



# Existence and Survey of Medicinal Plants in *Maruthakulam*, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, India

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## Abstract:

Tirunelveli district have several medicinal plants, it helped to develop the traditional knowledge and folk medicine to cure various diseases. This knowledge is used by pharmaceutical agents, suppliers and Phyto-chemistry researchers to exploit the rich source in the form of raw drugs. An ethno botanical survey of Tirunelveli District was made to collect the information from traditional practitioner and village public with the use of medicinal plants of Tirunelveli District of India. As this survey About 33 families and 45 plants within 232 medicinal valued plants largely used by the traditional practitioners and local peoples of Tirunelveli District have been enumerated in this paper. These plants contain important phytochemicals and are employed in the various ailments. The main aim of this work is to survey, document the existence of medicinal plants of Maruthakulam area (Latitude: 8.60341<sup>N</sup> Longitude: 77.68483<sup>E</sup>, altitude: 69m from sea level), Tirunelveli District for the benefit of mankind and further investigation.

**Key words:** Medicinal plants, Tirunelveli district, Traditional practitioner.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Ethno-botany is the study of the interaction between plants and people, with a particular emphasis on traditional tribal cultures. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) about 65-80% of the world's population in developing countries depends essentially on plants for their primary healthcare due to poverty and lack of access to modern medicine.

About 80% of the total population of India is depending on traditional medicine to treat different types of human ailments.

They use their perceptions and experiences to categorize plant species indigenously and local people over the past period take traditional medicine.

Traditional knowledge of medicinal plants and their use by indigenous healers and drug development in the present are not only useful for conservation of cultural tradition and biodiversity but also for community health care and drug development in the local people.

The indigenous knowledge on medicinal plants appears when humans started and learned how to use the traditional knowledge on medicinal plants.

The lack of conservation actions and activities is observed in Tirunelveli district, which is similar to other areas of Tamil Nadu.

The current plant use trend shows that the environment is facing problems of resource depletion and loss of indigenous knowledge like other area of the country. Thus concerned ethno

botanical research plays an important role for conservation and sustainable utilization of these medicinal plants.

In different parts of Maruthakulam, medicinal plants have been used as traditional medicine to treat different human ailments. People who live in these areas have traditional knowledge on use of medicinal plant species.

However, it is not widely used as it could be because the skills are fragile and not written document (easily forgettable) as most of the medicinal plants are in the hands of a handful and kept as a secret.

Therefore, the present study was conducted to assess and document the knowledge and use of medicinal plant species used by the traditional healers to treat different human ailments in Maruthakulam.

The study focuses in identifying the parts of plants used for medicinal purposes, their mode of preparation, ingredients added and other use of the plant

## II. METHODOLOGY

### Study area:

Maruthakulam area,  
Tirunelveli District  
India.

Latitude: 8.60341<sup>N</sup>  
Longitude: 77.68483<sup>E</sup>  
Altitude: 69m from sea level

Site Map:



Figure.1.Location Map of Tamil Nadu (TN), India Figure.2. Location Map of Tirunelveli, TN

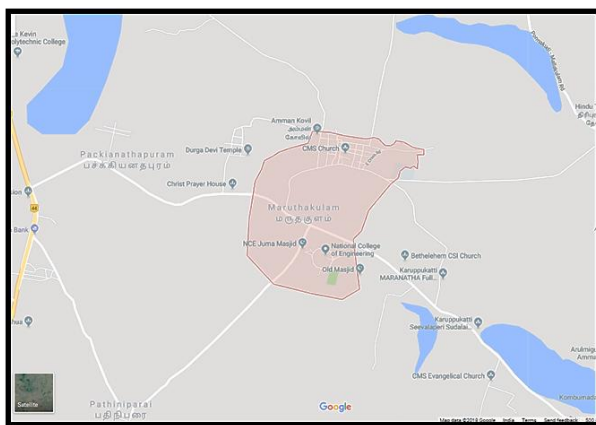


Figure.3.Location Map of field research area: MARUTHAKULAM

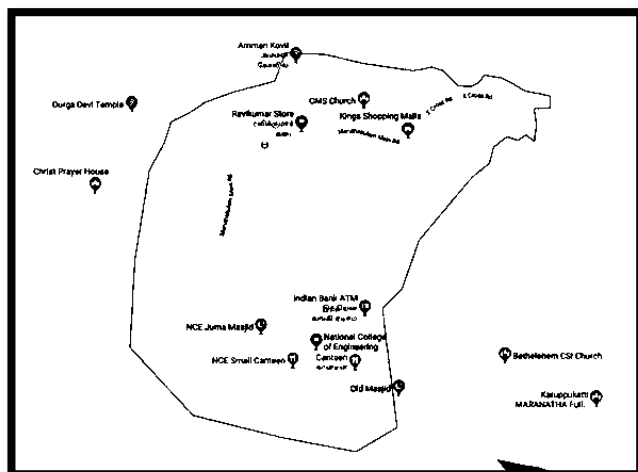


Figure.4. Location Map of Ethno-Botany Survey Area

Data Collection

Survey

This survey was carried out during the year, 2018 in the areas of Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu, India. Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli have so many natural medicinal plants in surrounding of the place. The information on medicinal uses of the indigenous plants has been described after gathering it from local people, experienced aged rural folk, traditional herbal medicine practitioners, local herbal drug sellers and the information collected from the available literature. Plants recorded in the results were mentioned by at least two TMP's as treating the same disease in order to confirm its use.

III. RESULTS

The recorded Information only 45 Plants Species, used commonly as remedies for various diseases are listed with their Family and Local Ecological status in the Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District. And identified medicinal plants countered 232 as cultivated also included (Table 1) followed by their habitat. The Plant part used, Local distribution, ecological status all are enumerated below only 65 plants:

Records:

1. *Abutilon indicum*

Family: Malvaceae

Tamil: Thuthi

Hindi: Pili buti

Local Uses: Roots used as tonic. Roots powdered and mixed with ghee and sugar, Leaves as spinach for piles patients.

Local Ecological Status: Threatened as common.

Causes of threat: Destruction of Habitat.

2. *Abrus precatorius*

Family: Fabaceae

**Tamil:** Kunrimani  
**Hindi:** Rati  
**Sanskrit:** Gunja  
**Ecological Status:** Threatened - Vulnerable Status  
**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction  
**Local distribution:** Forest Area,  
**Local uses:** The leaves are chewed to get relief from throat trouble and voice. Musicians eat the dried leaves to clear and tone up their voice.

### 3. *Acalypha indica* Linn.

**Family:** Euphorbiaceae  
**Tamil:** Kuppaimeni  
**Local distribution:** Field, uncultivated waste lands  
**Local ecological status:** Vulnerable  
**Causes of threat:** Habitat destructions  
**Local uses:** Leaves are chewed to get relief from worm treatment. Externally application of leaves to skin rashes.

### 4. *Achyranthes aspera*

**Family:** Amaranthaceae  
**Tamil:** Nayurivi  
**Hindi:** Aghada  
**Sanskrit:** Apamarga  
**Ecological Status:** Threatened  
**Causes of:** Habitual destruction and use Road, House and Other Threat residential activities.  
**Habitual and distribution:** Waste land, Road side, Field, Fence in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli.  
**Local uses:** For cuts and wounds the leaf juice applied externally and eaten raw. The dried whole plant ash used in wounds and fistula in anus.

### 5. *Ficus racemosa* Linn.

**Family:** Moraceae  
**Tamil:** Aththi  
**Local Distribution:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli Dist. Waste field, forest and uncultivated land.  
**Local use:** fruit is tonic. Bark is good astringent.  
**Ecological status:** Threatened

### 6. *Indigofera tinctoria* Linn.

**Family:** Fabaceae  
**Tamil:** Avuri  
**Local Distribution:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli Dist. Waste field, forest and uncultivated land.  
**Local use:** Leaf juice used to head oil, root decoction used for antidote.  
**Ecological status:** Threatened

### 7. *Adathoda Vascica*

**Family:** Acanthaceae  
**Tamil:** Adathodai  
**Local Distribution:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli Dist. Waste field, forest and uncultivated land.  
**Local use:** Leaf decoction for cold and cough.  
**Ecological status:** Threatened due to Habitat loss.

### 8. *Andrographis paniculata*

**Family:** Acanthaceae  
**Tamil:** Nilavembu

**Hindi:** Kirayat  
**Sanskrit:** Kalamegh, Bhunimbcu  
**Ecological Status:** Threatened  
**Causes of:** Habitat destruction of due to expansion of Residential Threat Habitual and cultivation.  
**Local Habitat:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District waste Forest area.  
**Local use:** Local Native Vaidya's (Traditional Physicians) use whole plant treats joint pain, viral fevers.

### 9. *Aegle mormelos*

**Family:** Rutaceae  
**Tamil:** Vilvam  
**Hindi:** Bael  
**Sanskrit:** Bilwa  
**Ecological Status:** Threatened  
**Causes of:** Over utilization  
**Threat:** Habitat destruction.  
**Local Habitat & Distribution:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District Field and Forest, Temples.  
**Local medicinal use:** Tender leaves chewed as tonic pulp & leaf juice dysentery & tuberculosis.

### 10. *Aloe vera* Linn.

**Family:** Liliaceae  
**Tamil:** Katralai  
**Hindi:** Ghritkamani  
**Sanskrit:** Ghritkumari  
**Local uses:** Leaf juice used to remove face skin patches. Juice with turmeric powder applied a swellings, tumors and get relief from sprain oral consumption against digestive ailments.  
**Local Habitat and Distribution:** Forest and uncultivated land nowadays cultivated in garden. Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli.  
**Local Ecological Status:** Under threat in wild, due to habitat destruction.

### 11. *Argemone maxicana*

**Family:** Papavaraceae  
**Tamil:** Pramathandu  
**Hindi:** Shialkanta  
**Sanskrit:** Brahmadandi  
**Ecological status:** Abundant Low risk.  
**Local use:** Local Native Doctors use the yellow latex to apply on the soar mouth and tong to get immediate relief.  
**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Through Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District Waste Land, Field ,Road Side

### 12. *Asparagus racemosus wild*

**Family:** Liliaceae  
**Tamil:** Thanneerviddan Kizhalangu.  
**Sanskrit:** Satavari  
**Hindi:** Satavari  
**Ecological Status:** Threatened in wild habitat  
**Local use:** Local Native vaidyas use roots as tonic.  
**Causes of:** Habitat destruction of due to extensive use of land for Threat: cultivation & house construction.  
**Local Distribution:** Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district forest area and field, common in garden.

### 13. *Azadirachta indica*

**Family:** Meliaceae

**Hindi:** Neem

**Kannada:** Bevu

**Distribution:** It is native to India and Pakistan growing in tropical and semi-tropical regions.

**Local use:** All parts of the tree are said to have medicinal properties (seeds, leaves, flowers and bark) and are used for preparing many different medical preparations.

#### 14. *Cretava religiosa* DC.

**Family:** Cappariaceae

**Tamil:** Mavelingam

**Hindi:** Barna

**Sanskrit:** varuna

**Ecological Status:** Vulnerable / Regional

**Cause of threat:** Habitat destruction.

**Common uses:** Ayurveda, Folk, Unani and Siddha

**Local habitat:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli Dist. Field Forest and Uncultivated Land

**Local Uses:** barks and leaves are used to cure sprains. Barks decoction used to lithontripic and thyroid disorders.

#### 15. *Biophytum sensitivum* (L.) DC.

**Family:** Oxalidaceae, Genus Biophytum

**Hindi:** Lajwanti

**Tamil:** Mukkutti

**Sanskrit:** Vipareetiajjalu

**Local use:** It is also a reputed medicine for tuberculosis and asthma.

**Habitat and Local Distribution:** Thirupalani Murugan mountain field in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli Dist.

**Local Ecological Status:** Threatened due to Habitat destruction.

#### 16. *Phyllanthus emblica* Linn.

**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Tamil:** Nelli

**Hindi:** Amla

**Sans:** Amalaki

**Ecological status:** Threatened due habitat destruction.

**Distribution:** throughout the India and Indian Subcontinent India, etc.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Forest in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli.

**Local use:** The ripe fruits are eaten. This is a general tonic. The local women collect the fruits and sold in the village and city market Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli

#### 17. *Calotropis procera*

**Family:** Asclepiadaceae

**Common name:** Milkweed, Rui (madar)

**Tamil:** Velerukku

**Distribution:** Throughout India on plains on wastelands

**Special characteristics:** Its typical leaves and flowers, which are quite unique in structure

**Local Habitat:** Rare Weed Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District Waste land uncultivated land and in residential habitat.

**Local uses:** Latex applied on the fresh dog bite is quite effective. Dried flowers are used against asthma. Latex is applied for Joint pain and removes the thorn penetrated in to the foot. Tender leaves with Neem oil paste is applied to cure Leucoderma.

**Local Ecological Status:** Abundant low risk least concerned.

#### 18. *Caesalpinia bunducella*

**Family:** Caesalpinaceae

**Tamil:** Kalarchi

**Hindi:** Karthkaranj

**Sanskrit:** Kakachika, Karanja and Latakaranja

**Local Habitat:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District Waste land, Forest, Un-cultivated land, Field border.

**Local Ecological status:** Vulnerable due to Habitat destruction.

**Ayurvedic Description:** Properties: Rasa-katu, tikta; Gunalaghu, rooksha, teekshna; Veerya-ushna; Vipak-katu.

**Action and Uses:** Kapha, vat samak, sotha har, badana sthapan, dipan, anuloman, krimighan, rakt sodhak, swashar, mutral, jwara-ghan.

**Local use:** Leaf juice is administered in fever, Leucorrhoea, Grown as thick and prickly fence around field for protection.

#### 19. *Tribulus terrestris* Linn.

**Family:** Zygophyllaceae

**Tamil:** Neruncil

**Hindi:** Gokhru

**Sans:** Goksura

**Cause of threat:** Habitat destruction

**Local Ecological status:** Threatened plant

**Local use:** Decoction of whole plant used as diuretic and urinary disorder. Very effective for urine troubles.

#### 20. *Cassia fistula* Linn.

**Family:** Caesalpinaceae

**Tamil:** Sarakonrai

**Hindi:** Amaltas

**Sanskrit:** Aragvadhya, Chaturangula, Sa-varnaka.

**Habitat and Distribution:** Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli Forest Area and uncultivated agriculture land

**Local Ecological Status:** Threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction and over utilization

**Local uses:** Local Native Doctors use the bark to treat Leucorrhoea-Excessive bleeding in menstrual cycles.

#### 21. *Capparis spinosa*

**Family:** Cappariaceae

**Tamil:** Kattotri

**Local habitat:** Waste land and uncultivated field. Old buildings.

**Ecological status:** Threatened due to loss of habitat.

**Medicinal uses:** In folk medicine, leaves used as cataplasm for boils, swelling and hemorrhoids. Decoction of root bark used for vomiting.

#### 22. *Datura metal*

**Family:** Solaneceae

**Tamil:** Umathai

**Hindi:** Kala Datura

**Local use:** Leaves in Asthma internally and external for sprains and contusion by Local Native Doctors

**Ecological status:** Threatened. Cause of threat –Habitat destruction due to residential expansion of land in rural and urban.

**Habitat and distribution:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District in waste land *Datura metal* is a shrub-like

perennial herb, commonly known as angel's trumpet, devil's trumpet and metal.

*Datura metal* grows in the wild in all the warmer parts of the world and is cultivated worldwide for its chemical and ornamental properties. It was first described by Linnaeus in 1753, but no botanically correct illustrations or descriptions were made until after the New World was settled. It is not possible to be sure about its original home.

### 23. *Gymnema sylvestre*

**Family:** Asclepiadaceae

**Tamil:** Sirukurenja

**Sanskrit:** Madhunasin

**Hindi:** Kavali

**Local Habitat and Distribution:** cultivated and Uncultivated land in Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** Native Doctors treat diabetes in general, jaundice and fever by leaf tablets.

**Local Ecological Status:** Threatened Due to destruction of Habitat.

### 24. *Phyla noddifolia* Linn.

**Family:** Verbanaceae

**Tamil:** Podithalai

**Hindi:** jalpipli

**Sanskrit:** Jalapipali

**Locally:** karukku birami.

**Botanical name:** *Gardina latifolia*

**Ecological status:** Threatened

**Causes of threat:** Habitat Destruction

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Forest and uncultivated land that wet zone is commonly identified in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local use:** paste of whole plant is used against the children indigestion locally. Paste of leaves used as head paste for dandruff externally.

### 25. *Hemidesmus indicus*

**Family:** Asclepiadaceae

**Tamil:** nannari

**Hindi:** Ananthamul

**Sanskrit:** Ananthmul

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Common everywhere. Forest land, uncultivated land, Field hedges in all the places in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district.

**Local Ecological Status:** Threatened due to destruction of habitat.

**Causes of threat:** Use of land for construction of house and road etc.

### 26. *Pongamia pinnata* Linn.

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Tamil:** Pungu

**Hindi:** karanji

**Sanskrit:** Karanja

**Ecological status:** Threatened due to habitat destruction.

**Local use:** It is used as fungicidal action and astringent property. Its used as skin disorders.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District in waste land all along the fencing of the crop field.

### 27. *Mimosa pudica*

**Family:** Mimosaceae

**Tamil:** Thoddal Vaddi

**Hindi:** chui-mui

**Ecological status:** Threatened due to habitat destruction

**Distribution:** Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District in waste land all along the fencing of the crop field. The species is native to South America and Central America, but is now a pantropical weed.

**Local use:** Root used to Diabetes Mellitus. Decoction of whole plant used as washing to wounds.

### 28. *Phyllanthus Niruri*

**Family name:** Euphorbiaceae

**Tamil:** KeelkaiNelli

**Hindi:** Bhumi amla

**Part used:** Whole Plant

**Local name:** Nela Nelli

**Product offered:** Whole plant

**Local Ecological Status:** Threatened

**Cause of Threat:** Destruction of Habitat.

**Habitat:** Common in central and southern India extending to Srilanka.

**Local distribution:** Whole of Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District waste land, uncultivated agriculture land, Seasonal, Annual herb.

**Local use:** Whole plant is used against in jaundice and liver diseases by local Native Doctors.

### 29. *Plumbago Zeylanica*

**Family name:** Plumbaginaceae

**Botanical name:** *Plumbago Zeylanica*

**Tamil:** Venkodivelli

**Part Used:** roots

**Product offered:** Roots

**Local Ecological Status:** Rare Vulnerable.

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat Destruction

**Local distribution:** Waste land, Field Border Habit, Uncultivated land, Throughout Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local use:** Root paste applied on tumors to cure and get relief.

**Habitat:** Throughout India and India but abundantly found in north India upto 1600 m.

### 30. *Psoralea corylifolia*

**Family name:** Fabaceae

**Tamil:** karpogaris

**Hindi:** Bavacha

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction

**Local Ecological Status:** Threatened due to habitat destruction.

**Uses:** General uses are diuretic anthelmintic and antifungal. Used as leucoderma also.

**Local distribution & Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land field alongwith border in Tirunelveli district and other area.

**Local uses:** Product offered Seeds and Oil .Fertility and as tonic Root.

### 31. *Thespecia populnea* Linn.

**Family:** Malveceae

**Tamil:** Poovarasam

**Hindi:** Paaraspipal

**Sanskrit:** Kapitana

**Ecological status:** Threatened vulnerable

**Causes of threat:** Habitat destruction

**Local use:** Applied latex from leaves petioles on wounds and cuts. Decoction of bark is good astringent and antibacterial property.

**Distribution:** Found in the reserved forest and found everywhere.

### 32. *Terminalia berlica* Linn

**Family:** Combretaceae

**Tamil:** Thaanri

**Hindi:** Bahera

**Sanskrit:** Bibhitaka

**Ecological status:** Threatened due to over utilization and habitat destruction.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Forest area in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli Chitta.

**Local uses:** this is main ingredient in Thiripala as famous drug in Ayurveda, siddha and Unani. Fruit pulp is general tonic and alterative.

### 33. *Azadirachta indica* Linn.

**Family:** Meliaceae

**Tamil:** Vembu

**Sanskrit:** Nimba

**Hindi:** Nim

**Ecological status:** Threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** cultivation and uncultivated land everywhere in Tirunelveli District..

**Local use:** The tender leaves are used by the local traditional Physicians in treatment of dysmenorrhea. Decoction of bark is used to periodic fever. Externally, leaves paste apply to skin disorders. Seeds used as preparation of Neem oil.

### 34. *Tinospora cordifolia*

**Family:** Menispermaceae

**Tamil:** Seenthil

**Hindi:** Gulvel

**Sanskrit:** Guduchi

**Local Ecological Status:** Threatened (Vulnerable) in wild

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction and over utilization.

**Distribution:** Through out tropical India ascending to an altitude of 1000 ft.

**Local Habitat:** Field, uncultivated waste land. Now a day's cultivated all house gardens.

### 35. *Ficus hispida* Linn.

**Family:** Morecea

**Tamil:** Peyaththi

**Ecological status:** Threatened

**Causes of threat:** Habitat destruction

**Local Habitat:** Waste land, Field and Forest Locality throughout the Tirunelveli district.

**Local uses:** Juice of the bark is used as antidote for snake bite. Leaves and bark are used freshly for external application to leucoderma.

### 36. *Vitex negundo*

**Family:** Verbenaceae

**Tamil:** Nochchi

**Sanskrit:** Nirgundi, Sephalika, Sindhuvara, Vrikshaha

**Hindi:** Mewri; Nirgundi; Nisinda; Sambhalu; Sawbhalu

**Ecological Status:** Abundant and Low risk due to fast growth.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, field, near water bodies and forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district.

**Local Uses:** The tender leaves and flowers are put in to the nose to get rid the coldness. The matured leaves are used to get relief from the cold and body pain. Nochchi decoction is used to cure BP heart diseases, paralysis, Diabetes and other diseases by Native Doctors in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

### 37. *Sida cordifolia* Linn.

**Family:** malvaceae

**Tamil:** Sittamati

**Sanskrit:** Bala

**Hindi:** bala

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** The roots are used as tonic to strength to the body and to make sexually strong. Decoction is used as muscular pain and nerve strength.

### 38. *Pavonia ordarata* Linn.

**Family:** malvaceae

**Tamil:** Peramatti

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** The roots are used as tonic to *vatha* disorders. Decoction is used as muscular pain.

### 39. *Cynodon dactylon* Linn.

**Family:** Gramineae

**Tamil:** Arugu

**Sanskrit:** Duruwa

**Hindi:** Duruva

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, watery zone in forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** fresh juice is tonic and good for kidney functions. This is good antidote. Good blood purifiant.

### 40. *Coccinea grandis* Linn.

**Family:** Cucurbitacea

**Tamil:** Kovai

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** Leaves used as spinaches. Unripe fruit used to Diabetes.

### 41. *Solanum verbanasifolium* Linn.

**Family:** Solanaceae

**Tamil:** Sundankathari

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** fruits are used for worm treatment.

#### 42. *Cardiospermum microcapum* Linn.

**Family:** Sapindaceae

**Tamil:** Mutakotham

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** The whole plants are used as tonic to strength to the body and to make sexually strong. Decoction is used as relieve muscular pain.

#### 43. *Terminalia arjuna* Linn.

**Family:** Cobaretaceae

**Tamil:** Maruthu

**Sanskrit:** Arjuna

**Hindi:** arjuna

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** The barks are used as tonic to strength to the heart and to make cardiovascular strong. Decoction is used as chest pain.

#### 44. *Evolvulus alsinoides* Linn.

**Family:** Convolvulaceae

**Tamil:** Vishnukiranthi

**Sanskrit:** Vishnuvalli

**Hindi:** Krishnavalli

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** The whole plants are used as tonic to fever condition to the body and to make immune power. Decoction is used as fever.

#### 45. *Merremia tridentata* Linn.

**Family:** Convolvulaceae

**Tamil:** Muthiyarkunthal

**Sanskrit:** Pirasarani

**Hindi:** Pirasarani

**Local Ecological Status:** threatened

**Causes of Threat:** Habitat destruction for country development.

**Local Distribution and Habitat:** Waste land, uncultivated land, forest all types of soil. Distributed throughout in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli District.

**Local uses:** The plants are used as tonic to strength to the body and to make muscular strong. Prepared oil is used as muscular pain.

**Table.1. Local status of Medicinal plants (wild& cultivated) in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli Dist.**

No.	Botanical Name	Tamil Name
1	<i>Abelmoschus esculantus.</i>	Vendakai
2	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	Kuntri
3	<i>Abutilon indicum.</i>	Thuththi
4	<i>Acacia nilotica.</i>	Vel
5	<i>Acalypha indica</i>	Kuppeimeni
6	<i>Achyranthes aspera.</i>	Nayuruvi
7	<i>Acorus calamus.</i>	Vasambu
8	<i>Adenanthera pavonina.</i>	Anai kuntri
9	<i>Aegle marmeoles.</i>	Vilvam
10	<i>Aerva lanata.</i>	Chirupelai
11	<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	Kalen
12	<i>Agave Americana.</i>	Anai – katrazhai
13	<i>Alangium salvifolium.</i>	Azhinjil
14	<i>Albizia lebbeck.</i>	Vagai
15	<i>Alium cepa.</i>	Vengayam
16	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i>	Katrazhai
17	<i>Aloe littoralis</i>	Kariabolam

18	<i>Alpinia galanga.</i>	Arathai
19	<i>Alternanthera sessilis.</i>	Ponnanganni
20	<i>Amaranthus gangeticus</i>	Kiraithandu
21	<i>Amarantus tristis.</i>	Arukirai
22	<i>Amarphophallus paeonic folius</i>	Karunai thandu
23	<i>Ammania baccifera.</i>	Nirmel neruppu
24	<i>Anacardium occidentale.</i>	Munthiri
25	<i>Ananas comosus.</i>	Annasipazham
26	<i>Andrographis echiodes</i>	Gopuram targi
27	<i>Anisochilus carnosus.</i>	Karpuravalli
28	<i>Anona squamosa.</i>	Seeththa
29	<i>Anosomeles malabarica.</i>	Rattai - peimarutti
30	<i>Anthocephalus cadamba.</i>	Kadambu
31	<i>Arachis hypogea.</i>	Verkadalai
32	<i>Areca catechu</i>	Kalippakku
33	<i>Areca catechu.</i>	Kamuku
34	<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	Kudiyottupoond
35	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata.</i>	Adutheenadapalai
36	<i>Aristolochia indica.</i>	Echchura mooli
37	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus.</i>	Pala
38	<i>Asarum europaeum.</i>	Nilakkadambu
39	<i>Asparagus racemosus.</i>	Thannirvittan
40	<i>Atalantia malabarica</i>	Kattu elumichchai
41	<i>Azadirachta indica.</i>	Vembu
42	<i>Bacopa monnieri.</i>	Nirbrahmi
43	<i>Bambusa arundinacea.</i>	Mungil
44	<i>Bauhinia purpurea.</i>	Mantharai (red)
45	<i>Bauhinia tomentosa</i>	Kattatti
46	<i>Benincasa hispida.</i>	Kaliyana pushnikay
47	<i>Blumea lacera</i>	Kattu mullangi
48	<i>Boerhavia diffusa.</i>	Mukkirattai
49	<i>Bombax ceiba.</i>	Ilavamaram
50	<i>Cadiospermum helicacabum.</i>	Mudakkattan
51	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i>	Kazharchi kodi
52	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum.</i>	Punnai
53	<i>Calotropis gigantea.</i>	Erukku
54	<i>Capparis zeylanica.</i>	Athondai
55	<i>Casica papaya.</i>	Pappali
56	<i>Cassia alata.</i>	Vandukolli
57	<i>Cassia auriculata.</i>	Aavarai



58	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Konrai-Sarak-Konrai
59	<i>Cassia occidentalis.</i>	Peyavarai
60	<i>Cassia tora.</i>	Thakarai (Usithakarai)
61	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia.</i>	Chavukkumaram
62	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium.</i>	Samanthipoo
63	<i>Chukarasia tabularis.</i>	Ayil
64	<i>Cissus quadrangularis.</i>	Pirandai
65	<i>Cissus tetrafolia</i>	Mulladi nayakan
66	<i>Citrullus colocynthis.</i>	Attuthumatti
67	<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Kitchilipazham
68	<i>Citrus lemon.</i>	Elumichai
69	<i>Citrus medica.</i>	Kadara naraththai
70	<i>Cleome viscosa</i>	Kattu kadugu
71	<i>Cleome viscosa.</i>	Velai
72	<i>Clerodendrum phlomoidis.</i>	Thazhuthazhai
73	<i>Clerodendrum inerme.</i>	Isangu
74	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	Kakkanam
75	<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Kovai
76	<i>Cocculus hirsutus Diels.</i>	Kachchal kodi
77	<i>Cocculus indicus</i>	Kattukodi
78	<i>Cocos nucifera.</i>	Tengumaram
79	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	Kanam vazhai
80	<i>Corallocarpus epigaeus.</i>	Akasagarudan
81	<i>Cordia dichotoma.</i>	Naruvili
82	<i>Crissa carandar</i>	Kala
83	<i>Crotalaria retusa</i>	Kilukiluppai
84	<i>Cucumis sativus.</i>	Kakkarikkay
85	<i>Cucumis sativus.</i>	Vellarikai
86	<i>Curcuma zeodaria</i>	Kitchilikizhangu
87	<i>Curcuta reflexa.</i>	Ammayarkoondal
88	<i>Curuma longa.</i>	Manjal
89	<i>Cymbopogon martinic</i>	Kavatambul
90	<i>Cynodon dactylon.</i>	Arugu
91	<i>Cyperus rotandus</i>	Korai
92	<i>Datura metal.</i>	Umaththai
93	<i>Delonix elata.</i>	Vadhanarayan
94	<i>Desmodium giganticum</i>	perum puladi
95	<i>Desmodium trifolium</i>	Seru pulladi
96	<i>Dicelptra paniculata</i>	Nagananda
97	<i>Dioscorea alata</i>	Kai-vallikkodi

98	<i>Dryopteris felizmas.</i>	Iruvi
99	<i>Eclipta prostrata.</i>	Karisalankanni
100	<i>Enicostemma axillare.</i>	Vellarugu
101	<i>Erythrina variegata.</i>	Kaliyana murukku
102	<i>Euphorbia ligularia</i>	Kalli
103	<i>Euphorbia pilurifera.</i>	Ammanpachcharisi
104	<i>Euphorbia antiquorum</i>	Shadhurakalli
105	<i>Evolvulus alsinoides.</i>	Vishnukiranthi
106	<i>Exacum pedunculatum.</i>	Kanap – pundu
107	<i>Excoecaria agallocha.</i>	Thillai
108	<i>Ficus benghalensis.</i>	Alamaram
109	<i>Ficus hispida.</i>	Chirupeyathi
110	<i>Ficus hispida.</i>	Peyatti
111	<i>Ficus microcarpa.</i>	Iththi
112	<i>Ficus recemosa.</i>	Atti
113	<i>Ficus religiosa.</i>	Arasu
114	<i>Gisekia pharnaceoides</i>	Manali kirai
115	<i>Glorius superba.</i>	Kallapai kizhangu
116	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Kumizhmaram
117	<i>Gmelina asiatica.</i>	Nilakumizh
118	<i>Gossypium arboretum.</i>	Chemparuthi
119	<i>Gossypium arboretum.</i>	Chemparuththi
120	<i>Gossypium herbaceum.</i>	Paruththi
121	<i>Greens</i>	Kiraikal
122	<i>Gynandropsis gynandra.</i>	Thaivelai
123	<i>Heliotropium indicum.</i>	Telkodukku
124	<i>Hemidesmus indicus.</i>	Nannari
125	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis.</i>	Chemparuththi
126	<i>Hygrophila auriculata.</i>	Nirmulli
127	<i>Indigofera enneaphylla.</i>	Cheppu – nerunjil
128	<i>Inidgofera tinctoria.</i>	Avuri
129	<i>Ionidium suffrufiocosum.</i>	Oritazhtamarai
130	<i>Ixora coccia.</i>	Vetchi
131	<i>Jasminum grandiflorum.</i>	Mallikai
132	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Kattamnakku
133	<i>Jatropha curcas.</i>	Eliyamankku
134	<i>Justicia adatoda.</i>	Adathodai
135	<i>Lablab purpureus.</i>	Avarai
136	<i>Lagenaria siceraria.</i>	Churai
137	<i>Lawsonia inermis.</i>	Azhavanam

138	<i>Leucas aspera.</i>	Thumbai
139	<i>Leucus zeylanica</i>	Nai thumbai
140	<i>Limonia acidissima.</i>	Vilamaram
141	<i>Madhuca longifolia.</i>	Iluppai
142	<i>Mangifera indica.</i>	Ma
143	<i>Manihot esculenta.</i>	Al-vallikuzhang
144	<i>Marsilea quadrifolia.</i>	Araikirai
145	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Puthina
146	<i>Merremia emarginata.</i>	Elikkadilai
147	<i>Mimosa paniculata.</i>	Uppilangodi
148	<i>Mimosa pudica.</i>	Thottar Chinungi
149	<i>Mimusops elengi.</i>	Magizh
150	<i>Mirabilis jalapa.</i>	Anthimalli
151	<i>Momorchica charantia.</i>	Pakal
152	<i>Momoridica dioica</i>	Kattu Pagal
153	<i>Morinda tinctoria.</i>	Nuna
154	<i>Moringa oleifera.</i>	Murungai
155	<i>Mukia madraspatana.</i>	Musumusukkai
156	<i>Murraya koenigi</i>	Kari-vembu
157	<i>Musa paradisiaca.</i>	Vazhai
158	<i>Neptunia oleracea.</i>	Attunetti
159	<i>Nerium odorum.</i>	Alari
160	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	Kazhu-nir
161	<i>Nymphaea nouchali.</i>	Alli
162	<i>Ocimum basilicum.</i>	Rudra jadai
163	<i>Ocimum gratissimum.</i>	Elumichan thulasi
164	<i>Ocimum sanctum.</i>	Thulasi
165	<i>Oldenlandia umbellata.</i>	Impural
166	<i>Opuntia dillenii.</i>	Nagathali
167	<i>Oryza sativa.</i>	Nel
168	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Puliyarai
169	<i>Passiflora</i>	seru Punaikalli
170	<i>Pavonia odorata.</i>	Peramutti
171	<i>Pavonia zeylanica.</i>	Chitramutti
172	<i>Pergularia daemia.</i>	Uthamakani
173	<i>Phoenix sylvestris.</i>	Eechu (Sitrechu)
174	<i>Phonex dactilifera.</i>	Perechu
175	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	Kizhanelli
176	<i>Phyllanthus acidus.</i>	Arunelli
177	<i>Phyllanthus emblica.</i>	Nelli

178	<i>Phyllanthus madaruspatana.</i>	Nirpola
179	<i>Phyta nodiflora.</i>	Poduthalai
180	<i>Piper betle.</i>	Vettilai
181	<i>Pistia stratiotes.</i>	Akasathamara
182	<i>Plumeria rubra.</i>	Ezhathalair
183	<i>Polyalthia longifolia.</i>	Nettilingam
184	<i>Pongamia pinnata.</i>	Pungu
185	<i>Punica granatum.</i>	Mathulai
186	<i>Rhinacanthus nasuta.</i>	Nagamalli
187	<i>Ricinus communis.</i>	Amanakku
188	<i>Ricinus inermis.</i>	Peramanakku
189	<i>Rungia repens</i>	Kodaga salai
190	<i>Saccharum officinarum.</i>	Karumbu
191	<i>Salacia reticulata.</i>	Kadalazhinjil
192	<i>Salvadora persica.</i>	Uka
193	<i>Sensiveria rotants</i>	vari katralai
194	<i>Sesamsum indicum.</i>	Ellu
195	<i>Sesamum prostratum</i>	Kattu ellu
196	<i>Sesbania garandiflora.</i>	Agatti
197	<i>Sesbania sesban.</i>	Chembai
198	<i>Sida acuta.</i>	Arival mookku patchilai
199	<i>Sida acuta.</i>	Ponmusuttai
200	<i>Smilax zeylanica</i>	Kartamarai
201	<i>Solanum melongena.</i>	Kaththari
202	<i>Solanum nigrum.</i>	Manathathakkali
203	<i>Solanum surattense.</i>	Kandangkattari
204	<i>Solanum torvum.</i>	Chundai
205	<i>Solanum trilobatum.</i>	Thuthuvalai
206	<i>Spaeranthus indicus.</i>	Kottaikaranthai
207	<i>Spermacoce hispida.</i>	Naththichuri
208	<i>Streblus asper.</i>	Piray
209	<i>Strychnos nux-vomica.</i>	Etti
210	<i>Swetrina</i>	Muthirai
211	<i>Syzygium cumini.</i>	Naval
212	<i>Tamarindus indicus.</i>	Puli
213	<i>Tectona grandis.</i>	Thekku
214	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>	Kollukkaivelai
215	<i>Terminalia arjuna.</i>	Maruthu
216	<i>Terminalia bellirica.</i>	Thantri
217	<i>Thespesia populnea.</i>	Puvarasu

218	<i>Tinospora cordifolia.</i>	Sindil
219	<i>Todalia asiatica.</i>	Milakaranai
220	<i>Trianthema decandra</i>	Charanai
221	<i>Tribulus terrestris.</i>	Nerunjil
222	<i>Trichodesma indicum.</i>	Kavizh thumbai
223	<i>Trichosanthes cucumesina.</i>	Pudal
224	<i>Trichosanthes lobata</i>	Kattu peipudal
225	<i>Tylophora indica.</i>	Nancharuppan
226	<i>Vernonia cinerea.</i>	Neichatti
227	<i>Vigna mungo.</i>	Uzhundu
228	<i>Vigna mungo.</i>	Payaru
229	<i>Vitex negundo.</i>	Notchi
230	<i>Vitis vinifera.</i>	Thirakshi
231	<i>Zingiber officinale.</i>	Inji
232	<i>Ziziphus mauritinaia.</i>	Ilanda maram

#### IV. DISCUSSION

This Study revealed a considerable medicinal plant diversity of Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district. Data were compared with the available literature of different regions of India on medicinal plants and was found that many of these are not recorded earlier. In Indian ethnobotanical studies on medicinal plants were conducted earlier in other districts. However, in Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district, No detailed studies on ethno medicine have been conducted. The formulation and standardization of these effective phyto-medicines should be encouraged for their sustainable uses and preservation of endangered species of this area. The data accrued is expected to be useful for the development of the herbal drug industries to improve tribal and rural economy of Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district. The plants which are accrued are to be used single or combination with others. Some information pertaining to particular remedy from different localities or groups of informants reflects the accuracy and authenticity of the medicines on the phyto-chemistry. The Data from the Traditional practitioners will be helpful further for the Scientific assessment of these medicines on phyto-chemistry, Biological activity and clinical studies are, however necessary. This may provide a lead in the development of drugs to be used in modern system of medicine.

#### V. CONCLUSION

There is always a hunt for rich ethno botanical knowledge for ethno botanical studies of medicinal plants. Further, this research has placed on records the local uses of medicinally important plants which were interviewed among 38 local people of Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district. The traditional healers are the main source of knowledge on medicinal plants. In Maruthakulam, Tirunelveli district, many local people are going for agriculture and sustainable harvesting of plants with medicinal value which helps not only in conservation of these traditional medicinally important plants but also in marketing of

these plants and their products for economic growth of the people. Finally, to conclude, most important 45 medicinal plants within 232 is present in study area now, this research article will attract the attention of ethno botanists, phyto-chemists and pharmacologists for further critical investigation of medicinal plants present in the districts of Tamil Nadu, India.

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#### VIII. APPENDIX:



*Pavonia ordarata*



*Cleome viscosa*



*Acacia Arabia*



*Evolvulus alsinoides*



*Cassia auriculata*



*Delonix elata*