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Original Research Article

Floristic Studies on Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred Grove at Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, South India

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| Abstract | Keywords |
|--|---|
| Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Aiyandar and Mariyamman Sacred Grove (KISG) which belongs to the tropical dry evergreen forest. Geographically, it lies between Tholuthur to Tittakudi (079°04.947' E longitude and 11°24.320' N latitude) in the Cuddalore district and was explored for floristic studies which was reported for the first time in the year 2013-2014. The study indicated that totally, 185 plant species belonging to 158 genera and 58 families from 29 orders were enumerated in this sacred grove and followed by Angiosperm phylogeny Group III classification. The most dominant families found were Fabaceae (24), Apocynaceae (13), Malvaceae (9), Rubiaceae (8), Convolvulaceae (8) and Rutaceae (8) species. Rich biodiversity is present in the sacred grove. This has ensured the protection and conservation of the vegetation of the sacred grove. | Aiyandar APG III Biodiversity Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred Grove Tropical dry evergreen forests |

Introduction

India is a land of forests. It is also a land in which different traces have settled, and evolved unique interactions between themselves and nature. One of the significant outcomes of the interaction of people with nature is the extraordinary reverence towards nature in particular and landscape in general. Tamil literature belongs to the Sangam period (300 BC.–200 AD.) and describes a scenario where people were seen as one of the components of five different ecosystems. Each ecosystem had people carrying out their unique habits of hunting, gathering, cultivating and worshipping deities. It appears that the ancient deities of Tamil Nadu are the present deities worshipped in villages under different names. Although some of the deities may not be

associated with extensive forest cover, most are found in intimate association with at least a small grove of plants. These are the Sacred Groves (Amirthalingam, 1998). Each grove continuous to have a residing deity and folklore associated with either the deity or the grove. The taboos, rituals and beliefs associated with the groves, supported by mystic folklore, have been the prime motivating factors for preserving them in pristine condition. People believe that any damage to the sacred grove, harm to the fauna residing in it or felling of any tree may invite the fury of the local deity, thus causing diseases and failure of agricultural crops. Even taking a dry twig from the grove is forbidden. Therefore, many people will not even take dead wood out of the sacred groves. In general, they are dedicated to Aiyandar, Sastha, Muniyappa, Karuppuswami, Veeran (*Kaaval*

Theivam/Protective Deity), Andavar (a powerful wish fulfilling deity) and goddesses Selliamman, Kali, Ellaikali, Ellaipidari, Sapta Kannis, Pechiyamman, Rakkachiyamman and Nagadevadhai (fertility and good health). Among these, Aiyanar is the most worshipped deity. He is worshipped every Friday by the local people and also offered special *pooja* on some occasions.

Sacred groves are the last remnants of the native vegetation of that region. Many villages are still preserving them as regions of numerous native species of plants, animals, insects and micro-organisms. This indicates the efforts made by the local communities to protect and preserve their natural forest tracts against the onslaught of the clearing of forests for cultivation and settlement.

Sacred groves were first described by Brandis (1897). More recently, Gadgil and Vartak (1981) reviewed the presence of the sacred groves in different states and stated that the sacred groves are a small patch of forest or a part of the forest which was left untouched by the local inhabitants due to fear and faith and religious beliefs and taboos (Gadgil and Vartak, 1975). Sacred groves are valuable culturally and historically as sacred sites, though they cannot be considered as a forest. Generally, therefore, they can be considered as biological reserves which are similar to biosphere reserves and probably constitute the only representation of forests in near-virgin condition in many parts of India and in Tamilnadu in particular (Gadgil and Vartak, 1976). They are a kind of conservation area and as well as a spiritual retreat.

Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests (TDEFs) in Tamil Nadu are restricted to the east coast. They are spread from Pulicat in the north to Vedaranyam in the south. TDEFs generally occur along the sandy coast, interior coastal plains with red laterite soil on isolated hillocks scattered along the east coast. Natural vegetation on the south-eastern coast of peninsular India has now been highly degraded and reduced to patches. Only a few isolated fragments of TDEFs exist, mostly in the form of sacred groves that are mainly protected due to religious and cultural beliefs (Meher-Homji, 1986).

According to Meher Homji (1974a), phytodiversity and documentation of ethnobotanically important species and analysing the vegetation structure has long been the subject of study by taxonomists and ecologists. A thin strip of land along the Coromandal coast which receives both summer and winter rainfall supports the Tropical

Dry Evergreen Forest (Champion and Seth, 1968). The annual rainfall in this region varies between 1000mm to 1500 mm with most of the rainfall falling towards the end of the year. This rainfall determines the evergreen vegetation found in the area (Meher-Homji, 1974b; Sprangers and Balasubramaniam, 1978; Gnanasekaran et al., 2012).

The temple groves and the reserve forests comprise of evergreen vegetation, especially in the temple groves on the coastal belt. It is therefore proper to describe this vegetation as “evergreen”. There is a marked difference between the groves and the reserve forests in terms of dominant species, evergreenness and structure. It is not yet clear as to whether these differences relate to soil, other environmental conditions, anthropogenic disturbance or a combination of both. Be that as it may, it is evident that both the groves and the inland reserve forests should be included in our efforts at understanding the TDEF.

It has been noticed that the TDEF does not contain a uniform type of vegetation. There is considerable variation in the composition of species. This is especially so in the case of Puducherry, Cuddalore and the adjoining coastal areas. This variation needs to be studied and documented in order to put in place effective conservation measures. A point of consideration should also be as to whether the species found in the Reserve Forests can be classified in the same category as those found in the TDEF (Paul Blanchflower, 2003.).

In this paper, we have taken a sample survey of a grove situated in the Reserve Forests as a test case to determine whether it can also be classified in the category of TDEF. The objective of the study is to prepare a check list of plant species found in the Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) sacred grove and also to prepare a checklist of threatened and endemic species of this particular grove. Further, it is also the objective to study the potential threats to the sacred grove and to suggest conservation measures to preserve and protect the grove.

Materials and methods

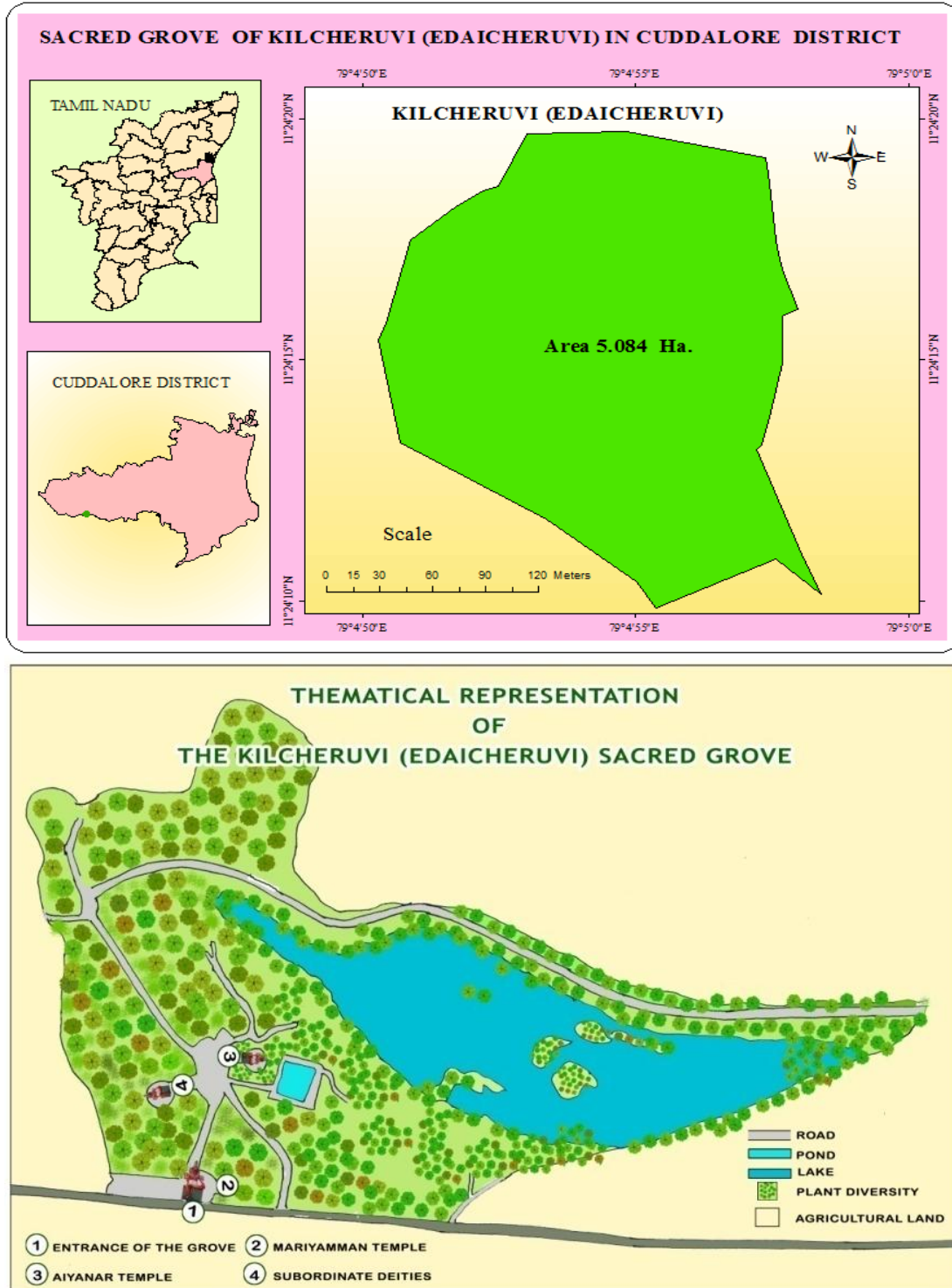
Study area

Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred Grove (KISG) consists of the Reserve Forests/plains which differ considerably in terms of dominant species, evergreenness and structure. However, it also classified as the TDEF type. The area of

the grove is about 5.084 hectares and it is located on the northern bank of the Wellington Lake, nearly 3 km away from Tittakudi taluk of Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu. Geographically, it lies between Tholuthur to Tittakudi (079°04.947' E longitude and 11°24.320' N latitude) (Fig. 1). The temperature is moderately high and the average temperature during summer is 41°C and the average

winter temperature is 20°C. The average percentage of deviation in the rainfall in Cuddalore district is about 50mm. The seasonal rainfall ranges from 46mm (in the month of July) and the maximum rainfall falls during the month of May (169mm). In general, the district received a total of 652.1 mm rain fall and an average of 1309.4 mm during the year 2014.

Fig. 1: Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred grove base map and its thematical representation.



The sacred grove is situated on the left side of the Vellar River to the right of the Wellington Lake, north of A.pallaiyam village and east of Agaram Seegoor village. The grove is surrounded on two sides by agricultural

land. The grove is associated with deities such as Aiyandar, Mariyamman, Muniyappan, Selliyamman, Sempalaiyappa, Karuppu, Pillaiyar, Muthu Karuppu and Nondi Karuppu (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2: Deities, plant richness and important religious ceremony in the study site.

(A) Entrance of the grove; (B) Concretised road; (C) Munishwara and Karuppuswamy temples; (D) Plant richness of the grove; (E) Aiyandar, the main guardian deity associated with the grove; (6) Muppoosai (Three pujas i.e., sacrificing of a goat, pig and cock).



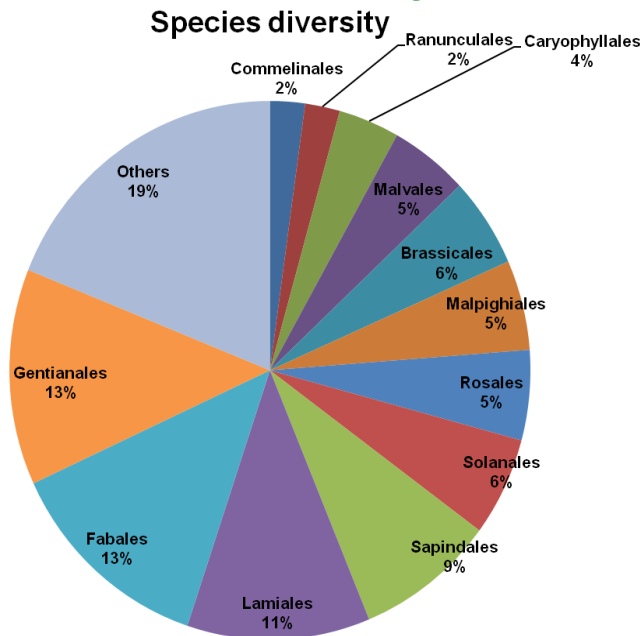
Data collection

The data collection was done from the Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred grove. The field survey was made during the months of June 2013 to March 2014. Plants either with flowers or fruits were collected and identified or confirmed with available regional flora with the help of Gamble (1915 – 1936), Matthew (1982, 1983 and 1988), Nair and Henry (1983), Henry et al. (1987, 1989), Sanjappa (1992), Balakrishnan and Chakrabarthy (2007), Karthikeyan et al. (2009) have also been referred for the correct botanical names for the specimens identified. Photographs have also been taken. The herbarium was also prepared for all the plants and has been deposited in the Presidency College, Chennai.

Results and discussion

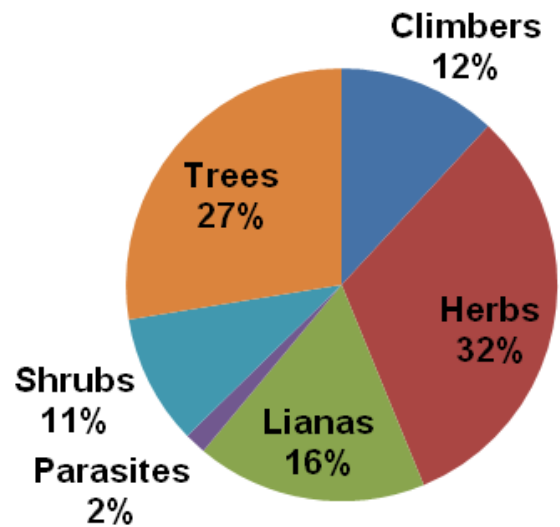
The present study of the flora of Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred Grove (KISG) comprises of about 185 plant species belonging to 58 families and 158 genera based on the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group III Classification (2009). The identified plant list from the sacred grove is given in Appendix-1. From the study we can identify the dominant clades of Lamids 31%, Fabids 27%, Malvids 25% followed by orders Gentianales and Fabales both are 13%, Laminales 11%, Sapindales 9%, Brassicales and Solanales 6%, Mapighiales and Malvales 5% (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3: Species distribution of plants in Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred grove.



This is followed by the families such as Fabaceae (24), Apocynaceae (13), Malvaceae (9), Acanthaceae, Rubiaceae and Rutaceae are present (8). Among habit wise distribution, herbs were the dominant species represented by 32% with 59 species and trees (51 species 27%), Lianas (29 species, 16%), Climber (22 species, 12%), Shrubs (21 species, 11%) Parasites (3 species, 2%) (Fig. 4). Among the generic wise distribution, the genus *Ficus* as was the dominant genus represented by four species followed by *Acacia*, *Capparis*, *Commelina*, *Senna* and *Strychnos* which are distributed with three species each (Fig. 5).

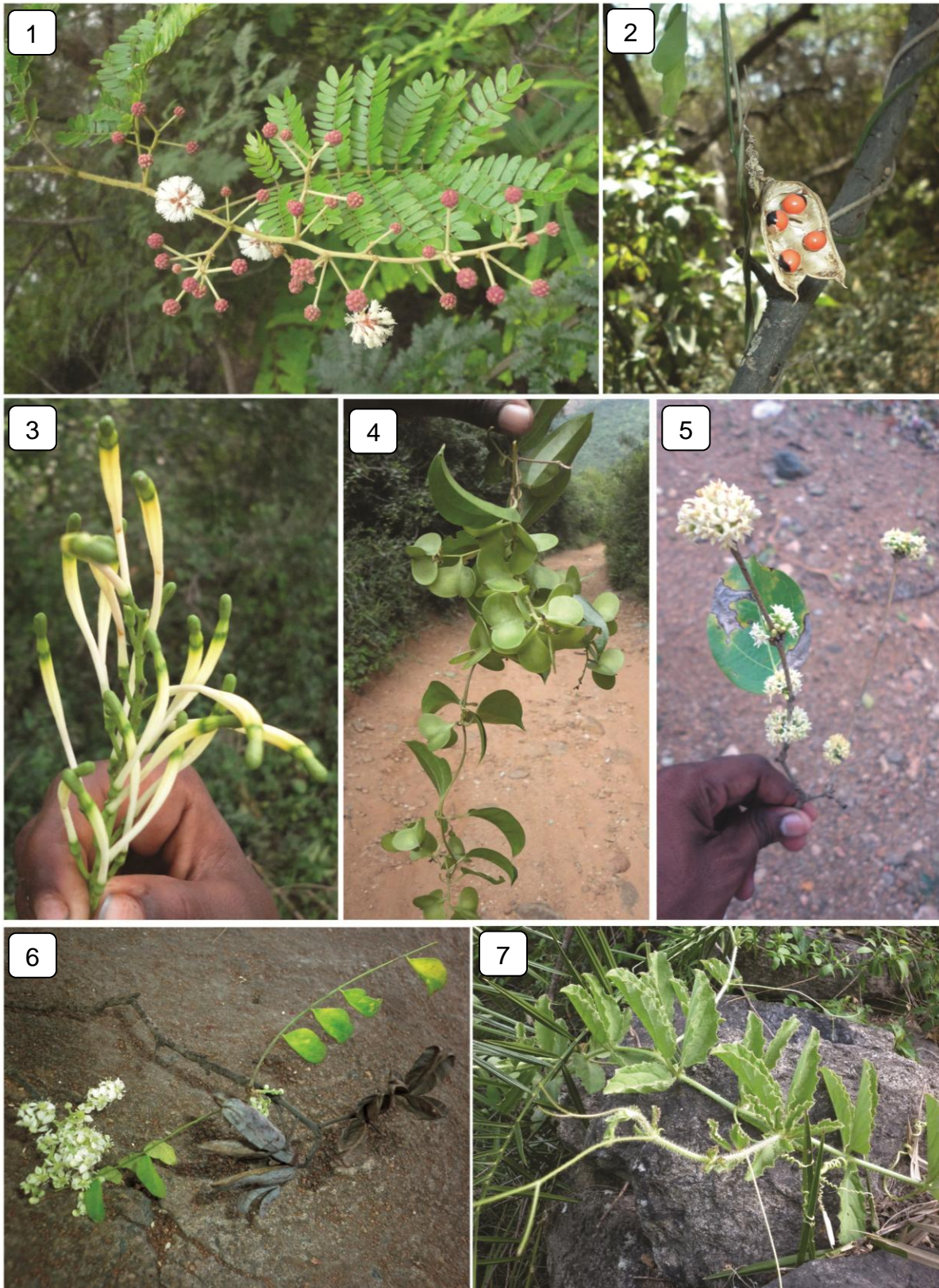
Fig. 4: Life forms of plant diversity in Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred grove.



The vegetation of the sacred grove is characterized by most of the TDEF tree species such as *Atalantia monophylla*, *Garcinia spicata*, *Lepisanthes tetraphylla*, *Memecylon edule* and *Pterospermum canescens*; liana namely *Cissus vitiginea*, *Combretum albidum* and *Reissantia indica* and shrubs include *Canthium coromandelicum*, *Capparis brevispina*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Glycosmis mauritiana*, *Securinega leucopyrus* and *Tarenna asiatica*. It is also an abode for some of the rare plant species such as *Polyalthia korintii*, *Phyllanthus rotundifolius* and *Capparis rotundifolia* (Mitra, 1993; Nair and Nayar, 1997; Balakrishnan and Chakrabarthy, 2007).

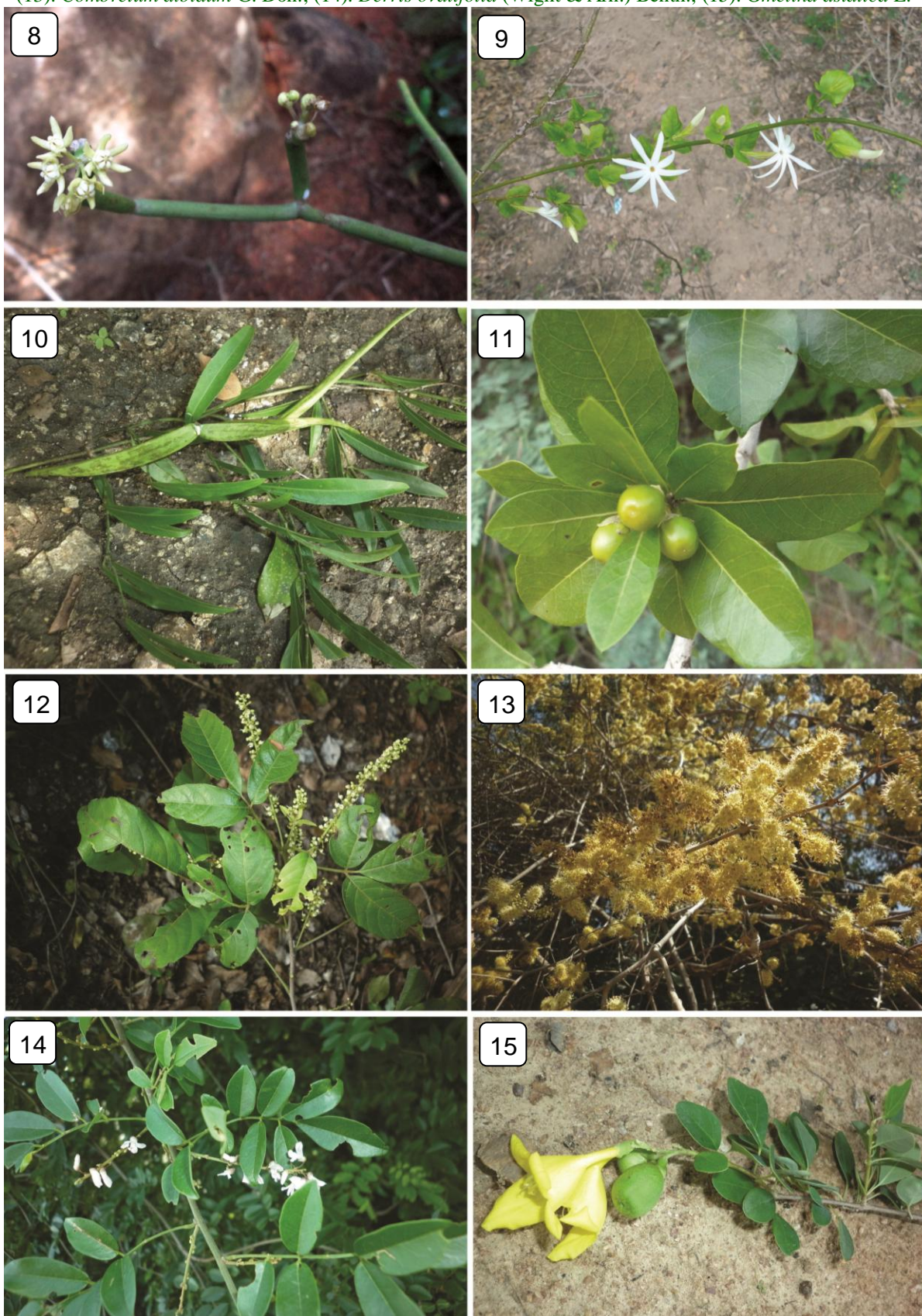
Udayakumar and Parthasarathy (2010) have recorded only 312 taxa from 75 TDEF sites on the Southern Coromandel Coast, whereas the study area covers a total of 182 taxa which have been recorded. It is nearly 60% of the total species diversity of the TDEF vegetation on the Southern Coromandel Coast.

Fig. 5: Plants found in the Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) Sacred grove. (1.) *Acacia caesia* (L.) Willd.; (2.) *Abrus precatorius* L.; (3.) *Dendrophthoe falcata* (L.f.) Ettingsh.; (4.) *Dioscorea oppositifolia* L.; (5.) *Strychnos nux-vomica* L.; (6.) *Chloroxylon swietenia* DC.; (7.) *Cyphostemma setosum* (Roxb.) Alston.



Contd...

Fig. 5: Contd... (8). *Sarcostemma acidum* (Roxb.) Voigt.; (9). *Jasminum angustifolium* (L.) Willd.; (10). *Secamone emetica* (Retz.) R. Br. ex Schult.; (11). *Hugonia mystax* L.; (12). *Allophylus serratus* (Roxb.) Kurz.; (13). *Combretum albidum* G. Don.; (14). *Derris ovalifolia* (Wight & Arn.) Benth.; (15). *Gmelina asiatica* L.



A perusal of literature on the phytodiversity of the recently studied neighborhoods sacred groves from Cuddalore, Puducherry and Pudukottai shows that a total of 136 taxa from Olagapuram, 74 from Orani, 55 from Keezhbuvanagiri, 45 from Kilialamman, 40 from Periyakkattupalayam, 36 from Periyamudaliyar chavadi, 136 from Suriampettai and 92 from Kulandaikuppam sacred groves have been reported by various authors (Ramanujam and Kadamban, 2001; Ramanujam and Cyril, 2003). A comparison of the phytodiversity in the Kilcheruvi (Edaicheruvi) sacred grove with the above mentioned sacred groves reveals that the Kilcheruvi sacred grove has the highest plant diversity.

The considerable reduction in the size of the sacred grove is due to the encroachment of land for agriculture, floriculture, etc. It has been observed that the aforementioned is the major factor which destroys the sacred grove. It has been further pointed out that this grove is still being cleared. The firewood is being collected from the grove only from the dry and fallen twigs and stump of lopped trees. This is indicative of anthropogenic disturbance.

Kilcheruvi Sacred Grove is a comparatively well-conserved grove covering an area of 5.084 ha with rich phytodiversity and a good sampling of endemic species. The high level of species richness is testimony to the health of the sacred grove. This culturally conserved patch of natural vegetation acts as a centre of biodiversity conservation and as a source of water and livelihood.

Hence, it is suggested that Kilcheruvi Sacred Grove (KISG) may be proposed as a Biodiversity Heritage Site as envisaged by the National Environmental Policy and this proposal has already been initiated by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) by establishing the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC).

An awareness of the importance of the sacred grove needs to be created among the local people for effective conservation. According to Gadgil (1994), the necessity of the National Level Sacred Grove Act for the conservation of sacred groves in India is a desirable outcome. It also becomes essential to map and study the existing sacred groves of India in general and Tamil Nadu in particular, with the help of the geographical information system (GPS) in order to develop effective conservation strategies throughout the country.

Acknowledgement

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Honorary Director of C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre for her constant encouragement and to deepen my interest about the Plant diversity and nature conservation. I am also thankful to Dr. R. Dhamodharan and M.Amirthalingam for their valuable comments about this paper.

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Appendix –1**List of plant species in Kilcheruvi Sacred grove.**

| Sl. No. | Order/Family | Botanical name of the plant | Life form | Voucher number |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| MAGNOLIDS | | | | |
| Laurales Juss. ex Bercht & J.Presl. | | | | |
| 1 | Lauraceae Juss | <i>Cassytha filiformis</i> L. | P | V.N.1244 |
| Piperales Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 2 | Aristolochiaceae Juss. | <i>Aristolochia indica</i> L. | C | V.N.1131 |
| MONOCOTS | | | | |
| Alismatales R. Br. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 3 | Dioscoreaceae R. Br. | <i>Dioscorea pentaphylla</i> L. | C | V.N.1376 |
| 4 | | <i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i> L. | C | V.N.1535 |
| Asparagales Link | | | | |
| 5 | Asparagaceae Juss. | <i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd. | C | V.N.1237 |
| 6 | | <i>Sansevieria roxburghiana</i> Schult. & Schult. f. | H | V.N.1616 |
| 7 | Xanthorrhoeaceae Dumort. | <i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm.f. | H | V.N.1199 |
| Liliales Perleb | | | | |
| 8 | Liliaceae Juss. | <i>Gloriosa superba</i> L. | C | V.N.1382 |
| COMMELINIDS | | | | |
| Arecales Bromhead | | | | |
| 9 | Arecaceae Bercht. and J. Presl | <i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L. | T | V.N.1219 |
| 10 | | <i>Phoenix pusilla</i> Gaertn. | S | V.N.1608 |
| Commelinales Mirb. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 11 | Commelinaceae Mirb. | <i>Commelina attenuata</i> J. König ex Vahl | H | V.N.1534 |
| 12 | | <i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L. | H | V.N.1430 |
| 13 | | <i>Commelina longifolia</i> Lam. | H | V.N.1370 |
| 14 | | <i>Cyanotis cristata</i> (L.) D. Don | H | V.N.1740 |
| Poales Small | | | | |
| 15 | Cyperaceae Juss. | <i>Bulbostylis barbata</i> (Rottb.) Kunth ex C.B. Clarke | H | V.N.1220 |
| 16 | Poaceae Barnhart | <i>Apluda mutica</i> L. | H | V.N.1424 |
| 17 | | <i>Chloris barbata</i> Sw. | H | V.N.1362 |
| EUDICOTS | | | | |
| Ranunculales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 18 | Menispermaceae Juss. | <i>Cissampelos pareira</i> L. | C | V.N.1364 |
| 19 | | <i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) W.Theob. | C | V.N.1532 |
| 20 | | <i>Pachygone ovata</i> (Poir.) Hook. f. & Thomson | L | V.N.1601 |
| 21 | | <i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.) Hook. f. & Thomson | L | V.N.2125 |
| CORE EUDICOTS | | | | |
| ROSIDS | | | | |
| Vitales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 22 | Vitaceae Juss | <i>Cissus vitiginea</i> L. | C | V.N.1365 |
| 23 | | <i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L. | C | V.N.1530 |
| 24 | | <i>Cyphostemma setosum</i> (Roxb.) Alston. | C | V.N.1743 |
| FABIDS | | | | |
| Celastrales Link | | | | |
| 25 | Celastraceae R. Br. | <i>Cassine glauca</i> (Rottb.) Kuntze | T | V.N.1243 |
| 26 | | <i>Maytenus emarginata</i> (Ruiz & Pav.) Loes. | S | V.N.1759 |
| 27 | | <i>Reissantia indica</i> (Willd.) N. Hallé | L | V.N.1612 |

| Sl. No. | Order/Family | Botanical name of the plant | Life form | Voucher number |
|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| Cucurbitales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 28 | Cucurbitaceae Juss. | <i>Coccinia grandis</i> (L.) Voigt | C | V.N.1369 |
| 29 | | <i>Cucumis maderaspatana</i> L. | C | V.N.1738 |
| 30 | | <i>Mukia maderaspatana</i> (L.) M.Roem. | C | V.N.1766 |
| Fabales Bromhead | | | | |
| 31 | Fabaceae Lindl. | <i>Abrus precatorius</i> L. | C | V.N.1132 |
| 32 | | <i>Acacia leucophloea</i> (Roxb.) Willd. | T | V.N.1196 |
| 33 | | <i>Acacia caesia</i> (L.) Willd. | L | V.N.1236 |
| 34 | | <i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Delile | T | V.N.1312 |
| 35 | | <i>Albizia amara</i> (Roxb.) Boivin | T | V.N.1377 |
| 36 | | <i>Albizia lebbeck</i> (L.) Benth. | T | V.N.1217 |
| 37 | | <i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub. | T | V.N.1221 |
| 38 | | <i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (L.) Roxb. | C | V.N.1426 |
| 39 | | <i>Canavalia virosa</i> (Roxb.) | C | V.N.1331 |
| 40 | | <i>Cassia fistula</i> L. | T | V.N.1242 |
| 41 | | <i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L. | C | V.N.1368 |
| 42 | | <i>Derris ovalifolia</i> (Wight & Arn.) Benth. | L | V.N.1746 |
| 43 | | <i>Derris scandens</i> (Roxb.) Benth. | L | V.N.1534 |
| 44 | | <i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.) Wight & Arn. | T | V.N.1375 |
| 45 | | <i>Mimosa pudica</i> L. | H | V.N.1761 |
| 46 | | <i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i> (DC.) K.Heyne | T | V.N.1607 |
| 47 | | <i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pier. | T | V.N.1611 |
| 48 | | <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> (sw.) Dc. | T | V.N.1769 |
| 49 | | <i>Pterolobium hexapetalum</i> (Roth) Santapau & Wagh | L | V.N.1544 |
| 50 | | <i>Senna auriculata</i> (L.) Roxb. | H | V.N.1622 |
| 51 | | <i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link | H | V.N.1913 |
| 52 | | <i>Senna siamea</i> (Lam.) H. S. Irwin & Barneby | H | V.N.1544 |
| 53 | | <i>Tamarindus indica</i> L. | T | V.N.1922 |
| 54 | | <i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (L.) pers. | H | V.N.2124 |
| Malpighiales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 55 | Euphorbiaceae Juss. | <i>Acalypha indica</i> L. | H | V.N.1237 |
| 56 | | <i>Croton bonplandianus</i> Baill. | H | V.N.1737 |
| 57 | | <i>Euphorbia antiquorum</i> L. | T | V.N.1747 |
| 58 | | <i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L. | S | V.N.1757 |
| 59 | | <i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schumach. & Thonn. | H | V.N.1609 |
| 60 | Linaceae DC. ex Perleb | <i>Hugonia mystax</i> L. | L | V.N.1752 |
| 61 | Passifloraceae Juss. ex Roussel | <i>Passiflora foetida</i> L. | C | V.N.1604 |
| 62 | Phyllanthaceae Martinov | <i>Flueggea leucopyrus</i> Willd. | S | V.N.1380 |
| 63 | Salicaceae Mirb | <i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr. | S | V.N.1379 |
| 64 | Violaceae Batsch | <i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i> (L.) F.v. Muell. | H | V.N.1753 |
| Rosales Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 65 | Moraceae Gaudich, nom. cons. | <i>Ficus amplissima</i> J. E. | T | V.N.1537 |
| 66 | | <i>Ficus religiosa</i> L. | T | V.N.1749 |
| 67 | | <i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. | T | V.N.1829 |
| 68 | | <i>Ficus hispida</i> L. f. | T | V.N.1378 |
| 69 | | <i>Streblus asper</i> Lour. | T | V.N.1917 |

| Sl. No. | Order/Family | Botanical name of the plant | Life form | Voucher number |
|---|---------------------------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| 70 | Rhamnaceae Juss. | <i>Scutia myrtina</i> (Burm. f.) Kurz | L | V.N.1620 |
| 71 | | <i>Ventilago maderaspatana</i> Gaertn. | L | V.N.2131 |
| 72 | | <i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam. | T | V.N.1625 |
| 73 | | <i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> (L.) Mill. | L | V.N.2135 |
| 74 | Ulmaceae Mirb. | <i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i> (Roxb.) Planch. | T | V.N.1751 |
| Zygophyllales Link | | | | |
| 75 | Zygophyllaceae R. Br. | <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L. | H | V.N.2127 |
| MALVIDS | | | | |
| Brassicales Bromhead | | | | |
| 76 | Capparaceae Juss. | <i>Cadaba fruticosa</i> (L.) Druce | S | V.N.1222 |
| 77 | | <i>Capparis brevispina</i> DC. | L | V.N.1333 |
| 78 | | <i>Capparis sepiaria</i> L. | L | V.N.1429 |
| 79 | | <i>Capparis zeylanica</i> L. | L | V.N.1238 |
| 80 | | <i>Crataeva manga</i> (Lour.) DC. | T | V.N.1373 |
| 81 | Cleomaceae Bercht. and J. Presl | <i>Cleome gynandra</i> L. | H | V.N.1531 |
| 82 | | <i>Cleome viscosa</i> L. | H | V.N.1366 |
| 83 | Moringaceae Martinov. | <i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam. | T | V.N.1765 |
| 84 | Salvadoraceae Lindl. | <i>Azima tetracantha</i> Lam. | S | V.N.1134 |
| 85 | | <i>Salvadora persica</i> L. | T | V.N.1615 |
| Caryophyllales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 86 | Amaranthaceae Juss. | <i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. | H | V.N.1313 |
| 87 | | <i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss. ex Schult. | H | V.N.1197 |
| 88 | | <i>Amarantus viridis</i> L. | H | V.N.1133 |
| 89 | Cactaceae Juss. | <i>Opuntia dillenii</i> (Ker Gawl.) Haw. | H | V.N.1600 |
| 90 | Molluginaceae Bartl. | <i>Glinus oppositifolius</i> (L.) Aug.DC. | H | V.N.1381 |
| 91 | | <i>Mollugo pentaphylla</i> L. | H | V.N.1763 |
| 92 | Nyctaginaceae Juss. | <i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L. | H | V.N.1218 |
| Malvales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 93 | Malvaceae Juss. | <i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet | H | V.N.1175 |
| 94 | | <i>Corchorus aestuans</i> L. | H | V.N.1372 |
| 95 | | <i>Grewia orientalis</i> L. | S | V.N.1385 |
| 96 | | <i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i> Lam. | T | V.N.1536 |
| 97 | | <i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> (L.) Garcke | H | V.N.1543 |
| 98 | | <i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Cav. | H | V.N.1605 |
| 99 | | <i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f. | H | V.N.1545 |
| 100 | | <i>Sida cordifolia</i> L. | H | V.N.1914 |
| 101 | | <i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i> Jacq. | H | V.N.2129 |
| Myrtales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 102 | Combretaceae R. Br. | <i>Calycopteris floribunda</i> Lam. | L | V.N.1428 |
| 103 | | <i>Combretum albidum</i> G. Don. | L | V.N.1533 |
| 104 | Myrtaceae Juss. | <i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels | T | V.N.1920 |
| Santalales R. Br. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 105 | Loranthaceae Juss | <i>Dendrophthoe falcata</i> (L.f.) Ettingsh. | P | V.N.1745 |
| Sapindales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 106 | Anacardiaceae R. Br. | <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (Houtt.) Merr. | T | V.N.1538 |
| 107 | | <i>Mangifera indica</i> L. | T | V.N.1758 |
| 108 | Meliaceae Juss. | <i>Aglaia elaeagnoidea</i> (A. Juss) Benth | T | V.N.1198 |
| 109 | | <i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss. | T | V.N.1425 |

| Sl. No. | Order/Family | Botanical name of the plant | Life form | Voucher number | |
|--|--|---|--|----------------|----------|
| 110 | Rutaceae Juss. | <i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr. Serr. | T | V.N.1375 | |
| 111 | | <i>Atalantia monophylla</i> (L.) DC. | T | V.N.1530 | |
| 112 | | <i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i> DC. | T | V.N.1363 | |
| 113 | | <i>Glycosmis mauritiana</i> (Lam.) Tanaka | S | V.N.1383 | |
| 114 | | <i>Limonia acidissima</i> L. | T | V.N.1541 | |
| 115 | | <i>Pamburus missionis</i> (Wall. ex Wight) Swingle | T | V.N.1602 | |
| 116 | | <i>Pleiospermium alatum</i> (Wight & Arn.) Swingle | T | V.N.1610 | |
| 117 | | <i>Toddalia asiatica</i> (L.) Lam. | L | V.N.2126 | |
| 118 | | Sapindaceae Juss. | <i>Allophylus serratus</i> (Roxb.) kurz. | S | V.N.1422 |
| 119 | <i>Cardiospermum helicacabum</i> L. | | C | V.N.1239 | |
| 120 | <i>Lepisanthes tetraphylla</i> (Vahl) Radlk. | | T | V.N.1540 | |
| 121 | <i>Sapindus emarginatus</i> Vahl | | T | V.N.1617 | |
| ASTERIDS | | | | | |
| Cornales | | | | | |
| 122 | Cornaceae Bercht & J.Presl. | <i>Alangium salviifolium</i> (L. f.) Wangerin | T | V.N.1376 | |
| Ericales Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | | |
| 123 | Ebenaceae Gürke | <i>Diospyros ebenum</i> J. Koeng. Ex Retz. | T | V.N.1536 | |
| 124 | | <i>Diospyros montana</i> Roxb. | T | V.N.1377 | |
| 125 | Sapotaceae Juss. | <i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (L.) J. F. Macbr. | T | V.N.1542 | |
| LAMIIDS | | | | | |
| Gentianales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | | |
| 126 | Apocynaceae Juss. | <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) Dryand. | S | V.N.1427 | |
| 127 | | <i>Carissa spinarum</i> L. | S | V.N.1240 | |
| 128 | | <i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G.Don | H | V.N.1360 | |
| 129 | | <i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> (Retz.) Schult. | C | V.N.1537 | |
| 130 | | <i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.) R. Br. ex Schult. | C | V.N.1750 | |
| 131 | | <i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i> (L.) W.T.Aiton | C | V.N.1754 | |
| 132 | | <i>Nerium oleander</i> L. | S | V.N.1767 | |
| 133 | | <i>Sarcostemma acidum</i> (Roxb.) Voigt | C | V.N.1618 | |
| 134 | | <i>Secamone emetica</i> (Retz.) R. Br. ex Schult. | L | V.N.1621 | |
| 135 | | <i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schult. | S | V.N.1921 | |
| 136 | | <i>Tylophora indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr. | C | V.N.2130 | |
| 137 | | <i>Wattakaka volubilis</i> (L.f.) Stapf | C | V.N.2134 | |
| 138 | | <i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> (Roxb.) R. Br | T | V.N.1624 | |
| 139 | | Loganiaceae R. Br. ex Mart. | <i>Strychnos colubrina</i> L. | L | V.N.1918 |
| 140 | | | <i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i> L. | T | V.N.1623 |
| 141 | <i>Strychnos potatorum</i> L. f. | | T | V.N.1546 | |
| 142 | Rubiaceae Juss. | <i>Benkara malabarica</i> (Lam) Tiruveng. | S | V.N.1137 | |
| 143 | | <i>Canthium coromandelicum</i> (Burm.f.) Alston | S | V.N.1332 | |
| 144 | | <i>Catunaregam spinosa</i> (Thunb.) Tirven. | S | V.N.1361 | |
| 145 | | <i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i> (Roxb.) Korth. | T | V.N.1762 | |
| 146 | | <i>Morinda pubescens</i> J.E. Smith | T | V.N.1764 | |
| 147 | | <i>Oldenlandia umbellata</i> L. | H | V.N.1544 | |
| 148 | | <i>Spermacoce hispida</i> L. | H | V.N.1916 | |
| 149 | | <i>Tarenna asiatica</i> (L.) Kuntze ex K.Schum. | S | V.N.1923 | |

| Sl. No. | Order/Family | Botanical name of the plant | Life form | Voucher number |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Lamiales Bromhead | | | | |
| 150 | Acanthaceae Juss. | <i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f.) Nees | H | V.N.1423 |
| 151 | | <i>Barleria prionitis</i> L. | H | V.N.1135 |
| 152 | | <i>Blepharis maderaspatensis</i> (L.) B.Heyne ex Roth | H | V.N.1217 |
| 153 | | <i>Crossandra infundibuliformis</i> (L.) Nees | H | V.N.1374 |
| 154 | | <i>Ecbolium ligustrinum</i> (Vahl) Vollesen | H | V.N.1746 |
| 155 | | <i>Justicia tranquebariensis</i> L.f | H | V.N.1758 |
| 156 | | <i>Justicia procumbens</i> L. | H | V.N.1537 |
| 157 | | <i>Ruellia prostrata</i> Poir. | H | V.N.1614 |
| 158 | | Bignoniaceae Juss. | <i>Tecoma stans</i> (L.) Juss. ex Kunth | T |
| 159 | Lamiaceae Martinov | <i>Basilicum polystachyon</i> (L.) Moench | H | V.N.1136 |
| 160 | | <i>Clerodendrum phlomidis</i> L. f. | S | V.N.1367 |
| 161 | | <i>Ocimum cannum</i> Sims L. | H | V.N.1768 |
| 162 | | <i>Symphorema involucratum</i> ROXB. | L | V.N.1919 |
| 163 | | <i>Vitex altissima</i> L. f. | T | V.N.2132 |
| 164 | | <i>Vitex negundo</i> L. | T | V.N.1934 |
| 165 | | Oleaceae Hoffmanns. and Link | <i>Jasminum angustifolium</i> (L.) Willd. | L |
| 166 | <i>Jasminum auriculatum</i> Vahl | | L | V.N.1756 |
| 167 | Pedaliaceae R. Br. | <i>Pedaliium murex</i> L. | H | V.N.1606 |
| 168 | Scrophulariaceae Juss. | <i>Scoparia dulcis</i> L. | H | V.N.1619 |
| 169 | Verbenaceae J. St.-Hil. | <i>Gmelina asiatica</i> L. | S | V.N.1384 |
| 170 | | <i>Lantana camara</i> L. | S | V.N.1539 |
| Solanales Juss. ex Bercht. and J. Presl | | | | |
| 171 | Convolvulaceae Juss. | <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L. | H | V.N.1371 |
| 172 | | <i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb. | P | V.N.1739 |
| 173 | | <i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> L. | H | V.N.1748 |
| 174 | | <i>Evolvulus nummularis</i> L. | H | V.N.1536 |
| 175 | | <i>Ipomea sepiaria</i> J. Koenig ex Roxb. | C | V.N.1755 |
| 176 | | <i>Ipomea staphylina</i> Roem. & Schult. | L | V.N.1385 |
| 177 | | <i>Merremia tridentata</i> (L.) Hall.f. | H | V.N.1760 |
| 178 | | <i>Rivea hypocrateriformis</i> Choisy | L | V.N.1613 |
| 179 | | Solanaceae Juss. | <i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L. | H |
| 180 | <i>Datura metel</i> L. | | H | V.N.1744 |
| 181 | <i>Solanum triflorum</i> Nutt. | | H | V.N.1915 |
| Unknown Order | | | | |
| 182 | Boraginaceae Juss. | <i>Carmona retusa</i> (Vahl) Masam. | S | V.N.1241 |
| CAMPANULIDS | | | | |
| Asterales Link | | | | |
| 183 | Asteraceae Bercht. and J. Presl | <i>Cyanthillium cinereum</i> (L.) H.Rob | H | V.N.1741 |
| 184 | | <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> L. | H | V.N.1603 |
| 185 | | <i>Tridax procumbens</i> L. | H | V.N.2128 |

C – Climber; H – Herb; S – Shrub; P – Parasite.