

Floristic Diversity of South Travancore Hindu College (S. T. Hindu College) Campus, Kanyakumari District (Tamilnadu) India

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Abstract

This paper deals with the list of flowering plants from the S.T. Hindu College, (South Tavancore Hindu Collge), Nagercoil. The campus which harbours part of the natural vegetation of Nagercoil city, Tamilnadu, India. A total of 238 taxa have been recorded comprising 47 trees, 42 shrubs, 125 herbs and 24 climbers that are distributed in 192 genera, represented in 67 families, 9 super orders and 30 orders as per the APG III classification. Superorder Lamids account for about 31% of the taxa. The family Poaceae was the most species-diverse (29), followed by Acanthaceae (18), Apocynaceae and Euphorbiaceae (14), Malvaceae (12), Lamiaceae and Poaceae (11each), the other families sharing the rest of the species. Most plant species of the study area are of considerable ecological and economic importance, useful as bioresources to wild fauna and human beings. Of the total 238 wild/naturalized plant species, most are economically useful as medicinal plants, and others are valuable as edible fruits, timbers, fuelwood, etc. The results of this study provide insights into the importance of urban green space and greatly help inurban conservation planning and management.

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity reflects variety and variability within and among living organisms, their associations and habitat-oriented ecological complexes. All types of flora and fauna are elements of biodiversity and influenced by various climatic conditions such as temperature, availability of moisture in the form of humidity and precipitation, and variation in physiographical conditions – soil, altitude, slope, etc. (Ghildiyal and Juyal, 2012; Arul *et al.*, 2013; Ben *et al.*, 2013; Suba *et al.*, 2014; Sukumaran and Parthipan, 2014). The great wealth of biological diversity in tropical regions is due to the myriad environmental conditions existing there. Interest in biodiversity has recently increased in response to

the damage caused to ecosystems by anthropogenic activities (Merigot *et al.*, 2007). It is well known that floristic composition is determined by environmental factors (Ayyappan and Parthasarathy, 1999); however, the composition influences biodiversity patterns at regional scales and further reflects both anthropogenic and natural disturbances (Pollock, 1997; Ward, 1998). Therefore, floristic characteristics and biodiversity patterns are often influenced by environmental factors and anthropogenic disturbances (Hong, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2009). Conservation of biodiversity is essential for the proper functioning of ecosystems and for the maintenance of the environmental services they provide (Lopez-del-Toro *et al.*, 2010).

However, high rates of tropical deforestation and habitat destruction frequently cause the local extinction of plant and animal species. India, blessed with high biological diversity, is one of the 12 megadiverse countries and lodges two of the eight hottest hotspots of global biodiversity. Major wilderness areas include the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, tropical dry evergreen forests of peninsular India and Eastern Himalayas (Parthasarathy *et al.*, 2010; Suba *et al.*, 2014; Sukumaran and Parthipan, 2014).

Urbanization is one of the major reasons for the destruction of the natural vegetation. This ongoing growth of urban agglomerations leads to far-reaching changes in biodiversity, including the loss of forests and other natural areas (Kumar *et al.*, 2010; Von der Lippe and Kowarik, 2007; 2008). Urbanized areas can also harbour a high number of threatened species (Sodhi *et al.*, 2010). Nagercoil city, a fast-growing urban space in the southernmost district of peninsular India, still harbours some patches of tropical dry evergreen forests. It is necessary to document the floristic wealth and also to identify those plant species that are in urgent need of conservation, as Nagercoil city is highly disturbed by habitat alteration. Moreover, before implementing any conservation strategy it is of utmost necessity to understand the existing vegetation profile and to select the appropriate species for urban greening. Various floras from institutional campus were already reported by various workers (Giles-Lal and Livingstone, 1978., Gopi, 2008; Natarajan and Gopi, 2010., Parthasarathy *et al.*, 2010., Udayakumar, *et al.* 2011., Rekha and Paneerselvam, 2014., Rekha *et al.* 2014., Rajendran, *et al.*, 2014 and Irwin *et al.* 2015).

However, perusal of literature reveals that only one report was available on vascular plants of Scott Christian College, Nagercoil (Sarasabai, *et al.* 2015). Except this, there remains no comprehensive floristic account of the floristic diversity of various College campuses in Nagercoil, particularly on the plants of the S.T. Hindu College campus of Nagercoil. Hence, the present study was indented to assess the floral resources and prepare a floral inventorying of S.T. Hindu College campus.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Description of the Study Area

The present study was carried out in South Travancore Hindu College Campus, Nagercoil in Agastheeswaram Taluk of Kanyakumari District. Location of the Kanyakumari District is bounded

between 77°05' and 77°35' of the Eastern longitude and 8°05' and 8°35' of the Northern latitude. The elevation of the district from sea level to 1,829 mts.

Geology of the District:

The Kanyakumari District has mainly four types of lands i.e., Kurunji (Hilly tract), Mullai (Forest), Marutham (Agricultural land) and Neidal (Sea-shore). The Northern and Western part of the district are hilly tracts and forests. In the South-Eastern and middle parts, the districts have agricultural had, traditionally, known as the Nanjil Nadu (the Land of Plough). The Southern border of the district has a long sea-shore.

Archaean gneiss covered by reddish soil on coastal area and younger sedimentary rocks elsewhere. Many mineral deposit of economic value, such as limestone, gypsum, beach sand with rare metals, graphite, clay, mica, precious metals etc., have been recorded.

Climate and Rainfall:

The climate of Kanyakumari district is warm and humid. Summer extends from March to May, which is followed by southwest monsoon from June to September. October and November are post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season with frequent thunderstorms. The northeast monsoon season extending from December to February is generally rainy and the other months are bright. The mean annual rainfall was 167.64 mm and varied from 70 mm (minimum during February) to 442 mm (maximum - October) during the period of study. No rainfall was recorded in the month of January. The mean monthly temperature varied from a maximum of 32.6°C in the month of May to a minimum of 22.5°C in December.

Geography

The District has only a few hill ranges. The Western Ghats which runs North-South forms one continuous block along the Western boundary of the Division. The entire area is distinctly hilly and in many places very steep with few prominent and rocky. The higher reaches are steep with few prominent peaks. The highest point is 1,829 m above MSL at the tri-junction of Mahendragiri, Kalakad and Veerapuli Reserve Forest (RF). Other important Peaks are Mahendragiri (1, 654.2 m) in Mahendragiri RF, Mottaichi Peak (1,590.4 m) and Varaittumudi (1, 426.2 m) in Kalamalai RF, the Golden Rock (1,437.7 m) and Vanamuttimalai in Kalamalai RFs. The valleys and flat lands between the spurs are accessible and certain valuable forests. At Muthukuzhi vaval there is a plateau of about 16

km long and 10 km broad at an elevation of about 1,341 on MSL. The plateau and surrounding slopes and forest are rich with biodiversity.

Location of the College:

The S.T. Hindu College is located near Chettikulam Junction of Nagercoil Municipal limit. The total land area of the college is 30 acres. Of which total built area of this college is 19,8792 Sq. feet. The remaining area of this college is occupied by natural vegetation, play ground, banana plantations and coconut groves, etc.

Campus biodiversity

The varied topography, moderate rainfall and favourable agro-climatic conditions are responsible for the high species diversity in the campus. The medicinal garden, avenue trees along the road and ornamental plants on pathway of the campus. The west of the campus is harbours some medicinally important plants and teak plantations. The shade house is endowed with some of the rare, endemic and endangered medicinal plants of the Western Ghats. Large number of medicinal plants used in the traditional medicinal system of Kanyakumari district.

Data collection and analysis.

The task of inventorying the plant diversity of S.T. Hindu College campus was undertaken systematically and intensively from September 2014 to September 2015, to cover most species in flowering and fruiting stages and also to cover various seasons. Field observations were made and plants were photographed. Plant species were identified using regional floras (Gamble, 1957; Nair and Henry, 1983; Henry *et al.*, 1987; 1989; Mathew, 1991). The collected materials were poisoned using standard herbarium techniques (Jain and Rao, 1977). The plant species are enumerated and arranged as per Angiosperm Phylogeny Group III Classification (APG III, 2009). The nomenclature of the species was checked using IPNI (2012). Well-preserved specimens with voucher numbers were deposited in the Herbarium of the P.G. Department of Botany and Research Centre, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil, Tamilnadu, India.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study documents a total of 238 taxa (Table 1) distributed in 192 genera, representing 67 families as per APG III classification. These taxa are distributed in 9 superorders (Figure 1) and 30 orders. 31% of the taxa are reported from superorder Lamids, 26% from superorder Fabids,

21% Malvids and 9.6% from superorder Commelinids. Order Lamiales (39), Fabales (29), Malphigiales (22), Gentianales (20) and Caryophyllales (20) account for about 54.6% of the species in the S.T. Hindu College campus (Figure 2). Of the 238 taxa 125 herbs, 47 are trees, 42 shrubs and 24 climbers (Figure 3). The most diverse families in the campus include Fabaceae (29 species), Acanthaceae (18 species), Apocynaceae and Euphorbiaceae (14 species each), Malvaceae (12 species), Lamiaceae and Poaceae (11 species each) Amaranthaceae and Asteraceae (8 species each), whereas 36 families represented by a single species which include Aristolochiaceae, Araceae, Anacardiaceae, Begoniaceae, Balsaminaceae, Colchicaceae etc., (Table 2). Family Fabaceae and Acanthaceae are represented by about 18% of the taxa. The genus *Phyllanthus* tops the list with five species, followed by *Acalypha*, *Euphorbia* and *Solanum* each with four species and *Crotalaria*, *Cleome*, *Hibiscus*, *Sida*, *Ruellia* and *Ocimum* three species each. The present study suggests that the campus of S.T. Hindu College campus is rich in natural vascular flora, though the floristic composition is dominated by angiosperms.

In the study, ethnobotanically used plants were also identified and are grouped in to medicinal (185sp.), ornamental (60sp.), exotic 47 sp, latex (25 sp.), aromatic (20 sp.), edible fruit (19 sp.), fodder (13sp.) and oil yielding (3 sp.) (Figure 4)

A good proportion of the exotic flora of this campus is represented by those which had their origin in the Mediterranean region. A higher proportion of the exotic flora of the college campus is represented by ornamental plants, which include *Allamanda cathartica*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Bougainvillea spectabilis*, *Callistemon lanceolatus*, *Catharanthus roseus*, *Coleus blumei*, *Delonix regia*, *Cesalpinia pulcherrima*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, *Jatropha gossypifolia*, *Kalanchoe pinnata*, *Lantana camara*, *Lawsonia inermis*, *Millingtonia hortensis*, *Mirabilis jalapa*, *Plumeria rubra*, *Quisqualis indica*, *Enterolobium saman*, and *Tecoma stans*. These plant species had been planted for the ornamentation of the college campus. Several of the exotics are edible fruit-producing plants of the college campus. These are represented by *Annona squamosa*, *Carica papaya*, *Manilkara zapota*, *Psidium guajava*, *Punica granatum* and *Ziziphus jujuba*. The exotics grown as avenue plants in the college campus are represented by *Acacia mangium*, *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, *Swietenia mahagonii* and

Table 1. List of angiosperm taxa recorded from the S.T. Hindu College campus, Nagercoil, arranged according to the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group Classification III

Super order/Order	Family / Species	Habit	Flowering season	Vouch No
MAGNOLIDS				
Piperales	Aristolachiaceae			
	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i> Lam.	Cl	July-Sep	3772
	Piperaceae			
	<i>Peperomia pellucida</i> (L.) Kunth	H	Aug-Feb	3660
	<i>Piper longum</i> L.	Cl	July-Mar	3811
Laurales	Lauraceae			
	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i> L.	Cl	Aug-Dec	3813
Magnoliales	Annonaceae			
	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	T	March-July	3758
	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> (Sonn.) Thwaites	T	Mar-	3718
	Magnoliaceae			
	<i>Magnolia chambaca</i> (L.) Baill. ex Pierre	T	Feb-July	3822
MONOCOTS				
Alismatales	Araceae			
	<i>Caladium bicolor</i> (Aiton) Vent	H	Throughout the year	3853
Liliales	Colchicaceae			
	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	Cl	Oct-Jan	3870
	Liliaceae			
	<i>Kalanchoe pinnata</i> (Lam.) Pers.	H	Jan-April	3760
Asparagales	Amaryllidaceae			
	<i>Amaryllis reticulata</i> L. Her.	H	Mar-April	3735
	<i>Crinum latifolium</i> L.	H	July-Sep	3804
	<i>Hippeastrum hypridum</i> (L.) H.	H	June-March	3789
	<i>Zephyranthes citrina</i> Baker	H	Nov-June	3762
	Asparagaceae			
	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.	Cl	July-Nov	3703
	<i>Sansevieria roxburghiana</i> Schultes & Schultes f.	H	Sep-April	3713
	<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> Prain	H	Throughout the year	3888
COMMELINIDS				
Arecales	Arecaceae			
	<i>Caryota urens</i> L.	T	Feb-Nov	3751
	<i>Cocus nucifera</i> L.	T	Throughout the year	3826
	<i>Dypsis lutescens</i> (H. Wendl.) Beentji & J. Dranst.	T	June-Nov	3864
Poales	Poaceae			
	<i>Apluda mutica</i> L.	H	Sep - Jan	3848
	<i>Aristida setacea</i> Retz.	H	Sep - May	3850
	<i>Brachiaria ramosa</i> (L.) Stapf.	H	Sep - Jan	3851
	<i>Brachiaria setigera</i> (Retz.) Hubb. in Hook. f.	H	Throughout the year	3852
	<i>Chloris barbata</i> SW.	H	Aug-Dec	3783
	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	H	Aug - Dec	3860
	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L.) Willd.	H	July-Jan	3657
	<i>Echinochloa colona</i> (L.) Link	H	Throughout the year	3865
	<i>Isachne globosa</i> (R.Br.) Trin.	H	June - Nov	3873
	<i>Paspalidium flavidum</i> (Retz.) A. Camus	H	June - Nov	3881
	<i>Setaria barbata</i> (Lam.) Kunth	H	Throughout the year	3840
	Cyperaceae			
	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	H	Oct - Jan	3861
	<i>Kyllinga monocephala</i> Rottb.	H	June-Dec	3791

Commelinales	Commelinaceae			
	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3661
	<i>Commelina longifolia</i> Lam.	H	June-Sep	3777
	<i>Tradescantia pallida</i> (Rose) D.R. Hunt	H	Dec-June	3666
	<i>Tradescantia spathacea</i> Sw.	H	Nov-July	3705
Zingiberales	Cannaceae			
	<i>Canna indica</i> L.	S	Throughout the year	3854
	Musaceae			
	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3815
	Zingiberaceae			
	<i>Costus speciosus</i> (Koen.) Smith	H	July - Sep	3859
ROSIDS				
Vitales	Vitaceae			
	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Cl	Throughout the year	3856
FABIDS				
Zygophyllales	Zygophyllaceae			
	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	H	Mar - Dec	3837
Oxalidales	Oxalidaceae			
	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	H	Mar-Dec	3786
Malpighiales	Euphorbiaceae			
	<i>Acalypha amentacea</i> Roxb.	S	Throughout the year	3843
	<i>Acalypha hispida</i> Burm. f.	S	Oct - Nov	3844
	<i>Acalypha fruticosa</i> Forssle.	S	Aug-Feb	3702
	<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.	H	Oct-Feb	3683
	<i>Croton bonplandianus</i> Baill.	H	Throughout the year	3667
	<i>Codiaeum variegatum</i> (L.) Rumph. ex A. Juss.	S	Throughout the year	3888
	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3658
	<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3770
	<i>Euphorbia milli</i> Dess Moul.	S	Throughout the year	3712
	<i>Euphorbia thymifolia</i> L.	H	Oct - March	3867
	<i>Jatropha glandulifera</i> Roxb.	S	Throughout the year	3805
	<i>Jatropha hastata</i> Jacq.	S	Throughout the year	3694
	<i>Manihot esculanta</i> Crantz.	S	Feb-June	3818
	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	S	Throughout the year	3803
	Passifloraceae			
	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.	Cl	Oct-Feb	3782
	Phyllanthaceae			
	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schum & Thonn.	H	Throughout the year	3659
	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i> (L.) Skeels	T	Throughout the year	3790
	<i>Phyllanthus debilis</i> Klein ex Willd.	H	Sep - Feb	3884
	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	T	Mar-Oct	3714
	<i>Phyllanthus maderaspatensis</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3774
	Malpighiaceae			
	<i>Galphimia glauca</i> Cav.	S	May-Dec	3746
	Violaceae			
	<i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i> (L.) F. Muell.	H	Throughout the year	3778
Fabales	Fabaceae			
	<i>Acacia mangium</i> Willd.	T	Dec - July	3824
	<i>Albizia lebbek</i> (L.) Willd.	T	Throughout the year	3829
	<i>Alysicarpus vaginalis</i> (L.) DC.	H	Nov-June	3690
	<i>Cassia biflora</i> Mill.	T	Dec-May	3731
	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	T	Feb-Aug	3725
	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3723
	<i>Centrosema pubescens</i> (DC.) Benth.	Cl	Dec-March	3647
	<i>Cesalpinia pulcherrima</i> (L.) SW.	S	May-Sep	3771
	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L.	Cl	Throughout the year	3692
	<i>Crotolaria juncea</i> L.	H	Oct-May	3798

	<i>Crotolaria medicaginea</i> Lam.	H	July-Dec	3809
	<i>Crotolaria verrucosa</i> L.	H	July-Feb	3740
	<i>Delonix regia</i> (Bojer ex Hook.) Raf.	T	April-Oct	3780
	<i>Desmodium gangeticum</i> (L.) DC.	S	Oct-March	3654
	<i>Desmodium triflorum</i> (L.)DC	H	Throughout the year	3664
	<i>Erythrina indica</i> L.	T	March - July	3866
	<i>Enterobolium saman</i> Jacq. Merr.	T	June - Nov	3828
	<i>Indigofera linnaei</i> Ali	H	July-Feb	3669
	<i>Leucaena latisilqua</i> (L.) Gillis	T	Throughout the year	3874
	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3860
	<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i> (DC.) Baker ex K. Heyne	T	Dec-May	3698
	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre	T	Oct-March	3788
	<i>Pseudarathria viscida</i> (L.) Weight & Arn.	H	Aug - Dec	3885
	<i>Prosopis chilensis</i> (SW. DC.)	T	Throughout the year	3886
	<i>Rhynchosia minima</i> (L.)DC.	Cl	Oct-April	3808
	<i>Saraca asoca</i> (Roxb.) Willde.	T	Dec-July	3752
	<i>Stylosanthes fruticosa</i> (Retz.) Alston	H	Nov-March	3799
	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	T	April - Feb	3833
	<i>Tephrosia pupurea</i> (L.) Pers.	H	Throughout the year	3653
Rosales	Rosaceae			
	<i>Rosa centifolia</i> L.	S	Throughout the year	3841
	Moraceae			
	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.	T	March - April	3868
	Rhamanaceae			
	<i>Zizipus jujuba</i> L. Gaertn. NonMiller	T	Sep - Feb	3827
Cucurbitales	Cucurbitaceae			
	<i>Anisomeles indica</i> (L.) Kuntz	H	Nov - March	3847
	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> (L.)Voigt	Cl	Sep-Jan	3766
	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (L.) C. Jeffery	Cl	Nov - Feb	3863
	<i>Mukia maderas patana</i> (L.) M. Roem.	Cl	Throughout the year	3877
	Begoniaceae			
	<i>Begonia flocifera</i> Bedd.	H	March-April	3730
Fagales	Casuarinaceae			
	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> L.	T	Sep-Dec	3724
MALVIDS				
Myrtales	Combretaceae			
	<i>Quisqualis indica</i> L.	Cl	Throughout the year	3747
	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> L.	T	Feb - Aug	3835
	Myrtaceae			
	<i>Callistemon lanceolatus</i> (Sm.)Sweet	T	Throughout the year	3644
	<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.	T	Throughout the year	3706
	<i>Syzigium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels	T	March-Aug	3816
	Lythraceae			
	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.	T	Dec-April	3709
Sapindales	Anacardiaceae			
	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	T	Feb-July	3678
	Meliaceae			
	<i>Azadiracta indica</i> Adr. Juss.	T	March-July	3722
	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i> (L.) Jacq.	T	April-Nov	3831
	Rutaceae			
	<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng.	T	Throughout the year	3711
	Sapindaceae			
	<i>Cardiopsermum helicacabum</i> L.	Cl	Throughout the year	3745
Malvales	Malvaceae			
	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet	H	Throughout the year	3814
	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i> (L.) Gaertn.	T	Dec-April	3704
	<i>Corchorus acutangulus</i> L.	H	Dec - March	3858

	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	S	Throughout the year	3675
	<i>Hibiscus schizopetalous</i> (Dyer.) Hook.f.	S	Throughout the year	3756
	<i>Hibiscus viritifolius</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3685
	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> (L.) Cav.	H	Throughout the year	3775
	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm. f.	H	Throughout the year	3627
	<i>Sida cordata</i> (Brum. f.) Borss. Waalk.	H	Aug-March	3674
	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3801
	<i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.) Sol. ex Correa	T	Throughout the year	3761
	<i>Waltheria indica</i> L.	H	July - Feb	3839
	Muntingiaceae			
	<i>Muntingia calabura</i> L.	T	Throughout the year	3652
Brassicales	Caricaceae			
	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.	T	Throughout the year	3648
	Cleomaceae			
	<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3767
	<i>Cleome ruidosperma</i> DC.	H	March-April	3738
	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3733
	Moringaceae			
	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam.	T	Throughout the year	3817
Santales	Santalaceae			
	<i>Santalum album</i> L.	T	Nov-April	3665
Caryophyllales	Aizoaceae			
	<i>Gisekia pharnaceoides</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3869
	<i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i> L.	H	June-Aug	3768
	Molluginaceae			
	<i>Mollugo pentaphylla</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3876
	Amaranthaceae			
	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	H	Dec - March	3846
	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3781
	<i>Aerva lantana</i> (L.) Juss.ex Schult.	H	Oct-Feb	3700
	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) R.Br. ex DC.	H	Sep-March	3682
	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L.	H	Sep-March	3784
	<i>Digeria muricata</i> (L.) Mart.	H	Sep-March	3672
	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i> Mart.	H	Throughout the year	3776
	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3684
	Portulacaceae			
	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.	H	Jan-Dec	3757
	<i>Portulaca quadrifida</i> L.	H	June-Aug	3792
	Nyctaginaceae			
	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3651
	<i>Boerhavia erecta</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3736
	<i>Nytagina spectabilis</i> Willd.	S	Aug-Jan	3668
	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3721
	Phytolaccaceae			
	<i>Rivinia humilis</i> L.	H	March-July	3769
	Talinaceae			
	<i>Talinum fruticosum</i> (L.) Juss.	H	Throughout the year	3764
	Cactaceae			
	<i>Mammillaria baumii</i> Boed.	H	June-July	3797
ASTRIDS				
Ericales	Balsaminaceae			
	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i> L.	H	July-Dec	3729
	Sapotaceae			
	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (J.Kpnig ex L.) Macbr.	T	Mar-June	3820
	<i>Manilkara zapota</i> (L.) P. Royen	T	Feb-March	3720
	<i>Mimusops elengi</i> L.	T	Feb - May	3834
LAMIDS				
Gentianales	Apocyanaceae			

	<i>Allamanda cathartica</i> L.	S	July-Nov	3645
	<i>Allamanda longifolia</i> Pohl.	S	Throughout the year	3710
	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) Dryand.	S	Throughout the year	3726
	<i>Cathranthus pussillus</i> (Mur.) G. Don	H	Aug-March	3813
	<i>Cathranthus roseus</i> (L.) G. Don.	H	Throughout the year	3693
	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> Roxb. ex R. Br.	S	Throughout the year	3807
	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.) R. Br.ex Schult.	Cl	June - Feb	3871
	<i>Nerium oleander</i> L.	S	Throughout the year	3878
	<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk.) Chiov.	Cl	Aug - April	3882
	<i>Plumeria rubra</i> L.	S	Aug-Feb	3748
	<i>Rauvolfia tetraphylla</i> L.	S	Feb-Oct	3800
	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> (L.) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schult.	S	Most part of the year	3755
	<i>Tylophora indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr	Cl	May-Sep	3749
	<i>Watkaka volubilis</i> (L.f.) T. Cooke	Cl	April - Nov	3838
	Rubiaceae			
	<i>Ixora coccinea</i> L.	S	Throughout the year	3679
	<i>Morinda pubescens</i> Smith.	T	July-Sep	3754
	<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i> L.	S	Most part of the year	3787
	<i>Oldenlandia corymbosa</i> L.	H	July-Dec	
	<i>Spermocoe hispida</i> L.	H	Nov-March	3795
	<i>Spermocoe ocymoides</i> Burm.f.	H	Throughout the year	3773
Solanales	Convulvulaceae			
	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb.	Cl	June-Aug	3779
	<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3673
	<i>Evolvulus nummularis</i> L.	h	Throughout the year	3689
	<i>Ipomea pes-tigridis</i> L.	Cl	Sep-June	3796
	<i>Ipomea sepiaria</i> Koenig ex Roxb.	Cr	Nov-Feb	3697
	<i>Merremia dissecta</i> (Jacq.) Hallier f.	Cl	Aug-Jan	3765
	<i>Merremia tridentata</i> (L.) Hallier f.	Cl	Sep-Feb	3806
	Solanaceae			
	<i>Datura metel</i> L.	S	Throughout the year	3862
	<i>Physalis minima</i> L.	H	Sep - Jan	3883
	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	H	Nov-Feb	3819
	<i>Solanum surattense</i> Burm. f.	H	Oct-April	3715
	<i>Solanum torum</i> Sw.	S	Feb-Nov	3695
	<i>Solanum trilobatum</i> L.	S	Oct-Feb	3821
Lamiales	Acanthaceae			
	<i>Adhatoda zeylanica</i> Medikus	S	Aug-Nov	3763
	<i>Andrographis echinoides</i> L. Nees	H	April-July	3785
	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm. f.) Nees	H	Nov-April	3744
	<i>Asystasia chelonoides</i> Nees	H	Oct-March	3688
	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> L.	H	July-Oct	3691
	<i>Crossandra infundbuliformis</i> (L.) Nees	H	Throughout the year	3708
	<i>Dicliptera paniculata</i> (Forssk.) I. Darbysh.	H	June-July	3802
	<i>Dipteracanthus prostratus</i> (Poiret) Nees	H	July-Feb	3649
	<i>Ecbolium viride</i> (Forssk.) Alston	S	March-June	3743
	<i>Hemigraphis alternata</i> (Burn. f.) T. Anderson	H	Nov-April	3742
	<i>Justicia simplex</i> D.Don	H	Throughout the year	3701
	<i>Justicia tranquebariensis</i> L.	H	June-Aug	3794
	<i>Pseuderanthemum laxiflorum</i> (A.Gray) F. T. Hubb. ex L.H. Bailey	S	Nov-Dec	3681
	<i>Rhinacanthus nasutus</i> (L.) Kurg.	H	Feb-Oct	3716
	<i>Ruellia patula</i> Jacq.	H	Nov-July	3728
	<i>Ruellia tuberosa</i> L.	H	Sep-Jan	3732
	<i>Ruellia tweediana</i> Griseb	H	April-Aug	3686
	<i>Thunbergia erecta</i> (Benth.)T.Anderson	S	Throughout the year	3663
	Lamiaceae			

	<i>Clerodendrum inerme</i> (L.) Gaertner	S	Jan - April	3857
	<i>Clerodendrum speciosimum</i> Drapiez.	S	Nov-Aug	3650
	<i>Coleus blumei</i> Benth	H	July-April	3810
	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> (L.) Poit	H	Oct - March	3872
	<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	S	Jan-Dec	3643
	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link.	H	Oct-Feb	3707
	<i>Ocimum canum</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3879
	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.	H	Oct-Feb	3696
	<i>Orthosiphon spiralis</i> (Roth) Slessen	H	Sep-Dec	3741
	<i>Orthosiphon thymiflorus</i> (Roth) Slessen	H	Oct-May	3687
	<i>Tectona grandis</i> L.f.	T	May-Mar	3677
	Bignoniaceae			
	<i>Crescentia cujete</i> L.	T	April-May	3753
	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> D. Don	T	Throughout the year	3825
	<i>Millingtonia hortensis</i> L.f.	T	Aug - March	3830
	<i>Podranea brycei</i> (N.E.Br.) Sprague	S	Dec-May	3646
	<i>Tecoma stans</i> (L.) Kunth	S	Throughout the year	3656
	<i>Tecomaria capensis</i> (Thunb.) Lindley	S	Throughout the year	3662
	Scrophulariaceae			
	<i>Russelia equisetiformis</i> Schltdl. & Cham	H	Throughout the year	3699
	Oleaceae			
	<i>Jasminum sambac</i> (L.) Aiton	S	Jan-May	3759
	Verbenaceae			
	<i>Duranta erecta</i> L.	S	Nov-March	3737
	<i>Stachytapheta jamaicensis</i> (L.) Vahl.	H	July - Jan	3836
Boraginales	Boraginaceae			
	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i> (L.)	H	Throughout the year	3719
CAMPANULIDS				
Asterales	Asteraceae			
	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	H	Aug - Feb	3845
	<i>Blainvillea acmella</i> (L.) Philipson	H	Dec-April	3812
	<i>Kleinia grandiflora</i> (Wallich ex Dc.) N. Rani	H	Aug-May	3734
	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> L.	H	Jan-Dec	3671
	<i>Syndrella nodiflora</i> (L.) Gaertn.	H	July-Dec	3717
	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	H	Throughout the year	3739
	<i>Vernonia cinerea</i> (L.) Less	H	Throughout the year	3655
	<i>Wedelia chinensis</i> (L.) Merr.	H	Throughout the year	3793

H- Herb; S- Shrub; T- Trees; Cl- Climber

Table 2 Family wise distribution of plant species in the campus

Family	Genus	Species
Acanthaceae	14	18
Aizoaceae	2	2
Amaranthaceae	6	8
Amaryllidaceae	4	4
Anacardiaceae	1	1
Annonaceae	2	2
Apocyanaceae	12	14
Araceae	1	1
Arecaceae	3	3
Aristolachiaceae	1	1
Asparagaceae	2	3
Asteraceae	8	8
Balsaminaceae	1	1
Begoniaceae	1	1
Bignoniaceae	6	6

Boraginaceae	1	1
Cactaceae	1	1
Cannaceae	1	1
Caricaceae	1	1
Casuarinaceae	1	1
Cleomaceae	1	3
Colchicaceae	1	1
Combretaceae	2	2
Commelinaceae	2	4
Convolvulaceae	4	7
Cucurbitaceae	4	4
Cyperaceae	2	2
Euphorbiaceae	7	14
Fabaceae	24	29
Lamiaceae	8	11
Lauraceae	1	1
Liliaceae	1	1
Lythraceae	1	1
Magnoliaceae	1	1
Malpighiaceae	1	1
Malvaceae	8	12
Meliaceae	2	2
Molluginaceae	1	1
Moraceae	1	1
Moringaceae	1	1
Musaceae	1	1
Mutangiaceae	1	1
Myrtaceae	3	3
Nyctaginaceae	3	4
Oleaceae	1	1
Oxalidaceae	1	1
Passifloraceae	1	1
Phyllanthaceae	1	5
Phytolaccaceae	1	1
Piperaceae	2	2
Poaceae	10	11
Portulacaceae	1	2
Rhamanaceae	1	1
Rosaceae	1	1
Rubiaceae	5	6
Rutaceae	1	1
Santalaceae	1	1
Sapindaceae	1	1
Sapotaceae	3	3
Scrophulariaceae	1	1
Solanaceae	3	6
Talinaceae	1	1
Verbenaceae	2	2
Violaceae	1	1
Vitaceae	1	1
Zingiberaceae	1	1
Zygophyllaceae	1	1

Table 3. Comparison of the other institution campus floras in Tamilnadu

Sr. No.	Name of the Campus	No. of species	Reference
	Madras Christian College, Tamparam	458	Giles-Lal and Livingstone, 1978
	Guru Nanak College, Chennai	162	Gopi, 2008; Natarajan and Gopi, 2010
	Pondicherry University Campus, Puducherry	499	Parthasarathy et al., 2010
	Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai including Guindy National Park	300	Daniels, 2008.
	Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai	256	Udayakumar et al., 2011
	Scott Christian College, Nagercoil	670	Brintha et al., 2015
	Bharathiyar University campus, Coimbatore	335	Rajendran et al., 2014
	Theosophical Society capus, Chennai	449	Irwin et al., 2015
	S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil	238	Present study

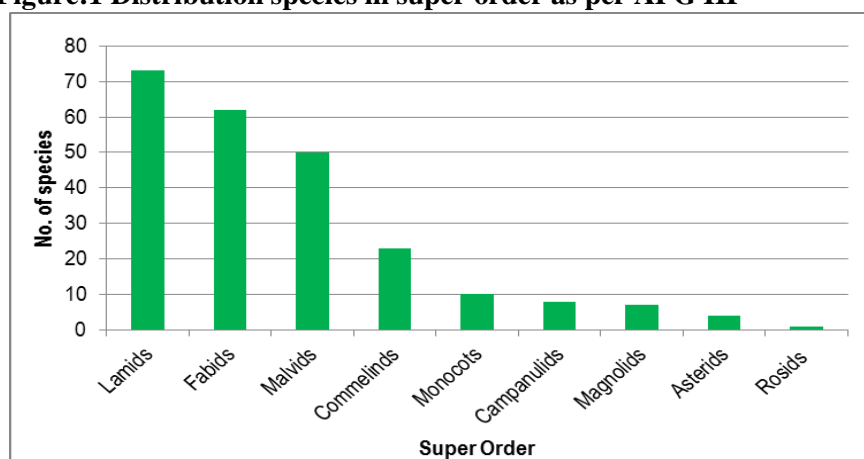
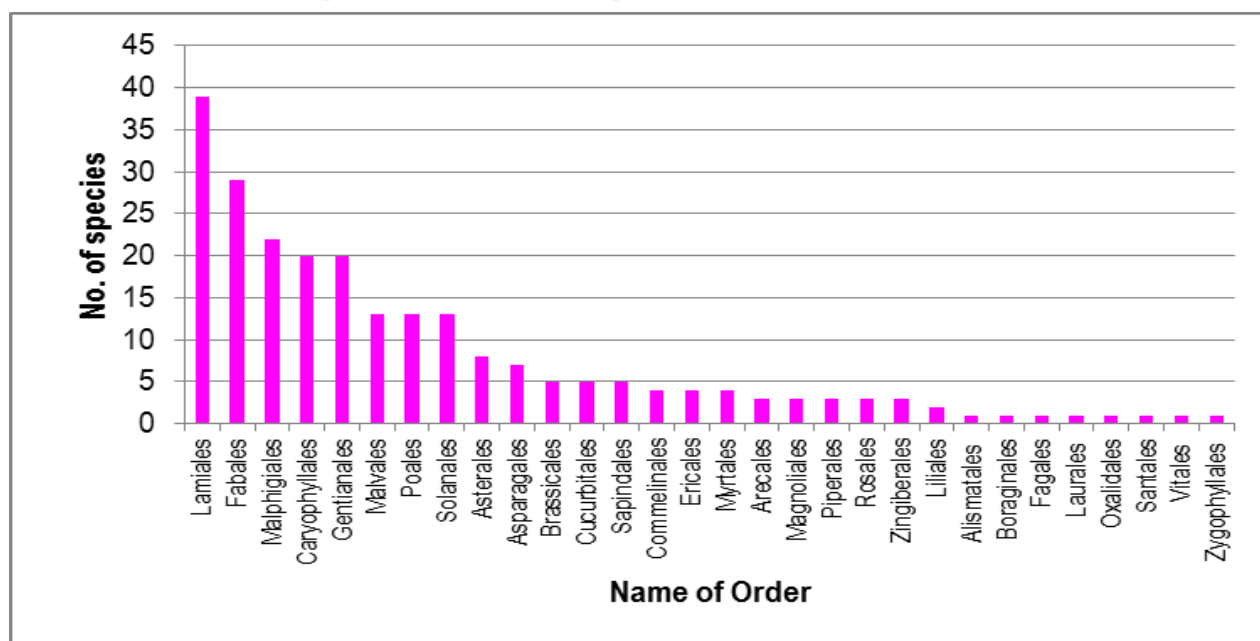
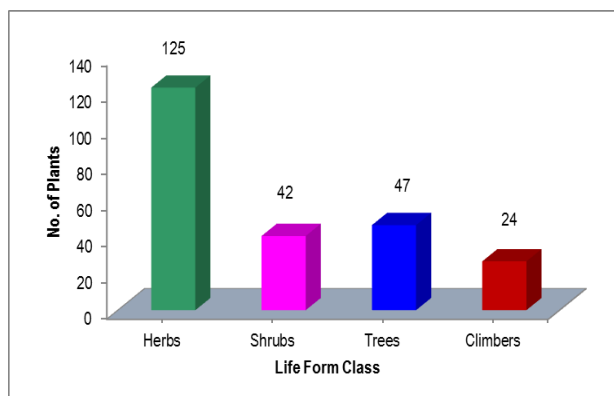
Figure:1 Distribution species in super order as per APG III

Figure: 2 Distribution of species in each order as per APG III


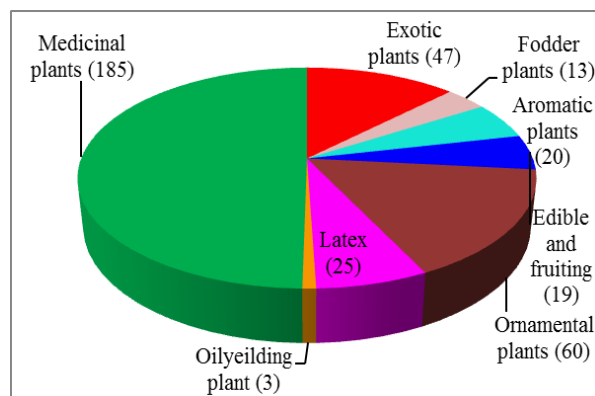
Figure: 3 Life form class of angiosperm collected from S.T Hindu College Campus Nagercoil



Tamarindus indica. Several of the exotics are weeds. These include *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Amaranthus spinosus*, *Cassia occidentalis*, *Corchorus acutangulus*, *Croton bonplandianum*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Eclipta prostrata*, *Eragrostis tenella*, *Euphorbia hirta*, *Euphorbia thymifolia*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Physalis minima*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Stylosanthes fruticosa* and *Tridax procumbens*. These exotic floras are naturalized to Indian conditions and hence grow successfully without any human assistance. Of the total plant species reported from the campus of S.T. Hindu College campus, *Parthenium hysterophorus* was observed to be harmful to native flora. This American flora has spread very fast in the last couple of decades in the campus, infesting all types of terrestrial habitats and posing a threat to the biodiversity of the campus. Exotics are referred to as biological pollutants due to their destructive effects on natural and man-managed ecosystems (Westbrooks, 1991). Serious ecological effects of the fast-spreading introduced flora have been reported (Di Castri *et al.*, 1990; D' Antonio and Vitousek, 1992; Hobbs and Huenneke, 1992; Punalekar *et al.*, 2010) and non-indigenous plant species are considered a major threat to biodiversity (Mooney, 1988; Lodge, 1993; Huston, 1994; McGeoch *et al.*, 2006 and Arul *et al.*, 2013).

Some of the most striking plant species of the campus include the deciduous wild edible fruit tree *Syzygium cuminii* and the endemic herb *Sansevieria roxburghiana*. Some of the common climbers found among the collected plants from the campus were *Aristolochia bracteolata*, *Asparagus*

Figure:4 Economically important plants collected to the study area



racemosus, *Cardiopsernum helicacabum*, *Cassytha filiformis*, *Cissus quadrangularis*, *Clitoria ternatea*, *Coccinia grandis*, *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, *Ipomea pes-tigridis*, *Ipomea sepiaria*, *Merremia tridentata*, *Mukia maderaspatana*, *Passiflora foetida*, *Pergularia daemia*, *Tylophora indica* and *Watkaka volubilis*. Grasses contributed to herbaceous ground flora, totaling to 11 species. Among them *Aristida setacea* and *Apluda mutica*, were collected from undisturbed areas of the campus.

Many species of plants enumerated in the campus are medicinally valuable resources. The important medicinal plants growing in the campus of S.T. Hindu College include *Abutilon indicum*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Adhatoda zeylanica*, *Albizia lebbeck*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Bauhinia purpurea*, *Boerhaavia diffusa*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Cassia fistula*, *C. occidentalis*, *Clerodendrum inermis*, *Coccinia grandis*, *Commelina benghalensis*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Datura metel*, *Desmodium gangeticum*, *Eclipta alba*, *Evolvulus alsinoides*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Hyptis suaveolens*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, *Moringa oleifera*, *Ocimum canum*, *Oldenlandia corymbosa*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Phyllanthus amarus*, *Physalis minima*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Sida acuta*, *Solanum nigrum*, *S. trilobatum*, *Syzygium cuminii*, *Tephrosia purpurea*, *Terminalia cataba*, *Trianthema portulacastrum*, and *Tribulus terrestris*. *Albizia lebbeck*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Tectona grandis*, *Sweetenia mahoghani* and *Syzygium cuminii* are the important timber-yielding tree species.

Comparison of Campus Flora of S.T. Hindu College with that of Different Institutional

Plate 1: Study Area and List of plants collected from the S.T. Hindu College Campus, Nagercoil



Satellite Map of S.T. Hindu College



Layout of S.T. Hindu College



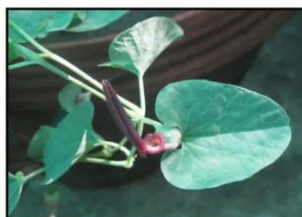
Ganapathy Temple



Cassia fistula



Magnolia chambaca



Aristolochia bracteolata



Plumeria rubra



Jacarandra mimosifolia



Clerodendrum speciosum



Clitoria ternatea



Jatropha hastata



Cassia biflora



Tylophora indica



Hibiscus vitifolius



Heliotropium indicum



Hypanthus ennaespermus



Solanum nigrum



Setaria intermedia



Podranea brycei



Carica papaya



Indigofera linnaei



Ixora coccinea



Murraya koenigii



Manilkara sapota



Madhuca longifolia



Polyalthia longifolia



Caryota urens



Albizia lebbeck



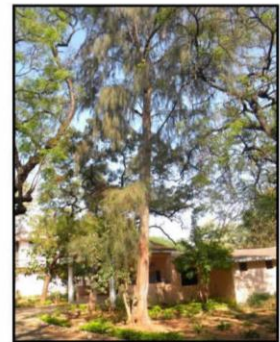
Azadirachta indica



Ceiba pentandra



Callistemon lanceolatus



Casuarina equisetifolia



Crescentia cujeta



Saraca asoca



Acacia mangium



Adhatoda zeylanica



Manihot esculanta



Tamarindus indica



Mimosa elengi



Syzgium cumini

Campuses in TamilNadu viz., Indian Institute of Technology – Chennai, Madras Christian College, Thambaram, Chennai, Pachaiyappa's College and Guru Nanak College – Chennai, Pondicherry University – Puducherry, Theosophical Society campus, Chennai, Bharathiyar University campus, Coimbatore and Scott Christian College campus, Nagercoil, such a comparison places the campus flora of S.T. Hindu college is less number but moderately diverse. The plant diversity of this campus is greater than those of the Guru Nanak College, Chennai (Table 3). Even though the floras of the present study area have moderate floral diversity the total number of taxa in S.T. Hindu College is less when compared to the same geographically positioned Scott Christian College Nagercoil (Sarasabai *et al.*, 2015). The main reason behind this may be due to many anthropogenic activities made in the campus such as construction of new buildings and undisturbed area of the campus was converted in to the new play ground. So this is the right time to the floristic studies in the campus are considered as the backbone of the assessment of phytodiversity, conservation, management and sustainable utilization (Jayanthi and Rajendran, 2013). The campus flora of an institution is a unique opportunity as an outdoor botanical and ecological learning for the campus community.

In conclusion the natural beauty of S. T. Hindu College campus, with its native plant diversity, introduced ornamentals and cultivated plant species with great aesthetic value, ecological uniqueness and resource importance. Thus, taking a walk around the campus would enrich the botanical knowledge, ecological consciousness and conservation values, not only of the academia but also the common people. The S. T. Hindu College campus environment, with its diversity of native plant species and the beautiful, cultivated ornamental plants, provides a unique opportunity for learning as an outdoor classroom exercise.

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