



Documentation on the Floral Diversity of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences Campus, Kalamassery, Kerala

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Abstract: The present study was undertaken to document the diversity of flora in the campus of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery, Ernakulam district, Kerala. The documentation of floral diversity helps to recognize the overall ecological conditions and gives profound understanding of the economic, medicinal and traditional importance of plant diversity. The campus flora of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery is not yet documented, and the present paper deals with the floral diversity of the campus. A total of 164 plant species represented by 141 genera belonging to 62 different families were recorded, of which three species were represented by gymnosperms. The Asteraceae, Leguminosae, Arecaceae, Asparagaceae and Euphorbiaceae were dominant families of floristic composition of the study region. Eight threatened plant species are present in the campus namely, *Pterocarpus santalinus* L. f. (Leguminosae), *Swietenia mahagoni* (L.) Jacq. (Meliaceae), *Syzygium malaccense* (L.) Merr. and L. M. Perry (Myrtaceae), *Jacaranda mimosifolia* D. Don (Bignoniaceae), *Santalum album* L. (Santalaceae), *Dypsis lutescens* (H. Wendl.) Beentje and J. Dransf. (Arecaceae), *Dalbergia latifolia* Roxb. (Leguminosae) and *Asparagus racemosus* Willd. (Asparagaceae).

Keywords: Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery, Floral diversity

The Indian biodiversity is very rich with 7% of world's flora and has been included as one of the 12 mega diversity centers. The varied eco-climatic conditions coupled with unique geological and cultural features have contributed to an amazing diversity of habitats, which harbor and sustain immense biological diversity at all levels (Agrawal 2000). Biodiversity reflects total variety and variability within and among the flora and fauna and these studies are ecologically very important in the face of encroachment, habitat loss and extinction rates. The taxonomic study of flora is very crucial to the richness of biodiversity. This goal can be achieved by carrying out floristic studies and it is the main pillar of assessing plant diversity conservation management and sustainable utilization (Jayanthi and Rajendran 2013). The survey of plants in a particular area helps in understanding the overall ecological conditions which can be deciphered by classifying the recorded plants into various biological life forms. Survey of plants and trees in a particular area gives us a profound understanding and appreciation of their medicinal and economic values. It provides the authorities concerned in formulating and implementing various strategies for the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources. Moreover, floristic investigations provide reliable information about the taxonomic classification, distribution, ecology and uses of such plants and trees. Floristic surveys help in explaining the plant biodiversity providing information

regarding the current status, new invasion, revision of the flora, ecosystem function and its conservation in a particular geographical area. There are 4,679 taxa of flowering plants in Kerala, belong to 1,360 genera in 212 families (Sasidharan 2004). Various forest, mangrove and campus floral diversity studies were conducted for exploring the whole plant diversity in the particular study area. The vegetation analysis of a particular geological area is conducted by using the quantitative characters of the plants for estimating the importance of various plant species. The information about the ecosystem structure, composition and species diversity helps to improve endemic plant protection and conservation. Documentation of biodiversity is an urgent requirement as the knowledge about the ecosystem structure, composition and diversity of species helps to improve the protection of endemic species also. The objective of the present study is the documentation of the floral diversity of Rajagiri College campus, Kalamassery, Kerala.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study area: The present floral study was conducted at the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences Campus and is located at Rajagiri hill, Kalamassery in Ernakulam district, Kerala, at an elevation of 23 m altitude above mean sea level. The area is geographically located at 10°03'11.47" N latitude and 76°18'55.85" E longitude.

Floristic analysis: The study was conducted between the period of 2019-2020. Weekly field observations were made for the collection and identification of different species and details such as habit, botanical name, family and uses were noted according to Bentham and Hooker's classification. Digital photographs of freshly collected plants were also taken. The flowered twigs were collected for identifying the plant species. The voucher Herbarium specimens were prepared following (Bridson and Forman 1998) and deposited at the Bio-tech Research Lab of Biosciences department for future reference. Identification of plants was carried out with the help of available Flora and other standard publications (Sasidharan 2004, Nayar et al 2006). Further, their identification was confirmed by matching with authentic specimens in Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi and Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A large variability can be seen in the floral diversity of various ecosystems like traditional home gardens (Kunhamu et al 2015). The study on structural and floristic diversity of different landscape in Western Ghats of Kodagu region, Karnataka has been carried out (Maheswarappa and Vasudeva 2018). The present study identified 164 species of plants belonging to 141 genera under 62 families excluding the lichens, pteridophytes, bryophytes and mycoflora which were not possible during the present study (Table 1). Of these, 161 species are Angiosperms and 3 species are Gymnosperms. Out of 161 species of Angiosperms, 109 species are dicots, 44 species are monocots and 8 species are Magnoliids. Out of 138 genera of Angiosperms, 94 genera are dicots, 38 genera are monocots and 6 genera are Magnoliids (Table 2). There are 59 families of Angiosperms represented by 42 families of Dicotyledons, 13 families of Monocotyledons and 4 families of Magnoliids. The flora of Rajagiri has 68 species of herbs, 27 species of shrubs, 53 species of trees, 12 species of climbers and one parasite species in the study area (Fig. 1). Among the plant diversity in Rajagiri Hill Campus (RCSS), Araceae family rank first (11 plant species) followed by Asteraceae (10 plant species), Leguminosae (10 plant species), Arecaceae (8 plant species), Asparagaceae (7 plant species), Euphorbiaceae (7 plant species), Apocynaceae (6 plant species) and Moraceae (6 plant species). Other families represent a small share of the total number. There are 87 species of medicinal plants, 90 species of ornamental plants, 13 species of fruit plants and 16 species of wood plants are found in the Campus (Fig. 2 and 3).

There are eight threatened species plants present in the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences campus namely,

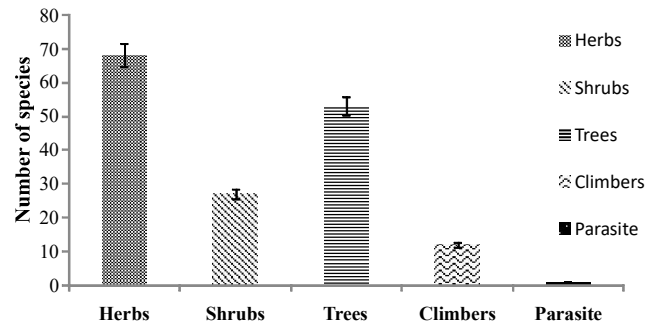


Fig. 1. Distribution of herbs, shrubs, trees, climbers and parasite plants in Rajagiri College of Social Sciences Campus, Kalamassery

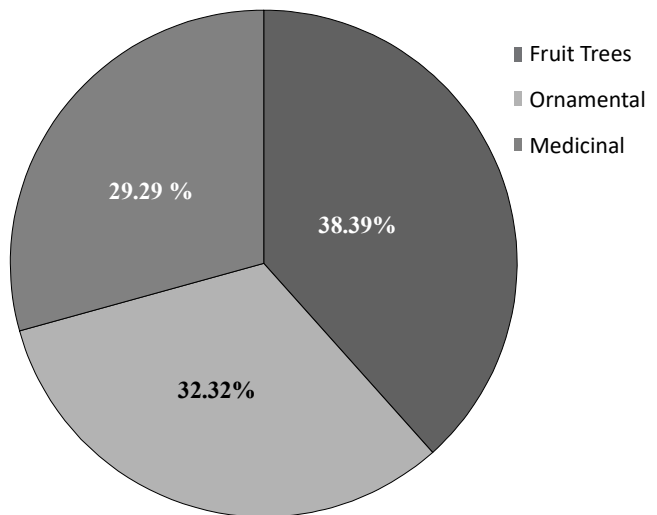


Fig 2. Distribution of trees in Rajagiri College of Social Sciences Campus, Kalamassery

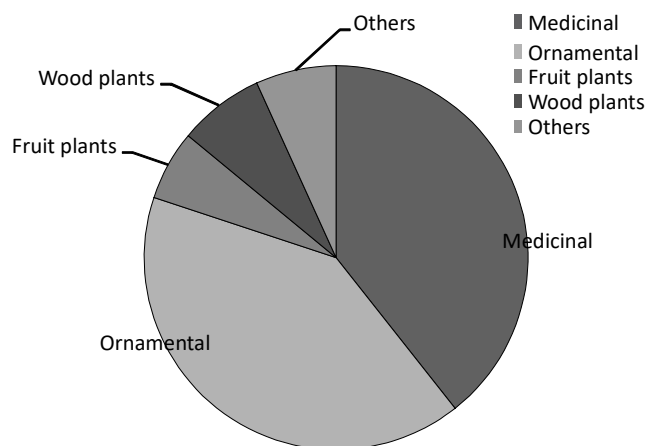


Fig. 3. Economic importance of the plant diversity at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences Campus, Kalamassery

Table 1. Plant species in the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences campus, Kalamassery

Botanical name	Family	Common name	Use
<i>Amherstia nobilis</i> Wall.	Leguminosae	Pride of Burma	Ornamental
<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.) R. Br.	Apocynaceae	White Cheesewood, Devil Tree	Wood
<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	Mango Tree	Fruit Tree
<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i> L.	Oleaceae	Night Flowering Jasmine	Ornamental
<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.	Myrtaceae	The Common Guava	Fruit Tree
<i>Syzygium malaccense</i> (L.) Merr. & L. M. Perry	Myrtaceae	Malay Apple	Fruit Tree
<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> L. f.	Leguminosae	Red Sandalwood	Wood
<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub	Leguminosae	Flame-of-the-Forest	Timber and Medicinal plant
<i>Cananga odorata</i> (Lam.) Hook. f. & Thomson	Annonaceae	Ylang-ylang	Aromatic oil from flowers
<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels	Myrtaceae	Malabar Plum	Fruit plant, Medicinal
<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam.	Moraceae	Jack Tree	Fruit Tree
<i>Cocos nucifera</i> (L.)	Arecaceae	Coconut Tree	Fruit plant, all parts useful
<i>Cyrtostachys renda</i> Blume	Arecaceae	Lipstick Palm	Ornamental
<i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i> A. K. Irvine	Arecaceae	Foxtail Palm	Ornamental
<i>Tabernaemontana alternifolia</i> L.	Apocynaceae	Nag Kuda	Medicinal
<i>Artocarpus hirsutus</i> Lam.	Moraceae	Wild Jack	Fruit Tree
<i>Macaranga peltata</i> (Roxb.) Mull. Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Chandada	Wood
<i>Simarouba glauca</i> DC.	Simaroubaceae	Paradise Tree	Medicinal Plant
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> D. Don	Bignoniaceae	Blue Jacaranda	Ornamental
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i> Choisy	Nyctaginaceae	Paper Flower	Ornamental
<i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (Houtt.) Merr.	Anacardiaceae	Indian Ash Tree	Used in Plywood
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Malvaceae	China Rose	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam.	Moringaceae	Drumstick Tree	Vegetable, Medicinal
<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Phyllanthaceae	Indian Gooseberry	Fruit Tree, Medicinal
<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng.	Rutaceae	Curry Leaf Tree	Leaves, Medicinal
<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> (Sonn.) Thwaites	Annonaceae	False Ashoka	Shade tree, Medicinal
<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	Simaroubaceae	Tree of Heaven	Softwood
<i>Areca catechu</i> L.	Arecaceae	Areca Nut Palm	Areca nut
<i>Hamelia patens</i> Jacq.	Rubiaceae	Fire Bush	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Ficus elastica</i> Roxb. ex Hornem.	Moraceae	Rubber Fig	Ornamental
<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i> (L.) Skeels	Phyllanthaceae	Malay Gooseberry, Star Gooseberry	Berries fruit plant
<i>Terminalia catappa</i> L.	Combretaceae	Indian Almond	Ornamental, Fruit Tree
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Neem Tree	Medicinal
<i>Magnolia champaca</i> (L.) Baill. ex Pierre	Magnoliaceae	Champak	Fragrant flowers and timber
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L.	Leguminosae	Orchid Tree, Mountain Ebony	Ornamental
<i>Santalum album</i> L.	Santalaceae	East Indian sandalwood	Sandalwood and oil
<i>Plumeria alba</i> L.	Apocynaceae	Pagoda Tree, White Frangipani	Ornamental
<i>Caesalpinia coriaria</i> (Jacq.) Willd.	Leguminosae	Divi-divi	Ornamental
<i>Brunfelsia pauciflora</i> (Cham. & Schldl.) Benth.	Solanaceae	Yesterday-today-and-tomorrow	Ornamental
<i>Citrus limon</i> (L.) Osbeck	Rutaceae	Lemon tree	Fruit Tree
<i>Pimenta dioica</i> (L.) Merr.	Myrtaceae	Allspice	Spice
<i>Xylocarpus xylocarpa</i> (Roxb.) Taub.	Leguminosae	Burma Ironwood	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i> (L.) Jacq.	Meliaceae	Mahogany	Timber
<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> Roxb.	Leguminosae	Indian Rosewood	Timber
<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb. ex DC.) Wight & Arn.	Combretaceae	Arjuna Tree	Medicinal, Timber
<i>Litsea coriacea</i> Hook. f.	Lauraceae	Leather-Leaf Litsea	Medicinal, Timber
<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Combretaceae	Belliric Myrobalan	Medicinal, Timber

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Table 1. Plant species in the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences campus, Kalamassery

Botanical name	Family	Common name	Use
<i>Tectona grandis</i> L. f.	Lamiaceae	Teak	Hard Wood Tree
<i>Roystonea regia</i> (Kunth) O. F. Cook	Arecaceae	Cuban Royal Palm	Ornamental
<i>Bixa orellana</i> L.	Bixaceae	Achiote	Medicinal, Condiment
<i>Sterculia foetida</i> L.	Malvaceae	Java Olive Tree	Ornamental, Soft Wood
<i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i> Lam.	Malvaceae	West Indian Elm	Medicinal
<i>Terminalia paniculata</i> Roth	Combretaceae	Kindal Tree	Medicinal, Wood
<i>Cleome rutidosperma</i> DC.	Cleomaceae	Fringed Spider Flower	Medicinal
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Common Spurge	Medicinal
<i>Ficus pumila</i> L.	Moraceae	Creeping Fig	Medicinal
<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Plumed Cockscomb	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Phoenix roebelenii</i> O'Brien	Arecaceae	Pygmy Date Palm	Ornamental
<i>Pseuderanthemum carruthersii</i> (Seem.) Guillaumin	Acanthaceae	Carruthers' False face	Ornamental
<i>Oldenlandia corymbosa</i> L.	Rubiaceae	Diamond Flower Plant	Medicinal
<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Compositae	Synedrella	Medicinal, Leaf Food
<i>Phaius tankervilleae</i> (Banks ex L'Hér.) Blume	Orchidaceae	Greater Swamp Orchid	Ornamental
<i>Costus woodsonii</i> Maas	Costaceae	Red Button Ginger	Medicinal, Ornamental
<i>Cordyline fruticosa</i> (L.) A. Chev.	Asparagaceae	Ti Plant	Medicinal, Ornamental
<i>Pilea nummulariifolia</i> (Sw.) Wedd.	Urticaceae	Creeping Charlie	Ornamental
<i>Polyscias balfouriana</i> (André) L. H. Bailey	Araliaceae	Balfour Aralia	Ornamental
<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Indian Acalypha	Medicinal
<i>Aglaonema costatum</i> N. E. Br.	Araceae	Spotted Evergreen	Ornamental
<i>Dracaena reflexa</i> Lam.	Asparagaceae	Song of Jamaica	Ornamental
<i>Dendrophthoe falcata</i> (L. f.) Ettingsh.	Loranthaceae	Honey Suckle Mistletoe	Parasite, Medicinal
<i>Gomphrena globosa</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Globe Amaranth	Ornamental
<i>Crotalaria retusa</i> L.	Leguminosae	Rattle Weed Plant	Ornamental
<i>Hemigraphis colorata</i> (Blume) Hallier f.	Acanthaceae	Red Flame Ivy	Medicinal, Ornamental
<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Leguminosae	Touch-me-not	Medicinal
<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Holy Basil	Medicinal
<i>Ixora coccinea</i> L.	Rubiaceae	Jungle Geranium	Medicinal, Ornamental
<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Slender Amaranth	Edible, Medicinal
<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Turmeric	Edible, Medicinal
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G. Don	Apocynaceae	Madagascar Periwinkle	Medicinal, Ornamental
<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm. f.	Asphodelaceae	Aloe Vera	Medicinal, Ornamental
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i> (Thunb.) Jacques	Asparagaceae	Spider Plant	Ornamental
<i>Spathiphyllum wallisii</i> Regel	Araceae	Peace Lily	Ornamental
<i>Cyanthillium cinereum</i> (L.) H. Rob.	Compositae	Little Ironweed	Medicinal
<i>Peperomia pellucida</i> (L.) Kunth	Piperaceae	Pepper Elder	Medicinal
<i>Cyanotis cristata</i> (L.) D. Don	Commelinaceae	Crested Dew Grass	Medicinal
<i>Kyllinga nemoralis</i> (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) Dandy ex Hutch. and Dalziel	Cyperaceae	White Water Sedge	Medicinal
<i>Holmskioldia sanguinea</i> Retz.	Lamiaceae	Cup-and-saucer-plant	Ornamental
<i>Begonia malabarica</i> Lam.	Begoniaceae	Malabar Begonia	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> (L.)L.	Compositae	Billy Goat Weed	Medicinal
<i>Commelina diffusa</i> Burm. f.	Commelinaceae	Climbing Dayflower	Medicinal

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Table 1. Plant species in the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences campus, Kalamassery

Botanical name	Family	Common name	Use
<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> Prain	Asparagaceae	Snake Plant	Ornamental
<i>Antigonon leptopus</i> Hook. And Arn.	Polygonaceae	Coral Vine	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Hymenocallis littoralis</i> (Jacq.) Salisb.	Amaryllidaceae	Beach Spider Lily	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Chrysothemis pulchella</i> (Donn ex Sims) Decne.	Gesneriaceae	Sunset Bells	Ornamental
<i>Brachiaria reptans</i> (L.) C. A. Gardner & C. E. Hubb.	Poaceae	Creeping Panic Grass	Medicinal, Fodder
<i>Brachiaria ramosa</i> (L.) Stapf	Poaceae	Brown Top Millet	Fodder
<i>Brachiaria deflexa</i> (Schumach.) C. E. Hubb. ex Robyns	Poaceae	Annual Brachiaria	Fodder
<i>Chlorophytum laxum</i> R. Br.	Asparagaceae	Bichetii Grass	Ornamental
<i>Torenia fourmieri</i> Linden ex E. Fourn.	Linderniaceae	Wishbone Flower	Ornamental
<i>Dypsis lutescens</i> (H. Wendl.) Beentje & J. Dransf.	Arecaceae	Yellow Palm	Ornamental
<i>Ruellia prostrata</i> Poir.	Acanthaceae	Bell Weed	Medicinal, Natural dye
<i>Urtica parviflora</i> Roxb.	Urticaceae	Stinging Nettle	Medicinal
<i>Tibouchina urvilleana</i> (DC.) Cogn.	Melastomataceae	Princess Flower	Ornamental
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	Oxalidaceae	Creeping Wood Sorrel	Medicinal
<i>Tridax procumbens</i> (L.) L.	Compositae	Tridax Daisy	Medicinal, Weed
<i>Allamanda cathartica</i> L.	Apocynaceae	Golden Trumpet	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss.	Amaranthaceae	Mountain Knotgrass	Medicinal
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.	Asparagaceae	Satavar	Medicinal
<i>Abelmoschus moschatus medik.</i>	Malvaceae	Musk Mallow	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Piper nigrum</i> L.	Piperaceae	Pepper	Spice, Medicinal
<i>Piper longum</i> L.	Piperaceae	Long Pepper	Medicinal
<i>Piper betle</i> L.	Piperaceae	Betel	Medicinal
<i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i> (Lour.) Spreng.	Lamiaceae	Mexican Mint	Medicinal
<i>Phyllanthus niruri</i> L.	Phyllanthaceae	Gale of the Wind	Medicinal
<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Wild Poinsettia	Medicinal
<i>Spathiphyllum cannifolium</i> (Dryand. ex Sims) Schott	Araceae	Spathe Flower	Ornamental
<i>Cyclea peltata</i> (Lam.) Hook. f. & Thomson	Menispermaceae	Indian Moon-Seed	Medicinal
<i>Clerodendrum speciosum</i> Dombrain	Lamiaceae	Bleeding Heart Vine	Ornamental
<i>Anthurium andraeanum</i> Linden ex André	Araceae	Painter's Palette	Ornamental
<i>Biophytum sensitivum</i> (L.) DC.	Oxalidaceae	Little Tree Plant	Medicinal
<i>Talinum triangulare</i> (Jacq.) Willd.	Talinaceae	Ceylon Spinach	Leaf vegetable
<i>Euphorbia milii</i> Des Moul.	Euphorbiaceae	Crown of Thorns	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Wild Sage	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Epipremnum aureum</i> (Linden and André) . G. S. Bunting	Araceae	Money Plant	Ornamental
<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	Veldt Grape	Medicinal
<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i> Hook.	Portulacaceae	Rose Moss	Ornamental
<i>Vanda testacea</i> (Lindl.) Rchb. f.	Orchidaceae	Small Flowered Vanda	Medicinal
<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.	Moraceae	Sacred Fig, Peepal	Medicinal, Wood
<i>Codiaeum variegatum</i> (L.) Rumph. ex A. Juss.	Euphorbiaceae	Variiegated Croton	Ornamental
<i>Hippeastrum vittatum</i> (L'Hér.) Herb.	Amaryllidaceae	Barbados Lily	Ornamental
<i>Heliconia psittacorum</i> L. f.	Heliconiaceae	Parakeet Flower	Ornamental

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Table 1. Plant species in the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences campus, Kalamassery

Botanical name	Family	Common name	Use
<i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i> L.	Phyllanthaceae	Chamber Bitter	Medicinal
<i>Schefflera arboricola</i> (Hayata) Merr.	Araliaceae	Dwarf Umbrella Tree	Ornamental
<i>Philodendron bipinnatifidum</i> Schott ex Endl.	Araceae	Lacy Tree Philodendron	Ornamental
<i>Centrosema pubescens</i> Benth.	Leguminosae	Butterfly Pea	Forage, Green manure
<i>Pothos scandens</i> L.	Araceae	Climbing Aroid	Medicinal
<i>Dieffenbachia exotica</i> hort.	Araceae	Spotted Dumbcane	Ornamental
<i>Ruellia simplex</i> C. Wright	Acanthaceae	Mexican Bluebell	Ornamental
<i>Rhapis excelsa</i> (Thunb.) Henry	Arecaceae	Broadleaf Lady Palm	Ornamental
<i>Homalomena rubescens</i> (Roxb.) Kunth	Araceae	Homalomena Maggy	Ornamental
<i>Ficus benjamina</i> L.	Moraceae	Weeping Fig	Ornamental
<i>Dracaena surculosa</i> Lindl.	Asparagaceae	Dracaena Gold Dust	Ornamental
<i>Tacca chantrieri</i> André	Dioscoreaceae	Bat Flower	Ornamental
<i>Excoecaria cochinchinensis</i> Lour.	Euphorbiaceae	Chinese Croton	Ornamental
<i>Tradescantia spathacea</i> Sw.	Commelinaceae	Moses-in-the-cradle	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Zinnia elegans</i> Jacq.	Compositae	Common Zinnia	Ornamental
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Four O'clock Plant	Ornamental, Medicinal
<i>Cosmos sulphureus</i> Cav.	Compositae	Yellow Cosmos	Ornamental
<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i> Bolus ex Hook. f.	Compositae	Barberton Daisy	Ornamental
<i>Impatiens balsamina</i> L.	Balsaminaceae	Balsam	Ornamental
<i>Turnera ulmifolia</i> L.	Passifloraceae	Yellow Alder	Medicinal
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> L.	Compositae	Cut Leaf Coneflower	Ornamental
<i>Caladium lindenii</i> (André) Madison	Araceae	Angel's Wing	Ornamental
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm. f.) Nees	Acanthaceae	Green Chireta	Medicinal
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (L.) R. M. King and H. Rob.	Compositae	Siam Weed	Medicinal
<i>Caladium bicolor</i> (Aiton) Vent.	Araceae	Angel Wings	Ornamental
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Poaceae	Bermuda Grass	Medicinal
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Cyperaceae	Nut grass	Medicinal
<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> (L.) DC. ex DC.	Compositae	Lilac Tassel Flower	Medicinal
<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> (L.) R. Br. ex Roem. And Schult.	Apocynaceae	Crape Jasmine	Medicinal, Ornamental
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> (L.) Mill.	Cactaceae	Prickly Pear	Ornamental
<i>Cycas revoluta</i> Thunb.	Cycadaceae	Sago Palm	Medicinal, Ornamental
<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i> (Salisb.) Franco	Araucariaceae	Andes Pine	Ornamental
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> L.	Cupressaceae	Northern White Cedar	Medicinal, Ornamental

Table 2. Flora of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences campus, Kalamassery

Clade	Family	Genera	Species
Dicots	42	94	109
Monocots	13	38	44
Magnoliids	4	6	8
Gymnosperms	3	3	3
Total	62	141	164

1. *Syzygium malaccense* (L.) Merr. and L. M. Perry (Family: Myrtaceae): Rare
2. *Pterocarpus santalinus* L. f. (Family: Leguminosae): Near Threatened
3. *Jacaranda mimosifolia* D. Don (Family: Bignoniaceae): Vulnerable
4. *Santalum album* L. (Family: Santalaceae): Vulnerable
5. *Swietenia mahagoni* (L.) Jacq. (Family: Meliaceae): Endangered

6. *Dalbergia latifolia* Roxb. (Family: Leguminosae): Vulnerable
7. *Dyopsis lutescens* (H. Wendl.) Beentje & J. Dransf. I. (Family: Arecaceae): Near Threatened
8. *Asparagus racemosus* Willd. (Family: Asparagaceae): Endangered

The rapid destruction of wild stock of medicinal plants is mainly due to the premature and non-scientific exploitation. These activities threaten next season's propagation and regeneration of the plant species Chaudhuri 2007.

CONCLUSION

Rajagiri College Campus consists of highly diversified flora and it is rich in the plants of economic importance. It is necessary to know the importance of the plant diversity so that the multiplication and conservation of such plants become quite imperative, especially in the context of plants which are on the verge of extinction. The documentation of campus floral diversity is very important as it is vital that native and endemic species of plants are conserved. Lack of awareness among the new generation about various plant and tree species in their surroundings which have commercial, medicinal and ritual importance is one of the

problems constraining the conservation efforts of the authorities concerned. The scientific documentation and publication of the floral diversity of the campus will give an insight to the student community need for conservation and sustainable utilization of plant species.

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