

# The Living Campus

Exploring the Flora and Fauna of  
MES College, Marampally



MES College, Marampally

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The Living Campus - Exploring the Flora and Fauna of MES College, Marampally

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# The Living Campus

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Marampally



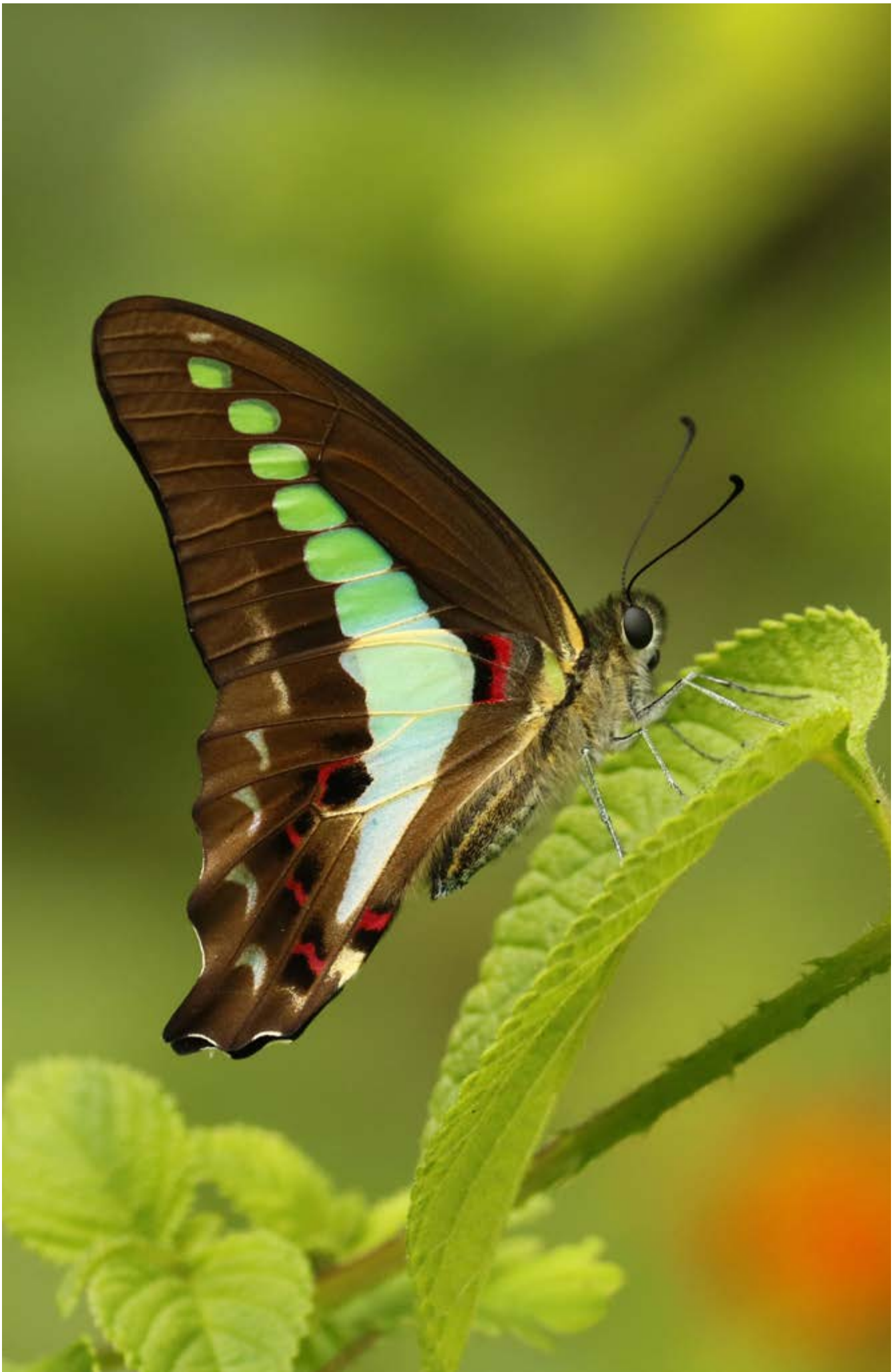
MES College, Marampally

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# PREFACE

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The students and teaching faculties in MES College, Marampally have been pursuing ever- lasting objectives of transforming our campus and premises into an Eco-conservative Green Domain by imparting proactive lessons of the significance of creating meaningful and result- oriented Bio-diversity locale to our students. Fortunately, located near the illustrious Periyar delta, our campus comprises a habitat of a variety of flora and fauna which are characteristic of Southern Peninsula India. As an ardently committed patron of a nature-loving student folk, I am extremely pleased to announce that our Forestry Club has succeeded in portraying a consummate snapshot of the plant and animal diversity of our campus after the taskfully organised surveys. I earnestly wish that this venture may motivate our student and teaching fraternities to become dedicated stewards in this noble endeavour to mould out a greene world within and around but eco-friendly campus.

February 21, 2024

Dr. Ajims P. Mohammed  
Principal





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We are highly proud and happy to have this Report on the plant and animal diversity of our college campus. The Forestry Club has been actively working towards a greener campus by planting more trees and maintaining the existing ones with care. The Club has been fortunate to have the support of the Social Forestry wing of the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department in the planting programme. We have also been celebrating the important days of conservation such as Wildlife Week, Forestry Day, World Environment Day, etc. with invited lectures. In 2023, Dr. P. S. Easa, the Chairman of Aranyakam Nature Foundation addressed the students highlighting the importance of biological diversity for the survival and wellbeing of human beings. That was also the beginning of a collaboration with the Aranyakam Nature Foundation to document the diversity of plants and selected groups of animals. It was not just documentation, the students interested in plants and animals, especially the birds and butterflies enthusiastically joined the team of experts from Aranyakam Nature Foundation. The feedbacks from the experts indicate the eagerness of the students to understand more about the plants and animals in their surroundings. The Forestry Club, the faculty and the student community of the college is grateful to Dr. Ajims P. Mohammed (Principal) and Dr. P. M. Jasmin (Vice-Principal) for their kind permission, encouragement and support for the programme. Ms. Lina Anil (Forestry Club Co-ordinator) were actively involved in the programme. The student co-ordinators Ms. Nesvi, Ms. Fathima Nasarin and Mr. Ahammed Nihal were the link between the experts and students. I also record the appreciation of the contribution from the Biodiversity Team members of the college. This Report is the result of the efforts by the Experts of Aranyakam Nature Foundation. Shri S. Dhruv Raj (Managing Trustee and bird specialist), Dr. Sandeep Das (Trustee and well-known herpetologist), Shri. M. Sumod and Shri P. T. Anuraj (the plant experts) and Shri Amrit Krishna and Shri C. P. Nidheesh (bird and butterfly experts) went around the campus recording the species and explaining to the students. We express our sincere gratitude



to the Aranyakam Nature Foundation Team Members for their participation. We consider this Report a very valuable document, a basic record on our campus diversity. This report would also inspire the teaching and student community to look around their surroundings and update the information periodically. Thank you all for the contribution and I am proud to be associated with this programme of documentation and look forward to long lasting collaboration with nature conservation organisations.

February 21, 2024

Amritha Dinesh  
Co-ordinator, Forestry Club





# SUMMARY

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The biodiversity survey of MES College Marampally presents a detailed account of the rich flora and fauna within its campus, located amidst the low elevation laterite hills of Kerala. The study identifies over 300 plant species spanning 80 families, highlighting the campus's significant botanical diversity, including a mix of native and exotic plant life. This verdant diversity is complemented by a comprehensive faunal record, encompassing various species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and butterflies, indicative of the vibrant ecological interactions and the health of this unique habitat. The report meticulously categorizes species according to their conservation status, emphasizing the importance of endemic species and those under various degrees of threat. It underscores the ecological value of the campus's specific setting, characterized by laterite soil, which supports a distinct assemblage of plant and animal life. This exhaustive inventory serves not only as a critical resource for conservation efforts and educational pursuits but also as a baseline for future biodiversity research and environmental conservation strategies in the region.





# INTRODUCTION

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MES College Marampally, located on the picturesque banks of the Periyar River near Perumbavoor, is a distinguished educational institution that combines academic pursuits with a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. Established under the aegis of the Muslim Educational Society, the college is enveloped by the verdant landscapes of Kerala's low-elevation laterite hills, offering a tranquil and stimulating environment for learning and research. This unique setting provides an ideal backdrop for the college's dedicated efforts in environmental conservation and biodiversity studies.

The college has undertaken extensive survey activities to document the rich biodiversity within its campus, focusing on both flora and fauna. These surveys have revealed a remarkable variety of plant and animal life, highlighting the campus as a microcosm of the region's ecological diversity. The findings include a wide range of species, from endemic plants unique to Kerala's ecosystem to exotic species that have found a niche in the campus environment.

Among the notable outcomes of the flora survey are the identification of various plant families, with a significant emphasis on medicinal plants. This reflects the region's rich herbal traditions and the campus's potential as a living laboratory for studying and conserving plant biodiversity. The fauna survey has cataloged a diverse array of species, underscoring the importance of the campus as a habitat for both common and rare species, thereby enhancing our understanding of local biodiversity and its conservation needs.

These survey activities are part of the college's broader initiative to integrate environmental education into its curriculum, promote sustainability practices on campus, and engage with the community on conservation issues.





**FLORA OF MES COLLEGE  
MARAMPALLY**



# PLANTS

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## Methods

A botanical survey was conducted at MES College Marampally to inventory the campus's plant diversity. The survey spanned various ecological niches, including open fields, wooded areas, and water bodies. Identification of species was performed through in-field observations and reference to botanical databases. Plants were categorized by family, common names, habit, distribution, endemism, conservation status, and uses. The survey covered native and exotic species to create a comprehensive catalogue of the campus flora.

## Results

The survey at MES College Marampally documented a diverse array of plant species spread across numerous families, showcasing a blend of native and exotic species. The Acanthaceae family was represented by plants like *Asystasia gangetica* and *Justicia gendarussa*, which had varied uses, from ornamental to medicinal. Amaranthaceae members such as *Alternanthera sessilis* were noted for their medicinal properties. Notable trees from the Anacardiaceae family included *Anacardium occidentale*, valued for its edible nuts and fruits. Several species from the Apocynaceae family, like *Allamanda cathartica*, were recognized for their ornamental significance. The survey highlighted the presence of various endemic species, such as *Tabernaemontana alternifolia* from the Apocynaceae family, listed as Near Threatened. Exotic species with notable uses included *Carica papaya* from the Caricaceae family, known for its medicinal leaves and edible fruits. Overall, the survey provided valuable insights into the plant biodiversity of the campus, emphasizing the importance of conservation and educational potential.



# Checklist of Plants

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## ACANTHACEAE

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### *Asystasia gangetica* (L.) T. Anderson

**Common Name:** Upputhali  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Arabia and Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in degraded forests and plains

### *Rostellularia procumbens* (L.) Nees

**Common Name:** Water Willow  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and East Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Used to treat fever, asthma, edema, cough, jaundice, urinary tract infection, and sore throat, as well as for snake bites and as a fish-killer.

### *Rungia pectinata* (L.) Nees

**Common Name:** Comb Rungia  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical and Subtropical Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Bruised leaves are applied to contusions to relieve pain and reduce swelling.

## AMARANTHACEAE

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

**Common Name:** Kaattuponnamgani  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; now getting naturalized in Asia.  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### *Justicia gendarussa* Burm.f.

**Common Name:** Vathakodi, Vathamkolli  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Tropical Africa and Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; used to reduce inflammation caused by insect bite.

### *Ruellia prostrata* Poir.

**Common Name:** Velipadakkam, Thuppalampotti  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Central and South Africa, Arabian Peninsula, Indian Subcontinent to SW. Pacific Islands.  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Used for the treatment of flu, asthma, fever, bronchitis, high blood pressure, eczema, and diabetes.

### *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R. Br. ex. DC.

**Common Name:** Kozhuppacheera, Ponnangani, Ponnammannikkeera  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

## ***Alternanthera ficoidea* (L.) P. Beauv.**

**Common Name:** Brazilian Snow Flower, Brazilian Snow flower

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of South America

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** The plant is traditionally used as diuretic, anti-pyretic, antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and anti-diarrheal agent etc.

## **AMARYLLIDACEAE**

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### ***Hymenocallis littoralis* (Jacq.) Salisb.**

**Common Name:** Kadal thali

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America, introduced elsewhere

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal and ornamental

### ***Zephyranthes candida* (Lindl.) Herb.**

**Common Name:** White Rain Lily

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of South America

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental

## **ANACARDIACEAE**

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### ***Anacardium occidentale* L.**

**Common Name:** Kasumavu, Parangimavu

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Native of South America; now widely cultivated in Asia and Africa

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Nuts and fruits are edible. Cashew apple is fibrous and nutritious. The nut and apple are good source of carbohydrates, minerals like Calcium, Potassium, Iron, and Vitamins like riboflavin, thiamine, vitamin C.

### ***Mangifera indica* L.**

**Common Name:** Maavu

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Widely cultivated and edible

### ***Lannea coromandelica* (Houtt.) Merr.**

**Common Name:** Anakkaram, Karasu

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)

**Uses:** Medicinal; the bark is useful in cuts, wounds, bruises and ulcerative inflammations of the oral mucosa. The wood not durable, but is suited for carving, turnery and furniture.



## ANNONACEAE

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### *Annona reticulata* L.

**Common Name:** Aatha

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Native of Central America and West Indies

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)

**Uses:** Medicinal and edible

### *Monoon longifolium* (Sonn.) B. Xue & R.M.K. Saunders

**Common Name:** Aranamaram

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Native of Sri Lanka, introduced to many tropical countries

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal and ornamental

## APOCYNACEAE

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### *Allamanda cathartica* L.

**Common Name:** Kolambi

**Habit:** Climber

**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; now naturalized in the tropics of the world.

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental plant

### *Alstonia scholaris* (L.) R. Br.

**Common Name:** Ezhilampala, Pala, Yekshippala

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** South and South East Asia to Australia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; the bark and tender leaves are useful in skin diseases, itching and tumors ulcers with foul discharges.

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

**Common Name:** Erikku

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Tropical Asia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; the seeds are used to treat lung diseases and traditional beedi preparation (Datura drug).

### *Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don

**Common Name:** Nithyakallyani, Savakottappacha, Savam-naripoovu, Sadapushpi, Ushamalari

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of Madagascar; cultivated, also now naturalized in the tropics

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental and medicinal; leaf juice is given for diabetes. It is rich in various alkaloids possessing anticancer activity including vinblastine, vincristine, etc.

### *Cosmostigma cordatum* (Poir.) M.R. Almeida

**Common Name:** Kariveppilakurinji, Kakkakarivepila, Vattolam

**Habit:** Climber

**Distribution:** India to Indo-China

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal

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

**Common Name:** Nannari, Naruneendi

**Habit:** Climber

**Distribution:** Indo-Malaya

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal

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

**Common Name:** Palvalli  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; used for the treatment of atrophy, convulsions, cough, delirium, etc.

### ***Plumeria rubra* L.**

**Common Name:** Ezhachampakam, Velachampakam  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; widely naturalized elsewhere in the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Tabernaemontana divaricata* (L.) R. Br.**

**Common Name:** Kattampala, Nandhiyarvattom  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of Southern Himalayas  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and ornamental

### ***Plumeria alba* L.**

**Common Name:** White Frangipani  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** 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)  
**Uses:** Medicinal

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

**Common Name:** Vattakakkakkodi  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; the plant juice is used as sternutatory and roots and tender stalks are used as emetic, purgative and expectorant.

## **ARACEAE**

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

**Common Name:** Chena  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** India, Sri Lanka and Pacific Islands  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated

### ***Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott**

**Common Name:** Chembu, Seppankizhangu, Kaattuchembu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

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

**Common Name:** Pullichembu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** South America; naturalized in the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Philodendron imbe* Schott ex Kunth**

**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Native of South America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Pothos scandens* L.**

**Common Name:** Anapparuva, Paruvakodi, Varivalli  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** India to Malesia and Madagascar  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### ***Xanthosoma sagittifolium* (L.) Schott**

**Common Name:** Palchembu, Seemachembu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated and edible

## **ARALIACEAE**

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### ***Polyscias fruticosa* (L.) Harms**

**Common Name:** Ming Aralia  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** South east Asia to Pacific Islands  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Spathiphyllum wallisii* Regel**

**Common Name:** Peace Lilly  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of South America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

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

**Common Name:** Dwarf Umbrella Tree  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of East Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## **ARECACEAE**

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### ***Areca catechu* L.**

**Common Name:** Adakkamaram, Kavungu, Kamugu, Pakku  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Cultivated from India to the Solomon Islands and less commonly in Africa and Tropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and cultivated

### ***Caryota urens* L.**

**Common Name:** Aanapana, Choondappana  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Southern India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal



### ***Cocos nucifera* L.**

**Common Name:** Nalikeram, Thenga, Thengu  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Cultivated throughout the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and cultivated

### ***Rhapis excelsa* (Thunb.) Henry**

**Common Name:** Lady Palm  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of Southern China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Wodyetia bifurcata* A.K. Irvine**

**Common Name:** Foxtail palm  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Queensland, Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## **ARISTOLOCHIACEAE**

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### ***Aristolochia indica* L.**

**Common Name:** Garudakodi, Karalakam  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; used in skin diseases and heals wounds and destroys the toxic effect of all poisons.

## **ASPARAGACEAE**

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### ***Asparagus racemosus* Willd.**

**Common Name:** Sathavari  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; boiled tuberous roots are eaten once a day for treatment of diabetes for a long time.

### ***Cyrtostachys renda* Blume**

**Common Name:** Chuvanna pana  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Thailand and Malaysia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***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  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Dracaena fragrans* (L.) Ker Gwal.**

**Common Name:** Sugandhakkantha  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Throughout tropical Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## ***Ophiopogon jaburan* (Siebold) Lodd.**

**Common Name:** Ribbon Grass

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of East Asia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental

## **ASTERACEAE**

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### ***Acmella radicans* (Jacq.) R.K. Jansen**

**Common Name:** Venapacha

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** A weed plant

### ***Ageratum conyzoides* L.**

**Common Name:** Kaattappa, Kumminnipacha

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of Mexico, naturalized in the tropical and subtropical regions

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; the leaves are mixed with those of *Allophyllus serratus* and pounded. The paste mixed with egg albumin is locally applied for relief from muscular pains.

### ***Blumea lacera* (Burm. f.) DC.**

**Common Name:** Kukkura-chedi, Rakkila

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Paleotropics

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Used to treat against diabetes

### ***Acmella uliginosa* (Sw.) Cass.**

**Common Name:** Marsh para cress

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Probably native of Tropical America; reported from Africa, Sri Lanka, Java and India

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Traditionally used as an antibiotic in the treatment of infectious diseases

### ***Artemisia nilagirica* (C.B. Clarke) Pamp.**

**Common Name:** Karpooora-thulasi

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** India and South West China

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal (planted)

### ***Centratherum punctatum* Cass.**

**Common Name:** Kesavardhini

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of South America and West Indies

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental

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

**Common Name:** Communist Pacha  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of tropical and subtropical America; naturalized in Tropical Asia and Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

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

**Common Name:** Kanjunni  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Temp. & Subtropical America, naturalized in paleotropics from Africa to Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands and used for hair oil preparation.

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

**Common Name:** Elichevianveru, Muyalchevian  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical and Subtropical Africa and Asia; naturalized in some parts of Tropical America and Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** It is an edible plant used in the ayurvedic system of medicine for the treatment of gastropathy, diarrhea, etc.

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

**Common Name:** Kammal poove  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

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

**Common Name:** Poovankurunnal  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Pantropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; paste of stem/bark is used to heal cuts.

***Elephantopus scaber* L.**

**Common Name:** Aanachuvadi  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical & Subtropical regions of Old World; naturalized in Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; used in traditional medicine as an astringent agent, cardiac tonic and is used for eczema, rheumatism, fever & bladder stones.

***Mikania micrantha* Kunth**

**Common Name:** Dhritarashtra-pachha  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

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

**Common Name:** Mudianpacha  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical & Subtropical America; naturalized in Tropical and subtropical Africa, Asia to Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands



### ***Tagetes erecta* L.**

**Common Name:** Chendumalli  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Central America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** 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  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

## **BIGNONIACEAE**

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### ***Dolichandra unguis-cati* (L.) L.G. Lohmann**

**Common Name:** Cat's claw-vine, Yellow trumpet vine  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Native to tropical America from Mexico to Argentina and the West Indies. Widely grown as ornamental plant in Asia, Africa & Europe.  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Jacaranda mimosifolia* D. Don**

**Common Name:** Jacaranda, Neela vaka  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of South America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** 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  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## **CANNABACEAE**

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

**Common Name:** Aamathali, Pottama  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Tropical Africa, Asia and Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

## CARICACEAE

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### *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

**Uses:** Cultivated and medicinal; leaves are used as vegetable to clean stomach (Filarial worm removal).

## CLEOMACEAE

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### *Cleome rutidosperma* DC

**Common Name:** Neelavela

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Pantropical

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

## CLUSIACEAE

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### *Garcinia x mangostana* L.

**Common Name:** Mangosteen

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Native of Malaysia, widely cultivated in Tropical Asia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Cultivated

## COMBRETACEAE

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### *Getonia floribunda* Roxb.

**Common Name:** Pullanni, Pullanji

**Habit:** Climber

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; leaf juice used as a cure for fresh wounds and cuts. The leaves are used to cure dysentery and malaria. The stem contains a large quantity of water which is taken in thirst during emergency.

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

**Common Name:** Neermaruthu

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** India and Sri Lanka

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

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

### ***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  
**Uses:** Ornamental and an avenue tree

### ***Terminalia mantaly* H. Perrier**

**Common Name:** Madagascar Almond, Umbrella Tree  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native to Madagascar  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## **COMMELINACEAE**

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### ***Commelina benghalensis* L.**

**Common Name:** Adukkavettilla  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Africa, India, China, Japan and Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a Weed plant

### ***Tradescantia spathacea* Sw.**

**Common Name:** Riyo  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** South East Mexico to Guatemala, widely introduced elsewhere  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## **CONVOLVULACEAE**

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

**Common Name:** Chumadukodi, Vishnukranthi  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; the whole plant is used in form of decoction in nervous debility and loss of memory.

### ***Evolvulus nummularius* (L.) L.**

**Common Name:** Vellakranthi  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; naturalized in Africa and Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; this species often substituted for *Evolvulus alsinoides*.

### ***Hewittia malabarica* (L.) Suresh**

**Common Name:** Ohanamvalli, Vattapoomthani  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Asia, Africa and South America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

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

**Common Name:** Cheruthali  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** China, Tropical Asia and Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal



### *Ipomoea triloba* L.

**Common Name:** Little Bell  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; now throughout the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

### *Xenostegia tridentata* (L.) D.F.Austin & Staples

**Common Name:** Pradharini, Prasarani  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; whole plant is used in rheumatism, flatulence and herpes.

## COSTACEAE

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### *Costus igneus* Nak

**Common Name:** Spiral flag  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Newly introduced plant in India from South and Central America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Consumption of the leaves helps lower the blood glucose levels.

### *Costus woodsonii* Maas

**Common Name:** Red Button Ginger  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native to Colombia and Central America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## CUCURBITACEAE

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### *Solena amplexicaulis* (Lam.) Gandhi

**Common Name:** Karuvikizhangu, Kuvachakka, Mullerikizhangu  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** South India, Myanmar  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and an edible plant

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

**Common Name:** Koval  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Tropical Africa, Tropical & Subtropical Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and cultivated

### *Cucumis maderaspatanus* L.

**Common Name:** Kasappuchedi  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; relieves toothache, vertigo, biliousness, etc.

### *Luffa acutangula* (L.) Roxb.

**Common Name:** Peechinga  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia, widely cultivated  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated

## ***Zehneria maysorensis* (Wight & Arn.) Arn.**

**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** India to South East Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Extracts from the herb are traditionally used to treat diarrhea, alopecia, wound and eczema.

## ***Trichosanthes tricuspidata* Lour.**

**Common Name:** Kakkathondi  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia to Australia and East Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

## **CYPERACEAE**

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### ***Cyperus rotundus* L.**

**Common Name:** Kuzhimutthanga  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

## **DIOSCOREACEAE**

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### ***Dioscorea bulbifera* L.**

**Common Name:** Kattukachil, Pannikizhangu  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

## **EUPHORBIACEAE**

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### ***Acalypha hispida* Burm. f.**

**Common Name:** Poochavalan, Vattapoonthaliyari  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of Bismarck Archipelago; introduced as garden plant elsewhere  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Acalypha indica* L.**

**Common Name:** Kuppameni  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia, Arabian Peninsula and Tropical Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** 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

**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Codiaeum variegatum* (L.) A. Juss.**

**Common Name:** Kozhivalan

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Malesia to South West Pacific, introduced elsewhere

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Euphorbia prostrata* Ait.**

**Common Name:** Prostrate spurge

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of West Indies, now Pan-tropical

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** A weed plant

### ***Hevea brasiliensis* (Willd. ex A. Juss.) Muell.Arg.**

**Common Name:** Rubber

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Native of Tropical S. America; introduced in the tropics elsewhere

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Latex used to make natural rubber. Timber is used for making match boxes, splints and furniture after preservative treatments.

### ***Baliospermum solanifolium* (Burm.) Suresh**

**Common Name:** Nagadhanthi

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Tropical Asia & China

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)

**Uses:** Medicinal (planted)

### ***Euphorbia hirta* L.**

**Common Name:** Attuvattappala, Kuzhinagappala

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; now Pan-tropical

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

### ***Excoecaria cochinchinensis* Lour.**

**Common Name:** Chinese croton

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Native of SE. China to and Peninsula Malaysia; widely grown as an ornamental

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Jatropha integerrima* Jacq.**

**Common Name:** Spicy Jatropha, Coral Plant

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Native of Caribbean islands

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental



***Macaranga peltata* (Roxb.)  
Muell.Arg.**

**Common Name:** Podini, Thodukanni, Vatta  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** India, Sri Lanka Cambodia,  
Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** It is a medicinal plant and wood is used  
for pencil and match boxes.

***Manihot esculenta* Crantz.**

**Common Name:** Maracheeni, Kappa,  
Kollikizhangu, Poolakizhangu  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of South America; now  
common throughout the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated

***Ricinus communis* L.**

**Common Name:** Aavannakku  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical Africa; now  
cultivated throughout tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a Poison plant

**FABACEAE**

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***Acacia mangium* Willd.**

**Common Name:** Manjium  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Australia, introduced to tropics  
and subtropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Grown as avenue tree, also raised in  
plantations.

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

**Common Name:** Sindooram  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Medicinal; remedy for expelling  
tapeworms.

***Microstachys chamaelea* (L.)  
Muell.Arg.**

**Common Name:** Kodyavannakku,  
Njettavanakku  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

***Tragia involucrata* L.**

**Common Name:** Choriyanam, Kodithoova  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Indian Subcontinent  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a poison plant

***Adenanthera pavonina* L.**

**Common Name:** Manchadi  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Tropical Asia to N. Australia;  
introduced to parts of Tropical America and Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A red dye obtained from the bark has  
been used for dyeing clothes. The wood is used  
for cabinet making, paving blocks, vehicle  
bodies and handicrafts.

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

**Common Name:** Nila-orila  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Wastelands in the plains

### ***Bauhinia racemosa* Lam.**

**Common Name:** Mandaram  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** India and Sri Lanka  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Calopogonium mucunoides* Desv.**

**Common Name:** Wild Ground Nut  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Introduced from Tropical Asia; now wild in Southern India  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

### ***Centrosema molle* Benth.**

**Common Name:** Kattupayar  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Native of America; introduced in India  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

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

**Common Name:** Scorpion Tick Trefoil  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of America; introduced and naturalized in the Pacific regions of Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### ***Bauhinia purpurea* L.**

**Common Name:** Chuvannamandaram  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of South East Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

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

**Common Name:** Kattumuthira  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical Asia; introduced in Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### ***Cassia fistula* L.**

**Common Name:** Kanikonna  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and ornamental

### ***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  
**Uses:** Medicinal and ornamental

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

**Common Name:** Muyalpullu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** 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  
**Uses:** Medicinal; to relieve burns, healing of wounds, etc.

### ***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  
**Uses:** A weed plant

### ***Peltophorum pterocarpum* (DC.) Backer ex Heyne**

**Common Name:** Charakonna  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Sri Lanka, Andamans, Malaya Peninsula and North Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***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  
**Uses:** Avenue tree

### ***Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pers.**

**Common Name:** Kattamari, Kodikozhingil, Kozhingil  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### ***Libidibia coriaria* (Jacq.) Schltld.**

**Common Name:** Divi-divi  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of the West Indies and Central America; now widely introduced in the Asian countries  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Mimosa pudica* L.**

**Common Name:** Thottavaadi  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Native of South America; now Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

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

**Common Name:** Ungu  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental and Medicinal; used in preparation of home-made 'murivenna' for body pain and wounds.

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

**Common Name:** Ashokam  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** India and Myanmar  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Vulnerable (VU)  
**Uses:** Ornamental and medicinal; used for the treatment of uterine, genital, and other reproductive disorders in women, etc.

### ***Senna tora* (L.) Roxb.**

**Common Name:** Thakara, Ponthakara  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of South America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; tender leaves eaten as vegetable.



### ***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  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### ***Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link**

**Common Name:** Karinthakara, Mattanthakara, Ponnionthakara  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of South America; naturalized in Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

## **HAMAMELIDACEAE**

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### ***Loropetalum chinense* var. *rubrum* Yieh**

**Common Name:** Chinese fringe flower  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of China, Japan and south-eastern Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## **HELICONIACEAE**

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### ***Heliconia psittacorum* L.f.**

**Common Name:** Heliconia  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Central and South America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Tamarindus indica* L.**

**Common Name:** Kolpuli, Puli, Valampuli  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical Africa; introduced and widely grown in India and other parts of tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; drink prepared from ripe fruits taken for constipation. The wood is hard and strong, used as chopping blocks, also used as firewood.

### ***Zornia diphylla* (L.) Pers.**

**Common Name:** Murikkotti  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** India and Sri Lanka  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** It is used for the treatment of swelling and pain, sores, venomous snake bites.

### ***Heliconia rostrata* Ruiz & Pavon**

**Common Name:** Vaazhapoovu  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of South America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## HYDROCHARITACEAE

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### *Hydrilla verticillata* (L. f.) Royle

**Common Name:** Kurukkaanpayal, Inappayal

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Asia, Europe and Africa

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Aquatic

## HYPOXIDACEAE

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### *Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn.

**Common Name:** Nilappana

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia to W. Pacific Islands

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; decoction of the rhizome is used for asthma, and poultice and its paste are used for itch and skin diseases.

## LAMIACEAE

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### *Duranta erecta* L.

**Common Name:** Duranta

**Habit:** Shrub

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

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental

### *Coleus amboinicus* Lour.

**Common Name:** Panikoorka

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Widely cultivated throughout tropics

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Planted for folk medicine

### *Clerodendrum infortunatum* L.

**Common Name:** Perivelam, Peruku, Vattapparavalam

**Habit:** Shrub to Small Tree

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; juice of young leaves given after child birth for removal of placenta. Also used against fever.

### *Lantana camara* L.

**Common Name:** Arippoo, Kongini

**Habit:** Shrub

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

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental and an invasive plant

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

**Common Name:** Thumba

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Tropical & Subtropical Asia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Seen in wastelands; used as a folk medicine to treat fever and cold in babies less than 1 year old.

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

**Common Name:** Nattapoochedi

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Originally from America now Pantropical

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** An invasive plant seen in wastelands.

### ***Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (L.) Vahl**

**Common Name:** Kadapananth, Narivalan, Seemakongini

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Native of Southeast U.S.A. to Tropical America; naturalized in parts of tropical Africa to Asia and Australia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** A weed plant

## **LAURACEAE**

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### ***Cinnamomum verum* Presl**

**Common Name:** Edana, Elavangam, Karuva

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** South West India and Sri Lanka

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; The bark is used as spice. Cinnamon oil obtained by distilling the bark is used in perfumes, against inflammations, stomach pain, toothache, vomiting and tubercular ulcers.

### ***Lippia alba* (Mill.) N.E. Br. ex Britton & P. Wilson**

**Common Name:** Bushy mat-grass, Bushy lippia.

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Native of tropical America

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** A weed plant

### ***Ocimum tenuiflorum* L.**

**Common Name:** Krishnathulasi, Thulasi, Thrithavu, Govindapushpam

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Tropical & Subtropical Asia to Pacific

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; infusion of leaves is used for gastric disorders. Root decoction is used to treat fever.

### ***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

**Uses:** Timber use

### ***Litsea coriacea* (Heyne ex Meisn.) Hook. f.**

**Common Name:** Maravettithali, Pannithali, Vettithali

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Peninsular India

**Endemic/Exotic:** Endemic to Peninsular India

**Conservation Status:** Near Threatened (NT)



## LECYTHIDACEAE

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### *Couroupita guianensis* Aublet

**Common Name:** Nagalingamaram

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Native of Central and Tropical America

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental

## LINDERNIACEAE

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### *Bonnaya ciliata* (Colsm.) Spreng.

**Common Name:** Fringed False Pimpernel

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Tropical & Subtropical Asia to Northern Australia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)

**Uses:** Used for the treatment of period irregularities.

### *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

**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

## LOGANIACEAE

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### *Strychnos nux-vomica* L.

**Common Name:** Kanjiram

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** The timber is used to make tool handles, agricultural implements etc. The seed and root are poisonous.

## LYTHRACEAE

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### *Cuphea hyssopifolia* Kunth

**Common Name:** Mexican False Heather

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Native of America

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Ornamental

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

**Common Name:** Manimaruthu, Poomaruthu

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Tropical Asia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal and an avenue tree

## MALPIGHIACEAE

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### *Galphimia gracilis* Bartl.

**Common Name:** Spray of Gold  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of tropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## MALVACEAE

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### *Abutilon indicum* (L.) Sweet

**Common Name:** Kattooram, Oorpam, Velluram, Indian Mallow  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Tropics and subtropics of the world  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Grewia tiliifolia* Vahl

**Common Name:** Chadachi  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** India to Indo-China and Malaysia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Melochia corchorifolia* L.

**Common Name:** Cheruvuram  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Used as a source of fibre for making dillybags.

### *Corchorus aestuans* L.

**Common Name:** East Indian Mallow, Jute  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** 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  
**Uses:** Medicinal and ornamental

### *Microcos paniculata* L.

**Common Name:** Cherikkotta, Pottanga  
**Habit:** Shrub to Small Tree  
**Distribution:** Tropical Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

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

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

### ***Sida rhombifolia* subsp. *alnifolia* (L.) Ugbor.**

**Common Name:** Kurunthotti  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia to Pacific Islands  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### ***Triumfetta rhomboidea* Jacq.**

**Common Name:** Ottukayal  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

### ***Waltheria indica* L.**

**Common Name:** Sleepy morning  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical & Subtropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** It possess therapeutic potential in the treatment of inflammation, malaria, etc.

## **MELASTOMATACEAE**

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### ***Heterotis rotundifolia* (Sm.) Jacq.-Fél.**

**Common Name:** Trailing Melastoma  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Native of tropical Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***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  
**Uses:** Medicinal and grown as fence-posts and avenue tree.

### ***Sida cordifolia* L.**

**Common Name:** Anakurunthoti, Kattooram, Vellooram  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

### ***Urena lobata* L.**

**Common Name:** Oorppam  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Pantropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

## MELIACEAE

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### *Azadirachta indica* A.Juss.

**Common Name:** Aryaveppu  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia, widely cultivated  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** 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  
**Uses:** Premium furniture wood

## MENISPERMACEAE

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### *Anamirta cocculus* (L.) Wight & Arn.

**Common Name:** Aanayamruthu, Nanchuvalli, Pollakai  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Tropical Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Cyclea peltata* (Burm. f.) Hook. f. & Thoms.

**Common Name:** Padakizhangu, Padathali, Padavalli  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Indian Subcontinent to Indo-China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; crushed or sliced tuberous roots, taken along with a little salt for stomach pain.

## MORACEAE

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### *Artocarpus altilis* (Parkinson) Fosberg

**Common Name:** Kadachakka, Kadapilavu, Seemaplavu, Bilathichakka  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Pacific Islands  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated; fruits used as vegetable.

### *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  
**Uses:** Cultivated

### *Artocarpus hirsutus* Lam.

**Common Name:** Anjili, Ayani  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Southern Western Ghats and Sri Lanka  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Timber used in ship building, furniture, building construction etc. Fruits are edible.

### *Ficus benghalensis* L.

**Common Name:** Peraal  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indian subcontinent; widely grown as avenue tree  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** 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  
**Uses:** Ornamental

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

**Common Name:** Thondi, Paarakam  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** South China, Indo-Malesia to Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### ***Ficus racemosa* L.**

**Common Name:** Athi  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia to Australia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Medicinal; roots are useful in treating dysentery. The bark is one of the contents of ayurvedic preparation 'Nalpamarakoottu' (planted).

## **MORINGACEAE**

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### ***Moringa oleifera* Lam.**

**Common Name:** Muringa  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Cultivated throughout India and many tropical countries  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and cultivated

## **MUSACEAE**

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### ***Musa × paradisiaca* L.**

**Common Name:** Vaazha  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Cultivated throughout the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated

### ***Ficus exasperata* Vahl**

**Common Name:** Parakam, Therakam  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** East Africa, Arabia, India and Sri Lanka  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Used in folk medicine to treat inflammation/inflammatory disorders.

### ***Ficus microcarpa* L. f.**

**Common Name:** Ithi, Ithiyal, Kallithi  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia to Pacific Islands and South China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal (planted as ornamental)

### ***Streblus asper* Lour.**

**Common Name:** Paruvamaram, Shangkodavriksham  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Tropical Asia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Medicinal; juice/extract of leaves and roots are given after child birth for anaemia.

## MYRTACEAE

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### *Eugenia uniflora* L.

**Common Name:** Mulakunelli  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of tropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated (planted as ornamental)

### *Psidium cattleianum* Afzel. ex Sabine

**Common Name:** Cattalaya, Cattley Guava  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of South America, widely introduced elsewhere  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated and edible

### *Syzygium aqueum* (Burm. f.) Alston

**Common Name:** Chamba  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Malesia to North Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated; the fruits are edible, used to make wine and pickles.

### *Syzygium malaccense* (L) Merr. & Perry

**Common Name:** Chuvannachamba, Pananeerjamba  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Malaysia, cultivated in other parts of Tropical Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Fruits are edible

### *Melaleuca citrina* (Curtis) Dum. Cours.

**Common Name:** Bottle brush  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native in East Australia; widely grown as ornamental tree  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### *Psidium guajava* L.

**Common Name:** Adakkapazham, Pera  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Originally from Tropical America; now naturalized in the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; leaves boiled in water is used to control diabetes (planted).

### *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels

**Common Name:** Njara, Njaval  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia to Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and edible

### *Syzygium myrtifolium* Walp.

**Common Name:** Red lip  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Northeast India, Myanmar, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra, Borneo and the Philippines  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## NYCTAGINACEAE

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### *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

**Uses:** Ornamental

## OLEACEAE

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### *Jasminum angustifolium* (L.) Willd.

**Common Name:** Kattumallika, Kattumulla

**Habit:** Climber

**Distribution:** India and Sri Lanka

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* L.

**Common Name:** Paarijatham, Pavizhamalli, Pavizhamulla

**Habit:** Shrub to Small Tree

**Distribution:** South and South East Asia

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal and ornamental

### *Tetrapilus dioicus* (Roxb.) L.A.S. Johnson

**Common Name:** Edana, Edala, Vayala, Vayana

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** India to Myanmar

**Endemic/Exotic:** Endemic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal

## ONAGRACEAE

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### *Ludwigia hyssopifolia* (G. Don) Exell

**Common Name:** Neergrampu

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Pantropical

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal

## OXALIDACEAE

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### *Biophytum reinwardtii* (Zucc.) Klotzsch.

**Common Name:** Mukkutti, Theendanazhi  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Oxalis corniculata* L.

**Common Name:** Cats Bell, Rattlebox, Rattleweed  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Cosmopolitan  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and leaves used as vegetable.

## PANDANACEAE

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### *Pandanus amaryllifolius* Roxb. ex Lindl.

**Common Name:** Biriyanichedi, Rambha  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of Indonesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Edible

## PASSIFLORACEAE

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### *Passiflora foetida* L.

**Common Name:** Ammummapazham, Poochapazham  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; now naturalized in India, China and Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and seen in wastelands

## PHYLLANTHACEAE

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### *Breynia disticha* J.R. Forst. & G. Forst.

**Common Name:** Foliage flower, Snowbush  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native to New Caledonia and Vanuatu in the western Pacific.  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### *Breynia retusa* (Dennst.) Alston

**Common Name:** Aattucherukola, Peruneeroli  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Sri Lanka to Indo-China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Leaf juice is used to cure body pain, skin inflammation, hyperglycemia, diarrhea and diuretic.



***Breynia vitis-idaea* (Burm. f.)  
C.E.C. Fisch.**

**Common Name:** Chuvannaniruri, Kattuniruri  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

***Bridelia stipularis* (L.) Blume**

**Common Name:** Cheruka, Cherukapanachi,  
Cherupanachi, Kanjikottam  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Tropical & Subtropical Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and fruits are edible.

***Phyllanthus acidus* (L.) Skeels**

**Common Name:** Arinelli, Nellipuli  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Probably native of Brazil  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated

***Phyllanthus emblica* L.**

**Common Name:** Nelli  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Throughout the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and edible

***Phyllanthus myrtifolius* Moon**

**Common Name:** Hedge Phyllanthus  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of Sri Lanka  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

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

**Common Name:** Mullankkayini  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Timber use

***Flueggea virosa* (Roxb. ex  
Willd.) Voigt**

**Common Name:** Koorambal, Vellapoolam  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Tropical Africa, Asia and  
Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Used for the treatment of syphilis,  
gonorrhoea, rheumatism, etc.

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

**Common Name:** Keezhanelli  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; used to treat jaundice.

***Phyllanthus maderaspatensis*  
L.**

**Common Name:** Nila-nelli  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** 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  
**Uses:** Planted as fencing plant

## PIPERACEAE

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### *Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth *Piper betle* L.

**Common Name:** Kannadippacha, Mashipatcha, Mashithandu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; now Pan-tropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Used to manage inflammatory illnesses such as conjunctivitis, and gastrointestinal and respiratory tract disorders.

**Common Name:** Vettila  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** India and Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated and medicinal; Paste from leaves used for skin diseases and skin burns.

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## PLANTAGINACEAE

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### *Achetaria azurea* (Linden) V.C. Souza

**Common Name:** Amazon Blue, Brazilian Snapdragon  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of South America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### *Mecardonia procumbens* (Mill.) Small

**Common Name:** Baby jump-up  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; Introduced and naturalized in India  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

### *Russelia equisetiformis* Schltr. & Cham.

**Common Name:** Firecracker flower  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### *Scoparia dulcis* L.

**Common Name:** Kallurukki  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; now Pan-tropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; leaf extracts taken orally for the relief of rheumatic pains.

### *Stemodia verticillata* (Mill.) Sprague

**Common Name:** Whorled Twintip  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; now Pan-tropical  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

## PLUMBAGINACEAE

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### *Plumbago auriculata* Lam.

**Common Name:** Neelakoduveli  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of South Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### *Plumbago indica* L.

**Common Name:** Chethikoduveli, Chuvanna-koduveli, Koduveli  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** South and South East Asia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal, ornamental and a poison plant (planted).

## POACEAE

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### *Acroceras munroanum* (Balansa) Henrard

**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** India  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Endemic to India  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Used as an ornamental plant in gardens and parks. It is also used for erosion control and as a ground cover.

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

**Common Name:** Kaalappullu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical & Subtropical America; naturalized in Tropics and subtropics of old world  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### *Cenchrus pedicellatus* (Trin.) Morrone

**Common Name:** Poochavalanpullu, Oolappullu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** West Africa and India  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

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

**Common Name:** Bugseed grass  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### *Bambusa vulgaris* Schrad.

**Common Name:** Manjamula  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of China and Japan, introduced elsewhere  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### *Cenchrus setosus* Sw.

**Common Name:** Nambeesan Pullu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

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

**Common Name:** Karukapullu

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Tropical and warm temperate regions of the world

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal

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

**Common Name:** Kakkakalan pullu, Kavrapullu

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Native of South America, naturalised in Paleotropics

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal and a weed plant

### ***Dendrocalamus strictus* (Roxb.) Nees**

**Common Name:** Cheriyamula, Kallanmula

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Indian subcontinent and Java

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Used as raw material in paper mills and also for a variety of purposes such as light construction, furniture, musical instruments, bamboo board, et.

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

**Common Name:** Henry's crabgrass

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Paleotropics

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** A weed plant

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

**Common Name:** Kattuthina, Kaatturagi

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Pantropical

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### ***Eragrostis unioloides* (Retz.) Nees ex Steud.**

**Common Name:** Karayampullu

**Habit:** Herb

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

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** 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

**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

### ***Oplismenus burmanni* (Retz.) P. Beauv.**

**Common Name:** Burmann's basketgrass

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Pantropical

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Used to cure disease like in bull's neck soar.



### ***Thyrsostachys oliveri* Gamble**

**Common Name:** Lathimula

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Native of Myanmar

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Used as an ornamental plant in gardens and as a source of timber for furniture and construction.

### ***Thyrsostachys siamensis* Gamble**

**Common Name:** Monastery Bamboo

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Native to Yunnan, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and naturalized in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia.

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** The culms serve for house construction, furniture and general household uses, as well as raw material for cottage industries.

### ***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

**Uses:** Seen in wastelands

## **POLYPODIACEAE**

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### ***Drynaria quercifolia* (L.) J.Sm.**

**Common Name:** Oak Leaf Fern

**Habit:** Epiphytic herb

**Distribution:** Native to India, Southeast Asia, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, and Australia.

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** To treat inflammation, rheumatism, headache, bone fracture, jaundice, etc.

## **PTERIDACEAE**

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### ***Pityrogramma calomelanos* (L.) Link**

**Common Name:** Silver Fern

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** The native range of this species is Mexico to Tropical America

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** The leaves have been used locally for medicinal purposes.

## RHAMNACEAE

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### *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

**Uses:** Medicinal; ripe fruits are edible

## RHIZOPHORACEAE

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### *Carallia brachiata* (Lour.) Merr.

**Common Name:** Vallabham, Vankana, Varrungu

**Habit:** Tree

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia to Australia and China

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)

**Uses:** The wood is used for construction work and for furniture and other interior furnishing.

## RUBIACEAE

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

**Common Name:** Kandakara, Karamullu

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Indian Subcontinent

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; Leaves and fruits are given at regular intervals to treat intestinal worms in children.

### *Exallage auricularia* (L.) Bremek.

**Common Name:** Erachiketti

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia to Pacific Islands

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Medicinal; the leaf juice mixed with breast milk is used for local application for eye disease.

### *Chassalia curviflora* (Wall. ex Kurz) Thwaites

**Common Name:** Karutha-amalppori, Vellakurinji

**Habit:** Shrub

**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China

**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** Used to treat rheumatism, pneumonia, malaria, cough, phlegm, ulcers, snake and insect bite and to treat headache.

### *Hexasepalum teres* (Walter) J. H. Kirkbride

**Common Name:** Rough buttonweed

**Habit:** Herb

**Distribution:** Tropical America and Southern USA, now a weed in tropical Asia and Africa

**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic

**Conservation Status:** Nil

**Uses:** A weed plant

### ***Oldenlandia herbacea* (L.) Roxb.**

**Common Name:** Monganampullu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical Africa and Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; paste of plant taken as a cure for body pain.

### ***Oldenlandia corymbosa* L.**

**Common Name:** Parpadakapullu  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Paleotropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### ***Oldenlandia umbellata* L.**

**Common Name:** Chayaveru  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### ***Spermacoce articularis* L. f.**

**Common Name:** Kudalchurukki, Natthachuri  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical Asia and Africa  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** To treatment of malaria, diarrheal and other digestive problems, etc.

### ***Spermacoce verticillata* L.**

**Common Name:** Shrubby False Buttonweed  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Used to treat unspecified medicinal disorders and as animal food, a poison and a medicine.

### ***Ixora coccinea* L.**

**Common Name:** Chethi, Thechi  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental and medicinal; flowers, leaves, roots, and stem are used to treat various ailments.

### ***Ixora chinensis* Lam.**

**Common Name:** Kulachethi  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** South East China to Indo-China, Philippines  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### ***Richardia scabra* L.**

**Common Name:** False ipecac, Undulated ipecac  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America; introduced in Africa and Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

### ***Spermacoce exilis* (L.O.Williams) C.D. Adams**

**Common Name:** Pacific False Buttonweed  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical America, widely introduced elsewhere  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** It is used to treat headache, fever and ulcers.

## RUTACEAE

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### *Citrus x aurantifolia* (Christm. & Panz.) Swingle

**Common Name:** Cherunaregam  
**Habit:** Shrub to Small Tree  
**Distribution:** Cultivated in India  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and cultivated

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

**Common Name:** Kariveppu  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and cultivated

### *Melicope lunu-ankenda* (Gaertn.) Hartley

**Common Name:** Kambili, Nasakam  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Murraya paniculata* (L.) Jack.

**Common Name:** Kattumulla, Kattunarakam  
**Habit:** Shrub to Small Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia and Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; Hot water extract of leaves used for toothache.

## SAPINDACEAE

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### *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.

**Common Name:** Uzhinja  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Tropical & Subtropical regions  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Medicinal and used in cultural festivals of farmers in Kerala (Polivaykal pooja after first harvest of paddy).

### *Nephelium lappaceum* L.

**Common Name:** Rambutan  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Malesia and China  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated, medicinal and edible

## SAPOTACEAE

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### *Chrysophyllum cainito* L.

**Common Name:** Star Apple  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Central America and Carribean, widely cultivated throughout the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

### *Madhuca longifolia* (Koenig) J.F. Macbr.

**Common Name:** Ilupa, Irippa  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Sri Lanka, India, Tropical Himalaya  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal (planted)



### ***Manilkara zapota (L.) P. Royen***

**Common Name:** Chiku, Sappota  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of South and Central America; widely cultivated in the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Cultivated and edible

### ***Mimusops elengi L.***

**Common Name:** Elanchi, Elanji  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

## **SIMAROUBACEAE**

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### ***Simarouba amara Aubl.***

**Common Name:** Lakshmitharu  
**Habit:** Tree  
**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and ornamental

## **SOLANACEAE**

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### ***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  
**Uses:** Medicinal and seen in wastelands.

### ***Solanum capsicoides All.***

**Common Name:** Rakthachunda  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Native to South America; now naturalized in other parts of tropics.  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### ***Solanum torvum Sw.***

**Common Name:** Chunda  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Distribution:** Throughout the tropics  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal; for relieving indigestion.

## THELYPTERIDACEAE

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### *Thelypteris dentata* (Forssk.) E.St. John

**Common Name:** Downy Maiden Fern; Downy Shield Fern  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical & Subtropical Old World to Pacific  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal and poisonous

## URTICACEAE

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### *Laportea interrupta* (L.) Chew

**Common Name:** Choriyanam, Kuppakodithoova  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical & Subtropical Africa, Asia to NW. Pacific  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** The plant products protect against complications like indigestion, constipation, insomnia, chest pain, etc.

### *Pouzolzia zeylanica* (L.) Bennett

**Common Name:** Kallurukki, Neicheera  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Tropical Asia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Pilea microphylla* (L.) Liebm.

**Common Name:** Gunpowder Plant, Rockweed  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** South America; now introduced into other tropical regions  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** A weed plant

## VIOLACEAE

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### *Pigea enneasperma* (L.) P.I. Forst.

**Common Name:** Orithalthamara  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Sri Lanka, India, China, Madagascar, Africa and Tropical Australia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

## VITACEAE

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

**Common Name:** Corivalli  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Vulnerable (VU)  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Cissus latifolia* Lam.

**Common Name:** Chunnambuvalli, Narantha  
**Habit:** Climber  
**Distribution:** Peninsular India and Sri Lanka  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Medicinal

### *Leea indica* (Burm. f.) Merr.

**Common Name:** Chorianthali, Erattayani, Manipiranta, Njallu, Njakku  
**Habit:** Shrub to Small Tree  
**Distribution:** Indo-Malesia  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Nil  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)  
**Uses:** Medicinal

## XANTHORRHOACEAE

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### *Dianella tasmanica* Hook.f.

**Common Name:** Tasman Flax Lily  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Native of Australia and Tasmania  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

## ZINGIBERACEAE

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### *Alpinia zerumbet* (Persoon) B.L. Burtt & R.M. Smith

**Common Name:** Light Galangal  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Distribution:** Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam  
**Endemic/Exotic:** Exotic  
**Conservation Status:** Nil  
**Uses:** Ornamental

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# Gallery of Plants

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*Abutilon indicum* (L.) Sweet



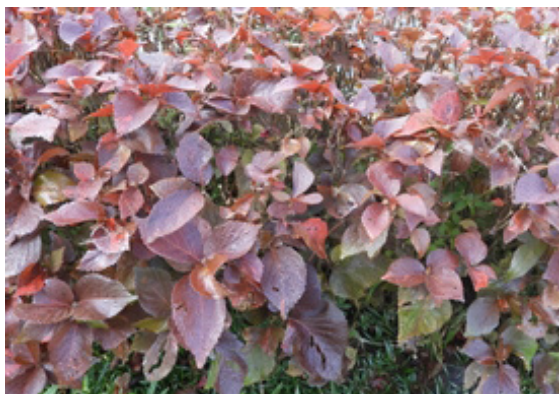
*Acacia mangium* Willd.



*Acalypha hispida* Burm. f.



*Acalypha indica* L.



*Acalypha wilkesiana* Muell.Arg.



*Achetaria azurea* (Linden) V.C. Souza

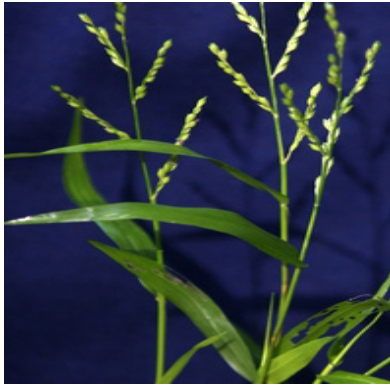




*Acmella radicans* (Jacq.) R.K. Jansen



*Acmella uliginosa* (Sw.) Cass.



*Acroceras munroanum* (Balansa) Henrard



*Adenanthera pavonina* L.



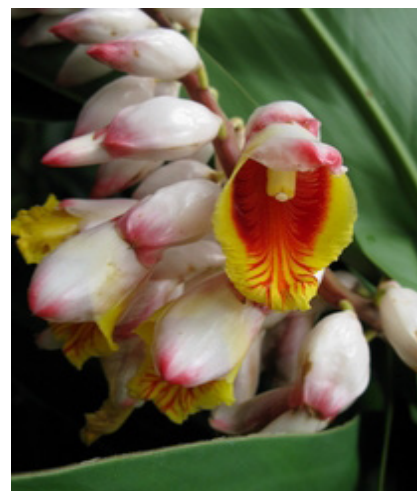
*Ageratum conyzoides* L.



*Allamanda cathartica* L.



*Alloteropsis cimicina* (L.) Stapf



*Alpinia zerumbet* (Persoon) B.L. Burtt & R.M. Smith





*Alstonia scholaris* (L.) R. Br.



*Alternanthera bettzickiana* (Regel)  
G.Nicholson



*Alternanthera ficoidea* (L.) P. Beauv.



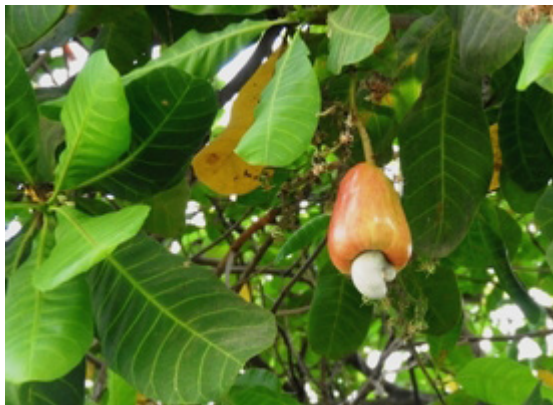
*Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R. Br. ex. DC.



*Alysicarpus vaginalis* (L.) DC.



*Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* (Dennst.)  
Nicolson



*Anacardium occidentale* L.



*Anamirta cocculus* (L.) Wight & Arn.





*Annona reticulata* L.



*Areca catechu* L.



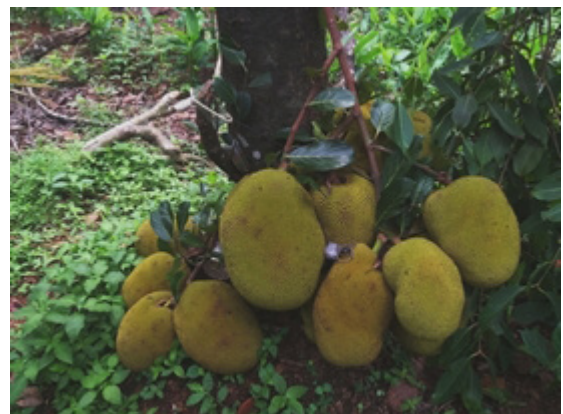
*Aristolochia indica* L.



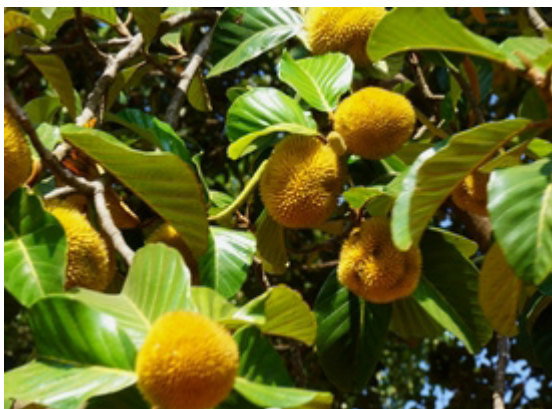
*Artemisia nilagirica* (C.B. Clarke) Pamp.



*Artocarpus altilis* (Parkinson) Fosberg



*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.



*Artocarpus hirsutus* Lam.



*Asparagus racemosus* Willd.





*Asystasia gangetica* (L.) T. Anderson



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



*Azadirachta indica* A.Juss.



*Baliospermum solanifolium* (Burm.) Suresh



*Bambusa vulgaris* Schrad.



*Bauhinia purpurea* L.



*Bauhinia racemosa* Lam.

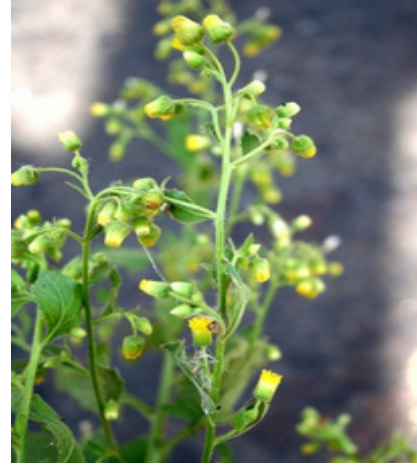


*Benincasa hispida* (Thunb.) Cogn.





***Biophytum reinwardtii* (Zucc.) Klotzsch.**



***Blumea lacera* (Burm. f.) DC.**



***Bonnaya ciliata* (Colsm.) Spreng.**



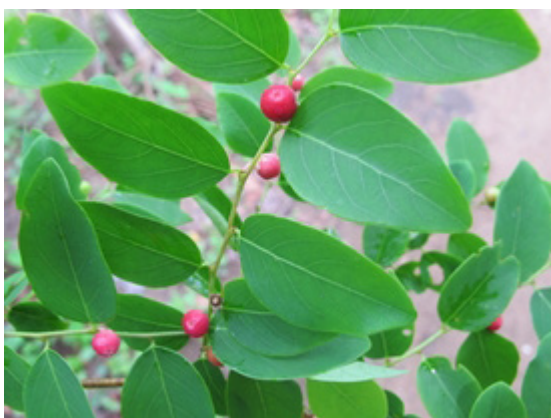
***Bougainvillea glabra* Choisy**



***Breyenia disticha* J.R. Forst. & G. Forst.**



***Breyenia retusa* (Dennst.) Alston**



***Breyenia vitis-idaea* (Burm. f.) C.E.C. Fisch.**



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





***Bridelia stipularis* (L.) Blume**



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



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



***Calopogonium mucunoides* Desv.**



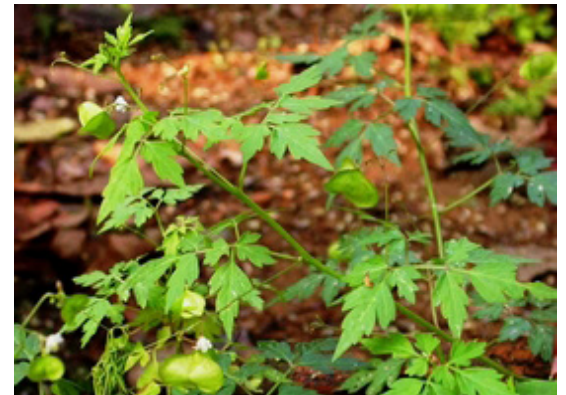
***Calotropis gigantea* (L.) W.T.Aiton**



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



***Carallia brachiata* (Lour.) Merr.**



***Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.**





*Carica papaya* L.



*Carvota urens* L.



*Cassia fistula* L.



*Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don



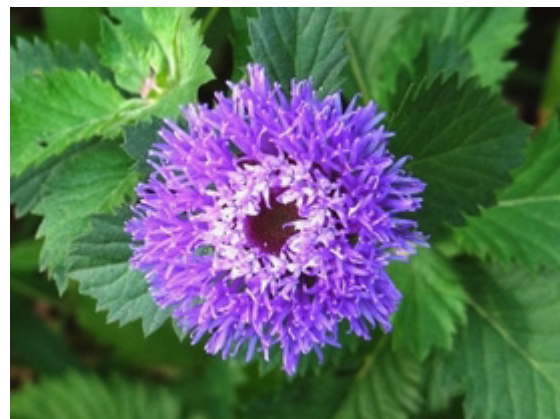
*Cayratia pedata* (Lam.) A. Juss. ex Gagnep.



*Cenchrus pedicellatus* (Trin.) Morrone



*Cenchrus setosus* Sw.



*Centratherum punctatum* Cass.





*Centrosema molle* Benth.



*Chassalia curviflora* (Wall. ex Kurz) Thwaites



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



*Chrysophyllum cainito* L.



*Cinnamomum verum* Presl



*Cissus latifolia* Lam.



*Clerodendrum infortunatum* L.



*Clitoria ternatea* L.





*Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt



*Cocos nucifera* L.



*Codiaeum variegatum* (L.) A. Juss.



*Coleus amboinicus* Lour.



*Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott



*Commelina benghalensis* L.

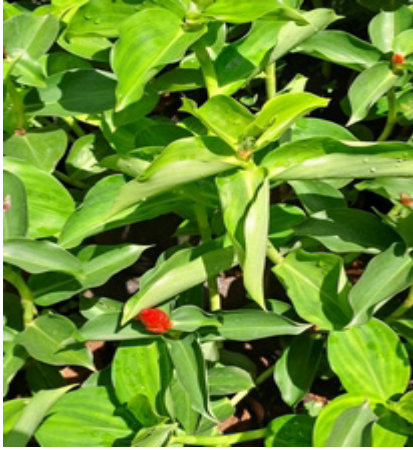


*Corchorus aestuans* L.



*Cosmostigma cordatum* (Poir.) M.R. Almeida





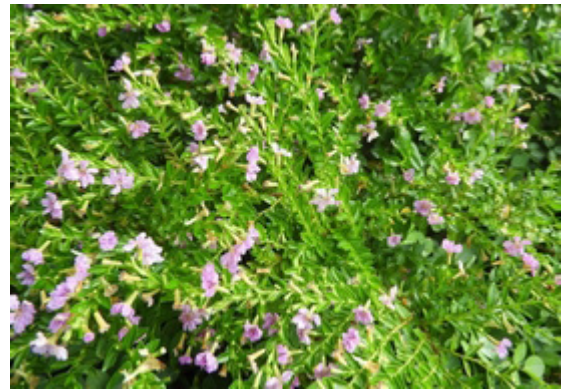
*Costus woodsonii* Maas



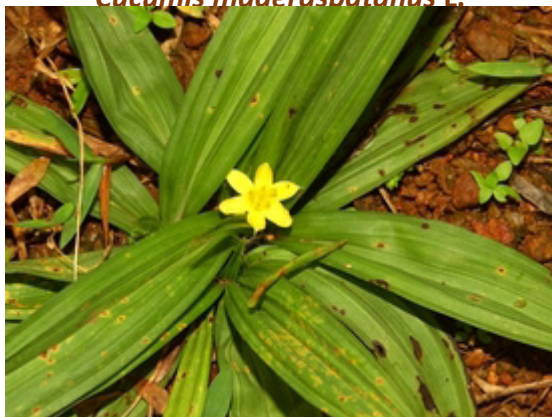
*Couroupita guianensis* Aublet



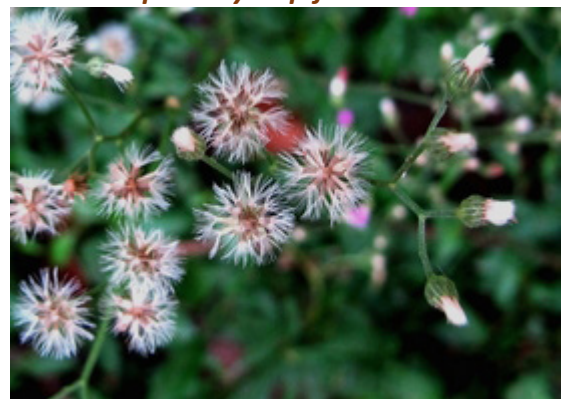
*Cucumis maderaspatanus* L.



*Cuphea hyssopifolia* Kunth



*Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn.



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



*Cyclea peltata* (Burm. f.) Hook. f. & Thoms.



*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.





*Cyperus rotundus* L.



*Cyrtostachys renda* Blume



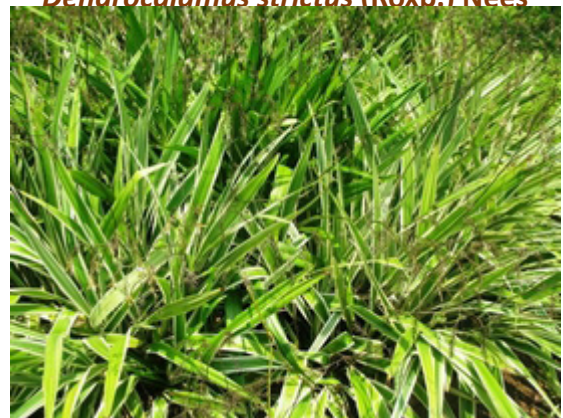
*Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (L.) Willd.



*Dendrocalamus strictus* (Roxb.) Nees



*Desmodium scorpiurus* (Sw.) Desv.



*Dianella tasmanica* Hook.f.



*Digitaria ciliaris* (Retz.) Koeler



*Dioscorea bulbifera* L.





*Dolichandra unguis-cati* (L.) L.G. Lohmann



*Dracaena fragrans* (L.) Ker Gwal.



*Duranta erecta* L.



*Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L.



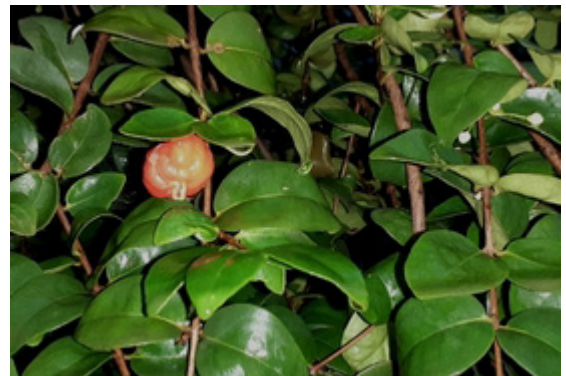
*Elephantopus scaber* L.



*Emilia sonchifolia* (L.) DC.



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



*Eugenia uniflora* L.





*Euphorbia hirta* L.



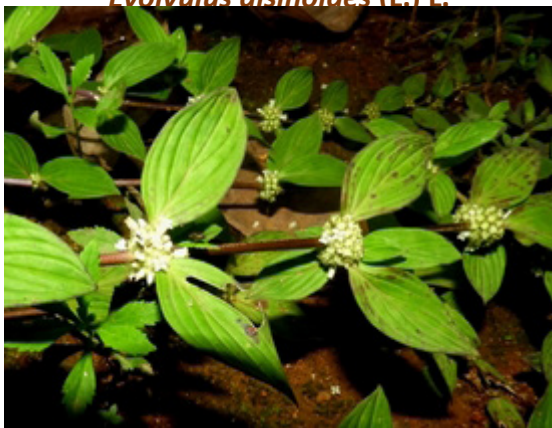
*Euphorbia prostrata* Ait.



*Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L.



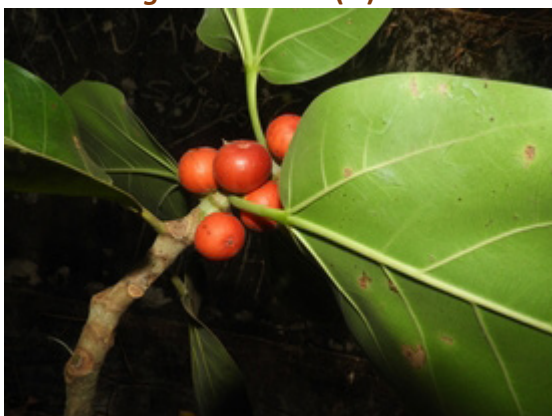
*Evolvulus nummularius* (L.) L.



*Exallage auricularia* (L.) Bremek.



*Excoecaria cochinchinensis* Lour.



*Ficus benghalensis* L.



*Ficus benamina* L.





*Ficus exasperata* Vahl



*Ficus hispida* L.f.



*Ficus microcarpa* L. f.



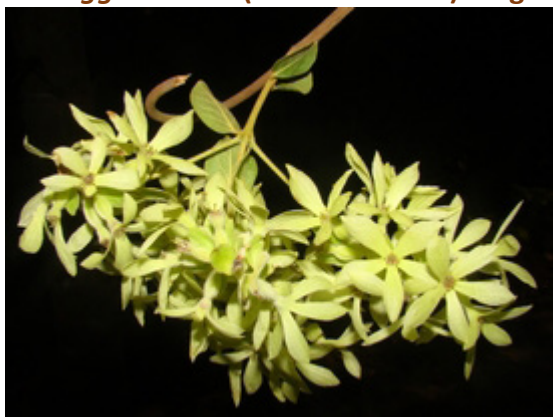
*Ficus racemosa* L.



*Flueggea virosa* (Roxb. ex Willd.) Voigt



*Galphimia gracilis* Bartl.



*Getonia floribunda* Roxb.



*Grewia tiliifolia* Vahl





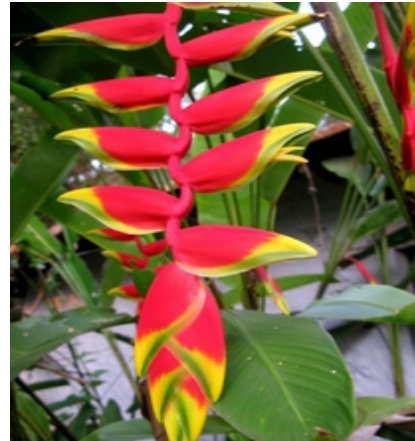
*Grena heterophylla* (Willd.) H. Ohashi & K. Ohashi



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



*Heliconia psittacorum* L.f.



*Heliconia rostrata* Ruiz & Pavon



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



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



*Heterotis rotundifolia* (Sm.) Jacq.-Fél.



*Hevea brasiliensis* (Willd. ex A. Juss.) Muell.Arg.





*Hewittia malabarica* (L.) Suresh



*Hexasepalum teres* (Walter) J. H. Kirkbride



*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L.



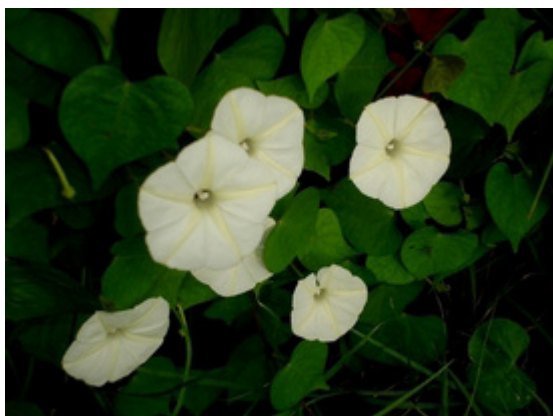
*Hydrilla verticillata* (L. f.) Royle



*Hymenocallis littoralis* (Jacq.) Salisb.



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



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



*Ipomoea triloba* L.





*Ixora chinensis* Lam.



*Ixora coccinea* L.



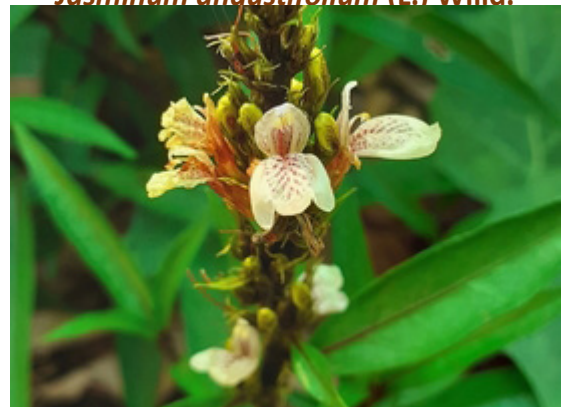
*Jacaranda mimosifolia* D. Don



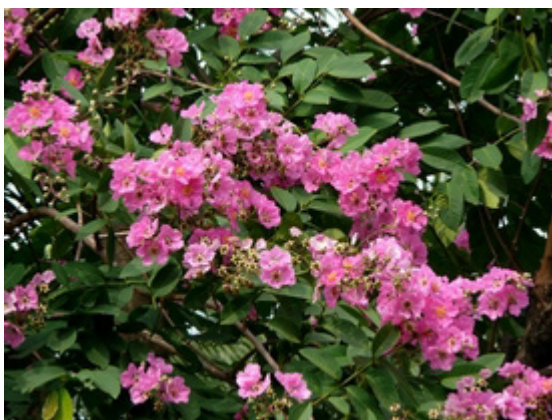
*Jasminum angustifolium* (L.) Willd.



*Jatropha integerrima* Jacq.



*Justicia gendarussa* Burm.f.



*Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers.



*Lannea coromandelica* (Houtt.) Merr.





*Lantana camara* L.



*Laportea interrupta* (L.) Chew



*Leea indica* (Burm. f.) Merr.



*Leucas aspera* (Willd.) Link



*Libidibia coriaria* (Jacq.) Schlttdl.



*Lippia alba* (Mill.) N.E. Br. ex Britton & P. Wilson



*Litsea coriacea* (Heyne ex Meisn.) Hook. f.



*Loropetalum chinense* var. *rubrum* Yieh





*Ludwigia hyssopifolia* (G. Don) Exell



*Luffa acutangula* (L.) Roxb.



*Macaranaa peltata* (Roxb.) Muell.Arg.



*Madhuca longifolia* (Koenig) J.F. Macbr.



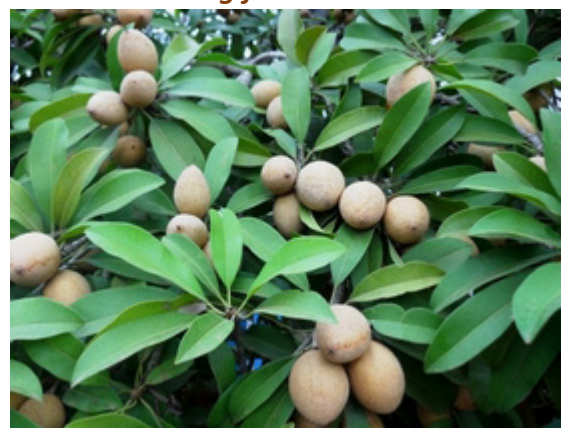
*Mallotus philippensis* (Lam.) Muell.Arg.



*Mangifera indica* L.



*Manihot esculenta* Crantz.



*Manilkara zapota* (L.) P. Royen





*Mecardonia procumbens* (Mill.) Small



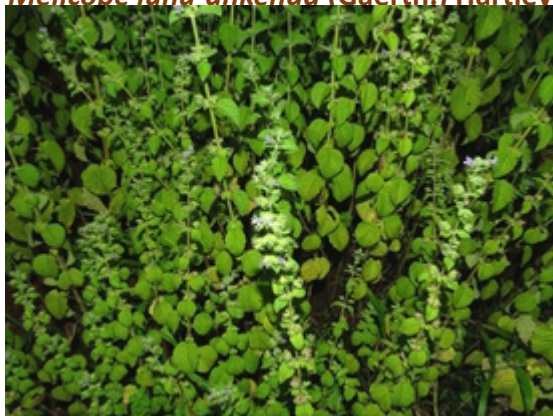
*Melaleuca citrina* (Curtis) Dum. Cours.



*Melicope lunu-ankenda* (Gaertn.) Hartlev



*Melochia corchorifolia* L.



*Mesosphaerum suaveolens* (L.) Kuntze



*Microcos paniculata* L.



*Microstachys chamaelea* (L.) Muell.Arg.



*Mikania micrantha* Kunth





*Mimosa diplotricha* C. Wight ex Sanvalle



*Mimosa pudica* L.



*Mimusops elengi* L.



*Monoon longifolium* (Sonn.) B. Xue & R.M.K. Saunders



*Moringa oleifera* Lam.



*Murraya koenigii* (L.) Spreng.



*Murraya paniculata* (L.) Jack.



*Musa* × *paradisiaca* L.





*Nephelium lappaceum* L.



*Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* L.



*Ocimum tenuiflorum* L.



*Oldenlandia corymbosa* L.



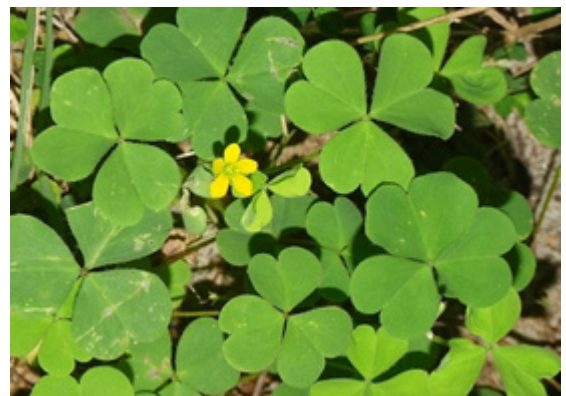
*Oldenlandia herbacea* (L.) Roxb.



*Oldenlandia umbellata* L.



*Ophiopogon jaburan* (Siebold) Lodd.



*Oxalis corniculata* L.





*Passiflora foetida* L.



*Peltophorum pterocarpum* (DC.) Backer ex Heyne



*Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth



*Philodendron imbe* Schott ex Kunth



*Phyllanthus acidus* (L.) Skeels



*Phyllanthus amarus* Schum. & Thonn.



*Phyllanthus emblica* L.



*Phyllanthus maderaspatensis* L.





*Phyllanthus myrtifolius* Moon



*Phyllanthus reticulatus* Poir.



*Physalis angulata* L.



*Pilea enneasperma* (L.) P.I. Forst.



*Pilea microphylla* (L.) Liebm.



*Piper betle* L.



*Plumbago auriculata* Lam.



*Plumbago indica* L.





*Plumeria rubra* L.



*Polyscias fruticosa* (L.) Harms



*Ponaamia ninnata* (L.) Pierre



*Pothos scandens* L.



*Pouzolzia zeylanica* (L.) Bennett



*Psidium cattleyanum* Afzel. ex Sabine



*Psidium guajava* L.



*Rhapsis excelsa* (Thunb.) Henry





*Richardia scabra* L.



*Ricinus communis* L.



*Rostellularia procumbens* (L.) Nees



*Rovstanea reaia* (Kunth) O.F.Cook



*Ruellia prostrata* Poir.



*Rungia pectinata* (L.) Nees



*Russelia equisetiformis* Schltr. & Cham.



*Samanea saman* (Jacq.) Merr.





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



*Schefflera arboricola* (Hayata) Merr.



*Scoparia dulcis* L.



*Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link



*Senna tora* (L.) Roxb.



*Sida acuta* Burm.f.



*Sida cordifolia* L.



*Sida rhombifolia* subsp. *alnifolia* (L.) Ugbor.





*Simarouba amara* Aubl.



*Solanum capsicoides* All.



*Solanum torvum* Sw.



*Solena amplexicaulis* (Lam.) Gandhi



*Spathiphyllum wallisii* Regel



*Spermacoce articularis* L. f.



*Spermacoce exilis* (L.O.Williams) C.D. Adams



*Spermacoce verticillata* L.





*Sphagneticola trilobata* (L.) Pruski



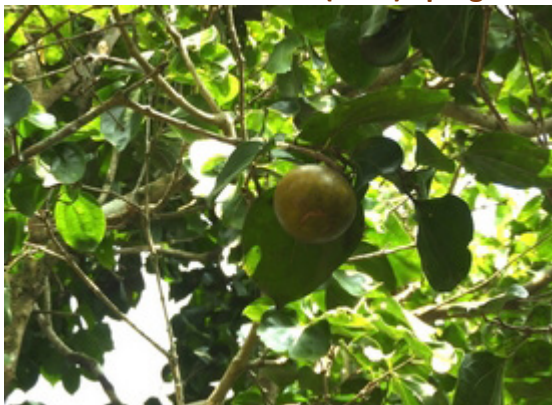
*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (L.) Vahl



*Stemodia verticillata* (Mill.) Sprague



*Streblus asper* Lour.



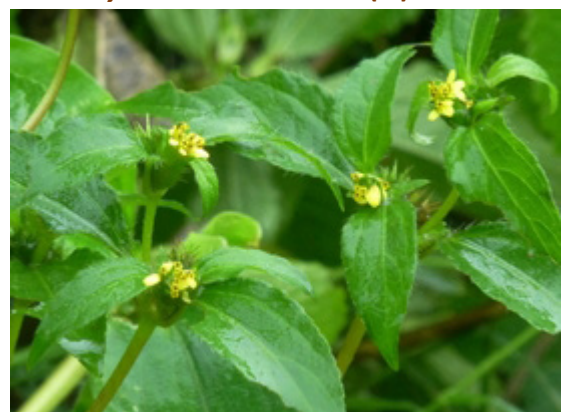
*Strychnos nux-vomica* L.



*Stylosanthes hamata* (L.) Taub.



*Swietenia macrophylla* King



*Synedrella nodiflora* (L.) Gaertn.





*Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels



*Tabernaemontana alternifolia* L.



*Tagetes erecta* L.



*Tecoma stans* (L.) Kunth



*Tectona grandis* L.f.



*Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pers.



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



*Terminalia catappa* L.





*Tetrapilus dioicus* (Roxb.) L.A.S. Johnson



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



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



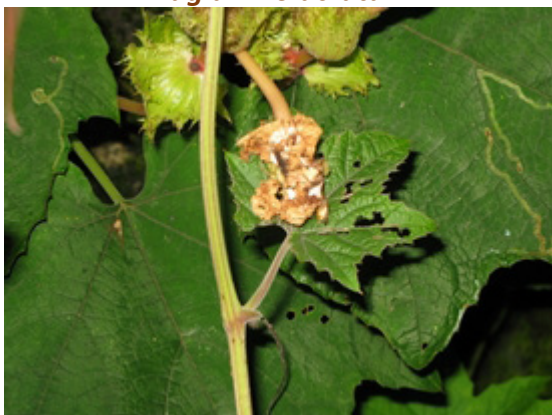
*Tradescantia spathacea* Sw.



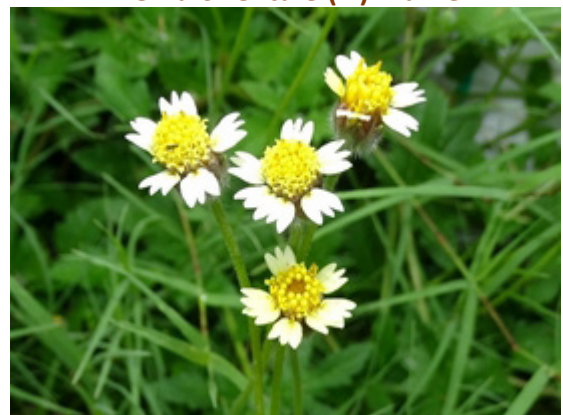
*Tragia involucrata* L.



*Trema orientale* (L.) Blume



*Trichosanthes tricuspidata* Lour.



*Tridax procumbens* L.





*Triumfetta rhomboidea* Jacq.



*Urena lobata* L.



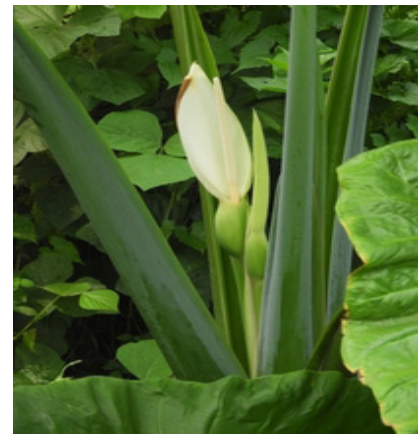
*Waltheria indica* L.



*Wattakaka volubilis* (L. f.) Stapf



*Wodyetia bifurcata* A.K. Irvine



*Xanthosoma sagittifolium* (L.) Schott



*Xenostegia tridentata* (L.) D.F. Austin & Staples



*Zehneria maysorensis* (Wight & Arn.) Arn.





*Zephyranthes candida* (Lindl.) Herb.

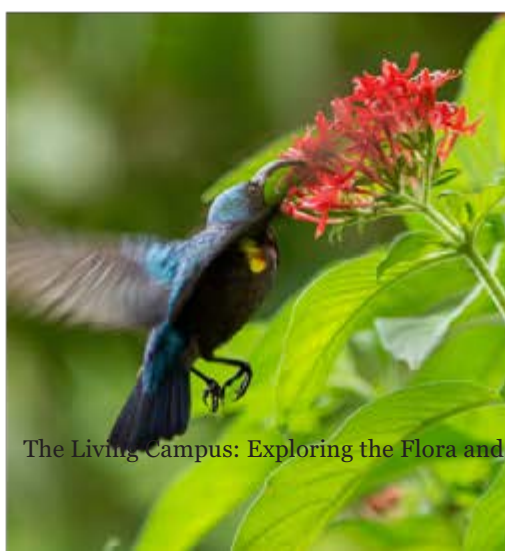


*Ziziphus oenoplia* (L.) Mill.





**FAUNA OF MES COLLEGE  
MARAMPALLY**







# MAMMALS

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## Methods

We employed the Visual Encounter Survey technique to evaluate mammalian diversity at MES College Marampally, located on Marampally Road, North Vazhakkulam, Aluva, Kerala. The survey method involved an extensive search of all habitats and opportunistic records. Each species encountered was identified, recorded, and compiled into a checklist, incorporating data from multiple field visits throughout 2023.

## Results

The MES College Marampally campus's mammalian survey recorded species diversity across several families and orders. The Order Rodentia was represented by the Family Sciuridae, with the Indian Giant Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista philippensis*) and Jungle Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus tristriatus*), both listed as Least Concern and protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, with the latter being endemic to the Western Ghats.

The Family Muridae includes common species like the Greater Bandicoot Rat (*Bandicota indica*), House Mouse (*Mus musculus*), and House Rat (*Rattus rattus*), all of which have a conservation status of Least Concern and are not listed under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Soricomorpha's Family Soricidae was represented by the House Shrew (*Suncus murinus*), also with a status of Least Concern.

Chiroptera was well-represented by species such as the Short-nosed Fruit Bat (*Cynopterus sphinx*) and Indian Flying Fox (*Pteropus giganteus*) from the Family Pteropodidae, and the Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*) from the Family Megadermatidae, all listed as Least Concern with



no specific schedule under the Wildlife Protection Act. The Pipistrelle species from the Family Vespertilionidae were also recorded.

In the Order Carnivora, the Family Canidae included the Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*), and the Family Viverridae included species such as the Small Indian Civet (*Viverricula indica*) and the Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), all with a status of Least Concern and included under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act. The Family Herpestidae's Indian Grey Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*) shared similar conservation status and protection.

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## Checklist of Mammals

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### RODENTIA

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#### SCIURIDAE

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##### *Petaurista philippensis*

**Common Name:** Indian Giant Flying Squirrel  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** II

##### *Funambulus tristriatus*

**Common Name:** Jungle Palm Squirrel  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** II  
**Endemism:** Western Ghats

#### MURIDAE

---

##### *Bandicota indica*

**Common Name:** Greater Bandicoot Rat  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** -

##### *Mus musculus*

**Common Name:** House Mouse  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** -

##### *Rattus rattus*

**Common Name:** House Rat  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** -

## SORICOMORPHA

---

### SORICIDAE

---

#### *Suncus murinus*

**Common Name:** House Shrew  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

## CHIROPTERA

---

### PTEROPODIDAE

---

#### *Cynopterus sphinx*

**Common Name:** Short-nosed Fruit Bat  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** -

#### *Pteropus giganteus*

**Common Name:** Indian Flying Fox  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** -

### MEGADERMATIDAE

---

#### *Megaderma spasma*

**Common Name:** Lesser False Vampire Bat  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** -

### VESPERTILIONIDAE

---

#### *Pipistrelle sps*

**Common Name:** Pipistrelle Species  
**Conservation Status:** -  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** -

## CARNIVORA

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### CANIDAE

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#### *Canis aureus*

**Common Name:** Golden Jackal  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** II



## VIVERRIDAE

---

### *Viverricula indica*

**Common Name:** Small Indian Civet  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** II

### *Paradoxorus hermaphroditus*

**Common Name:** Common Palm Civet  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** II

## HERPESTIDAE

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### *Herpestes edwardsi*

**Common Name:** Indian Grey Mongoose  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Wildlife Protect Act Schedule:** II



# Gallery of Mammals

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**Jungle Palm Squirrel**



**Bandicoot Rat**



**Indian Flying Fox**



**Indian Grey Mongoose**



**Golden Jackal**



**Asian Palm Civet**





# BIRDS

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## Methods

A Visual Encounter Survey was conducted to document avian diversity at MES College Marampally. Each bird species encountered was identified using standard field guides, and observations were corroborated with audio calls when possible. The survey amalgamated direct sightings and auditory detections to compile a comprehensive checklist of the campus's bird diversity based on studies and repeated visits throughout 2023.

## Results

The avian survey at MES College Marampally documented a diverse range of bird species spanning multiple orders and families. Significant findings included:

Raptors like the Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) and Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) from the Accipitridae family indicate a healthy ecosystem with sufficient prey and nesting sites.

Various swifts, including the Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) and Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*) from the Apodidae family, were observed, reflecting the abundance of insects and suitable roosting spots.

Ubiquitous species such as the Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) from the Columbidae family were noted, highlighting the adaptability of certain birds to anthropogenic environments.

Kingfishers like the White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) from the Alcedinidae family and bee-eaters such as the Asian Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) from the Meropidae family were recorded, which are indicative of aquatic habitats and rich insect fauna.

The Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) and the White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) signify well-vegetated areas with dense cover.

Passerines were well-represented, with species like the Common Tailor-



bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*), various drongos, bulbuls, sunbirds, and the Indian Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*), suggesting a rich diversity of smaller birds that thrive in the available flora.

Waterbirds such as the Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Indian Pond-Heron (*Ardeola grayii*), and Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) from the Ardeidae family, along with the Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*), reflect the campus's proximity to aquatic ecosystems.

The survey underscores the importance of MES College Marampally's habitat in supporting a wide array of avian fauna, including species protected under various schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It highlights the ecological value of the campus in conserving local biodiversity.

## Checklist of Birds

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### **COLUMBIFORMES**

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#### **COLUMBIDAE**

---

##### ***Columba livia***

**Common Name:** Rock Pigeon

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Ubiquitous in urban areas, this bird has a varied plumage and is known for its adaptability.

### **CUCULIFORMES**

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#### **CUCULIDAE**

---

##### ***Centropus sinensis***

**Common Name:** Greater Coucal

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** A large, dark bird with deep calls, known for its secretive behavior in undergrowth.

## GRUIFORMES

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### RALLIDAE

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#### *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

**Common Name:** White-breasted Waterhen

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** A common rail with a white face and underparts, often found in wetlands.

## APODIFORMES

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### APODIDAE

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#### *Apus affinis*

**Common Name:** Little Swift

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** A small, fast-flying bird that feeds on insects while airborne.

#### *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

**Common Name:** Asian Palm Swift

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Slender swift with a distinctive forked tail, often seen around palm trees.

## SULIFORMES

---

### PHALACROCORACIDAE

---

#### *Microcarbo niger*

**Common Name:** Little Cormorant

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Small waterbird, often seen drying its wings in the sun after diving.

## PELECANIFORMES

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### ARDEIDAE

---

#### *Egretta garzetta*

**Common Name:** Little Egret

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Elegant white heron with black legs and yellow feet, frequenting wetlands.

#### *Ardeola grayii*

**Common Name:** Indian Pond Heron

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Camouflaged among reeds, this heron is a master of stealth.



## ***Bubulcus coromandus***

**Common Name:** Eastern Cattle Egret

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Elegant white heron with black legs and yellow feet, frequenting wetlands.

## **ACCIPITRIFORMES**

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### **ACCIPITRIDAE**

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#### ***Accipiter badius***

**Common Name:** Shikra

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** A small raptor known for its agility in hunting small birds and reptiles.

#### ***Haliastur indus***

**Common Name:** Brahminy Kite

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Recognizable by its chestnut plumage and white head and breast, often seen near water.

## **CORACIIFORMES**

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### **ALCEDINIDAE**

---

#### ***Halcyon smyrnensis***

**Common Name:** White-throated Kingfisher

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Brightly colored with a broad diet, found near water and in gardens.

### **MEROPIDAE**

---

#### ***Merops orientalis***

**Common Name:** Asian Green Bee-eater

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** A dazzling green bird that catches insects in flight, often seen perched conspicuously.

## PICIFORMES

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### MEGALAIMIDAE

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#### *Psilopogon viridis*

**Common Name:** White-cheeked Barbet

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Green bird with a distinct call, often heard in Kerala.

### PICIDAE

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#### *Dinopium benghalense*

**Common Name:** Black-rumped Flame-back

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Woodpecker with a golden back, known for its drumming on trees.

## PSITTACIFORMES

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### PSITTACIDAE

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#### *Psittacula krameri*

**Common Name:** Rose-ringed Parakeet

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** A popular pet species, identifiable by its green plumage and loud calls.

## PASSERIFORMES

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### ACROCEPHALIDAE

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#### *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

**Common Name:** Blyth's Reed Warble

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Migratory warbler known for its discreet presence and melodious song..



## CISTICOLIDAE

---

### *Orthotomus sutorius*

**Common Name:** Common Tailorbird  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Description:** Small, vibrant bird renowned for sewing leaves together to make nests.

## CORVIDAE

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### *Corvus splendens*

**Common Name:** House Crow  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Description:** Highly adaptable, intelligent bird common in urban areas across Asia.

## DICRURIDAE

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### *Dicrurus paradiseus*

**Common Name:** Greater Racket-tailed Drongo  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Description:** Notable for its long tail streamers and mimicry skills.

### *Dicrurus macrocercus*

**Common Name:** Black Drongo  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Description:** Glossy black bird known for its aggressive territorial behavior.

## ESTRILDIDAE

---

### *Lonchura punctulata*

**Common Name:** Scaly-breasted Munia  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Description:** Small bird with distinctive scale-like feather patterns.

### *Lonchura striata*

**Common Name:** White-rumped Munia  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Description:** Recognized by its white rump; prefers grasslands and open forests.

### *Lonchura malacca*

**Common Name:** Tricolored Munia  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Description:** Striking black, white, and chestnut plumage, popular as a cage bird.

## HIRUNDINIDAE

---

### *Hirundo rustica*

**Common Name:** Barn Swallow

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Iconic for its long forked tail and agile flight, feeding on insects mid-air.

## LEIOTHRICHIDAE

---

### *Turdoides striata*

**Common Name:** Jungle Babbler

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Sociable bird, often seen in noisy groups, feeding on the ground.

## MONARCHIDAE

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### *Terpsiphone paradisi*

**Common Name:** Indian Paradise-Flycatcher

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Males are distinguished by their long central tail feathers and striking plumage.

## MOTACILLIDAE

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### *Motacilla cinerea*

**Common Name:** Gray Wagtail

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Slender bird with a long tail, often seen bobbing along streams and lakes.

## MUSCICAPIDAE

---

### *Copsychus saularis*

**Common Name:** Oriental Magpie-Robin

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Famous for its melodious song, often found in gardens and forests..



## NECTARINIIDAE

---

### *Leptocoma zeylonica*

**Common Name:** Purple-rumped Sunbird

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Vibrant plumage with a preference for nectar, aiding in pollination.

### *Cinnyris asiaticus*

**Common Name:** Purple Sunbird

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Iridescent bird, often seen hovering around flowers for nectar.

### *Cinnyris lotenius*

**Common Name:** Loten's Sunbird

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Notable for its long bill, feeding on nectar from deep flowers.

## ORIOLIDAE

---

### *Oriolus kundoo*

**Common Name:** Indian Golden Oriole

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Bright yellow plumage with a melodious call, found in wooded areas.

### *Oriolus xanthornus*

**Common Name:** Black-hooded Oriole

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Striking yellow body with a black head, common in forests and gardens.

## PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

---

### *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

**Common Name:** Green/Greenish Warbler

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Small, insectivorous bird with a greenish hue, migratory in nature.

## PYCNONOTIDAE

---

### *Pycnonotus jocosus*

**Common Name:** Red-whiskered Bulbul

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Recognizable by its red face patch and crest, a familiar garden bird.

### *Pycnonotus cafer*

**Common Name:** Red-vented Bulbul

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Common in urban and wild areas, known for its melodious voice.

## STURNIDAE

---

### *Pastor roseus*

**Common Name:** Rosy Starling

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Migratory, seen in large flocks, with a pink body and black cap.

### *Acridotheres tristis*

**Common Name:** Common Myna

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

**Description:** Adaptable and intelligent, often found close to human habitation.





## Gallery of Birds

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**Rock Pigeon**



**Greater Coucal**



**White-breasted Waterhen**



**Little Cormorant**



**Little Egret**



**Cattle Egret**



**Indian Pond Heron**



**Brahminy Kite**



**Shikra**



**White-throated Kingfisher**



**Common Tailor-bird**



**White-cheeked Barbet**



**Green Bee-eater**



**Rose-ringed Parakeet**





**Indian Golden Oriole**



**Racket-tailed Drongo**



**Scaly-breasted Munia**



**Oriental Magpie-robin**



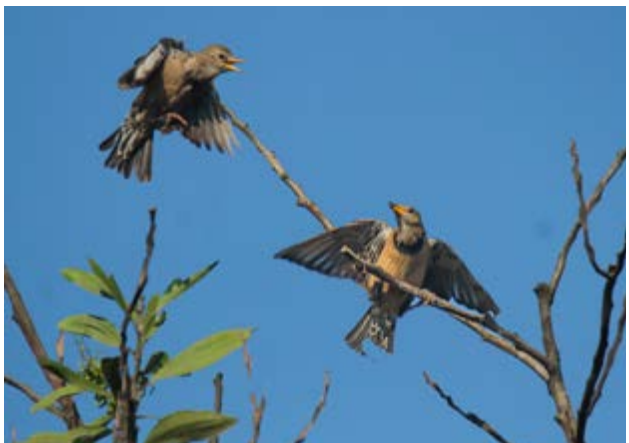
**Black Drongo**



**Loten's Sunbird**



**Black-rumped Flameback**



**Rosy Starling**





# AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

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## Methods

Visual Encounter Survey (Heyer et al., 1994) was used to document the amphibian and reptile diversity in MES College, Marampally, Marampally Road, Marampally, North, Vazhakkulam, Aluva, Kerala 683107. All microhabitats (leaf litter, dead logs, below stones, trees, barks, rock crevices, stone walls) within the study area were thoroughly searched. All the species found from the study were identified and documented. Checklist of both amphibians and reptiles present in the campus is compiled based on the results obtained from the present study and several observations from visits in 2023 to the study area.

## Results

A total of 17 species of amphibians and 20 species of reptiles were recorded from campus area of MES Marampally College. 16 out of the total 17 Amphibians recorded belong to the Order Anura and a single species Bombay Caecilian *Uraeotyphlus bombayensis* from the Order Gymnophiona. Out of the six families reported. Dicroglossidae family is the most represented family with six species from three genera. *Euphlyctis*, *Minervarya* and *Microhyla* genera were represented by two species. 40 % of the total species recorded are endemic to Western Ghats out of which a single species Urban Golden-backed Frog *Hylarana urbis* is endemic to Kerala state. Jerdon's Bush Frog *pseudophilautus wynaadensis* is threatened under Endangered category of IUCN Red List even though it's a widespread species. Indian Bull Frog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* is in the schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

A total of 20 species of reptiles belonging to two Orders and 14 Families were recorded during the present study. Family Colubridae with five species has more species followed by the family Natricidae and Elappidae with two species respectively. Out of all the reptiles recorded only a single spe-

cies Coastal Day Gecko *Cnemaspis littoralis* is endemic to the Kerala part of Western Ghats. A total of 15 species are protected under different schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Bengal Monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*), Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*), Checkered Keelback (*Fowlea piscator*), Spectacled Cobra (*Naja naja*) and Russel's Viper (*Daboia russelii*) under Schedule I category.

## Checklist of Amphibians

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### ANURA

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#### BUFONIDAE

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##### *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*

**Common Name:** Common Indian Toad

**IUCN Status:** Least Concern

**Endemism:** Not Endemic

#### DICROGLOSSIDAE

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##### *Euphlyctis jaladhara*

**Common Name:** Jaladhara Skittering Frog

**IUCN Status:** Not Evaluated

##### *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*

**Common Name:** Indian Bullfrog

**IUCN Status:** Least Concern

##### *Minervarya pentali*

**Common Name:** Pental's Minervaryan Frog

**IUCN Status:** Not Evaluated

##### *Euphlyctis karaavali*

**Common Name:** Karaavali Skittering Frog

**IUCN Status:** Not Evaluated

##### *Minervarya agricola*

**Common Name:** Common Indian Cricket Frog

**IUCN Status:** Not Evaluated



## MICROHYLIDAE

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### *Microhyla ornata*

**Common Name:** Ornate Narrow-mouthed Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern

### *Microhyla rubra*

**Common Name:** Reddish Narrow-mouthed Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern

### *Uperodon taprobanicus*

**Common Name:** Painted Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern

### *Uperodon variegatus*

**Common Name:** Variegated Ramanella  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern

## RANIDAE

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### *Hydrophylax malabarica*

**Common Name:** Fungoid Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern

### *Hylarana urbis*

**Common Name:** Urban Golden-backed Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Endemism:** Kerala

## RHACOPHORIDAE

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### *Polypedates maculatus*

**Common Name:** Common Indian Tree Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern  
**Endemism:** Western Ghats

### *Pseudophilautus wynaadensis*

**Common Name:** Jerdon's Bush Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Endangered  
**Endemism:** Western Ghats

### *Raorchestes akroparallagi*

**Common Name:** Variable Bush Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern  
**Endemism:** Western Ghats

### *Rhacophorus malabaricus*

**Common Name:** Malabar Gliding Frog  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern  
**Endemism:** Western Ghats

## GYMNOPHIONA

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## ICHTHYOPHIIDAE

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### *Uraeotyphlus bombayensis*

**Common Name:** Bombay Caecilian  
**IUCN Status:** Least Concern  
**Endemism:** Western Ghats

# Checklist of Reptiles

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## TESTUDINES

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### GEOMYDIDAE

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#### *Melanochelys trijuga*

**Common Name:** Indian Black Turtle  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**Endemism:** Not Indicated  
**WPA:** Schedule II

## SQUAMATA

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### AGAMIDAE

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#### *Calotes calotes*

**Common Name:** Common Green Forest Lizard  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

#### *Calotes versicolor*

**Common Name:** Indian Garden Lizard  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

### GEKKONIDAE

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#### *Hemidactylus frenatus*

**Common Name:** Asian House Gecko  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

#### *Cnemaspis littoralis*

**Common Name:** Coastal Day Gecko  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Endemism:** Kerala

### SCINCIDAE

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#### *Eutropis carinata*

**Common Name:** Common Keeled Skink  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern



## VARANIDAE

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### *Varanus bengalensis*

**Common Name:** Bengal Monitor  
**Conservation Status:** Near Threatened  
**WPA:** Schedule I

## TYPHLOPIDAE

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### *Indotyphlops braminus*

**Common Name:** Brahminy Worm Snake  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule II

## PYTHONIDAE

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### *Python molurus*

**Common Name:** Indian Rock Python  
**Conservation Status:** Near Threatened  
**WPA:** Schedule I

## ERYCIDAE

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### *Eryx conicus*

**Common Name:** Common Sand Boa  
**Conservation Status:** Near Threatened  
**WPA:** Schedule IV

## COLUBRIDAE

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### *Coelognathus helena monticollaris*

**Common Name:** Montane Trinket Snake  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule II

### *Dendrelaphis chairecacos*

**Common Name:** Bronzeback Tree Snake  
**Conservation Status:** Data Deficient  
**WPA:** Schedule II

### *Ptyas mucosa*

**Common Name:** Indian Rat Snake  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule II

### *Lycodon aulicus*

**Common Name:** Common Wolf Snake  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule II

### *Lycodon fasciolatus*

**Common Name:** Russell's Wolf Snake  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule II

## NATRICIDAE

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### *Amphiesma stolatum*

**Common Name:** Striped Keelback  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule IV

### *Fowlea piscator*

**Common Name:** Checkered Keelback  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule I

## ELAPIDAE

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### *Bungarus caeruleus*

**Common Name:** Common Indian Krait  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule II

### *Naja naja*

**Common Name:** Spectacled Cobra  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule I

## VIPERIDAE

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### *Daboia russelii*

**Common Name:** Russel's Viper  
**Conservation Status:** Least Concern  
**WPA:** Schedule I



## Gallery of Amphibians and Reptiles

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**Common Indian Toad**



**Common Tree Frog**



**Fungoid Frog**



**Indian Bullfrog**



**Jaladhara Skittering Frog**



**Malabar Gliding Frog**





**Ornate Narrow Mouthed Frog**



**Painted Frog**



**Variegated Ballon Frog**



**Common Green Forest Lizard**



**Indian Garden Lizard**



**Common Keeled Skink**



**Asian House Gecko**



**Indian Black Turtle**



**Sand Boa**



**Bengal Monitor**





# BUTTERFLIES

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## Methods

A Visual Encounter Survey was followed across various habitats to document the diversity of butterfly species at MES College Marampally. The survey area included gardens, fields, and plantation areas to ensure a comprehensive inventory of the lepidopteran fauna. Each butterfly encountered was identified using field guides and photographic evidence, noting their behaviour and preferred habitats.

## Results

The butterfly fauna at MES College Marampally includes a range of species from the family Nymphalidae, such as the Gray Pansy, known for its eye-like spots on greyish wings; the Chocolate Pansy with its dark brown and orange wings; and the Common Five Ring, small and brown with distinctive ring markings. The presence of the Common Blue Tiger and Common Indian Crow suggests a habitat rich in flowering plants and a stable ecosystem that supports their slow, gliding flight and the Plain Tiger, often found around milkweed. The Peacock Pansy also indicates areas with ample sunlight and open spaces.

From the Lycaenidae family, the Monkey Puzzle, Common Red Pierrot, and Common Cerulean were noted, each with unique wing patterns and colourations, signifying a diverse plant community that supports a range of Lycaenid butterflies.

The Pieridae family was represented by the Common Emigrant and Spotted Grass Yellow, with the former visiting gardens and woodlands and the latter frequenting grasslands.

Large butterflies like the Blue Mormon and Common Mormon from the Papilionidae family were observed, highlighting the campus's suitability for larger butterfly species that require specific host plants for their larvae.

The Hesperidae family's Rice Swift was also recorded, indicating grassland and agricultural habitats within the campus.



# Checklist of Butterflies

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## NYMPHALIDAE

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### *Junonia atlites*

**Common Name:** Gray Pansy  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Greyish wings with eye-like spots, found in open grassy areas.

### *Ypthima baldus*

**Common Name:** Common Five Ring  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Small, brown with ring-like spots, prefers grassy patches.

### *Tirumala limniace*

**Common Name:** Common Blue Tiger  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Striking blue stripes on dark wings, often seen near water sources.

### *Danaus chrysippus*

**Common Name:** Plain Tiger  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Bright orange with black markings, commonly associated with milkweed.

## LYCAENIDAE

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### *Rathinda amor*

**Common Name:** Monkey Puzzle  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Brown and white patterned wings, typically seen in forested and garden areas.

### *Junonia iphita*

**Common Name:** Chocolate Pansy  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Dark brown wings with orange markings, common in gardens and forests.

### *Orsotriaena medus*

**Common Name:** Nigger Butterfly  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Dark brown with white spots, frequents damp, wooded areas.

### *Euploea core*

**Common Name:** Common Indian Crow  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Dark with white spots, known for its slow, gliding flight.

### *Junonia almana*

**Common Name:** Peacock Pansy  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Orange-brown with eye spots, frequents sunny, open areas.

### *Talicauda nyseus*

**Common Name:** Common Red Pierrot  
**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated  
**Description:** Small, striking red and black on white, found in flower-rich habitats.

## *Jamides celeno*

**Common Name:** Common Cerulean

**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated

**Description:** Sky-blue wings with black borders, common in wooded regions.

## PIERIDAE

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### *Catopsilia pomona*

**Common Name:** Common Emigrant

**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated

**Description:** Pale yellow or white wings, a frequent visitor to gardens and woodlands.

### *Eurema hecabe*

**Common Name:** Spotted Grass Yellow

**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated

**Description:** Bright yellow with small black spots, commonly found in grasslands.

## PAPILIONIDAE

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### *Papilio polymnestor*

**Common Name:** Blue Mormon

**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated

**Description:** Large butterfly with dark blue and black markings, endemic to South India.

### *Papilio polytes*

**Common Name:** Common Mormon

**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated

**Description:** Mimics unpalatable species, black with white and red spots.

## HESPERIIDAE

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### *Borbo cinnara*

**Common Name:** Rice Swift

**Conservation Status:** Not Evaluated

**Description:** Brown and cream-colored, often found in grasslands and near rice fields.



## Gallery of Butterflies

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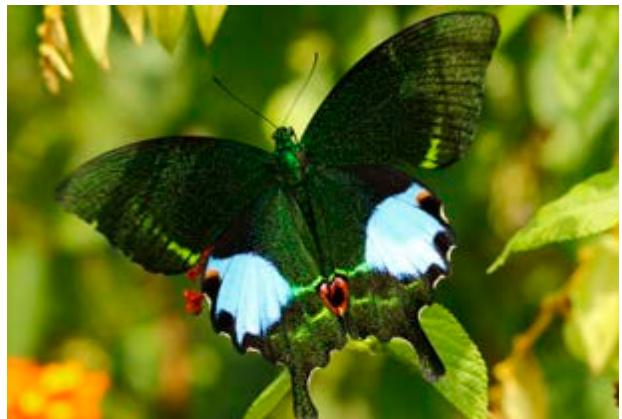
*Common Five Ring*



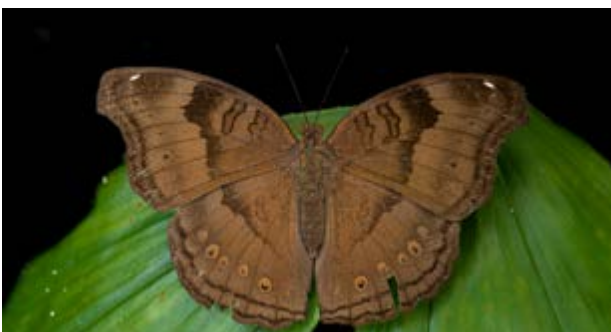
*Common Cerulean*



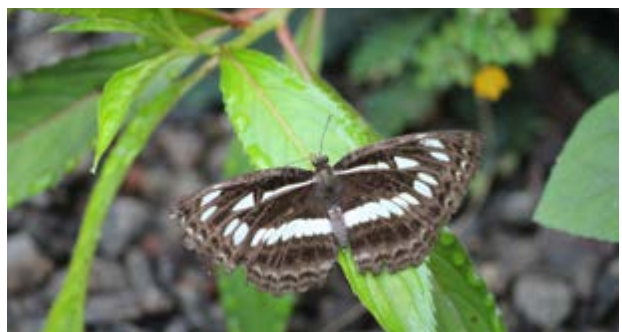
*Common Crow*



*Paris Peacock*

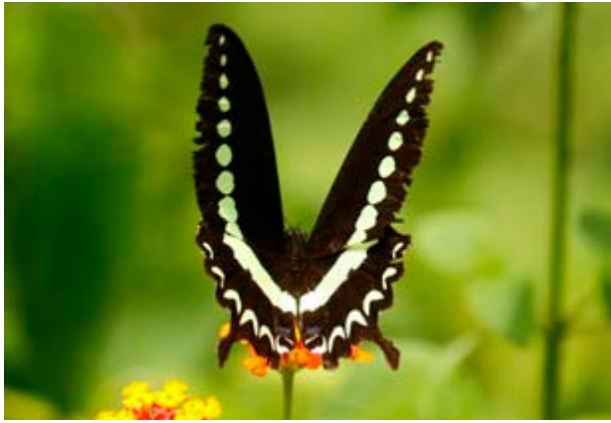


*Chocolate Pansy*



*Common Sailor*





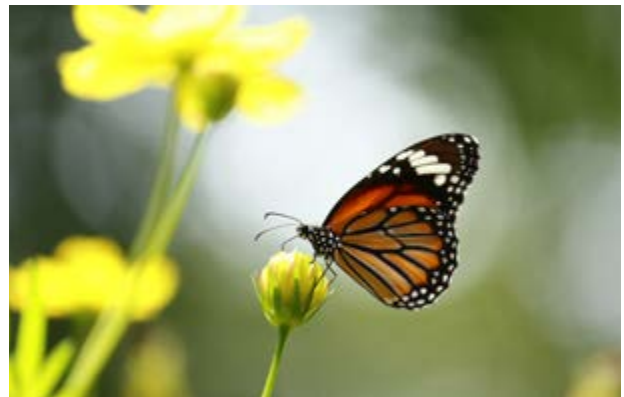
*Malabar Banded Swallowtail*



*Chestnut Bob*



*Medus Brown*



*Plain Tiger*



*Grey Pansy*



*Darm Palm Dart*



*Sahyadri Birdwing*



*Plain Tiger*





# ABOUT ARANYAKAM NATURE FOUNDATION

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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>.





