significant presence of exotic species, numbering 112, alongside a smaller number of two species endemic to Western Ghats. The campus is rich in medicinal plants, with 115 identified species, highlighting the region's deep-rooted herbal traditions.

Plant Families Observed



This botanical diversity is further categorised by conservation status, with species classified as vulnerable, near threatened, least concerned, and data deficient. The family-wise breakdown of species shows a dominant presence of families like Fabaceae, Poaceae, Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, and Malvaceae.

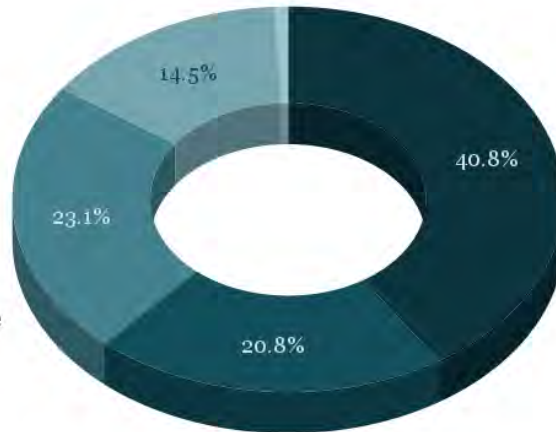
Additionally, the report notes that numerous plant families are represented by only one or two species, illustrating the wide-ranging botanical diversity of the campus environment. This diversity is significant regarding numbers and the variety of roles these plants play, serving ornamental, medicinal, and ecological purposes.



The distinctive characteristics of the campus's flora can

Plants by Habit

- Herb
- Shrub
- Tree
- Climber
- Shrub to Small Tree



be attributed to the unique soil and climatic conditions of Kozhinjampara. The area is known for its black cotton soil, a rarity in other parts of Kerala, characterised by high clay content and low organic matter. This soil type, combined with the hot and dry climate typical of the region, creates a unique habitat conducive to the growth of a diverse range of plant species. The campus's location is set against the backdrop of the Anamalai and Nilgiri hills of the Western Ghats.



PLANT LIST

ACANTHACEAE

***Andrographis paniculata* (Burm. f.) Wall. ex Nees**

Common Name: Kiriyathu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Peninsular India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Justicia adhatoda* L.**

Common Name: Aadalodakam

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; for treating colds, cough, whooping-cough, chronic bronchitis, etc.



***Justicia gendarussa* Burm.f.**

Common Name: Vathakodi, Vathamkolli

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Tropical Africa and Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used to reduce inflammation caused by insect bite.



***Strobilanthes alternata* (Burm.f.) E. Moylex J.R.I. Wood**

Common Name: Murikootti

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Central America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental and medicinal; Antibacterial, applied for infectious wounds



***Thunbergia erecta* (Benth.)**

T.Anderson

Common Name: Krishna neela

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Western Tropical Africa, widely cultivated

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



ALANGIACEAE

***Alangium salviifolium* (L. f.) Wang.**

Common Name: Ankolam

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India, Sri Lanka, China, Vietnam, Thailand and Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



AMARANTHACEAE

***Aerva lanata* (Linn.) Juss.**

Common Name: Cherula

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Widespread in the tropics and subtropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands and is used in the offering to God during Pongal celebration in Palakkad and in Tamilnadu. Used in ayurvedic medicine preparation.



***Alternanthera bettzickiana* (Regel) G.Nicholson**

Common Name: Kaattuponnamgani

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; now getting naturalised in Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Amaranthus tricolor* L.**

Common Name: Cheera

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical Asia; cultivated in Africa and West Indies

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental and vegetable



***Celosia argentea* L.**

Common Name: Cherucheera

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Cosmopolitan

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Gomphrena celosioides* Mart.**

Common Name: Neervadamalli

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Originally from South America; now widespread in the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Gomphrena globosa* L.**

Common Name: Vadamalli

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical America, cultivated in the warmer region of the world

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



AMARYLLIDACEAE

***Zephyranthes minuta* (Kunth)**

D.Dietr.

Common Name: Pink Rain Lily

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native to Tropical America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



ANACARDIACEAE

***Mangifera indica* L.**

Common Name: Maavu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Widely cultivated and edible



ANNONACEAE

***Annona muricata* L.**

Common Name: Mullaatha

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Central America and West Indies, introduced elsewhere

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and edible



***Annona reticulata* L.**

Common Name: Aatha

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Central America and West Indies

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and edible



APOCYNACEAE

***Adenium obesum* (Forssk.) Roem. & Schult.**

Common Name: Adenium

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of tropical Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental plant



***Allamanda blanchetii* A.DC.**

Common Name: Caatinga

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Native to north-eastern Brazil

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental plant



***Allamanda cathartica* L.**

Common Name: Kolambi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; now naturalised in the tropics of the world

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental plant



***Calotropis gigantea* (L.) W.T.Aiton**

Common Name: Erikku

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Tropical Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; the seeds are used to treat lung diseases and traditional beedi preparation (Datura drug).



***Cascabela thevetia* (L.) Lippold**

Common Name: Manja-arali

Habit: Shrub to Small Tree

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; now Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Biofencing



***Cryptolepis buchananii* R. Br. ex Roem. & Schult.**

Common Name: Adavivallippala

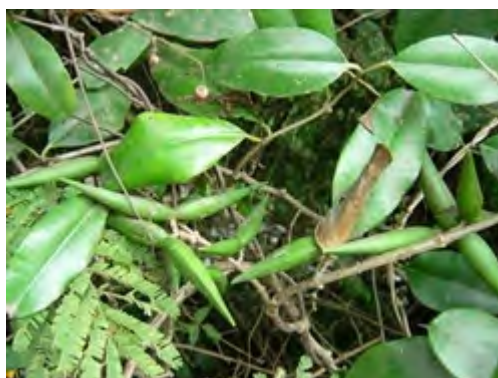
Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indian Subcontinent to South China and Indo-China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; to treat polyuria, haemorrhage, gout, wounds, etc.



***Hemidesmus indicus* (L.) R.Br.**

Common Name: Nannari, Naruneendi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indo-Malaya

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Holarrhena pubescens* (Buch-Ham.)
Wall. ex G. Don**

Common Name: Kudagapala

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; juice extracted from bark taken for the cure of dysentery.



***Ichnocarpus frutescens* (L.) R. Br.**

Common Name: Palvalli

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; for the treatment of atrophy, convulsions, cough, delirium, dysentery, etc.



***Nerium oleander* L.**

Common Name: Arali

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: From Mediterranean through Persia, Afghanistan to West Himalayas, cultivated elsewhere

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and ornamental



***Pergularia daemia* (Forssk.) Chiov.**

Common Name: Velipparuthi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; the whole plant is used to treat Jaundice since ancient times.



***Plumeria obtusa* L.**

Common Name: Vellachampakam

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Central America, from Mexico to Panama

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Plumeria pudica* Jacq.**

Common Name: Fiddle Leaf Plumeria

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Central and Tropical South America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Tabernaemontana alternifolia* L.**

Common Name: Kundalappala, Koonampala

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Southern Western Ghats

Endemic/Exotic: Endemic to Southern Western Ghats

Conservation Status: Near Threatened (NT)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Wattakaka volubilis* (L. f.) Stapf**

Common Name: Vattakakkakkodi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; the plant juice is used as sternutatory and roots and tender stalks are used as emetic, purgative and expectorant.



***Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb.) R.Br.**

Common Name: Dhanthappala

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India, southeast Asia and Australia.

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; effective in the treatment of psoriasis.



ARACEAE

***Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* (Dennst.) Nicolson**

Common Name: Chena

Habit: Herb

Distribution: India, Sri Lanka and Pacific Islands

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated



***Caladium bicolor* (Aiton) Vent.**

Common Name: Pullichembu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: South America; naturalised in the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Dieffenbachia seguine* (Jacq.) Schott**

Common Name: Dumb cane

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of tropical America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Epipremnum pinnatum* (L.) Engl.**

Common Name: Money plant

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Originally reported from Solomon Islands, now cultivated in many regions

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Spathiphyllum wallisii* Regel**

Common Name: Peace lilly

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of South America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



ARALIACEAE

***Schefflera arboricola* (Hayata) Merr.**

Common Name: Dwarf Umbrella Tree

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of East Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



ARAUCARIACEAE

***Araucaria heterophylla* (Salisb.) Franco**

Common Name: Arakaria

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Australia to Polynesia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



ARECACEAE

***Borassus flabellifer* L.**

Common Name: Karimbana

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Africa; introduced and cultivated in Indo-Malesia and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Food source, Cultural, Aesthetic and Medicinal



***Roystonea regia* (Kunth) O.F.Cook**

Common Name: Royal palm

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Central and South America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

***Aristolochia indica* L.**

Common Name: Garudakodi, Karalagam

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used in skin diseases and heals wounds and destroys the toxic effect of all poisons.



ASPARAGACEAE

***Agave vivipara* L.**

Common Name: Dwarf aloe

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Tropical America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



ASPHODELACEAE

***Aloe vera* (L.) Burm.f.**

Common Name: Kattar vazha

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Mediterranean Islands; naturalised in Florida, West Indies, Central America and Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and cultivated



ASTERACEAE

***Bidens pilosa* var. *minor* (Blume) Sherff**

Common Name: Kithachedi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Centratherum punctatum* Cass.**

Common Name: Kesavardhini

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of South America and West Indies

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Chromolaena odorata* (L.) R.M.King & H.Rob.**

Common Name: Communist Pacha

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of tropical and subtropical America; naturalised in Tropical Asia and Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a weed plant



***Chrysanthemum indicum* L.**

Common Name: Jamanthi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Himalaya to China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental

***Cyanthillium cinerum* (DC.) H.Rob.**

Common Name: Poovankurunnal

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; paste of stem/bark is used to heal cuts.



***Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L.**

Common Name: Kanjunni

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Temp. & Subtropical America, naturalised in paleotropics from Africa to Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands and used for hair oil preparation.



***Elephantopus scaber* L.**

Common Name: Aanachuvadi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical & Subtropical regions of Old World; naturalised in Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used in traditional medicine as an astringent agent, cardiac tonic and is used for eczema, rheumatism, fever & bladder stones.



***Eleutheranthera ruderalis* (Sw.) Sch.-Bip.**

Common Name: Ogiera

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; now established in several Asian countries

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Emilia sonchifolia* (L.) DC.**

Common Name: Elichevianveru, Muyalchevian

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical Africa and Asia; naturalised in some parts of Tropical America and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: It is an edible plant used in the ayurvedic system of medicine for the treatment of gastropathy, diarrhea, etc.



***Mikania micrantha* Kunth**

Common Name: Dhritarashtra-pachha

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Parthenium hysterophorus* L.**

Common Name: Congress pacha

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of America; now naturalised in India

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Sphagneticola trilobata* (L.) Pruski**

Common Name: Kammal poove

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Synedrella nodiflora* (L.) Gaertn.**

Common Name: Mudianpacha

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical & Subtropical America; naturalised in Tropical and subtropical Africa, Asia to Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Tagetes erecta* L.**

Common Name: Chendumalli

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Central America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Tridax procumbens* L.**

Common Name: Kumminnippacha

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; now widespread throughout tropics and subtropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



BIGNONIACEAE

***Cordia dichotoma* G. Forst.**

Common Name: Pasakaimaram

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and North Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and timber use



***Cordia sebestena* L.**

Common Name: Kordia

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Tropical America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Mansoa alliacea* (Lam.) A.H.Gentry**

Common Name: Vellullicheddi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Native of Tropical America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and ornamental



***Tecoma stans* (L.) Kunth**

Common Name: Manja-arali

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of South America and the Caribbean Islands. Grown as garden and avenue tree throughout the tropical and sub-tropical world

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



CACTACEAE

***Cereus pterogonus* Lem.**

Common Name: Poochamullu

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Opuntia cochenillifera* (L.) Mill.**

Common Name: Cochineal cactus

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Central America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



CANNABACEAE

***Trema orientale* (L.) Blume**

Common Name: Aamathali, Pottama

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Tropical Africa, Asia and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



CANNACEAE

Canna indica L.

Common Name: Chakkarachembu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



CARICACEAE

Carica papaya L.

Common Name: Papaya

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; cultivated in the tropics and subtropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated and medicinal; leaves are used as vegetable to clean stomach (Filarial worm removal).



CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Polycarpaea corymbosa (L.) Lam.

Common Name: Achaaramkolli

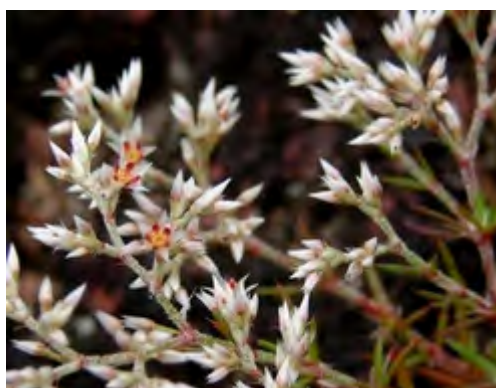
Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



CLEOMACEAE

Cleome aspera J.Koenig ex DC.

Common Name: Rough Spider Flower

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Cleome rutidosperma* DC**

Common Name: Neelavela

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands

COMBRETACEAE

***Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wight & Arn.**

Common Name: Neermaruthu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; the bark is acrid and styptic, tonic, febrifugal, anti-dysenteric, hypotensive, diuretic and cardiotoxic and also effective in cirrhosis of liver.



***Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb.**

Common Name: Thanni

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used to protect the liver and to treat respiratory conditions, including respiratory tract infections, cough, and sore throat.



***Terminalia catappa* L.**

Common Name: Badam

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Malaysia to North Australia and Polynesia, commonly planted in the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental and a avenue tree



***Terminalia elliptica* Willd.**

Common Name: Karimaruthu, Thembavu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Timber use



COMMELINACEAE

***Commelina benghalensis* L.**

Common Name: Adukkavettilla

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Africa, India, China, Japan and Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a Weed plant



***Commelina clavata* C.B.Clarke**

Common Name: Kaina, Kalani

Habit: Herb

Distribution: India, Sri Lanka and Java

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Cyanotis axillaris* (L.) D. Don**

Common Name: Creeping Cradle Plant

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Cyanotis cristata* (L.) D. Don**

Common Name: Nabhali

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Tradescantia spathacea* Sw.**

Common Name: Riyo

Habit: Herb

Distribution: South East Mexico to Guatemala, widely introduced elsewhere

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



CONVOLVULACEAE

***Argyrea hirsuta* Wight & Arn.**

Common Name: Onappoo

Habit: Climber

Distribution: South India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L.**

Common Name: Chumadukodi, Vishnukranthi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; the whole plant is used in form of decoction in nervous debility and loss of memory.



***Ipomoea aquatica* Forssk.**

Common Name: Kozhuppa

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pan-tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and leaves used as vegetable



***Ipomoea carnea* subsp. *fistulosa* (Mart. ex Choisy) Austin**

Common Name: Neyvelipoo

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of America; now Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker-Gawl.**

Common Name: Cheruthali

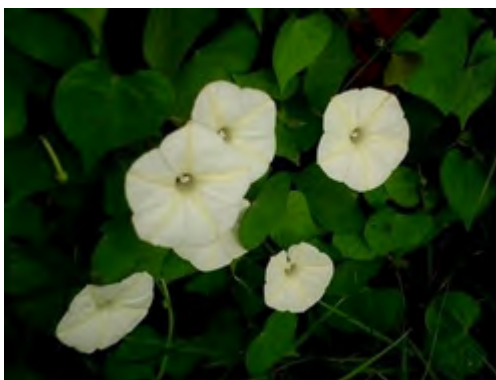
Habit: Climber

Distribution: China, Tropical Asia and Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal





***Ipomoea pes-tigridis* L.**

Common Name: Pulichuvadi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Pantropic

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; antitode to dog bites, to relieve boils, pimples, etc.



***Xenostegia tridentata* (L.)**

D.F.Austin & Staples

Common Name: Pradharini, Prasarani

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; whole plant is used in rheumatism, flatulence and herpes.



CUCURBITACEAE

***Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt**

Common Name: Koval

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Tropical Africa, Tropical & Subtropical Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and cultivated



***Cucumis maderaspatanus* L.**

Common Name: Kasappuchedi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; relieves toothache, vertigo, biliousness, etc.



***Momordica charantia* L.**

Common Name: Kaippakka, Paval

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Paleotropics; widely cultivated

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated



CYCADACEAE

***Cycas revoluta* Thunb.**

Common Name: Eenth

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of East Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



CYPERACEAE

***Bulbostylis barbata* (Rottb.) C.B.Clarke**

Common Name: Watergrass

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics and southern America

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands and wetlands.



***Cyperus compressus* L.**

Common Name: Summer sedge

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Cyperus distans* L.**

Common Name: Slender cyperus

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands

***Cyperus iria* L.**

Common Name: Iria flatsedge

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical Asia and East Africa; introduced in U.S.A and West Indies

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Cyperus rotundus* L.**

Common Name: Kuzhimutthanga

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a weed plant



***Fimbristylis dichotoma* (L.) Vahl**

Common Name: Common fringe sedge

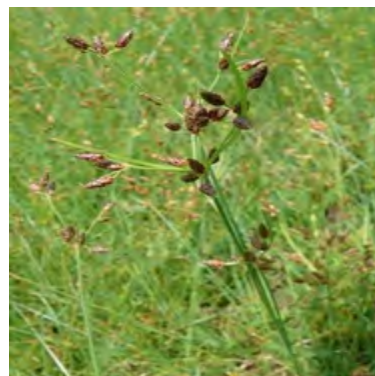
Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



EBENACEAE

***Diospyros ebenum* Koenig ex Retz.**

Common Name: Ebony, Karimaram

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Data Deficient (DD)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal (planted)



***Diospyros montana* Roxb.**

Common Name: Manjakara, Nanchimaram

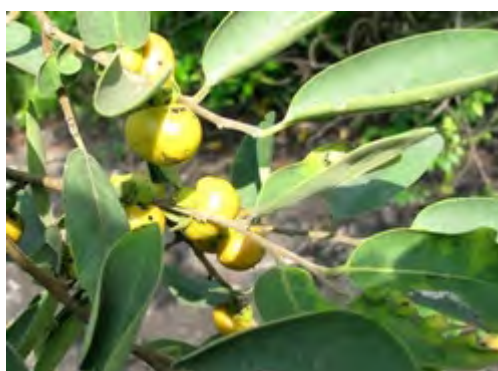
Habit: Tree

Distribution: Tropical Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; to treat boils.



ELAEOCARPACEAE

***Elaeocarpus serratus* L.**

Common Name: Bhadraksham

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in plains (Planted)



EUPHORBIACEAE

***Acalypha indica* L.**

Common Name: Kuppameni

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia, Arabian Peninsula and Tropical Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Invasive species



***Acalypha wilkesiana* Muell.Arg.**

Common Name: Beefsteak Plant

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Polynesia, widely cultivated as an ornamental

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Cnidoscolus aconitifolius* (Mill.) I.M.Johnst.**

Common Name: Chayamansa

Habit: Shrub to Small Tree

Distribution: Native to Central America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Leafy Vegetable



***Croton bonplandianus* Baill.**

Common Name: Ban tulusi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of South America; now naturalised in Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Euphorbia heterophylla* L.**

Common Name: Paalperukki

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Central America; now a Pantropical weed

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Euphorbia hirta* L.**

Common Name: Attuvattappala, Kuzhinagappala

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; now Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a weed plant



***Euphorbia milii* Des Moul.**

Common Name: Crown of Thorns

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Madagascar, introduced elsewhere

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Mallotus philippensis* (Lam.) Muell. Arg.**

Common Name: Sindooram

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; remedy for expelling tapeworms.



***Manihot carthagenensis* ssp. *glaziovii* (Muell.-Arg.) Allem**

Common Name: Kattu-rubber

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of South America; introduced in India

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands; Biofencing plant.



***Ricinus communis* L.**

Common Name: Aavannakku

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Tropical Africa; now cultivated throughout tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a Poison plant



FABACEAE

***Abrus precatorius* L.**

Common Name: Kunnikuru

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Paleotropics, naturalised in Tropical America

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a Poison plant



***Aeschynomene indica* L.**

Common Name: Nellithali

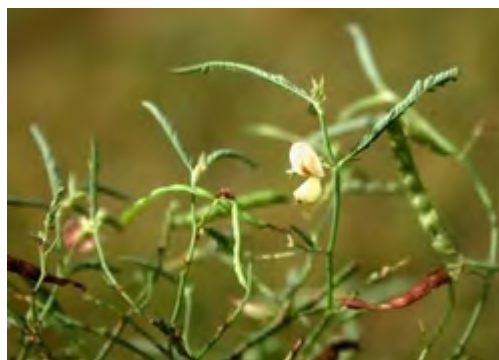
Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropics, probably native in South East United States

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; antitode against snake bite.



***Alysicarpus vaginalis* (L.) DC.**

Common Name: Nila-orila

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Wastelands in the plains



***Bauhinia variegata* L.**

Common Name: Chuvannamandaram

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Possibly native of China; wild in the sub Himalayan and India

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Biancaea sappan* (L.) Tod.**

Common Name: Chappangam

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; a decoction of the wood is a powerful emmenagogue and, because of its tannic and gallic acids, is an astringent used in mild cases of dysentery and diarrhea.



***Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (L.) Sw.**

Common Name: Rajamalli

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Probably native in Tropical America; now widely cultivated

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Cajanus cajan* (L.) Huth**

Common Name: Thuvara

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Worldwide

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated and medicinal



***Cajanus scarabaeoides* (L.) Thouars**

Common Name: Kattumuthira

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical Asia; introduced in Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



Canavalia mollis Wight & Arn.

Common Name: Sword Bean

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



Cassia fistula L.

Common Name: Kanikonna

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and ornamental



Centrosema molle Benth.

Common Name: Kattupayar

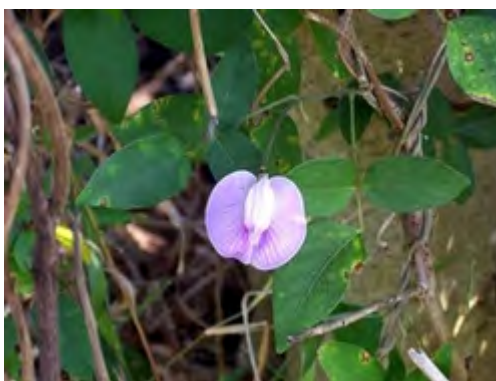
Habit: Climber

Distribution: Native of America; introduced in India

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



Clitoria ternatea L.

Common Name: Sangupushpam

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Widely cultivated in the tropics, probably native of South America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and Ornamental



Crotalaria mysorensis Roth

Common Name: Kilukilukki

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Delonix regia* (Bojer ex Hook.) Raf.**

Common Name: Poomaram, Gulmohar

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Madagascar; now cultivated throughout the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Desmodium scorpiurus* (Sw.) Desv.**

Common Name: Scorpion Tick Trefoil

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of America; introduced and naturalised in the pacific regions of Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Gliricidia sepium* (Jacq.) Kunth ex Walp.**

Common Name: Cheema konna

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of South America; Introduced and now widely grown in India

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated in fields and along fences.



***Grona heterophylla* (Willd.) H. Ohashi & K. Ohashi**

Common Name: Moyalpullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; to treat urinary retention and digestive complaints.



***Grona triflora* (L.) H. Ohashi & K. Ohashi**

Common Name: Nilamparanda

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; to relieve burns, healing of wounds, etc.



***Indigofera tinctoria* L.**

Common Name: Neelayamari

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics, widely cultivated

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; main ingredient in 'Neelabringaadi oil'



***Indigofera tsiangiana* Metcalf**

Common Name: Cherru-pulladi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia to Australia and West Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; remedy for migraine.



***Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) de Wit**

Common Name: Ippilippil, Subaul

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Originally from Tropical America; now Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands; Biofencing plant.



***Macrotyloma uniflorum* (Lam.) Verdc.**

Common Name: Muthira

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and cultivated



***Mimosa diplotricha* C. Wight ex Sanvalle**

Common Name: Aanathottavadi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; a weed in India

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Mimosa pudica* L.**

Common Name: Thottavaadi

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Native of South America; now
Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a weed plant



***Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth.**

Common Name: Kodakapuli

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Tropical America,
cultivated in the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Planted as fuelwood and
ornamental tree.



***Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre**

Common Name: Ungu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental and
Medicinal; used in preparation of home-made
'murivenna' for body pain and wounds.



***Pseudarthria viscida* (L.) Wight & Arn.**

Common Name: Moovila

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Peninsular India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used in
the treatment for asthma and nervous
dysfunction.



***Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb.**

Common Name: Venga

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Near Threatened (NT)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and timber use



***Samanea saman* (Jacq.) Merr.**

Common Name: Mazhamaram

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Central and South America; widely planted in the tropics as avenue tree

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Avenue tree



***Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) W.J.de Wilde**

Common Name: Ashokam

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India and Myanmar

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Vulnerable (VU)

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental and medicinal; used in the Indian system from time immemorial for the treatment of uterine, genital, and other reproductive disorders in women, etc.



***Senegalia catechu* (L.f.)**

P.J.H.Hurter & Mabb.

Common Name: Karingali, Cutch tree

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India and Myanmar

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used to treat sore throats and diarrhoea, also useful in high blood pressure.



***Stylosanthes hamata* (L.) Taub.**

Common Name: Caribbean Stylo

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native to Caribbean, Central America, SE North America, and South America; introduced in tropical Asia and Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Teramnus labialis* (L.f.) Spreng.**

Common Name: Cherukattuzhunnu

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; for treating rheumatism, tuberculosis, nerve disorders, paralysis, and catarrhs.



***Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.**

Common Name: Kottapayar

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Cultivated in South Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated

LAMIACEAE

***Clerodendrum paniculatum* L.**

Common Name: Krishna kireedam

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Coleus amboinicus* Lour.**

Common Name: Panikoorka

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Widely cultivated throughout tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Planted for folk medicine



***Duranta erecta* L.**

Common Name: Duranta

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Originally from Tropical America; now widespread throughout the world

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Gmelina arborea* Roxb.**

Common Name: Kumbil, Kumizhu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia, Introduced elsewhere

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Lantana camara* L.**

Common Name: Arippoo, Kongini

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Tropical America, widely naturalised in the tropics and subtropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental and an invasive plant



***Leucas aspera* (Willd.) Link**

Common Name: Thumba

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical & Subtropical Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands; used as a folk medicine to treat fever and cold in babies less than 1 year old.



***Leucas lavandulifolia* J.E. Smith**

Common Name: Rudraspushpam, Thumba

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical & Subtropical Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used for the treatment of fever, asthma, psoriasis, dermatitis and healing snake bites.



***Mesosphaerum suaveolens* (L.) Kuntze**

Common Name: Nattapoochedi

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Originally from America now Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: An invasive plant seen in wastelands



***Ocimum basilicum* L.**

Common Name: Kattuthrithavu, Ramathulasi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia to Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; treating parasitic skin diseases.



***Orthosiphon thymiflorus* (Roth)
Sleesen**

Common Name: Chilannippadam,
Kattuthritha

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Tectona grandis* L.f.**

Common Name: Teak, Thekku

Habit: Tree

Distribution: South and South East Asia,
introduced and cultivated elsewhere

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Timber use



***Vitex negundo* L.**

Common Name: Karinochi

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and China,
cultivated throughout the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; to treat
rheumatism, sprains, dyspepsia, etc.



LINDERNIACEAE

***Torenia crustacea* (L.) Cham. &
Schtdl.**

Common Name: Malaysian False Pimpernel

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Africa, America and Tropical
and Subtropical Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



LYTHRACEAE

***Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers.**

Common Name: Manimaruthu, Poomaruthu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Tropical Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and an avenue tree



MALPIGHIACEAE

***Galphimia gracilis* Bartl.**

Common Name: Spray of Gold

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of tropical America

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



MALVACEAE

***Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench**

Common Name: Venda

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Cultivated in most tropical countries including India

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Used as vegetable



***Bombax ceiba* L.**

Common Name: Elavu

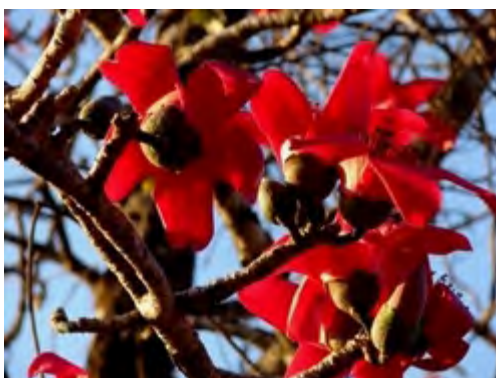
Habit: Tree

Distribution: Tropical Asia and New Guinea

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Corchorus aestuans* L.**

Common Name:

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Grewia tiliifolia* Vahl**

Common Name: Chadachi

Habit: Tree

Distribution: India to Indo-China and Malaysia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Helicteres isora* L.**

Common Name: Idampiri – Valampiri

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Indo-Malesia, China and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Hibiscus lobatus* (Murray) Kuntze**

Common Name: Lobed Leaf Mallow

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L.**

Common Name: Chembarathi

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Pacific Islands; cultivated in Tropical and Subtropical countries

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

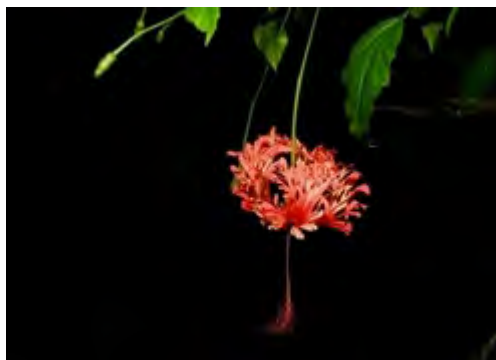
Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and ornamental



***Hibiscus schizopetalus* (Mast.)
Hook.f.**

Common Name: Tookuchemparuthi
Habit: Shrub
Distribution: Native of Tropical East Africa;
cultivated throughout tropics
Endemic/Exotic: Exotic
Conservation Status: Nil
Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Hibiscus surattensis* L.**

Common Name: Kakkapoovu, Pulichai
Habit: Shrub
Distribution: Tropical & Subtropical Old
World
Endemic/Exotic: Nil
Conservation Status: Nil
Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a weed plant



***Hibiscus vitifolius* L.**

Common Name: Vellaooral
Habit: Shrub
Distribution: Paleotropics
Endemic/Exotic: Nil
Conservation Status: Nil
Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Malvaviscus arboreus* var.
drummondii (Torr. & A.Gray) Schery**

Common Name:
Habit: Shrub
Distribution: Native of Central America
Endemic/Exotic: Exotic
Conservation Status: Nil
Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Sida acuta* Burm.f.**

Common Name: Kurunthotti
Habit: Shrub
Distribution: Pantropical
Endemic/Exotic: Nil
Conservation Status: Nil
Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used in
preparation of hair oils along with hibiscus
plant.



***Thespesia populnea* (L.) Sol. ex
Corrêa**

Common Name: Poovarasu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Old World, tropics;
widely naturalized in Central America,
northern South America, the Caribbean
islands and Florida

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and grown as
fence-posts and avenue tree.



***Triumfetta rhomboidea* Jacq.**

Common Name: Ottukayal

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a weed plant



***Urena lobata* L.**

Common Name: Oorppam

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



MELIACEAE

***Azadirachta indica* A.Juss.**

Common Name: Aryaveppu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia, widely cultivated

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal, sacred plant and
cultural



***Swietenia macrophylla* King**

Common Name: Mahogani

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Native of Central and South America, widely planted

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Premium furniture wood



MENISPERMACEAE

***Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers**

Common Name: Chittamruth

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indian Subcontinent to Indo-China.

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; mature stem soaked in water overnight is used as a morning drink to reduce diabetes.



MOLLUGINACEAE

***Glinus oppositifolius* (L.) A.DC.**

Common Name: Kaippujeerakam

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropics and Subtropics of Old World

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



MORACEAE

***Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.**

Common Name: Chakka, Plavu

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Widely cultivated in the tropics, origin is probably South India

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated



***Ficus benghalensis* L.**

Common Name: Peraal

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indian subcontinent; widely grown as avenue tree

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A religious tree; seen in wastelands often planted.



***Ficus benjamina* L.**

Common Name: Vellal

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical Asia to Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Ficus elastica* Roxb. ex Hornem.**

Common Name: Assam rubber

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Nepal to West Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Ficus hispida* L.f.**

Common Name: Thondi, Paarakam

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: South China, Indo-Malesia to Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Ficus religiosa* L.**

Common Name: Arayal

Habit: Tree

Distribution: East Himalayas; planted and naturalised elsewhere and neighbouring countries

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Widely planted in temple premises



***Ficus tinctoria* subsp. *parasitica*
(Koen. ex Willd.) Corner**

Common Name: Kallithi

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: As a food, medicine and source of fibre and dyestuff.



***Streblus asper* Lour.**

Common Name: Paruvamaram, Shangkodavriksham

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Tropical Asia and China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; juice/extract of leaves and roots are given after child birth for anaemia.



MORINGACEAE

***Moringa oleifera* Lam.**

Common Name: Muringa

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Cultivated throughout India and many tropical countries

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and cultivated



MUNTINGIACEAE

***Muntingia calabura* L.**

Common Name: Pancharappazham

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Cultivated in India, Native of Tropical America and West Indies

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



MUSACEAE

Musa × paradisiaca L.

Common Name: Vaazha

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Cultivated throughout the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated



MYRTACEAE

Psidium guajava L.

Common Name: Adakkapazham, Pera

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Originally from Tropical America; now naturalised in the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Planted and medicinal; leaves boiled in water is used to control diabetes.



Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels

Common Name: Njara, Njaval

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia to Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and edible



NYCTAGINACEAE

Boerhavia diffusa L.

Common Name: Thazuthama

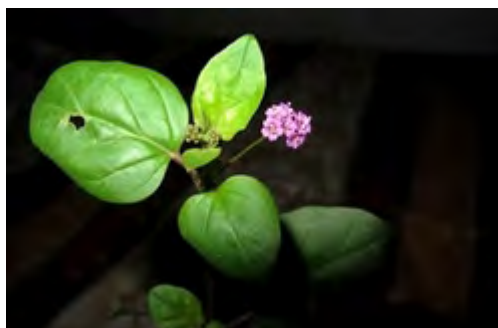
Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical regions

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and used as a leafy vegetable in rural places.



***Boerhavia erecta* L.**

Common Name: Erect Boerhavia

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical & Subtropical America, naturalized in Tropical Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a weed plant



***Bougainvillea glabra* Choisy**

Common Name: Kadalasupoovu-chedi

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Brazil, widely grown in tropics and subtropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Bougainvillea spectabilis* Willd.**

Common Name: Kadalasupoovu

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of Brazil, widely grown in tropics and subtropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



NYMPHAECEAE

***Nymphaea nouchali* var. *caerulea* (Savi.) Verdc.**

Common Name: Neela-ambel

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of North Africa, introduced as a garden plant

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



OLEACEAE

***Jasminum grandiflorum* L.**

Common Name: Pichakamulla

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Subtropical North West

Himalayas

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and ornamental



***Jasminum sambac* (L.) Ait.**

Common Name: Mulla

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Sri Lanka through India to Myanmar

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and ornamental



OROBANCHACEAE

***Striga angustifolia* (D. Don)**

Saldanha

Common Name: Thiduvan

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical Africa, S. Arabian Peninsula, Indian Subcontinent to Indo-China, Hainan

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in plains



PASSIFLORACEAE

***Passiflora foetida* L.**

Common Name: Ammummapazham, Poochapazham

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; now naturalised in India, China and Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and seen in wastelands



PHYLLANTHACEAE

***Bridelia retusa* (L.) A.Juss.**

Common Name: Mullankkayini

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Timber use



***Phyllanthus amarus* Schum. & Thonn.**

Common Name: Keezhanelli

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used to treat jaundice



***Phyllanthus emblica* L.**

Common Name: Nelli

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Throughout the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and edible



***Phyllanthus maderaspatensis* L.**

Common Name: Nila-nelli

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; for the treatment of headaches.



***Phyllanthus reticulatus* Poir.**

Common Name: Neeroli, Neeruri

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Tropical & Subtropical Asia to Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Planted as fencing plant



PIPERACEAE

Piper betle L.

Common Name: Vettila

Habit: Climber

Distribution: India and Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated and medicinal; Paste from leaves used for skin diseases and skin burns



PLANTAGINACEAE

Scoparia dulcis L.

Common Name: Kallurukki

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical America; now Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; dried plants tied together and used as brooms Leaf extracts taken orally for the relief of rheumatic pains.



PLUMBAGINACEAE

Plumbago auriculata Lam.

Common Name: Neelakoduvveli

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of South Africa

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



Plumbago zeylanica L.

Common Name: Vellakoduvveli

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical regions

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; to treat diarrhoea, dyspepsia, etc.



POACEAE

***Alloteropsis cimicina* (L.) Stapf**

Common Name: Bugseedgrass

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Apluda mutica* L.**

Common Name: Mauritian Grass

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical Asia and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Axonopus compressus* (Sw.) P. Beauv.**

Common Name: Kaalappullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical & Subtropical America; naturalised in Tropics and subtropics of old world

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Bambusa bambos* (L.) Voss**

Common Name: Mula

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Indian Subcontinent to Indo-China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Biofencing, bamboo rice for payasam preparation and is stored for post-delivery treatment for new mothers.



***Bambusa tuldoides* Munro**

Common Name: Buddha's belly bamboo

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of China and Thailand, introduced elsewhere

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Cenchrus setosus* Sw.**

Common Name: Nambeesan Pullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Chloris barbata* Sw.**

Common Name: Kodappullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical Africa, spread to other tropical countries

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.**

Common Name: Karukapullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical and warm temperate regions of the world

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (L.) Willd.**

Common Name: Kakkakalan pullu, Kavarapullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of South America, naturalised in Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and a weed plant



***Digitaria ciliaris* (Retz.) Koeler**

Common Name: Henry's crabgrass

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn.**

Common Name: Kattuthina, Kaatturagi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands

***Eragrostis tenella* (L.) P. Beauv. ex Roem. & Schult.**

Common Name:

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical and Subtropical Africa and Asia; naturalised in some parts of Tropical America and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands

***Eragrostis unioides* (Retz.) Nees ex Steud.**

Common Name: Karayampullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical & Subtropical Asia to Australia; naturalised in some parts of tropical and subtropical Africa and America

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Heteropogon contortus* (L.) P.Beauv.
ex Roem. & Schult.**

Common Name: Oosipullu, Shoolampullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Cosmopolitan

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Oplismenus compositus* (L.) P.
Beauv.**

Common Name: Kozhipullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Pseudanthistiria umbellata* (Hack.)
Hook. f.**

Common Name:

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Peninsular India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: A weed plant



***Urochloa distachyos* (L.) T.Q.
Nguyen**

Common Name: Signal Grass

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Africa, India, Sri Lanka and
Thailand

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands

PORTULACACEAE

***Portulaca oleracea* L.**

Common Name: Kozhuppacheera

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; leaves used as
vegetable; paste of leaves applied to burn
injuries.



RHAMNACEAE

***Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam.**

Common Name: Elentha, Jujuba

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Old World Tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Ziziphus oenopolia* (L.) Mill.**

Common Name: Cheruthudali

Habit: Climber

Distribution: China, Tropical Asia and Australia. Throughout the hotter parts of India

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; ripe fruits are edible



ROSACEAE

***Rosa indica* L.**

Common Name: Rose

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native of China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental

***Rubus indicus* Thunb.**

Common Name: Indian Raspberry

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: South India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



RUBIACEAE

***Canthium coromandelicum* (Burm. f.) Alston**

Common Name: Kandakara, Karamullu

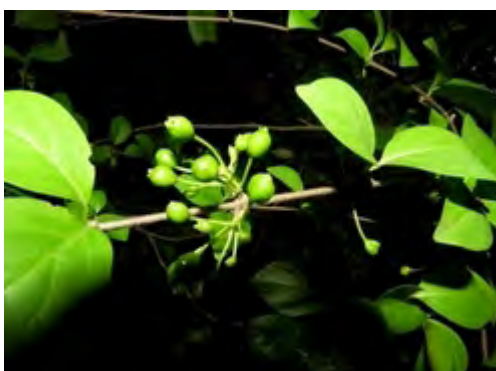
Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Indian Subcontinent

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; Leaves and fruits are given at regular intervals to treat intestinal worms in children.



***Ixora coccinea* L.**

Common Name: Chethi, Thechi

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental and medicinal; flowers, leaves, roots, and stem are used to treat various ailments in the Indian traditional system of medicine, the Ayurveda, and also in folk medicines. Mature fruits are edible.



***Mitracarpus hirtus* (L.) DC.**

Common Name: Thaval

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical America; now common in South India

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



***Morinda pubescens* J.E. Smith**

Common Name: Manjapaavetta

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used as a folk medicine in preparing *murivenna* in ayurvedic medicine.



***Mussaenda glabrata* (Hook.f.) Hutch. ex Gamble**

Common Name: Vellila, Vattuthali

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Western Ghats

Endemic/Exotic: Endemic to Western Ghats

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Oldenlandia corymbosa* L.**

Common Name: Parpadakapullu

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Paleotropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Spermacoce pusilla* Wall.**

Common Name: Tiny Buttonweed

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical Asia and China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands



RUTACEAE

***Murraya koenigii* (L.) Spreng.**

Common Name: Kariveppu

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Indo-Malesia and China

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and cultivated



SANTALACEAE

***Santalum album* L.**

Common Name: Chandanam

Habit: Tree

Distribution: Peninsular India and Malesia to Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Vulnerable (VU)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; wood is ground into a paste and applied on the forehead for headache.



SAPINDACEAE

***Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.**

Common Name: Uzhinja

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Tropical & Subtropical regions

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and used in cultural festivals of farmers in Kerala (Polivaykal pooja after first harvest of paddy).



SOLANACEAE

Capsicum annum L.

Common Name: Mulaku

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Native to West Indies; widely cultivated all over the world

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and cultivated



Physalis angulata L.

Common Name: Njottanjodian, Pottichedi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Tropical & Subtropical America, now widespread in Tropical Asia, Africa and Australia

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and seen in wastelands



Solanum americanum Mill.

Common Name: Manithakkali

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Tropical and subtropical America, naturalised in many tropical Asian and African countries

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used as a folk medicine to heal mouth sour and for worm problems.



Solanum lycopersicum L.

Common Name: Thakkaali

Habit: Herb

Distribution: East and South America, Mexico, widely cultivated

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Cultivated



Solanum torvum Sw.

Common Name: Chunda

Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Throughout the tropics

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; for relieving indigestion.



TALINACEAE

***Talinum portulacifolium* (Forssk.) Asch. ex Schweinf.**

Common Name: Sambar cheera

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Pantropical

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Seen in wastelands; used as a vegetable by village people, heals mouth sores.



ULMACEAE

***Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Planch.**

Common Name: Aaval

Habit: Tree

Distribution: South and South East Asia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



VITACEAE

***Causonis trifolia* (L.) Mabb. & J. Wen**

Common Name: Amarchakkodi, Kattuperanda

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indo-Malesia, S. China, Australia and Western Pacific Islands

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Cayratia pedata* (Lam.) A. Juss. ex Gagnep.**

Common Name: Corivalli

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Vulnerable (VU)

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal



***Cissus quadrangularis* L.**

Common Name: Changalamparanda

Habit: Climber

Distribution: Widespread in the drier parts of Africa, Arabia and Indo-Malesia

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; paste prepared from leaves and stem are applied in healing of bone fracture.



***Cissus vitiginea* L.**

Common Name: Kattumunthiri

Habit: Climber

Distribution: India and Sri Lanka

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal; used for bone setters.



XANTHORRHOACEAE

***Dianella tasmanica* Hook.f.**

Common Name: Tasman Flax Lily

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Native of Australia and Tasmania

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



ZINGIBERACEAE

***Alpinia purpurata* (Vieill.) K.Schum.**

Common Name: Red Cone Ginger

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Indonesia to Pacific islands, introduced elsewhere

Endemic/Exotic: Exotic

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Ornamental



***Zingiber officinale* Rosc.**

Common Name: Inchi

Habit: Herb

Distribution: Cultivated in Tropical countries

Endemic/Exotic: Nil

Conservation Status: Nil

Use/Cultural use: Medicinal and cultivated





ABOUT ARANYAKAM NATURE FOUNDATION

The Aranyakam Nature Foundation showcases the strength of diversity in its team, which consists of dedicated individuals from various sectors, including research, education, and technology. This multidisciplinary team is united by a shared passion for nature, working collectively towards a future where natural ecosystems flourish for generations.

Their activities span a wide range, including educational sessions illuminating aspects of natural history and wildlife conservation and hosting captivating competitions. These initiatives aim not just to spread knowledge but to foster a deep reverence for the marvels of nature.

Key figures in the foundation include Dr P S Easa, the Chairman, who is distinguished in wildlife biology and conservation, particularly regarding the Asian elephant. His contributions extend to extensive research, environmental education, and involvement in crucial decision-making bodies. He is also noted for his work on an illustrated series detailing the biodiversity of Kerala.

Dr. Sandeep Das, an EDGE Fellow with the Zoological Society of London, brings over a decade of experience conserving amphibians and reptiles, focusing on the *Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis* in the Western Ghats. His ongoing commitment to the herpetofauna of this region underscores the foundation's dedication to biodiversity conservation.

Additionally, the foundation operates Aranyakam Nature News, a news portal that publishes articles on various biological and environmental topics. This platform covers conservation efforts, animal behaviour, plant science, and ecological studies, demonstrating the foundation's active contribution to scientific knowledge and awareness.

Aranyakam Nature Foundation exemplifies a holistic approach to preserving biodiversity and fostering environmental awareness through this combination of expertise in biology, conservation, technology, and education. For more detailed information, you can visit their official website at

<https://aranyakam.org> and their news portal at

<https://aranyakam.news>.



