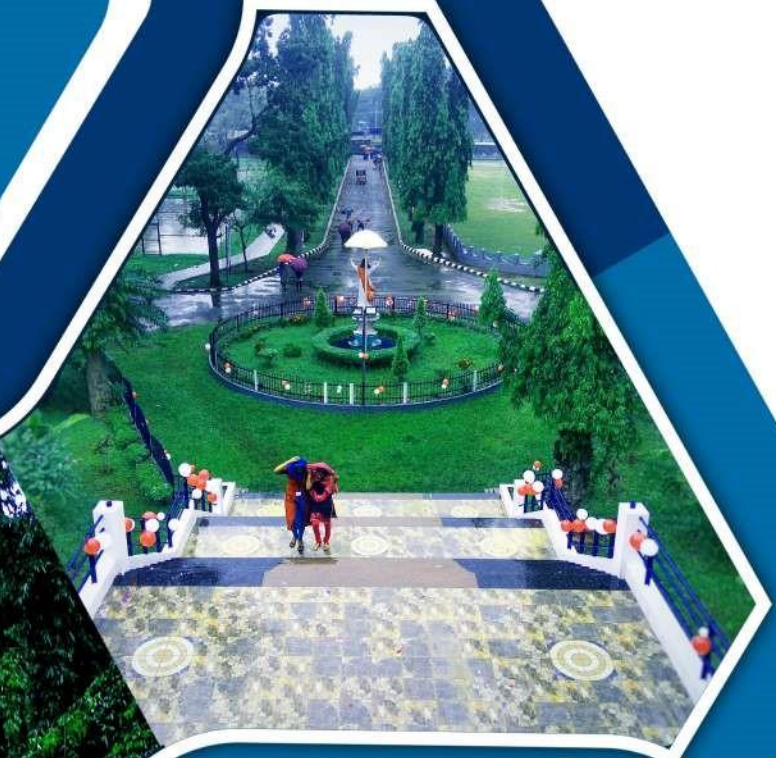


# FATIMA MATA NATIONAL COLLEGE

AUTONOMOUS

(Reaccredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

Affiliated to University of Kerala



## 7.2.1 Campus Angiopserm Flora

**IQAC** INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

# **ANGIOPERM FLORA OF FATIMA MATA NATIONAL COLLEGE, KOLLAM**



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## **ABSTRACT**

Situated on the heart of Kollam city in the revenue district of Kollam, the Fatima Mata National College occupies an area of 12.92 acre. The campus is famous for its greenery and vegetation. During the study, angiosperm plant specimens with 121 filed numbers were collected from the campus representing 121 species belongs to 116 genera under 44 families. Among the collections, dicotyledons dominate with 100 species and monocotyledons with 21 species.

## INTRODUCTION

Angiosperms represent the highly evolved group of plants in this living world. They have well-differentiated root, stem, and leaves and also have well developed vascular tissue. World's smallest angiosperm is *Wolffia* (0.1 mm), tallest is *Eucalyptus regnans* (130.5m-435 ft) and largest is *Ficus benghalensis*. Angiosperm is autotrophic in nature, but there are some angiosperms which show heterotrophic nature with either parasitic or saprophytic mode of nutrition. Angiosperm shows a distinct alternation of a generation with dominating saprophytic phase.

Angiosperms show three different forms and habit i.e., herb, shrub, and tree. Herbs are the small sized plant with soft, weak and pliable stems having less or no branches. Eg; Mustard, Bamboo etc. Shrubs are medium sized woody bushy plants having branches arising near the base. Eg; Rose, Marigold etc. Trees are large sized hardly woody plants with distinct trunk having branches arising near the apex. On the basis of lifespan, angiosperms are of three types: 1. Annual: They complete their life within few weeks to one year; 2. Biennial: They complete their life within 2 years and 3. Perennial: They can survive for more than two years. It is of two types. Those plants which flower many times in a lifetime is polycarpic and those which flowers once in a lifetime is monocarpic.

On the basis of water requirements, angiosperms are of three types. Hydrophytes: they are the plants that grow the well insufficient supply of water. Eg: Lotus. Mesophytes: these are the plants that grow well in a moderate or normal supply of water is called mesophyte. Eg: Maize. Xerophytes; those plants which grow well in dry or arid habitat is Xerophytes. Eg: Cactus

Biodiversity encompasses the rich biological diversity expressed at all levels of the biosphere, viz. genetic, species and ecosystem levels. It provides the goods and services essential for the survival of human beings

and other species on the earth. But the over exploitation of natural resources has resulted in the rapid dwindling of these bounties of Mother Nature. The greenhouse gas emissions contributed by burning of plastics and the likes, burning of fossil fuels, release of CFC's from various sources such as automobile exhausts, AC vents, refrigerators etc. coupled with massive deforestation and destruction of natural topography have accelerated global climatic changes to an alarming pace. We are gradually waking up the harsh truth of the doubtfulness of our own existence in the near future, leave alone granting our children and grandchildren a life as secure as ours has been so far.

Conservation of biodiversity has become a necessity for our own existence, and documentation of biodiversity is an essential pre-requisite for any initiative in this direction. The observations from the present study are presented here for the benefit of all interested, especially the young students who are the designers of a better, ecologically safe tomorrow.

Kerala, God's own country, is blessed with year-round greenery. About 40% of the ranges of the mighty Western Ghats, one of the eight hottest hotspots of the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lie in Kerala. Forty one of the 44 rivers in Kerala originate from the Western Ghats. The natural vegetation of the state is dominated by angiosperms or flowering plants. The rich angiosperm diversity of the state comprises over 5094 taxa under 1537 genera and 221 families of which 1709 are endemics, 880 exotics and 493 RET species (Sasidharan, 2012)

Kollam district of the state of Kerala, formerly known as Desinganadu and later Quilon, is endowed with a long coastline, a major Arabian Sea seaport. About 30% of the district is covered by the Ashtamudi Lake. The district has many source of waterbodies, the most important being the Kallada River. Kollam is the capital of Kerala's cashew industry and is famous for coir manufacturing. Plains, mountains, lakes, lagoons and backwaters, forests, farmland cover of the district spans over the

Thenmala, Achankovil, and Punalur divisions. The Thenmala range, Aryankavu range and Shendurney wildlife sanctuary together form the Thenmala division, while Achankovil, Kallar and Kanayar ranges contribute to the Achankovil division. The Pathanapuram and Anchal ranges come under the Punalur division.

Fatima Mata National College, Kollam is one of the pioneer and the greatest centre of higher education in Kerala. Affiliated to the University of Kerala, the college is managed by the Fatima Mata Trusts, Kollam, one of the leading educational agencies in the state. The college was established in memorial obeisance of Fatima Mata, the worshiped God. It stands tall and majestic, spread over a campus of 12.92 acres near the Kollam railway in the heart of the Kollam city, in the eastern part of Lal Bahadur Stadium (Figs. 1 & 2).

### **Geographical Features**

**Climate:** The monsoons begin by June and end by September. Winter is from November to February and the temperature is moderately cool and hovering from 18° C to 25° C. The relative humidity is higher during the monsoon period and all through the year; it is higher during the morning hours. Evaporation is more during summer months of January to April and it is low during the rainy months may to August. The maximum rate of 4.8 mm per day is recorded in March and the lowest rate of 2.6 mm is recorded during July.

Sun shine ranges from 4.3 to 9.7 hours /day. Maximum sunshine is during the month of February. The months from June to August recorded the minimum sunshine due to cloudy sky. The good sunshine hours are recorded in the months of November to May. The wind speed is high during the months of March to June and less during the months of September to December. Potential evapotranspiration values are lower than the monthly



rainfall during the months of May to October indicating water surplus for possible recharge into ground water regime during these months.

**Soil:** Soils of the Kollam district are broadly classified by the soil survey Department as Sand loams, laterite and forest soil. In general, the soils of Kollam are acidic, kaolintic and gravelly with low water holding capacity. Climate topography, vegetation and hydrological conditions are the dominant factors of soil formation. Soils are also categorized on the basis of water draining capability, the major categories includes imperfectly drained, moderately drained, moderately well drained to imperfectly drained, somewhat extensively drained to moderately drained, well drained rocky outcrops .On the basis of soil content, the major soil groups of Kollam are categorized into clayey, clayey-loamy, loamy, rocky patches and sandy soils.

**Irrigation:** The irrigation facilities in the district are limited. The major irrigation scheme is rainfall. Kollam receives an annual average rainfall of around 2700 millimetres (110 in.) Kollam receives both Southwest and Northeast monsoons. The driest month is January with 18 mm of rainfall. The average rainfall in Kollam city varies between 1100 mm to 1500 mm per annum. The humidity in Kollam city is approximately 90% during the rainy months.

### **Scope of the present study**

The present study envisages a preliminary exploration into the angiosperm flora of Fatima Mata National College, Kollam, and its documentation.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Major contributions to the floristic studies in India were made by the Britishers. Among the Botanists who worked on the flora of Peninsular India, the contributions of Robert Wight are the most outstanding. His major publications are *Illustrations of Indian Botany* (1840) and *Icones Plantarum Indiae Orientalis* (1838-1853). Wight together with Arnott published *Prodromus Florae Peninsulae Indiae Orientalis* (1834) in which several new taxa were described. The other notable contributions during the 19th century were *The Flora Sylvatica for Southern India* (Beddome 1869-1874), *Icones Plantarum Indiae Orientalis* (Beddome, 1868-1874) and *Flora Indica* (Roxburgh, 1820, 1824). *Flora of British India* was published by J.D Hooker during 1872-1897. This seven volume publication dealt with the phanerogams of the erstwhile British India with phytogeographical information. Subsequently regional floras like *Flora of the Presidency of Bombay* (Cooke, 1901-1908) and *Flora of the Presidency of Madras* (Gamble, 1915-1936) were published and the latter work is adjudged as the best among the regional floras. *The Forest Trees of Travancore* by Bourdillon (1908) is the first comprehensive work on the tree flora of Travancore and it dealt with 582 indigenous trees. The other important works on the flora of Peninsular India are: *Flowering Plants of Travancore* (Rama Rao, 1914), *Flora of Anamalai Hills Coimbatore District, Madras Presidency* (Fischer, 1921) and *Flora of South Indian Hill Stations* (Fyson, 1932). Since then, the work on regional as well as local floras were undertaken with the view of preparing a complete and comprehensive flora of India and major work was done by the Botanical Survey of India. *Flora of Tamil Nadu, India* (Nair & Henry, 1983 ) and *Flora of Karnataka* (Sharma, 1984) were published as part of the aforementioned project. A few Universities and Research Institutions also conducted floristic studies in South India. The floras of most of the districts and Protected areas in Kerala have either been completed or in the process of completion. The notable publications on the flora of Kerala are: *Flora of Calicut* (Manilal & Sivarajan, 1982), *Flora of*

*Cannanore* (Ramachandran & Nair, 1988), *Flora of Silent Valley* (Manilal, 1988), *Flora of Palghat* (Vajravelu, 1990), *Flora of Kerala: Grasses* (Sreekumar and Nair, 1991), *Flora of Thiruvananthapuram District* (Mohanan & Henry, 1994), *Flora of Thenmala Division* (Subramaniyan, 1995), *Flora of Nilambur* (Sivarajan and Mathew, 1997) and *Flowering Plants of Thrissur Forests* (Sasidharan and Sivarajan, 1996). Floristic studies of the following places have been completed as Ph. D. programmes: *Flora of Quilon District* (Mohanan, 1984); *The Flowering Plants of Sree Narayana College Campus Kollam* (Yohannan, 2016). The flora of Fatima Mata National College has not been thoroughly explored in the past. Hence it is very significant to scrutinize the flora of the Fatima Mata National College of Kollam district and document the result. Hence the present topic is selected for the study.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The exploration trips were conducted to different locations of FMNC campus, Kollam. Plants of flowering and fruiting stages were collected. Field data including name of the flora, date of collection, family, habit, locality, altitude, notes, collector's name, etc. were recorded. Separate collections were made for herbs, shrubs, small trees, large trees and also for monocots and dicots. After collection, the specimens were tagged and the details were recorded in field book. Wet method of preservation was followed. The dried specimens were mounted on herbarium sheets and labelled properly, and deposited in the Herbarium, Department of Botany, FMN College, Kollam.

The specimens were critically studied with available literatures and compared with authentic specimens. For confirming the identity of doubtful specimens, they were referred to concerned experts.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the 6 months of study, a total of 121 species of angiosperm flora including naturalized and indigenous plants belonging to 116 genera of 44 families were observed. There are 59 herbs, 25 shrubs, 10 large trees, 9 small trees and 18 climbers. Among the 44 families, there are about 100 dicots and 21 monocots. The dominant families include (in terms of species richness) are Fabaceae (15), Euphorbiaceae (10), Poaceae (11), Amaranthaceae (7), Asteraceae (4), Malvaceae (5), Convolvulaceae (5), Nyctaginaceae (3), Rutaceae (2), Solanaceae (3), Lamiaceae (3), Acanthaceae (2), Moraceae (3), Urticaceae (2), Lythraceae (1), Cucurbitaceae (2), Asparagaceae (2), Meliaceae (1), Oxalidaceae (2), Annonaceae (2), Cyperaceae (2), Commelinaceae (4), Bignoniaceae (2), Musaceae (1), Sapindaceae (1), Piperaceae (1), Myrtaceae (1), Asclepiadaceae (1), Scrophulariaceae (1), Capparidaceae (1), Vitaceae (1), Turneraceae (1), Menispermaceae (1), Combretaceae (1), Orchidaceae (1), Apocynaceae (4), Rubiaceae (4), Portulacaceae (1), Verbenaceae (4), Moringaceae (1), Sterculaceae (2).

During the floristic study of Fatima Mata National College, 121 species of angiosperms under 116 genera belonging to 44 families were collected and identified. Dicotyledons are estimated to be 100 and monocotyledons to be 21 in number. Fabaceae is the dominant dicot family found with 15 species and 12 genera. and further followed by Euphorbiaceae with 10 species and 6 genera. Convolvulaceae and Malvaceae are comprise with 5 species and Verbenaceae comprise of 4 species. The dominant monocot family in the campus is Poaceae with 11 species and 8 genera, then Commelinaceae with 4 species and 3 genera.

### **Floristic Diversity of FMNC, Kollam**

The campus of FMNC is rich in its floristic composition. Diverse of shrubs, herbs, climbers, small trees and large trees are present in the

campus. A total of 121 species of flowering plants belong to 116 genera under 44 families were documented, of which 100 dicots and 21 monocots are present. The analysis of total plant species present in the college campus revealed that there are 59 herbs, 25 shrubs, 10 large trees, 9 small trees and 18 climbers (Table 1 and 2). The botanical garden of campus occupy major plant species, many kinds of shrubs, herbs and climbers.

**TABLE 1**  
**Distribution of angiosperms based on class**

Name of class	Number of pants
Dicotyledons	100
Monocotyledons	21

**TABLE 2**  
**Distribution of angiosperms based on habit**

No. of Herbs	No. of Shrubs	No. of Small trees	No. of Large trees	No. of Climbers
59	25	9	10	18

Football ground of the campus is enriched with grassland vegetation. Many grasses like *Perotis indica*, *Eleusine indica* etc. are collected from the ground. This grassland vegetation makes the campus greeny. Large trees like *Polyalthia longifolia*, *Enterolobium saman* etc. occupies the front area of the college campus. The large trees provide shade and cool atmosphere to the college.

The quadrangle area is rich with many small trees like *Mangifera indica*, *Murraya exotica*, *Cassia* spp. etc. The ground of quadrangle contains many herbs, shrubs and climbers also. Herbs like *Justicia latispica*, *Alternanthera sessilis* etc. and shrubs like *Codariocalyx motorius*,

*Mussaenda belilla* etc. and climbers like *Clitoria* spp., *Bougainvillea* spp. etc. are collected from this area.

The area around the canteen is occupied by the vegetable garden which includes *Musa paradisiaca*, *Capsicum*, etc. Thus, the present study revealed that the Fatima Mata National College ground is rich with diverse and large number of plant species remaining uninterrupted by human interference.

### **SYSTEMATIC TREATMENT**

#### ***Artabotrys odoratissimus* R. Br.**

- Family : ANNONACEAE
- English Name : Jackfruit-champa
- Habit : Large woody climber/half scandent shrub
- Description : Its flowers are axillary, solitary/ in clusters of two or three greenish yellow in colour when ripe and give a strong smell resembling that of ripened Jackfruit; annual.
- Distribution : South china, Burma, India and Philippians

#### ***Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) Thwaites**

- Synonym & Basionym : *Uvaria longifolia* Sonn.
- Family : ANNONACEAE
- Ver. Name : Aranamaram, Ashokam
- English Name : Cemetery tree, Fake Asoka tree, False Devadaru, Mast tree, Telegraph pole tree
- Habit : Tree

Habitat : Grown as ornamental tree

Description : Trees with erect or drooping branches; flowers greenish white; berries one-sided; black-purple when ripe

Distribution : Native of Sri Lanka; grown in gardens throughout the warmer parts of India

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Menispermum cordifolium* Willd.

Family : MENISPERMACEAE

Ver. Name : Amrthu, Amrutavalli, Chitamruthu

English Name : Moon creeper, Bile killer, tinospora

Habit : Climber

Habitat : Moist deciduous forests and scrub jungles; also in plains

Description : Climbing shrubs; leaves deeply cordate at base; flowers greenish yellow in dioecious racemes in the axils of fallen leaves; drupes red when mature

Distribution : India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

***Cleome viscosa*** L.

Family : CAPPARIDACEAE

Ver. Name : Pattikadukku, Patti-vela, Vela

English Name : Wild mustard, Dog mustard, Sticky cleome

Habit : Herb



Habitat : Deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Erect annuals; leaves digitately 3-5 foliolate; sepals and petals 4 each stamens many; flowers yellow; capsules linear  
Distribution : Pantropical

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

Synonym : *Portulaca fruticosa* L.  
Family : PORTULACACEAE  
Habit : Herb  
Common Name : Ceylon spinach  
Distribution : Herbaceous perennial plant that is native to Mexico, the Caribbean, West Africa, Central America.  
Description : The plant grows erect, reaching a height of 30 to 100 cm (12 to 39 in). It bears small, pink flowers and broad fleshy leaves.

***Grewia asiatica*** L.

Synonym : *Grewia hainesiana* Hole.  
Family : MALVACEAE  
Habit : Shrub  
Common Name : Phalsa  
Distribution : This is a species native to southern Asia ranging from Pakistan; India east to Cambodia  
Habitat : It is cultivated in tropical countries.

Description : It is a shrub or small tree growing to small. The leaves are broadly rounded 1-1.5 cm long. Flowers are in cyme of several together.

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

Family : MALVACEAE

Description : *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* is a bushy, evergreen shrub or small tree growing 2.5- 5 m tall and 1.5-3m wide, with glossy leaves and solitary, brilliant red flowers in summer and autumn

Synonym : *Hibiscus arnottii* ,*Hibiscus borganus*

Common name : Shoe flower or chinese hibiscus

Distribution : It is native to East Asia, mainly China.

***Hibiscus surattensis* L.**

Family : MALVACEAE

Ver. Name : Kakkapoovu

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Moist deciduous forests; also in plains

Description : Prickly shrubs; stipulate foliaceous; flowers yellow with dark cells prickled.

Distribution : South India and Sri Lanka

***Kleinhovia hospita* L.**

Family : MALVACEAE

Habit : Large tree  
English Name : Guest tree  
Distribution : Indonesia, Malaysia, and other parts of tropical Asia.  
Description : It is an evergreen, bushy tree growing up to 20m high, with a dense rounded and fruits. Leaves are simple and alternate. Stipules are ensiform to linear about 8 mm long; petioles 2.5-30cm long.

***Sida acuta*** Burm. F.

Synonym & Basionym : *Sida lanceolata* Retz.  
*Sida carpinifolia* sensu Mast.

Family : MALVACEAE  
Ver. Name : Aanakurunthotti, Kurunthotti, Malamkurunthotti  
English Name : Horn bean leaved sida  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Dry and moist deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Shrubby plants; Leaves simple; flowers yellow, Stamens many; anthers monothealous; mericarps trigonous  
Distribution : Pantropical

***Melochia corchorifolia*** L.

Family : STERCULIACEAE  
Ver. Name : Cheruvuram

Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Degraded deciduous forests and waste places  
Description : Herbs; leaves simple; flowers pink; sepals, petals and stamens 5 each.  
Distribution : Pantropical

***Waltheria indica* L.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Waltheria americana* L.  
Family : STERCULIACEAE  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Degraded moist deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Erect Herbs or undershrubs; branchlets stellate-pubescent; leaves simple; flowers yellow; sepals , petals and stamens each.  
Distribution : Pantropical

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Oxalis reinwardtii* Zucc.  
Family : OXALIDACEAE  
Ver. Name : Mukkutti, Theendavaadi  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Moist deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Erect herbs; sensitive to touch; leaves pinnately

compound, collected at apex into a caudex; flower deep yellow with a red line in the middle, in terminal umbels.

Distribution : Indo-Malesia and China

***Oxalis corniculata* L.**

Synonym & : *Oxalis corniculata* L. var. *hispida* Blatt.

Basionym

Family : OXALIDACEAE

Ver. Name : Puliyarila

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Degraded forests; also in plains

Description : Diffuse herbs; rooting at lower nodes; leaves digitately

foliolate; flowers yellow; capsules oblong, transversely ridged.

Distribution : Cosmopolitan

***Murraya koenigii* Linn.**

Synonym : *Bergera Koenigii*

Family : RUTACEAE

English name : Curry-leaf tree

Habit : Herb

Description : Perennial herb, oblong-lanceolate leaf, white flowers.

Distribution : India and Srilanka

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Chalcas paniculata* L.

*Murrayya exotica* L.

Family : RUTACEAE

Ver. Name : Naaragamulla

English Name : Honey Bush

Habit : Tree

Habitat : Planted as ornamental tree

Description : Trees; leaves 3-7foliolate; flowers white, fragrant;  
fruits red when ripe

Distribution : Indo-Malasia and Australia

***Swietenia macrophylla*** King

Family : MELIACEAE

Ver. Name : Mahogani

Habit : Tree

Habitat : Grown as avenue tree; also raised in plantations

Description : Large trees with pinnate leaves; flowers greenish-  
white; capsules woody, dark brown when mature

Distribution : Native of central America

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Cissus pedata* Lam.

*Vitis pedata* (Lam) Wall. ex Wight & Arn.

Family : VITACEAE

Habit : Climber

Habitat : Moist Deciduous and semi-green forests; also in  
plains

Description : Climbers; leaves simple, 5-9 foliolate; flowers  
yellowish-white

Distribution : Indo-Malesia

***Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.**

Family : SAPINDACEAE

Ver.Name : Uzhinja, Valliuzhinja

English Name : Balloon vine, Balloonvine heartseed, Blister  
creeper, Heart pea, Heart seed, Winter cherry

Habit : Climber

Habitat : Moist deciduous forests and scrub jungles; also  
in plains

Description : Tendrillar climbers; leaves biternate; flowers  
white; Capsules pyform; Winged at angles; seeds  
black

Distribution : Pantropical

***Moringa oleifera* Lam.**

Synonym	: <i>Anoma Moringa</i>
Family	: MORINGACEAE
English Name	: Drumstick tree.
Habit	: Small tree
Habitat	: Native to Sothern foothills of Himalayas in north western India, Semiarid, topical, subtropical areas.
Description	: Perennial small tree, tripinnate leaves, flowers with yellowish-white petals.
Distribution	: Native to India, Arabia, Africa, East Indies, tropical Africa
Distribution	: Tropical Asia, Africa, Southern Canada

***Aeschynomene indica* L.**

Synonym	: <i>Aeschynomene cachemiriana</i> , <i>Aeschynomene diffusa</i>
Family	: FABACEAE
	Sub Family: PAPILIONOIDEAE
English Name	: budda pea, curly indigo
Description	: is an annual or perennial herb, stem is thin, inflorescence is with reddish or purple-streated yellow or whitish corollas.
Habitat	: grows in wet, muddy habitat such as floodplains, swamp's and paddy fields
Distribution	: This species has a very wide global distribution although Its native range is not clear.



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

Synonym & Basionym : *Dolichos scarabaeoides* L.

*Atylosia scarabaeoides* (L.) Benth

Family : FABACEAE/LEGUMINOSAE

Sub Family: PAPILIONOIDEAE

Ver. Name : Kaattumuthira

Habit : Climber

Habitat : Moist deciduous forests; also in plains

Description : Pubescent climbers; leaves 3-foliolate; flowers yellow; pods flat, pubescent.

Distribution : Tropical Asia; introduced in Africa

***Cassia fistula*** L.

Synonym & Basionym : *Cassia rhombifolia* Roxb.

Family : FABACEAE/LEGUMINOSAE

Sub Family : CAESALPINIOIDEAE

Ver. Name : Kanikonna

English Name : Indian laburnum, Goldem shower, Purging cassia, Purging fistula

Habit : Tree

Habitat : Moist deciduous forests; also planted as ornamental plant

Description : Trees; leaves pinnate; flowers golden-yellow, drooping; pods brown, pendulous.

Distribution : Indo-Malesia

***Clitoria ternatea*** L. var. ***ternatea***

Family : FABACEAE/LEGUMINOSAE

Sub Family: PAPILIONOIDEAE

Ver. Name : Sankupushpam

English Name : Clitoria

Habit : Climber

Habitat : Grown in garden; also runs wild

Description : Herbs; leaves pinnate; flowers blue or creamy-white; pods flattened

Distribution : Probably native of South America, widely grown in Tropical countries

***Crotalaria pallida*** Dryand. var. ***pallida***

Synonym & Basionym : *Crotalaria striata* DC.

Family : FABACEAE/LEGUMINOSAE

Sub Family: PAPILIONOIDEAE

Ver. Name : Kilukilikki, Kilumkkampettchedi

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Degraded forest areas; also in plains

Description : Under shrubs; leaves 3-foliolate; flowers yellow

Distribution : Pantropical

***Desmodium gyrans*** (L.f.)DC.

Synonym : *Codariocalyx motorius*

Family : FABACEAE

Sub Family: PAPILIONOIDEAE

English Name : Telegraph plant

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Moist deciduous regions

Description : Perennial shrub, green lanceolate shaped leaves,  
small light pink flowers.

Distribution : Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka.

***Desmodium heterophyllum*** (Willd.) DC.

Synonym & Basionym : *Hedysarum heterophyllum* Willd

Family : FABACEAE/LEGUMINOSAECE

Sub Family: PAPILIONOIDEAE

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Degraded moist deciduous forests; also in plains

Description : Herbs; stem reddish; flowers bluish

Distribution : Indo-Malesia and China

***Desmodium triflorum*** (L.) DC .

Synonym & Basionym : *Hedysarum triflorum* L.

Family : FABACEAE / LEGUMINOSAE  
Sub family: PAPILIONOIDEAE  
Ver.Name : Cherupulladi, Nilamparanda, Nillampulladi  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Moist deciduous forests and grasslands; also in plains  
Description : Prostrate herbs; rooting at nodes; leaves trifoliolate; flowers purplish-blue  
Distribution : Indo-Malesia and Australia

***Indigofera linnaei*** Ali

Synonym & Basionym : *Indigofera enneaphylla* L.  
Family : FABACEAE / LEGUMINOSAE  
Sub Family: PAPILIONOIDEAE  
Ver. Name : Cherupulladi  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Grasslands; also in plains  
Description : Trailing grey pubescent herbs; leaves pinnate; flowers red  
Distribution : Indo-Malesia to Australia and West Africa

***Stylosanthes fruticosa*** (Retz.) Alston

Synonym & : *Arachis fruticosa* Retz.  
Basionym : *Stylosanthes mucronata* Willd.

Family : FABACEAE/LEGUMINOSAE  
Sub Family: PAPILIONOIDEAE  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Along riverbanks, roadsides and wastelands  
Description : Undershrubs with trifoliolate leaves; flowers yellow  
Distribution : Sri Lanka, India; Africa and Madagascar

***Bauhinia acuminata* L.**

Family : FABACEAE / LEGMINOSAE  
Sub Family: CAESALPINIOIDEAE  
Ver. Name : Mandaaram  
English Name : dwarf white bauhinia, white orchid-tree and snowy orchid tree  
Habit : Tree  
Habitat : Grown as garden plant  
Description : Small trees, leaflets connate; one petal variegated yellow; fragrant; pods flat  
Distribution : Native of China; distributed throughout India

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Cassia occidentalis*  
Family : FABACEAE / LEGUMINOSAE  
Sub Family: CAESALPINIOIDEAE

Ver. Name : Karinthakara,Ponthakara

English Name : Coffee-senna, Fetid senna, Negro coffee, septic weed.

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Along riversides and wastelands

Description : Shrubs with pinnate leaves; flowers yellow; pods compressed , horned .

Distribution : Native of South America; now naturalized in Asia.

***Senna siamea*** (Lam.) Irwin & Barneby

Synonym & Basionym : *Cassia siamea* Lam.

Family : FABACEAE/LEGUMINOSAE

Sub Family : CAESALPINIOIDEAE

Ver. Name : Manjakonna

English Name : Ironwood tree, Siamese senna

Habit : Tree

Habitat : Grown as a ornamental tree

Description : Trees with pinnate leaves; flowers yellow; pods woody compressed

Distribution : Native of South East Asia

***Albizia saman*** (Jacq.) F. Muell.

Synonym & Basionym : *Mimosa saman* Jacq.

*Samanea saman* (Jacq.) Merr.

- Family : FABACEAE / LEGUMINOSAE
- Sub Family: MIMOSOIDEAE
- Ver. Name : Mazhamaram, Urakamthoongimaram
- English Name : Cow tamarind, Monkeypod,, Rain tree
- Habit : Tree
- Habitat : Grown as avenue tree
- Description : Trees with pinnate leaves; flowers rose; pods woody

***Mimosa diplotricha* var. *inermis***

- Synonym : *Mimosa invisa*
- Family : FABACEAE
- Subfamily: MIMOSOIDEAE
- English Name : giant sensitive plant
- Habit : Shrubby climber
- Habitat : Tropical and sub-tropical regions, along drains, sunny to lightly shaded locations.
- Description : Short tived shrub, leaves are bipinnate, flowers develop into clustered slightly curved seed pods.
- Distribution : South America, Central America, Caribbea.

***Terminalia catappa* L.**

- Synonym & Basionym : *Terminalia procera* Roxb.

Family : COMBRETACEAE

Ver. Name : Badaam, Naatu-badaam, Thalli-thenga

English Name : Indian almond tree, Tropical Almond, Badamier, Java Almond, Malabar Almond, Singapore almond, Ketapang, Huu kwang, Pacific Almond

Habit : Tree

Habitat : Grown as ornamental tree

Description : Deciduous trees with wide spreading crowns; leaves simple; flowers creamy; drupes reddish with 2 wings; pericarp fibrous and fleshy.

Distribution : Malesia to North Australia and Polynesia, commonly planted in the Tropical Countries

***Psidium guajava* L.**

Family : MYRTACEAE

Ver. Name : Pera

English Name : Guava, Guajava, Common guava

Habit : Small tree

Habitat : Cultivated for fruits

Description : Evergreen trees; flowers white; berries green or yellow when mature; seeds stony.

Distribution : Native of Tropical America; now naturalized in Tropical countries



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

Synonym & Basionym : *Lagerstroemia reginae* Roxb.

*Lagerstroemia flos-reginae* Retz.

Family : LYTHRACEAE

Ver. Name : Manimaruthu, Neermaruthu, Poomaruthu

English Name : Banaba, Pride of India, Queen of flowers, Queen  
crepe myrtle

Habit : Tree

Habitat : Evergreen and semi-evergreen forests also  
planted as an avenue tree in plains

Description : Trees; flowers pinkish; capsules 4-valved covered  
by persistent calyx

Distribution : Indo-Malesia

***Turnera subulata* Sm.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Turnera elegans* Otto

*Turnera ulmifolia* L. var. *elegans* (Otto)

Family : TURNERACEAE

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Grown in garden; often found as an escape

Description : Herbs with dentate leaves; flowers solitary,,  
yellow.

Distribution : Native of Tropical America

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Bryonia grandis* L.

*Coccinia indica* Wight & Arn.

*Cephalandra indica* (Wight & Arn) Naudin

Family : CUCURBITACEAE

Ver. Name : Koval

English Name : Ivy gourd, Scarlet gourd, Tindora

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Dry deciduous forests and waste places; also  
cultivated as vegetables

Description : Woody climbers; leaves simple, entire or lobbed;  
flowers white; berries red when ripe, edible.

Distribution : Peninsular India and Sri Lanka

***Mukia maderaspatana*** (L.) Roem.

Synonym & Basionym : *Cucumis maderaspaatanus* L.

*Mukia scabrella* (L. f.) Arn.

*Melothira maderaspatana* (L) Cogn.

Family : CUCURBITACEAE

Ver.name : Mukkaaperam, puttalpeeram

Habit : Climbers

Habitat : Deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Pubescent; tendrillar climbers; flowers yellow  
;berries red when mature  
Distribution : Paleotropics

***Hamelia patens*** Jacq.

Family : RUBIACEAE  
Ver. Name : Pavizha chetthi  
English Name : Fire bush, Firecracker Plant  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Grown as garden plant  
Description : Large shrub to small trees; flowers orange-red;  
berries crowned by the disk.  
Distribution : Native of tropical America; planted throughout  
the Tropics

***Ixora indica*** ( L.) Baill.

Synonym : *Pavetta indica* L.  
Family : RUBIACEAE  
English Name : West Indian Jasmine.  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Well drained tropical soils in medium rainfall  
areas  
Description : Perennial shrub, leaf is dark green, bright  
coloured flowers.

Distribution : South India, Srilanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand

***Mussaenda frondosa*** Linn.

Synonym : *Mussaenda belilla*

Family : RUBIACEAE

English : White flag Bush, Wild Mussenda

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Most deciduous and semi-evergreen forests, also in the plains, Loam, Sand

Description : Perennial, Flower are clusters of orange, yellow tubular flowers beside large, white bracts, set among pale green, Oval leaves.

Distribution : Native to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Combodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia

***Oldenlandia umbellatta*** L.

Synonym & Basionym : *Hedyotis umbellata* (L.) Lam

*Hedyotis wightii* (Hook.f) K.K.N.Nair

Family : RUBIACEAE

Ver.Name : Chayaveru

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Dry and moist deciduous forests ;also in plains

Description : Diffuse herbs; flowers umbellate, pale pink.

Distribution : Peninsular India and Sri Lanka

***Mikania micrantha*** Kunth

Synonym &	: <i>Mikania scandens</i> Clarke
Basionym	: <i>Mikania cordata</i> (Burm.f.) Robins
Family	: ASTERACEAE/COMPOSITAE
Ver. Name	: Dridharaashtra pacha, Vayara
English Name	: Mikenia
Habit	: Climber
Habitat	: Forest plantations; also in plains
Description	: Non – tendrillar climbers; heads white
Distribution	: Pantropical

***Tridax procumbens*** L.

Family	: ASTERACEAE/COMPOSITAE
Ver. Name	: Kumminnippacha, Muriyampachila, Odiyancheera, Thelkunni.
English Name	: Coat-button, Mexican daisy
Habit	: Herb
Habitat	: Deciduous forests ; also wastelands in plains
Description	: Straggling or procumbent , pubescent herbs; heads yellow
Distribution	: Native of Tropical America

***Vernonia cinerea*** (L.) Less.

Synonym & Basionym	: <i>Conyza cinerea</i> L.
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Family : ASTERACEAE/COMPOSITAE  
Ver.bName : Puvamkozhinjal, puvankurrunilla  
English Name : Ash colored fleabane, purple fleabane  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Herbs; heads pale pink or purple  
Distribution : Pantropical

***Wedelia trilobata*** (L.) A.S. Hitchc.

Synonym & Basionym : *Silphium trilobatum* L.  
Family : ASTERACEAE/COMPOSITAE  
Ver.bName : Manja- kayyunnyam  
English Name : Singapore daisy  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Introduced as garden plant , now runs wild  
Description : perennial herbs; rooting at nodes ; leaves 3-  
angular; heads yellow.  
Distribution : Native of Tropical America

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

Synonym & : *Vinca rosea* L.  
Basionym : *Lochnera rosea* (L.) Rchb.  
Family : APOCYNACEAE

Ver. Name : Nithyakallyani, savakottappacha,  
Savamnaripoovu. Sadapushpi, Smasanapoochedi,  
Ushamalari, Vishanarayani

English Name : Periwinkle, Rose Periwinkle, Madagascar  
Periwinkle, Vinca

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Grown as ornamental plant

Description : Ornamental herbs with milky latex;  
Flowers white or rose; follicles pubescent

***Cryptostegia grandiflora*** R.Br.

Family : APOCYNACEAE

English Name : Rubber vine

Habit : Shrubby climber

Distribution : This native to south west Madagascar. It is a  
significant weed in northern Australia

Habitat : Tropical and subtropical areas. Seed germinate  
in wet seasons

Description : It is a woody perennial vine plant. It grows up to  
2m tall. It is supported on other vegetation as a  
vine

***Rauwolfia tetraphylla*** L.

Synonym & Basionym : *Rauwolfia canescens* L.

Family : APOCYNACEAE

Ver. Family : Pambumkolli

English name : Garden Rauvolfia  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Forest plantations; also in the plains.  
Description : Shrub; leaves whorled; flowers white; fruits deep red or purple when ripe  
Distribution : Introduced from West Indies

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Nerium divaricatum* L  
*Tabernaemontana coronaria* (Jacq) Willd.  
*Ervatamia coronaria* (Jacq.) Stapf  
*Ervatamia divaricata* (L.) Burkill

Family : APOCYNACEAE  
Ver . Name : Nandiyar -Vattom  
English Name : East India rosebay  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Grown as ornamental plant  
Description : Milky shrubs; leaves simple; flowers white; fruit orange/red/green  
Distribution : Native of Southern Himalayas

***Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R. Br**

Synonym & Basionym : *Asclepias gigantea* L.  
Family : ASCLEPIADACEAE



Ver. Name : Erukku, Vella-erukku

English name : Bowstring hemp , Swallow wort , milkweed ,  
Giant calotrope , Crown Flower

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Waste places

Description : Shrubs with milky latex , flowers purplish white  
or creamy; follicles in pairs

Distribution : Tropical Asia

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Convolvulus alsinoides* L.

Family : CONVOLVULACEAE

Ver. Name : Krishnakranti, Sivakranthi, Vishnukranthi

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Moist and dry deciduous forests; also in plains

Description : Prostrate silky pubescent herbs; flowers blue;  
capsules globose

Distribution : Pantropical

***Ipomea cairica*** (L.) Sweet

Synonym & Basionym : *Convolvulus cairicus* L.

*Ipomoea palmata* Forssk.

Family : CONVOLVULACEAE

Ver. Name : Neelakolambi

English Name : Railway creeper, Cairo Morning glory  
Habit : Climber  
Habitat : Dry and moist deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Non-tendrillar climbers; leaves palmately lobed;  
flowers blue  
Distribution : Paleotropics

***Ipomoea nil* (L.) Roth**

Synonym & Basionym : *Convolvulus nil* L.  
*Ipomoea hederacea sensu* Hook.f.

Family : CONVOLVULACEAE

Ver. Name : Thaliyari

English Name : Morning glory, Pharbitis seeds

Habit : Climber

Habitat : Deciduous forests; also in plains

Description : Climbers; leaves palmately 3-lobed; flowers blue.

Distribution : Native of South America; naturalized in Tropical  
Countries

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Ipomoea pes-tigridis* L. var. *Hepaticifolia* (L.)  
Clarke

Family : CONVOLVULACEAE

Ver. Name : Pulichuvadi, Pochakkal-valli

English Name : Bindweed, Cupid's flower', Tiger's foot  
Habit : Climber  
Habitat : Degraded forests; also in plains  
Description : Pubescent climbers; leaves digitately lobed; flowers white  
Distribution : Pantropics

***Ipomoea quamoclit* L.**

Synonym : *Quamoclit pennata*  
Family : CONVULVULACEAE  
English name : cypress vine ,cardinal creeper  
Habit : herbaceous climber  
Description : Twining annual vine ,climbing upto 6 m under ideal conditions flowers are crimson –red fruits are explosive capsules.  
Discription : It is native to tropical regions of the New world from northern south America north to Mexico.

***Capsicum frutescens* L.**

Synonym & : *Capsicum conoides* Mill.  
Basionym : *Capsicum minimum* Clarke  
Family : SOLANACEAE  
Ver. Name : Kantharimulaku  
English name : Bird Chilly  
Habit : Herb

Habitat : Cultivated for fruits  
Description : Herbs; leaves simple; flowers white; berries elongate, cylindric  
Distribution : Native of Tropical America; now widely cultivated

***Physalis angulata* L.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Physalis minima* L.  
Family : SOLANACEAE  
Ver. Name : Njodinjotta, Njottanjodian  
English Name : Sunberry, Country gooseberry  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Degraded forests and wastelands  
Description : Annual herbs; flowers yellow; berries orange-yellow at maturity, enclosed by inflated calyx.  
Distribution : Tropical Africa, Asia and Australia

***Solanum torvum* Sw.**

Family : SOLANACEAE  
Ver. Name : Anachunda, Chunda  
English Name : Turkey berry, Devil's Fig  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Degraded forests areas; also in plains  
Description : Shrubs with variously lobbed leaves; flowers creamy; berries red at maturity

Distribution : Tropics

***Scoparia dulcis* L.**

Family : SCROPHULARIACEAE

Ver. Name : Kaallurukki, karakanjavu, meenanganni

English Name : Sweet broomweed

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Wastelands

Description : Herbs; flowers white; capsules enclosed in calyx

Distribution : Native of Tropical America; now naturalized in  
Pantropics

***Bignonia capreolata* L.**

Synonyms : *Doxantha capreolata*

Family : BIGNONIACEAE

English name : Cross-vine

Habit : Climbing herb

Habitat : It tolerates a wide variety of conditions including coastal, but prefers an organically rich, well drained soil in full sun

Description : It is a fast growing evergreen vine that can grow up to 30 to 50 feet tall. It climbs by using tendrils

Distribution : It is native to the southeastern United States in USDA hardiness zones 6-9

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

- Family : BIGNONIACEAE
- Synonym : *Bignonia incisa*
- Habit : Shrub
- English Name : Yellow Bells
- Habitat : Cultivated as an ornamental and it is readily colonised in sandy, Rocky and cleared land.
- Description : Attractive plant and has sharply coloured green leaves and bright golden yellow trumpet shaped flowers
- Distribution : Wide natural distribution in tropical and subtropical America from Mexico to Argentina but naturalized in much of tropical and subtropical Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and Australia.

***Justicia latispica* ( C. B. Cl.)**

- Synonym : *Justicia Procumbens* var. *latispica*
- Family : ACANTHACEAE
- Habit : Herb
- Habitat : Dry deciduous forest and scrub jungles
- Description : Erect or procumbent herbs, 30-50 cm high, leaves 3-5 to 1.3cm, elliptic-Elliptic-oblong, obtusely acute at apex, black when dry. Flowers 12 mm long calyx lobes 4mm long, ciliate along the margins, corolla 10 mm long, villous inside, lilac with brown streaks on lower lip.

Distribution : Peninsular India and Sri Lanka

***Ruellia tweediana*** Griseb.

Synonym & Basionym : *Ruellia brittoniana* Leonard

Family : ACANTHACEAE

English Name : Mexican petunia, Minnieroot, Waterkanon

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Wastelands

Description : Erect herbs; flowers blue; capsules beaked

Distribution : Native of tropical America; Naturalized in India and Malesia

***Clerodendrum infortunatum*** L.

Synonym & Basionym : *Clerodendrum viscosum* auct. non Vent

Family : VERBENACEAE

Ver. Name : Ottaveran, Perivelam, Peringalam

Habit : Shrub to small tree

Habitat : Degraded forest; also in plains

Description : Pubescent shrubs; leaves simple, aromatic;  
flowers white

Distribution : Indo-Malesia

***Duranta erecta*** L.

Synonym & : *Duranta repens* L.

Basionym : *Duranta plumieri* Jacq.

Family : VERBENACEAE  
Ver. Name : Maanikyachempazhukka  
English name : Duranta, Golden Dewdrop, Honey drops, Pigeon Berry  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Grown as ornamental plant  
Description : Large shrubs; leaves simple; flowers Violet; drupes yellow – orange.  
Distribution : Native of America

***Lantana camara*** L. var. *camara*

Synonym & Basionym : *Lantana aculeata* L.  
*Lantana camara* L. var *aculeata*. (L.) Moldenke

Family : VERBENACEAE  
Ver. Name : Arippoochedi, Arippu, Kongini, Unnimullu  
English Name : Lantana, Wild sage  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Introduced as ornamental plant;  
now naturalized as weed  
Description : Armed shrubs; flowers variously coloured; drupes globose; black when ripe  
Distribution : Native of Tropical America; naturalized in Tropical And Subtropical countries



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

- Family : VERBENACEAE
- Ver. Name : Thekku
- English Name : Teak
- Habit : Tree
- Habitat : Moist deciduous forests; also raised in plantations
- Description : Deciduous trees; leaves broadly elliptic; flowers white in panicles; drupes enclosed in calyx
- Distribution : South India and South East Asia

***Anisomeles indica*** (L.) Kuntze

- Synonym & Basionym : *Nepeta indica*  
*Anisomeles ovata* R. Br  
*Anisolomes heyneana* Benth.

- Family : LAMIACEAE / LABIATAE
- Ver. Name : Chadayan, Karithumba
- Habit : Herb
- Habitat : Dry and moist deciduous forests and wastelands
- Description : Aromatic pubescent herbs; flowers bluish white
- Distribution : Indo-Malesia and China

***Hyptis suaveolens*** (L.) Poit.

- Synonym & Basionym : *Ballota suaveolens* L.

Family : LAMIACEAE / LABIATAE  
Ver. Name : Poothachadayan  
Habit : Shrub  
Habitat : Degraded moist and dry deciduous forests and wastelands  
Description : Aromatic shrubs; leaves simple; flowers blue.  
Distribution : Native of America; naturalized in Pantropics

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Phlomis aspera* Willd.

Family : LAMIACEAE / LABIATAE

Ver. Name : Thumba

English Name : Thumba

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Deciduous forests and wastelands

Description : Herbs; leaves simple; flowers white in axillary whorls.

Distribution : Indo-Malesia

***Boerhavia diffusa*** L.

Synonym & Basionym : *Boerhavia repens* L.

Family : NYCTAGINACEAE

Ver. Name : Thamizhama, Thazhuthama

English Name : Hogweed, Pigweed, Spreading Hogweed

Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Moist and dry deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Diffuse herbs; leaves simple, fleshy, slightly creamy below; flowers white, red or pink  
Distribution : Pantropical

***Bougainvillea glabra*** Choisy

Family : NYCTAGINACEAE  
English name : paper flower  
Habit : Climbing shrub  
Habitat : It needs full sunlight warm weather and well drained soil to flower well  
Description : It is an evergreen, climbing shrub with thorny stems, tiny white flowers usually appear in clusters  
Distribution : A native of Brazil, widely cultivated in the tropics and Subtropics.

***Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*** Linn.

Synonyms : *Nyctanthes dentata*  
Family : NYCTAGINACEAE  
English Name : Night Flowering Jasmine, Tree of sorrow  
Habit : Herb/shrub  
Description : It is a shrub; flowers are fragrant with a 5-8 lobed white corolla with orange-red centre. The leaves are opposite, simple.

Distribution : South Asia and South East Asia

***Achyranthes aspera* L.**

Family : AMARANTHACEAE

Ver. Name : Kadalaadi, Vankadalaadi

English Name : Prickly chaff Flowering

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Dry deciduous forests; also inn plains

Description : Herbs; simple leaves; flowers greenish-white  
utricles enclosed in persistant perianth

Distribution : Pantropical

***Aerva lanata* (L.) Juss. ex Schult**

Synonym & Basionym : *Achyranthes lanata* L.

Family : AMARANTHACEAE

Ver. Name : Cheroola, Cherpoola

English Name : Polpala

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Deciduous forests; also wastelands in plains

Description : Herbs; Leaves simple, pubescent, lamina  
creamy-white adaxially; flowers greenish-white

Distribution : Tropical and Subtropical countries

***Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) DC**

Synonyms : *Alternanthera denticulata*

Family : AMARANTHACEAE

English name : Sessile Joy weed/ Dwarf copper leaf.

Habit : Herb

Description : It is perennial herb with prostrate stems, leaves obovate to broadly elliptic , occasionally linear lanceolate. Flowers in sessile spikes, bract and bracteoles shiny white.

Distribution : Plant occurs throughout the tropical and sub tropical regions. It has been introduced to southern united states and its origin in central and south America.

***Amaranthus spinosus* L.**

Family : AMARANTHACEAE

Ver. Name : Cherucheera, Mullencheera

English Name : Prickly amaranth, Spiny pigweed, Spiny amaranth, Thorny amaranth

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Wastelands

Description : Spiny herbs; leaves simple; flowers greenish-white, axillary or aggregate into terminal panicles

Distribution : Native of America; now naturalized throughout the Tropical countries

***Amaranthus viridis* L.**

Family : AMARANTHACEAE

Ver. Name : Cherucheera, Kuppacheera, Kuppakeera  
English Name : Slender amaranth  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Wastelands land degraded forests  
Description : Unarmed herbs; leaves simple; flowers  
greenish-white  
Distribution : Pantropical

***Gomphrena celosioides* Mart.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Gomphrena decumbens* sensu Gamble  
Family : AMARANTHACEAE  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Deciduous Forests; also in plains  
Description : Pubescent herbs; flowers creamy white  
Distribution : Native of south America; now naturalized in  
Tropical countries

***Gomphrena globosa* L.**

Family : AMARANTHACEAE  
Ver. Name : Chendumalli, Vaadamalli  
English Name : Globe amaranth, Bachelor's buttons  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Grown as ornamental plant

Description : Ornamental herbs; leaves simple; flowers deep violet

Distribution : Native of Tropical America; planted in Tropical part of the world

***Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth**

Synonym & Basionym : *Piper pellucidum* L.

*Peperomia exigua* (Blume) Miq.

Family : PIPERACEAE

Ver. Name : Chinkalam, Kannadippacha, Mashipatcha, Mashithanddu, sethu-pachha

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Degraded forests and wastelands

Description : Succulent herbs; leaves thin,membraneous

Distribution : Native of Tropical America

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

Family : EUPHORBIACEAE

Ver. Name : Poochavaalan

English Name : Cat's tail, Red-hot cat's tail, Foxtail

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Grown as garden plant

Description : Ornamental shrubs; leaves simple, alternate; flowers red

Distribution : Native of Papua New Guinea

***Acalypha indica* L.**

Family : EUPHORBIACEAE

Ver. Name : Kuppameni,, Kuppamani

English Name : Indian acalypha

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Dry deciduous forests; also in roadsides and wastelands in plains

Description : Annual herbs; leaves simple, petioles as long as lamina; flowers greenish- white

Distribution : Indo-Malesia and Tropical Africa

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

Synonym & : *Croton variegatus* L.

Basionym

Family :EUPHORBIACEAE

Ver. Name :Kozhivalan

English Name :Croton

Habit :Shrub

Habitat :Grown as ornamental plants

Description :Shrubs with milky latex; leaves simple, Yellow/ red/variously coloured.



Distribution :Malesia to South West Pacific, introduced elsewhere

***Croton hirtus*** L'Herit.

Synonym & :*Croton glandulosus* L.

Basionym

Family :EUPHORBIACEAE

Habit :Herb

Habitat :Wastelands

Description :Herbs; flowers unisexual, yellowish green; capsules 3 lobed.

Distribution :West Indies, Central and South America and Tropical Asia

***Euphorbia heterophylla*** Linn.

Synonym & Basionym : *Euphorbia prunifolia* Jacq.

*Euphorbia geniculata* Ortega

Family : EUPHORBIACEAE

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Degraded deciduous forests and wastelands

Description : Herbs with milky latex; cyathia in terminal clusters; capsules green

Distribution : Native of Central America; now naturalized in Pantropics

***Euphorbia milii*** Desmoul

Synonym & Basionym : *Euphorbia splendens* Boj. ex Hook.

Family : EUPHORBIACEAE

Ver. Name : Mulkireedam

English Name : Crown of Thorns

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Grown as ornamental plant

Description : Armed shrubs with milky latex; bracts variously coloured

Distribution : Native of Madagascar; introduced to elsewhere

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Osyris peltata* Roxb.

*Macaranga roxburghii* Wight

Family : EUPHORBIACEAE

Ver. Name : Thodukanni, Uppila, Vatta

Habit : Tree

Habitat : Moist deciduous and secondary forests; also in plains

Description : Resinous trees; leaves peltate; flowers greenish-yellow

Distribution : India, Sri Lanka and Anadamans  
with a thick mesocarp

Distribution : Native of Central and South America; widely grown in Tropical countries

***Phyllanthus emblica* L.**

Synonym & : *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn.

Basionym

Family : EUPHORBIACEAE

Ver. Name : Nelli

English Name : Emblic myrobalan, Indian gooseberry

Habit : Tree

Habitat : Dry and moist deciduous forests; also cultivated in plains for Berry

Description : Deciduous trees; flowers unisexual,  
Greenish – yellow; drupes globose, edible.

Distribution : Tropical countries

***Phyllanthus myrtifolius* Moon**

Family : EUPHORBIACEAE

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Grown as hedge plant

Description : Ornamental shrubs; flowers red.

Distribution : Native of Sri Lanka

***Ricinus communis* L.**

Family : EUPHORBIACEAE

Ver. Name : Aavannakku, Chittavanakku

English Name : Castor oil plant, Castorbean, Krapata, Palma  
Christi, Ricin, Wonder tree

Habit : Shrub

Habitat : Cultivated; also runs wild

Description : Monocios herbs; leaves palmately lobed; flowers  
pale yellow.

Distribution : Native of Tropical Africa; now cultivated  
throughout the tropical Countries

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Parietaria microphylla* L.

Family : URTICACEAE

English Name : Artillery plant, Gunpowder plant ,rockweed

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Grown as garden plant

Description : Monoecious herbs; leaves very small.

Distribution : Native of South America

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Parietaria zeylanica* L.  
*Pouzozia indica* (L) Gaud.

Family : URTICACEAE

English Name : Graceful Pouzolz's Bush  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Grasslands, wet places  
Description : Perennial herb, ovate-elliptic, pale green flowers.  
Distribution : Pakistan, India, Sri lanka, Burma, Malaysia and china

***Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Artocarpus integrifolius* Wight  
Family : MORACEAE  
Ver. Name : Plavu  
English name : Jack fruiting tree  
Habit : Tree  
Habitat : Evergreen and semi-evergreen forests; also cultivated  
Description : Trees; leaves simple with milky latex when young; flowers unisexual, greenish-white or yellow; sorosis greenish yellow, edible  
Distribution : Probably native of South India, cultivated in Tropical countries

***Artocarpus hirsutus* Lam.**

Family : MORACEAE  
Ver. Name : Aanjili, Ayani  
English Name : Wild jack

Habit : Tree  
Habitat : Semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests; also in plains  
Description : Trees; leaves simple with milky latex; sorosis yellow or orange-red, edible  
Distribution : Southern and Western Ghats

***Ficus religiosa* L.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Urostigma religiosum* (L.) Gasp.  
Family : MORACEAE  
Ver. Name : Arayaal, Bodhivriksham  
English Name : Peepal tree, Pipul, Sacred fig  
Habit : Tree  
Habitat : Grown in temple premises  
Description : Large trees; leaves simple; figs reddish-black at maturity  
Distribution : East Himalayas; planted and naturalized in India and neighbouring Countries

***Acampe praemorsa* (Roxb.) Blatt. & McCann**

Synonym & Basionym : *Epidendrum praemorsum* Roxb.  
*Saccolabium praemorsum* (Roxb.) Hook. f.  
*Acampe wightiana* Lindl.  
Family : ORCHIDACEAE

Ver. Name : Mara-vaazha, Upputhaali  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Epiphytes as in moist deciduous forests; lip white with pink stripes  
Description : Epiphytic herbs; flowers yellow, lip white with pink stripes  
Distribution : India, Sri Lanka and Seychelles

***Musa paradisiaca* L.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Musa rosacea* Jacq.

*Musa x sapientum* L.

Family : MUSACEAE

Ver. Name : Vaazha

English Name : Banana, Kadali

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Cultivated

Description : Large herbs; leaves large; flowers monoecious; fruits large, oblong

Distribution : Cultivated throughout the Tropics

***Asparagus racemosus* Willd.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Protasparagus racemosus* (Willd.) Oberm.

Family : ASPARGACEAE

Ver. Name : Sathavari

English Name : Asparagus  
Habit : Climber  
Habitat : All forest type; also grown as garden plant in plains  
Description : Armed, tuberous climbers; cladodes from the axils of scale leaves; flowers white; fruits purple at maturity  
Distribution : Paleotropics

***Dracaena marginata*** Lam.

Family : ASPARAGACEAE  
English Name : Dragon tree  
Synonym : red-edge dracena  
Habit : Small Tree  
Habitat : well drained soil  
Description : Secondary thickening in their trunk which is quite different from the thickening meristem found in dicotyledons .  
Distribution : Native in Madagascar and Mauritius

***Commelina benghalensis*** L.

Family : COMMELINACEAE  
Ver. Name : Vazhapadathi  
English Name : Dayflower  
Habit : Herb



Habitat : Deciduous forests and wastelands  
Description : Annual herbs; rooting at nodes; flowers dimorphic  
Distribution : Africa, India, China, Japan and Malesia

***Commelina diffusa*** Burm. f.

Family : COMMELINACEAE  
English Name : Creeping dayflower  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Wastelands  
Description : Herbs; rooting at nodes; leaves sessile; flowers blue  
Distribution : Pantropical

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Commelina cristata* L.  
Family : COMMELINACEAE  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Grasslands and wastepplaces  
Description : Prostrate herbs; leaves sessile; flowers blue; capsules trigonous.  
Distribution : Paleotropics

***Tonningia axillaris*** (L.) Kuntze

Synonym : *Cyanotis axillaris*  
Family : COMMELINACEAE

Common Name : Creeping cradle plant

Description : It is a creeping succulent herb, 15-45cm, with erect tops, stalkless narrow, linear lance like leaves are 5-15cm long.

Habitat : Usually seen in exposed sunny places. They are found in teak forests, monsoon forest, woodland and wooded grassland.

Distribution : World distribution in India, south east Asia, Malesia and Tropical Australia

***Cyperus distans* L. f.**

Synonym & Basionym : *Cyperus nutans sensu* Clarke  
*Cyperus distans* L.f. var. *pseudonutans* Kukenth.

Family : CYPERACEAE

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Wastelands and roadsides

Description : Annual herbs.

Distribution : Pantropical

***Cyperus rotundus* L.**

Family : CYPERACEAE

Habit : Herb

Common Name : Coco-grass

Distribution : This is a species of sedge native of Africa southern and central Europe and southern Asia

Habitat : It prefer dry conditions but will tolerate most soils and often grown in waste lands and in crop fields.

Description : It is a perennial plant, that may reach a height of upto 140 cm. The leaves sprout in ranks of 3 from the base of the plant around 5-20cm long. The flower stems have triangular cross-section. The flower is bisexual and has three stamina and a three stigma carpel with flower head having 3-8 unequal rays.

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Milium compressum* Sw.

Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE

English Name : Carpet Grass, Broad-leaved carpetgrass

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Dry and moist deciduous forests; also in wastelands and paddy fields

Description : Annual grass

Distribution : Tropical and Subtropical countries

***Bambusa vulgaris*** Schard.

Synonym & Basionym : *Bambusa striata* Lodd. Ex. Lindl

*Bambusa vulgaris* Schard. var. *striata* (Lodd ex Lindl.) Gamble

Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE

English Name : Yellow bamboo

Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Deciduous forests, also grown in homesteads  
Description : Tall shrub; culm yellow with green striation in  
inflorescence compound panicle  
Distribution : India and Sri Lanka

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Panicum dactylon* L.  
Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE  
Ver. Name : Belikaruka, Karuka, Karukapullu  
English Name : Bermuda grass, Couch grass, Dog's Tooth grass,  
Dhub grass, Bahama Grass, Hariali grass  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Road sides and wastelands  
Description : Perennial stoloniferous herbs; flowers purplish-  
green  
Distribution : Tropical and warm temperature regions of the  
world

***Echinochloa crus-galli*** ( L. ) Beauv.

Synonym : *Panicum crus-galli*  
Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE  
English Name : Cockspur  
Habit : Herb

Habitat : Wet or damp places.  
Description : Perennial herb, linear leaf with broad round base, glabrous, pale green or dull purple racemes.  
Distribution : Asian species that is now widely *distributed* throughout tropical and temperate regions of the world

***Elusine indica*** (L.) Gaertn.

Synonym & Basionym : *Cynosurus indicus* L.  
Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE  
English Name : Crab grass, Crow-foot Grass, Goosegrass  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Roadsides and wastelands  
Description : Herbs; plant body look like a crab  
Distribution : Pantropical

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Poa tenella* L. *Eragrostis plumose* (Retz) Link  
*Eragrostis tenella* (L.) P. Beauv. var. *plumosa* (Retz) Stapf  
Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE  
Habit : Herb  
Habitat : Grasslands and wastelands

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

Synonym & Basionym : *Poa unioloides* Retz.

*Eragrostis amabilis sensu Stapf*

- Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE
- Ver. Name : Karayampullu
- Habit : Herb
- Habitat : Bunds of paddy fields, banks of backwaters and in wastelands
- Description : Herbs, leaves linear-oblong
- Distribution : South East Asia, India and Africa

***Panicum repens* L.**

- Synonym : *Panicum littorale*
- Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE
- English Name : Torpedo grass
- Habit : Herb
- Habitat : Natural habitat, Lake shores, Swamps.
- Description : Perennial herb, leaves are waxy in texture, inflorescence is a Loose panicle.
- Distribution : Africa, Asia, Northwards in USA

***Pennisetum polystachyon* (L.) Schult.**

- Synonym & Basionym : *Panicum polystachyon* L.
- Pennisetum setosum* (Sw.) L.C.Rich.
- Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE
- Habit : Herb

Habitat : Degraded moist deciduous forest and wastelands

Description : Annual herbs

Distribution : Paleotropics

***Pennisetum purpureum*** Schum.

Synonym : *Amphochaeta exaltata*

Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE

English Name : Napier grasses, elephant grass

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Often grows wild on roadsides.

Description : Perennial herb, glabrous leaf sheaths, inflorescence is yellow-brown in colour.

Distribution : Native to subtropical Africa, tropical and subtropical countries.

***Perotis indica*** (L.) Kuntze

Synonym & Basionym : *Anthoxanthum indicum*.L.

*Perotis latifolia* Ait.

Family : POACEAE/GRAMINAE

Habit : Herb

Habitat : Wastelands

Description : Annual herbs; nodes glabrous

Distribution : Indo-Malesia

## CONCLUSIONS

The families of collected plants are arranged following the classification of Bentham & Hooker (1862-1883) with delimitation to certain families according to Hutchinson and their current concept. The genera and species are arranged in alphabetical sequence under respective families and genera.

The correct name of the species is followed by the author's name and original publication. Basionym and relevant synonyms are also provided. Generic monographs/revisions are also cited. Exhaustive citation of the floras has been avoided to paucity of space. The floras cited along with names are in abbreviating form.

FMNC Campus is having rich diversity in the angiosperm flora, covering 121 species of angiosperms belonging to 116 genera, and representing 44 families. Dicots are dominating with 100 species, and the major habit form is herbs representing 59 entries.



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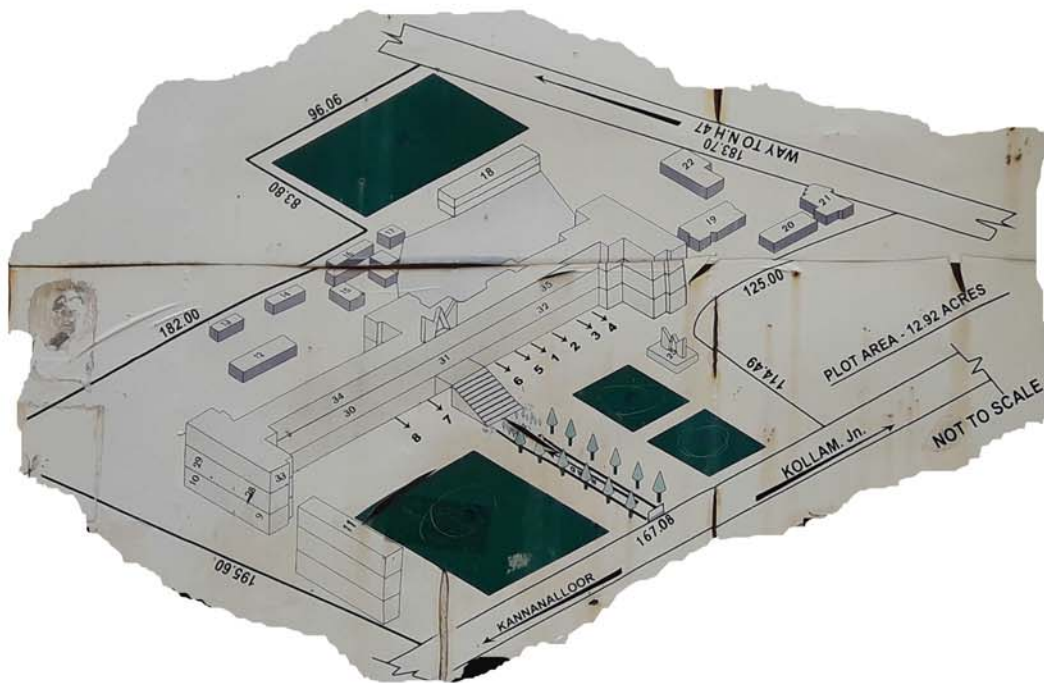
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**FIG. 1 FMNC CAMPUS**



**FIG. 2 CAMPUS LAY OUT**