

Floristic diversity and ethnobotanical significance of the sacred groves of Alappuzha district, Kerala.

**MAYA.R**

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Geo – tagging of IUCN category plants from the study area has been attempted in the present study. This is a novel approach from the study area.

Geo-tagging has become an essential technology-enabled tool in contemporary botanical research, particularly in the documentation of floristic diversity and ethnobotanical resources. By integrating geo-spatial coordinates with field-based botanical observations, geo-tagging facilitates digital documentation, accurate species location, and long-term monitoring of plant resources. This approach is of critical importance in the conservation of plant species belonging to various IUCN categories, thereby supporting evidence-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.

The present geo-tagging initiative represents a student-centric, experiential learning activity, carried out through faculty–student collaborative research. The systematic geo-referencing of plant species recorded from the sacred groves of Alappuzha district enhances the academic value of the study by transforming conventional floristic documentation into a GIS-enabled digital repository. Such geo-tagged data enable teachers, students, researchers, and conservation practitioners to locate, verify, and revisit plant species with precision, thereby promoting learning beyond the classroom and encouraging field-based inquiry.

The work undertaken by Dr.V.N. Sanjai, Professor, Department of Post Graduate Studies and Research in Botany, Sanatana Dharma College, Alappuzha, along with his student Maya. R, stands as a commendable example of research mentorship, capacity building, and outcome-oriented academic practice. Their effort demonstrates how innovative academic initiatives can integrate modern digital tools with classical botanical studies to produce socially relevant and academically rigorous outcomes. The geo-tagged documentation developed through this study serves as a valuable resource for teaching, learning, research, and conservation awareness.

The Department of Botany, Sanatana Dharma College, Alappuzha, recognizes geo-tagging and digital biodiversity documentation as a contemporary academic need and actively promotes such initiatives as part of its commitment to quality enhancement, sustainability, and institutional best practices ( for more details visit <https://www.sdcollege.in/> ). These activities align with NAAC quality indicators related to student engagement, innovative teaching–learning practices, research and extension activities, and environmental consciousness, while also contributing to NIRF parameters on research, outreach, and societal impact.

Overall, this geo-tagging initiative reflects the institution’s dedication to technology-integrated education, biodiversity conservation, and socially relevant research, and stands as a model for future academic and research activities aimed at addressing present-day environmental challenges.

This data will be handed over to the Biodiversity Monitoring Committee for further procedures.

Geo-tagging of the Plants of IUCN categories recorded from the  
study area

SL No	Name of Species	Image of Species	Location	Direction
1	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.		Panikkasseril Kshethram, Bharanikavu.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
2	<i>Ablemoschus moschatus</i> Medik.		Shanmugapuram Temple, Perumbalam, Cherthala.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
3	<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.		Thekkedathu SreeDharma Sastha Kshethram, Cherthala.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
4	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.		Thachirethu Kudumba Kavvu, Ponnezha Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
5	<i>Aglaia elaeagnoidea</i> A Juss. Benth		Ilanjimeil Vallikavu, Chengannur.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
6	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.)R.Br		Panthaplavil Kudumba kavu, Pranavam, Vathikulangara, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
7	<i>Alpinia galanga</i> L.		Kalathoor Kavvu, Mavelikkara	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
8	<i>Aporosa cardiosperma</i> (Gaertn.) Merr.		Kalathoor Kavvu, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>

9	<i>Artocarpus hirsutus</i> Lam.		Vallootharayil Kavu, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
10	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.		1.Nareenjil Kudumbakav, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara.  2.Vathikulanga Devi Temple, Ponnezha Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
11	<i>Ampelosis latifolia</i> (Roxb.) Planch.		Onampallil Devi Temple Ponnezha, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
12	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L.		1.Peringara Maha Ganapathi Kshethram, Pela, Mavelikkara.  2.Vathikulanga Devi Temple, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
13	<i>Baringtona racemosa</i> (L.) Spreng.		Koyipurath Sappakavu, Cherthala.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
14	<i>Butea monosperma</i> Lam.(Taub.)		Thandalathu Kudumba Kav Chingoli, Harippadu.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
15	<i>Bulbophyllum sterile</i> (Lam.) Suresh		1.Mannarasala Nagaraja Ksethram  2.ValiyaKavu Muhamma	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>

16	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L.		Ilanjimeel Vallikavu, Chengannur	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
17	<i>Chonemorpha fragrans</i> (Moon) Alston		Panthaplavil Kudumba kavu, Pranavam, Vathikulangara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
18	<i>Calamus thwaitesii</i> Becc.& Hook.f		Panthaplavil Kudumba kavu, Pranavam, Vathikulangara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
19	<i>Caryota urens</i> L.		1.Kohumuri Chirayil Kudumba Kavu, Perungala.  2.Asokam, Kudumba Kavu, Erezha, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
20	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> L.		Kuzhuvelil Kudumba Kavu, Perungala, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
21	<i>Couropita guianensis</i> Aubl.		Vettikodu Sree Nagaraja Temple, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
22	<i>Chassalia curviflora</i> var.ophioxyloides Wall Thw.		Kalarkodu Mahadeva Kshethram, Ambalappuzha.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
23	<i>Cayratia pedata</i> (Lam.) Juss.		Edayodikkavu Devi Temple, Perungala, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>

24	<i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i> Garc.ex. Bl.		Kuzhuvelil Kudumba Kavu, Perungala, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
25	<i>Cinnamomum verum</i> Presl.		Kuzhuvelil Kudumba Kavu, Perungala, Kaya mkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
26	<i>Cinnamomum malabattrum</i> (Burm.f) Bl.		MozhurDevi Kshethram, Karthikapally, Alappuzha.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
27	<i>Cinnamom malabattrum</i> (Burm.f.) Presl.		1. Vathikulangara Devi Temple, Ponnezha  2. Kannel tharayil, Pallarimangalam , Mavelikkara	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
28	<i>Dalbergia horrida</i> (Dennst.) Mabb.		Vettikodu Sree Nagaraja Temple, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
29	<i>Eclipta postrata</i> (L.)L.		Varikkolil Kudumba Kavu, Vathikulangara, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
30	<i>Elephantopus scaber</i> L.		Kannel tharayil, Pallarimangalam , Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
31	<i>Eleocarpus glanduloses</i> Wallich ex. Merr.		Gurusikaman Kshethram, Pullikkanaku.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
32	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.		Cheruvalli Kav Kudumba Kshethram, Kothamangalam	<a href="#">Click to View</a>

33	<i>Ficus drupaceae</i> Thunb.		Elenjimeil Vallikavu, Chengannur.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
34	<i>Ficus hispida</i> L.f.		Kulangara Illam, Mankombu, Kuttanad, Alappuzha.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
35	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i> L.f.		Nalekkattil Bhagavathi Temple, Kuttemperoor	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
36	<i>Garcinia gummi-gutta</i> (L.) Roxb.		Varikkolil Kudumba Kavvu, Vathikulangara, Mavelikkara	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
37	<i>Gnetum edule</i> (Willd.) Blume.		1.Elanjimeli Vallikavu, Chengannur.  2.Pullamplavil Kudumba Kavvu, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
38	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.		Kuzhuvelil Kudumba Kavvu, Perungala, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
39	<i>Holigarna arnotiana</i> Hook.f.		Mannarasala Kshethra Kavvu, Haripadu.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
40	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> R.Br.		Kuzhuvelil Kudumba Kavvu, Perungala, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
41	<i>Hopea parviflora</i> Bedd.		Mannarasala Nagaraja Temple, Haripadu.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>

42	<i>Hopea ponga</i> (Dennst.) Mabb.		Kuzhuvelil Kudumba Kavvu, Perungala, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
43	<i>Hugonia mystax</i> L.		Vandanam Kavvu, Ambalappuzha.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
44	<i>Isonandra lanceolata</i> Wight		1.Kanjoor Devi Temple, Haripadu.  2.Azhakiyakavvu Devi Temple, Pullikkanaku, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
45	<i>Kunstleria keralensis</i> C.N.Mohanan & N.C.NaiAr		Nalekaattil Bhagavathi Temple, Chengannur.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
46	<i>Leea indica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.		Edayodikkavvu Devi Temple, Perungala Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
47	<i>Lophopetalum wightianum</i> Arn.		Nareenjil Kudumba Kavvu, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
48	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.		Panthaplavil Kudumba kavvu, Pranavam, Vathikulangara, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
49	<i>Memecylon randerianum</i> S.M.Almeida&M.r. Almeida		Thachirethu Kudumba Kavvu, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
50	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i> Burro. F.		Onampallil Devi Temple, Ponnezha,	<a href="#">Click to View</a>

			Mavelikkara.	
51	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.		Vathikulangara Devi Temple, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
52	<i>Myristica malabarica</i> Lam.		1.Kanjoor Devi Temple, Haripadu.  2.Rajesh Bhavanam, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
53	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre.		ChamaKavu, Venmony, Chengannur.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
54	<i>Pandanus odorifer</i> L.		Onampallil Devi Temple, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
55	<i>Spondias pinnata</i> (L.f.)Kurz.		Kulangara Illam in Mankombu, Kuttanad, Alappuzha	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
56	<i>Strophanthus wightianus</i> Wall.		Vandanam kavu, Ambalappuzha	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
57	<i>Salacia fruiticosa</i> Wall.ex. M.A .Lawson		1.Kuzhuvelil Kudumba Kavu, Perungala, Kayamkulam.  2.Panthaplavil Kudumbakavu, Pranavam , Vathikulangara	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
58	<i>Sacrostigma kleinii</i> Wight & Arn.		Azhakiyakavu Devi Temple, Pullikanakku, Kayamkulam	<a href="#">Click to View</a>

59	<i>Saraca asoca</i> (Roxb.) de Wilde		Vettikodu Sreenagaraj Temple	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
60	<i>Strychnosnux-vomica</i> L.		Edayodikavu Devi Temple, Perungala, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
61	<i>Syzygium jambos</i> (L.) Alst.		Vandanam Kavu, Ambalappuzha	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
62	<i>Syzygium caryophyllatum</i> (L.) Alston		Onampallil Devi Temple, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
63	<i>Syzygium zeylanicum</i> (L.) DC.		1.Njavarakkal Mamachan Temple, Muthukulam 2.Kalarkodu Mahadeva Kshethram, ambalappuzha.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
64	<i>Santalum album</i> L.		1.Thayil Kudumba Kavu , Paravoor, Alappuzha. 2.Mannarasala Sree Nagaraja Kshethram.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
65	<i>Samadera indica</i> Gaertn.		1.Ooduvirathi Sreekrishna Swami Kshethram, Ennakkadu. 2.Mannarasala Kshethra Kavu, Haripadu.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>

66	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.) Hook.		1.Vettikodu sreenagaraja Temple  2.Vandanam kavu, Ambalappuzha	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
67	<i>Urena lobata</i> L.		Koyipurath Sappakavu, Cherthala.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
68	<i>Tabernamontana heyneana</i> Wall.		Kalathoor Kavu, Mavelikkara	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
69	<i>Vateria indica</i> L.		Elanjimel, Vallikavu , Chengannur	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
70	<i>Vitex pinnata</i> L.		Kuzhuvelil Kudumba Kavu, Perungala, Kayamkulam.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
71	<i>Wattakaka volubilis</i> (L.f) Stapf.		Vandanam Kavu, Ambalppuzha.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
72	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> (Roxb.) R.Br.		Onampallil Devi Temple, Ponnezha, Mavelikkara	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
73	<i>Xanthophyllum flavescens</i> <i>non</i> Roxb.		Elanjimel, Vallikavu , Chengannur	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
74	<i>Bulbophyllum rheedi</i> R. Wight		Charamangalam Kailasam Temple Kavu,Kanjikuzhi, Cherthala.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>

75	<i>Canaga odorata</i> (Lam.) Hook.f.& Thom.		Kuttikattu Sree Bhadra Kali Devi Temple, Kuruppamkulan gara, Alappuzha	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
76	<i>Cissus qudrangularis</i> L.		Thaiveliyil house, Vadakkal, Paravoor, Alappuzha	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
77	<i>Flacourtia indica</i> Burm.f.		Chamakkavu, Chengannur.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
78	<i>Hoya wightii</i> Hook.f.		Chakkalaveli, Kuruppamkulan gara, Cherthala	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
79	<i>Morinda umbellata</i> L.		Parambil Ksethram, Cherthala.	<a href="#">Click to View</a>
80	<i>Tabernamontana alternifolia</i> L.		1.Kuttikattu SreeBhadra Kali DeviTemple, Kuruppamkulan gara 2. Ayanparambu Kavu, Perumbalam, Cherthala	<a href="#">Click to View</a>  <a href="#">Click to View</a>
81	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.		Manchezhathu, Muhamma, Alappuzha	<a href="#">Click to View</a>