



ETHNOBOTANICAL SURVEY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN PALAMALAI HILL AREA, SALEM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU.

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ABSTRACT: An ethnobotanical survey was carried out among the ethnic groups (Malayalis) in Palamalai, Salem District, Tamilnadu, India. The present paper documents the traditional knowledge of the Malayalis of about 110 medicinal plants. Informations about the medicinal plants along with their family names, vernacular names, modes of preparation and their medicinal uses were collected through regular visits and interviews with the local people and traditional healers. Malayalis have a rich traditional knowledge on herbal medicines.

Key words: Ethnobotanical survey, Malayalis, Palamalai, medicinal plants.

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INTRODUCTION

India is considered as one of the 12 mega-biodiversity countries of the world and is recognized as a country that is rich in all aspects of biodiversity like ecosystem, species and genetic diversity mainly due to its tropical location, disparate physical features and climatic types [5]. India has one of the richest medicinal plant traditions in the world. It is estimated to be around 25,000 effective plant based formulations are known to rural communities in India and are used as folk medicine. The various traditional systems of medicine such as Siddha, Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy use several medicinal plant species to treat different diseases. The use of herbal medicine has become popular and currently 80% of the world population depends on plant-derived medicine for the first line of primary health care for human alleviation because it has no side effects [1].

Ethnobotany deals with the direct natural relationship between human societies and plants. The traditional methodology and the knowledge on medicinal plants and their uses have been passed on from generation to generation. The use of the plants for medicine is not well documented. Its use is only verbally passed on by rustics and tribals to their next generation. Hence, it is essential to make a documentation of such important information on medicinal plants. Several active compounds have been discovered from the plants on the basis of ethnobotanical information and are used directly as patented drugs [9 & 11]. Ethnobotanical studies has much importance in enhancing our knowledge about medicinal plants used by native/tribal communities, the rich diversity assembled by them for their sustenance and the different means adopted by them for preservation and conservation [10]. Therefore, the present study has been planned to document the medicinal plants and to evolve systematic methods of identification of the plants of medicinal value. Study will also be focused on the medicinal properties (uses) of different plants.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area:

Palamalai hill range is located in the North-West of Salem District, Tamilnadu which is covered by thick reserved forest. It comes under Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous forests – Dry Deciduous dense Scrub. The access to Palamalai hills is in Mettur Taluk, Salem District. Palamalai Hills Forest Division consists of 5 beats – Kolathur beat, Mettur beat, Nerunjipettai beat, Ramanpatti beat and Periyakulam beat. Palamalai lies between 11°45' latitude and 77°44' longitude E with an altitude of 1050-1100 M above MSL. The study area of Palamalai hills cover 9464 hectares which consists of a small range of hills with more steeper and rockier outer slopes. The temperature of the hill during summer is around 34°C and during winter is around 30°C. The annual rainfall of this hill ranges between 44 and 85 mm. At the top, the hill consists of 31 villages and are included under the Mettur beat. The ethnic people of the Palamalai are called as 'Malayalis'.

Methodology

Many field trips were arranged periodically and seasonally to collect the plants from the study area. Ethnomedicobiological information was collected through questionnaires, interviews and conversation with the tribals especially from the experienced and elderly persons called as 'Vaidyars' and audio recorded. Cordial relationship was established by a good rapport with the tribals through the Forest ranger and guards. More number of time was needed for gathering information from tribes and the plants were identified using the Floras [4 & 6]. The identification of the species were confirmed with available literature and later matched with the specimen deposited at Botanical survey of India, Coimbatore. The dried specimens were preserved in the herbarium. Botanical names of the surveyed medicinal plants with their binomial, vernacular name, family and medicinal uses were documented alphabetically. The specimens were deposited in the herbarium of Vellalar College for Women, Department of Botany, Thindal, Erode. Photograph of some of the surveyed species are given in Plate -1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Herbal medicinal system has been used in various countries since ancient times and is the only known method of treatment for tribal people. The survey in Palamalai hill area (Table – 1) has resulted in the collection of 110 plants species belonging to 100 genera spreading over 51 families of angiosperms. An attempt was made to list out the dominant families in the study area which resulted in Fabaceae with 8 species, Euphorbiaceae with 6 species, Amarantaceae and Lamiaceae with 5 species each and Caesalpiniaceae with 4 species. The remaining families were represented by lesser number of species. During the survey, medicinal plants used by the tribals as remedial measures to cure various diseases were collected and informations were gathered from the elderly people and Nattu Vaidhyars. The medicines can be prepared in different methods which can be in forms like decoction, powder, paste and juice for application to cure different types of ailments. It was also observed that some plants were also used in more than one form of preparation. Herbal medicines prescribed by tribal healers are either preparations based on single plant part or a combination of several plant parts which cure diseases rapidly. The people are largely dependent on the traditional health care system. Traditional beliefs in the area also have their own unintentional role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants. Medicinal plants contain many secondary metabolites which has different pharmacological activities and hence used to treat different diseases. Out of the plant species described, *Azadirachta indica*, *Cassia absus*, *Cassia auriculata* and *Tridax procumbens* are commonly used by many people for treating skin diseases. These results are in line with the previous findings [3 & 7]. Present study revealed that the leaves of *Achyranthes aspera* are used for curing toothache, abdominal pain, wound healing and dog bite. This is in conformity with the previous report [2]. Present study revealed the use of *Andrographis paniculata* to reduce fever and headache. This report corroborate with the previous findings [8].

Table-1: Inventory of Ethnomedicines Used by Palamalai Hill Tribal Community

S. No	Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Parts used	Medicinal uses
1	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Kundumani	Fabaceae	Roots Leaves Seeds	Roots are used for white discharge. Juices of fresh leaves are applied to painful part. Seeds are used as a powerful tonic for aphrodisiac.
2	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> G.Don.	Thuthi	Malvaceae	Flowers	Flowers are wrapped inside <i>Adathoda</i> leaves and smoked for wheezing trouble and yellow fever.
3	<i>Acacia caesia</i> (L.) Willd.	Soap bark	Mimosaceae	Bark Flowers	Bark has cleansing properties and protects the skin against microorganisms. Flowers are used by women to treat menstrual disorders.
4	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Nayuruvi	Amarantaceae	Seeds Leaves Whole plant	Seed powder is used in the treatment of bleeding piles. The paste of leaf is used to treat bites of poisonous insects, wasps and bee. The decoction of the whole plant is given in painful delivery.
5	<i>Actinopteris radiata</i> (Swartz.) Link.	Mayiladum-sikhai	Polypodiaceae	Whole plant	Whole plant is used for dysentery, leprosy, skin diseases, diabetes and fever.
6	<i>Aerva lanata</i> L.	Sirupoolai	Amarantaceae	Root	The root paste is rubbed on the forehead for headache and is diuretic.
7	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	Peeyamaram	Simarouba-ceae	Root bark Leaves	Root bark is very bitter and used to cure skin diseases. Paste of leaves is applied for poultice and rheumatism. It is used for dyspepsia and has antiseptic properties.
8	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i> Wang.	Akol/ Alinzhi	Alangiaceae	Root	The root bark is used as a cure for skin diseases. It is astringent, pungent, anthelmintic, purgative and has emetic properties.
9	<i>Albizia lebeck</i> Benth.	Vakai	Mimosaceae	Bark Flowers Seeds	Bark is useful in cough and asthma. The flowers are useful in chronic cough. The seed powder is useful in seminal weakness
10	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burn.f.	Katralai	Liliaceae	Gel	Oral intake reduces heat and acts as antibiotic.
11	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> R.Br.	Ponnanganni	Amarantaceae	Leaves	Cooked leaves taken inside as digestive agent. It also stimulates growth of hair.
12	<i>Alysicarpus monilifer</i> (L.) Dc.	Kasukkodi	Fabaceae	Roots	Extract of root is used to treat jaundice.

13	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> Nees.	Mullukkirai	Amarantaceae	Whole plant	The plant is useful in leprosy, eczema, bronchitis, fever, anaemia and general debility.
14	<i>Andrographis echiooides</i> Nees.	Perianangai	Acanthaceae	Roots	Root Paste is applied externally for scorpion sting.
15	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> Nees.	Siriyangai	Acanthaceae	Whole plant	Whole plant is used as febrifuge and tonic. It is also used as antipyretic and anthelmintic.
16	<i>Anisochilus carnosus</i> Wall.	Karpuravalli	Lamiaceae	Leaves	The juice of the fresh leaves is consumed for allergic problems.
17	<i>Anisomeles indica</i> (L.) O.Kuntze.	Peimiratti	Lamiaceae	Whole plant	The herb possesses aromatic, astringent, carminative and tonic properties and is employed as a cure in gastric problem and to treat intermittent fevers.
18	<i>Anisomeles malabarica</i> R.Br.	Peyimeratti	Lamiaceae	Whole plant	Decoction of whole plant is used for epilepsy, fever arising from teething in children and swellings.
19	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Seetha	Annonaceae	Root	Root decoction is administered for depression, spinal diseases, asthma and fever.
20	<i>Antiaris toxicaria</i> Leschen.	Mara Oori	Moraceae	Bark	Powder of bark with hot water cures heart disease, fever, and uterus disease.
21	<i>Bacopa monniera</i> Roxb.	Neerbrah	Scrophulariaceae	Leaves	Leaves chewed for immediate blood purification.
22	<i>Baccaurea courtallensis</i> Muell.	Pondhipazham	Euphorbiaceae	Fruit	Raw fruit consumption is effective in digestion due to its sourness.
23	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> Willd.	Mulmunkil	Poaceae	Roots Leaves	The roots are astringent, laxative, diuretic, cure leprosy and cause skin discoloration. The leaves are sweet, astringent, febrifuge, cure diarrhoea, gonorrhoea and the sprouts are acrid, bitter laxative, anti-inflammatory, stomachic and antiseptic.
24	<i>Carissa carandas</i> Linn.	Kalakai	Apocynaceae	Flowers Fruit	Extract of flower to treat eye related disease. Raw fruit consumption induces vomiting.
25	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> R.Br.	Erukku	Asclepiadaceae	Latex	Latex applied externally for scorpion bite.
26	<i>Cardiospermum helicacabum</i> Linn.	Mudakkathan	Sapindaceae	Roots Leaves	Root powder with buttermilk is used as emetic, laxative and to treat asthma. Decoction of leaves is given internally for nervous disorders and as a blood purifier. Extract of herb is used in rheumatism and is used as a demulcent in bronchitis.

27	<i>Cassia alata</i> Linn.	Seeni Agathi	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaves	Leaves mixed with coconut oil to treat skin disease and insect bite.
28	<i>Cassia auriculata</i> Linn.	Avaram	Caesalpiniaceae	Flowers	Powdered flowers with <i>Eugenia jambolana</i> mixed with buttermilk controls diabetes.
29	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G.Don.	Nithya-kalyani	Apocynaceae	Leaves	Paste of leaves applied externally cures leprosy. Internal consumption has anti-cancer property and reduces blood pressure.
30	<i>Celosia cristata</i> L.	Kozhi kondai	Amarantaceae	Leaves	Paste of leaves with honey consumed internally cures uterine bleeding, epistaxis, diarrhoea, leucorrhoea and urinary tract infection.
31	<i>Centella asiatica</i> Linn.	Vallarai	Apiaceae	Leaves	Leaves cooked and used as equivalent to B-complex and as refreshner of brain.
32	<i>Cissus pallida</i> Planch.	--	Vitaceae	Roots	Powder of leaves is mixed with coconut oil and applied on the area of swellings.
33	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> L.	Naiveli	Capparidaceae	Leaves	Leaf juice is used for digestive purposes Powder of seeds acts as cardiac stimulant and is useful in fever and cardiac disorders.
34	<i>Clerodendron inerme</i> Gaertn.	Sangam-kuppi	Verbenaceae	Leaves	Leaf juice is used to reduce fever.
35	<i>Clerodendron phlomoides</i> Willd.	Thalu-thalai	Verbenaceae	Leaves	Leaf paste with gum of <i>Moringa</i> is used for abortion of child in women.
36	<i>Coccinia indica</i> W. & A.	Kovaikai	Cucurbitaceae	Whole plant	Plant extract mixed with milk induces vomiting sensation, induces sweat glands and urinary secretion.
37	<i>Coleus amboinicus</i> Lourr.	Omavalli	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Leaf extract is given for chest cold and digestion for babies.
38	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L.	Adutenna-thalai	Commelinaceae	Whole plant	All the plant parts are used as emollient and the paste of plant parts is applied externally for leprosy and the leaf juice is applied on wounds.
39	<i>Crotalaria albida</i> Heyne.	-	Fabaceae	Seeds Roots	Roasted seed powder with honey is consumed as blood purifier. Roots are chewed in constipation.
40	<i>Crotalaria verrucosa</i> Linn.	Narimirati	Fabaceae	Leaves	Leaves mixed with forages is used as remedy for veterinary purposes.
41	<i>Croton bonplandianum</i> Baill.	Aathu-poondu	Euphorbiaceae	Whole plant	Extract of plant parts is used for bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia, rheumatism and as a laxative.

42	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Manjal	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	The fresh juice of rhizome is anthelmintic and antiparasitic.
43	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.) W. & A.	Vatattalai	Mimosaceae	Shoots	The tender shoots are useful in ophthalmia. Roots are useful in elephantiasis, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, nephropathy and metropathy.
44	<i>Drosera peltata</i> Sm.	Tlheni-chedi	Droseraceae	Leaves	Decoction of leaves is used to treat asthma, tuberculosis, whooping cough etc.
45	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> L.	Manjal karislan- ganni	Asteraceae	Leaves	Decoction of leaves acts as blood purifier, best remedy for liver disorder, removes wastage from our body, relieves chest cold and whooping cough.
46	<i>Elytraria acaulis</i> Lind.	Nila- kadambu	Acanthaceae	Flowers & Leaves	Paste of flowers and leaves added to buttermilk cures stomach problem, controls body heat etc.
47	<i>Erythroxylum monogynum</i> Roxb.	Devadara	Erythroxyla-ceae	Stem bark	External application of paste of stem bark with coconut oil cures scabies and skin diseases.
48	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Amman- pacharusi	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves	Paste of leaves with butter milk is consumed to treat bowel complaints, worms and gonorrhoea.
49	<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> L.	Vishnu- karanti	Convolvula-ceae	Whole plant	Whole plant is used as brain tonic and sedative.
50	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> Linn.	Arasamaram	Moraceae	Leaves Bark	Decoction of leaves used to relieve swelling of the wounds. Powder of leaves along with milk used for infertility, binding the muscles etc. Bark extract is used for digestion and neural disorders.
51	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Alamaram	Moraceae	Roots Bark Leaves	Decoction of the aerial roots are useful in obstinate vomiting and leucorrhoea. Powder of bark is useful in burning sensation and skin diseases. Paste of leaves is good for allergic conditions of skin.
52	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	Kanthal- malar	Liliaceae	Tubers	The tubers are regarded as tonic, stomachic and anthelmintic when taken in doses of 5-10 gms and in larger doses they are intensely poisonous. It is gastrointestinal irritant and may cause vomiting and purging.

53	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> R. Br.	Siru-kurinjan	Asclepiadaceae	Leaves & Flowers	Powder of leaves and flowers is boiled with water and consumed for diabetes, paralysis and to remove poison.
54	<i>Gyrocarpus americanus</i> Jacq.	Tanukku	Gyrocarpaceae	Bark Leaves	Powder of bark is used to treat filariasis. Leaves are used to cure skin inflammations and wounds.
55	<i>Hedyotis herbacea</i> L.	Nonnanam-pullu	Rubiaceae	Whole plant	The plant is febrifuge, anthelmintic, expectorant, stomachic and tonic. It is used in elephantiasis, fever, verminosis, flatulence, asthma, colic, ulcers and hydrocele.
56	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i> Linn.	Siruthel-kodukku	Boraginaceae	Leaves	Leaves with garlic and ginger oral consumption acts as anticancer agent.
57	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i> Pl.	Ayamaram	Ulmaceae	Bark	Extract of bark and leaves orally consumed to treat urinary disease, vomiting, leprosy, diabetes and rheumatism.
58	<i>Ionidium suffruticosum</i> (L.) Ging.	Oorithal Thamarai	Violaceae	Whole plant	Fresh juice of whole plant is used to cure tuberculosis, asthma, fever, leprosy and eye diseases. It is taken to improve memory and vitality. It is aphrodisiac and possesses diuretic and demulcent properties and also used as a tonic.
59	<i>Ipomoea obscura</i> (L.) Ker.gawl.	Chirutali	Convolvulaceae	Fruits	Fruit is used to treat swelling and tuberculosis.
60	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> L.	Katt-amanaku	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves Seeds	The decoction of leaves is used as a febrifuge and a mouthwash for strengthening gums. Slightly roasted seeds are used as an active purgative. The oil is locally used in skin diseases like eczema, herpes, itching and bleeding wounds.
61	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L.	Aadalai	Euphorbiaceae	Stem Roots Leaves	The dried stem bark of the plant is intensely amorphous alkaloid jatrophine which is similar to quinine in properties. The roots are employed against leprosy. The leaves are used to cure stomach ache, venereal diseases and as blood purifier. Seed oil is used to cure leprosy.

62	<i>Justicia tranquebariensis</i> L.	Sivanarvemba	Acanthaceae	Leaves	Decoction of leaves is used to cure eye complaints and jaundice.
63	<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	Unnichi	Verbenaceae	Roots	The decoction of fresh root is given for dysentery.
64	<i>Leucas aspera</i> Spreng.	Thumbai	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Tonic of leaves cures fever and vomiting
65	<i>Merremia tridentata</i> Hall. f.	Savurikodi	Convolvulaceae	Whole plant	Whole plant is used for inflammations and general debility.
66	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Thottal-sinungi	Mimosaceae	Leaves Roots	Paste of leaves is used for scorpion sting. Extract of roots are useful in leucoderma, ulcers, dysentery, jaundice, asthma, smallpox and fever.
67	<i>Mollugo nudicaulis</i> Lam.	Parpadagam	Aizoaceae	Whole plant	The whole plant is used for cloudy vision and whooping cough.
68	<i>Momordica charantia</i> L.	Pahal	Cucurbitaceae	Fruits	Fruits are used as antidiabetic, antitumour and anti HIV.
69	<i>Mucuna atropurpurea</i> DC.	Perum-poonaikali	Fabaceae	Seeds	Powder of seeds with buttermilk is orally taken for neural disorders.
70	<i>Myristica fragrans</i> Houtt.	Jathikai	Myristicaceae	Seeds	Seed powder with hot water is used for fever, headache, suffocation, cough, liver and heart diseases.
71	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L.	Thirunitrup-pachai	Lamiaceae	Whole plant	Whole plant is used for spasmodic affections, ringworm, leucoderma and other skin diseases. Powder of seeds is used for chronic dysentery.
72	<i>Oligochaeta ramosa</i> (Roxb.) Wagenitz.	Peikumatti	Asteraceae	Leaves	Leaf juice is applied on cuts and injuries.
73	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i> Haw.	Chapathikalli	Cactaceae	Fruits Leaves Stem	Kanthari fruit is refrigerant and is used in gonorrhoea, basked and given in whooping cough, in the form of syrup given to control spasmodic cough and expectoration. Milk juice is a purgative. Leaves smashed up and applied as poultice to reduce inflammation. Stem juice is applied on body to reduce fever.
74	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.	Mupparisavalli	Passifloraceae	Whole plant	The plant has sedative properties and is used to treat insomnia, nightmares and anxiety. The decoction is used for hypertension.
75	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Cav.	Cithramutti	Malvaceae	Leaves	The leaf is used to cure eczema.

76	<i>Pergularia extensa</i> (Jacq.) N. E. Br.	Veliparuthi	Asclepiadaceae	Leaves	The juice of leaves is given in catarrhal affection and infantile diarrhoea. It is used as uterine tonic, expectorant and emetic and cures excessive bleeding.
77	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> Linn.	Nelli	Euphorbiaceae	Fruits	Consumption of raw fruit in empty stomach cures jaundice, diabetes and used as anticancer agent.
78	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.	Velikodi/ Chitharamm olam	Plumbaginaceae	Roots Stem	Roots are used in the treatment of paralytic affections, ulcers, leprosy, enlarged spleen, piles, skin diseases and influenza. Root extract is poisonous and cause abortion. Stem juice is applied externally in scabies and ring worm.
79	<i>Pongamia glabra</i> Vent.	Pungam	Fabaceae	Seeds Bark	Oil is used as antiseptic, scabies, herpes, equal part of pungam oil and lime juice is useful in rheumatism. The fresh bark is used internally in bleeding piles. .
80	<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.	Koyya	Myrtaceae	Leaves	Leaves are used as an astringent for bowel trouble.
81	<i>Pseudarthria vicida</i> (L.) W. & A.	Nirmalli	Fabaceae	Whole plant	The whole plant is in the treatment of asthma, insect bites and used against inflammations, vomiting, etc.
82	<i>Premna tormentosa</i> Willd.	Nariminki- katti	Verbanaceae	Bark exudates	Exudates from the bark is used to curdle milk.
83	<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i> Roxb.	Vengai	Fabaceae	Leaves	Decoction of leaves controls diabetes and whooping cough.
84	<i>Pterolobium hexapetalum</i> (Roth.) Sant. & Wagh.	KaruInd mul	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaves & Seeds	Young leaves, pod and seed paste are of medicinal use. They are used in diarrhea, constipation and piles.
85	<i>Rauwolfia serpentina</i> Benth.	Sarpagandha	Apocynaceae	Root bark	Decoction of root bark is taken internally for blood pressure and neural disorder, cures poisonous bite, psychiatric diseases, etc.
86	<i>Rhynchosia minima</i> DC.	Kaliyan- thuvurai	Fabaceae	Leaves	Leaves are used for healing wounds.
87	<i>Ruellia prostrata</i> Poir.	Pottakanchi	Acanthaceae	Flowers and fruits	Extract of flower and tender fruit is used to treat cloudy vision, congestion, neuralgic pain and silent glaucoma.
88	<i>Rungia repens</i> Nees.	Paarpaatha	Acanthaceae	Flowers Leaves	Flowers are used as diuretic and vermifuge and is given in snake bite. Fresh leaves are bruised and mixed with castor oil and applied to scalp in cases of <i>Tinea capitis</i> .

89	<i>Sapindus emarginatus</i> Vahl.	Poocha-kottai	Sapindaceae	Fruits	Fruit possesses emetic, tonic, astringent and anthelmintic properties and is used in the treatment of asthma, colic, diarrhoea, cholera, tubercular glands and paralysis of the limbs.
90	<i>Secamone emetica</i> R. Br.	Ankaravali	Asclepiadaceae	Stem bark Leaves	Stem bark is used to treat inflammation and ulcer. Crushed leaves are used for abscesses, inflammation and ulcers.
91	<i>Sida acuta</i> L.	Kattu karunthaikai	Malvaceae	Leaves & Roots	Decoction of leaves and roots is emollient and tonic and is used in the treatment of haemorrhoids and impotence. Juice of leaves is useful for relief in chest pain and as anthelmintic.
92	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Milagu-takkali	Solanaceae	Whole plant	A decoction of the plant depresses the central nervous system.
93	<i>Solanum torvum</i> SW.	Sundai	Solanaceae	Fruits	Fruits are used as carminative, diuretic, antidiabetic and vermifuge.
94	<i>Stephania wightii</i> Dunn.	Karudan kilangu	Menispermaceae	Seeds	Powder of seeds with milk taken orally to treat ovary related disease, snake bite, tumours, etc.
95	<i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i> L.	Etti-Kottai	Loganiaceae	Root bark Leaves	Root bark is useful in cholera. Leaf decoction is used for paralytic complaints.
96	<i>Strychnos potatorum</i> Linn.	Thetran kottai	Loganiaceae	Seeds	Seed powder mixed with milk is a nutritious food for babies.
97	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	Puli	Caesalpinia-ceae	Leaves Fruit	Paste of leaves are applied to reduce inflammatory swellings and ringworm. Drinks made from fruits are used in inflammatory illness.
98	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz.	Kadukai	Combretaceae	Fruit	Powder of fruit is used to treat gum pain, constipation and diarrhoea.
99	<i>Toddalia asiatica</i> Lam.	Kattumilagu	Rutaceae	Roots Flowers	Roots are useful in paralysis, malarial and intermittent fevers, cough and general debility. Flowers are useful as an external application in wasp-stings.
100	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Nerunji	Zygophyllaceae	Leaves & Flowers	Paste of leaves and flowers taken orally stops bleeding, eye burning and stops secretion of water from the eye.
101	<i>Trichodesma indicum</i> R. Br.	Kasi-thumbai	Boraginaceae	Whole plant	Whole plant is used for leprosy, skin disease, fevers and sores. It is an emollient and diuretic and is used for expulsion of dead foetus.

102	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Vettukaya-poondu	Asteraceae	Leaves	The leaves are used to cure dysentery and diarrhoea.
103	<i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i> Jacq.	Ottu Pullu	Tiliaceae	Roots	The decoction of root is used in dysentery and the bark and fresh leaves in diarrhoea.
104	<i>Veteria indica</i> Linn.	Vellai-kuntrikam	Ancistrocladaceae	Stem-resin and Seed oil	Coconut oil with resin and seed oil is used in the treatment for leprosy, knee pain and skin disease.
105	<i>Vitex negundo</i> Linn.	Nochi	Verbenaceae	Leaves	Decoction of leaves is used to treat stomach problems, bronchitis, asthma and painful teething of children.
106	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L.	Marulumattai	Asteraceae	Leaves Roots Fruits Seeds	The leaves are given internally in scrofula and herpes in powder form. The root is useful in cancer and scrofula. It's extract is used in ulcers, boils and abscesses. The fruits are used as tonic, diuretic, diaphoretic, sedative, cooling and demulcent and are also given in small pox. The seeds are used for resolving inflammatory swellings. The herb is reported to be used in snake bite also.
107	<i>Waltheria indica</i> L.	Chem-poondu	Sterculiaceae	Whole plant	Plant extract is boiled and given for cough and cold.
108	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> R. Br.	Palai	Apocynaceae	Leaves	Paste of leaves applied on affected parts with coconut oil and <i>Lawsonia</i> cures leucoderma, soriosis, dandruff and gum pain.
109	<i>Zizyphus oenoplia</i> Mill.	Suraimulu	Rhamnaceae	Roots	Extract of root is useful in Ascaris infection and healing of wounds.
110	<i>Zizyphus xylopyrus</i> Willd.	Kottai-elanthai	Rhamnaceae	Bark and Leaves	Bark and leaf powder as paste is applied on chest to relieve pain during cough.



Abutilon indicum G.Don.



Andrographis paniculata Nees.



Carissa carandas Linn.



Gloriosa superba L.



Mimosa pudica L.



Ionidium suffruticosum (L.) Ging



Passiflora foetida L.



Sida acuta L.



Vitex negundo inn.

Plate-1: Snapshots of Some of the Surveyed Species

CONCLUSION

The data shows that the informers have sound information about the wild plants. For the benefit of the community, the recorded plant species should be taken care of and also steps to be taken for conservation as well as cultivation of these plant species. Further investigations on pharmaceutical and pharmacological aspects are very much desired for the discovery of new herbal drugs.

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