



**A STUDY ON THE DIVERSITY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN PALAMALAI HILLS,  
SALEM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU**

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**ABSTRACT**

Medicinal plants form the major resource base of our indigenous healthcare traditions. The conservation of biodiversity needs the knowledge in living organisms and creation of awareness in their protection. A Preliminary study on the diversity of medicinal plants was undertaken in the hills of Palamalai, Salem district. A total of 320 angiosperm plant species belonging to 246 genera under 90 families have been identified and recorded for ethnobotanical uses. Out of the total 320 flowering species 78 are trees, 68 shrubs, 136 herbs, 10 twiner and 28 are climbers. 30 Medicinal plants were used to cure fever and 25 plants were used to cure various skin diseases. The present study shows several important medicinal plants which require protection. The conservation program should include restoration of native plant species richness and diversity to maintain stable productivity in ecosystem.

**KEYWORDS:** Palamalai hills, Medicinal plants, Conservation of biodiversity.

**INTRODUCTION  
PALAMALAI**

Palamalai forest lies at a distance of 40 kms from Mettur dam. Its Northern part lies in Salem district and Southern part lies in Erode district. The Palamalai is located in Kolathur union of Mettur taluk of Salem district. Kannamoochi and Gurusvareddyur are the base villages from where the hills can be accessed. Rough, rugged sandy road laid on rocky mountain by the people themselves is the only way to undertake survey of the proposed hills. As per revenue records the Hills of Palamalai cover an area of 18.14 kms with a circumference of the mountain is roughly 80 km. The altitude rises from 30 ft. to 3500 ft. Usually October to December will be the rainfed months. North East monsoon provides the required rain for the area. A rivulet namely, Salapallam is providing water source for the tribals. But current year due to very poor rainfall the tribals are facing water scarcity. The hill has the pilgrimage importance where the deity Sri Siddheshwarar temple located at the top of hill which can be accessed by foot through jungle tract only.

The present floristic study reveals that several medicinal plants require conservation and protection on the habitat.

These medicinal plants are associated with their indigenous knowledge of medicine requires protection. The vegetation of Palamalai forest is dry deciduous and semi evergreen thick forests. The soil type is loamy and black soil. Malayali tribal settlements are indigenous to Palamalai hills. These tribal families are depended on forest resources for food, firewood, herbal medicines, timber, fodder, etc.

**TRIBALS OF PALAMALAI**

The tribal community living in Palamalai, call themselves as Malayali, are said to have been originated from Irulars and have settled at Palamalai even before 18<sup>th</sup> century BC. As per revenue records the total population of the tribals during the year 2014 was 4452 and are living in 1238 houses in 33 hamlets (remote villages). Besides 7 tribal schools and 1 sub-primary health centre are also functioning at Palamalai.

The tribal in this area are living in huts, built with mud and the roof covered with grass. At present they are provided with concrete huts under Government's tribal scheme. The main sources of income of the Malayali tribal are from agriculture and livestock. Paddy, Cholam, Raagi are the main food crops cultivated by them. They

also cultivate fruit yielding plants like Madhulai, Koyya, Seetha, Sapota, Banana and Pala to fetch income. Tubers like Saenai, Vallikizhangu and Manjal are also being cultivated near their huts for their food and to fetch income.

## STUDY AREA

### SURVEY AND COLLECTION

The Medico Ethno Botanical Study of Palamalai initiated on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016. During the year the survey team undertook 15 survey and collection tours covering 23 days. The survey team made survey on the Sundaikadu, Patthiramadivu, Hemmampatti, Ramanpatti, Soththankadu, Periyaelaikadu, Namankadu, Kadukkamaratthukadu, Singarathoppu, Periyakulam, Etchenkadu, Nagampathi, Thuvarankadu, Kottakadu, Anaikadu, Singarathoppu and Thimmampathi areas. Dry deciduous vegetation to Semi evergreen vegetation, Evergreen vegetation and Grassland vegetation is found in the mountains as the altitude rises. Dry deciduous vegetation is distributed on the foot hill of the mountain leading to rainfed evergreen forests and grass land vegetation in the open hill at the top.

The selected best specimens of collected species were preserved by immersing them in denatured spirit saturated with mercuric chloride, pressed, dried and mounted on hand made mounting board (42 x 28 cm) using thread. A specimen's pocket wherever necessary was provided on the mount board which ensured that any broken part of the specimen had a place to go without being lost. Field labels were affixed at the right hand base of the mount board with the information from the field work. All the plant specimens were collected at different reproductive stages to prepare herbarium specimens and authenticate their correct identity.

### IDENTIFICATION OF PLANTS

The collected plants were identified and the further confirmation was made by Dr. M. Padma Sorna Subramanian, Research officer – Botany, Scientist II, of Siddha Medicinal Plants Garden, Mettur dam, Salem district, Tamilnadu, India and the specimens of the plants were compared with SMPU herbarium, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. The mounted and labelled specimens were deposited in Siddha Medicinal Plants Garden, Metturdam, Salem district. Herbarium sheets are accommodated in the Herbarium and are arranged as per Bentham & Hooker classification.

**Table: 2. Diversity of Medicinal plants of Polypetalae, Gamopetalae, Monochlamydeae (Dicots) and Monocots in Palamalai.**

Taxa		Family	Genus	Species
		No	No	No
Dicots	Polypetalae	41	97	121
	Gamopetalae	21	85	113
	Monochlamydeae	11	35	54
Monocots		17	29	32

## MEDICINAL PLANTS USED IN TRIBALS OF PALAMALAI

Many Medicinal Plants are used by tribal community to cure variety of ailments ranging from simple injuries, wounds, cuts, fever, diarrhoea, ulcers, swelling, bone fractures, impotency, antidote, skin care, night blindness, toothache, asthma, cough & cold. A total of 320 species belonging to 246 genera in 90 families have been found to be used by the local people for curing various human diseases.

Questionnaire was prepared and questions were asked and the resultant information was recorded in the ethnobotanical field note book. Normally, the elderly known people including men and women, who were familiar with traditional uses of indigenous herbs, were interviewed for the gathering of folk knowledge. Especially, people living in villages have been using indigenous plants as medicines since ages because this knowledge transfers from generation to generation and is based on lifelong experiences.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An ethnobotanical survey was carried out among the Malayali tribal in various villages of -Palamalai forest, Salem district, Tamilnadu, India. The selected area was surveyed from August 2016 to July 2017 and the plant specimens were collected. A total of 320 angiosperm plant species belonging to 246 genera in 90 families have been identified and recorded for ethnobotanical uses. The ratio of monocotyledons and dicotyledons is 17:73 and of families, 29:217 for genera and 32:288 of species. Among dicotyledons 97 genera, 121 species and 41 families belongs to polypetalae. 85 genera, 113 species and 21 families belong to gamopetalae, while 35 genera, 54 species and 11 families belong to Monochlamydeae. Among monocotyledons 29 genera and 32 species belongs to 17 families (Table: 2). It is evident from the table-1 that *Poaceae* is the largest family among monocotyledons, where as *Acanthaceae* is the largest family among the dicotyledons. Besides this, six species of Ferns are also recorded in the area of study. i.e., *Actiniopteris radiata* (Sw.) Link., *Adiantum caudatum* L., *Drynaria quercifolia* (L.) J. Sm., *Hemionitis arifolia* (Burm. f.) T. Moore., *Pteris vittata* L., and *Selaginella wightii* Hieron. The team has also documented the rare and endangered plant species.

Out of the total 320 flowering species 78 are trees, 68 shrubs, 136 herbs, 10 twiner and 28 are climber. (Table 3). This study shows that herbaceous plants (ephemeral plants) are dominating the forest during rainy season. This is probably owing to the semi- arid conditions and erratic rainfall. Further, the scrubby plant species (small trees and shrubs) can be observed as the dominant perennial vegetation of the area.

**Table: 3. Habit distribution.**

Habit	Dicot	Monocot	Total
Herb	115	21	136
Shrub	65	3	68
Tree	73	5	78
Climber	26	2	28
Twiner	09	1	10

#### Plant uses at a Glance

Of the 320 species listed for medicinal purpose, 25 are used to cure Skin diseases; 13 of them are useful to treat Urinary diseases; 4 used to cure diseases of Vaatham; 4 used as an Abortifacient; 2 used to treat Cancer; 9 used to treat Worm infection; 5 used to treat Scabies; 30 used to cure Fever; 15 used to control Diabetes; 14 used to treat Dental problems; 4 used for Parturition; 20 used to treat Cough; 17 used to treat Asthma; 9 used to treat Jaundice; 5 used to treat Snake bite; 4 used to treat Cardiac diseases; 2 used to treat Kidney diseases and 8 used to cure Wounds.

#### List of plants used to cure Skin diseases

*Acanthospermum hispidum* DC, *Aponogeton natans* (L.) Engler & K. Krause, *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam., *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss., *Capparis sepiaria* L., *Cassia auriculata* L., *Cassia fistula* L., *Cassia occidentalis* L., *Chukrasia tabularis* A. Juss., *Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigh., *Cocos nucifera* L., *Datura innoxia* Mill., *Glinus oppositifolius* (L.) A. DC., *Indigofera aspalathoides* Vahl., *Moringa concanensis* Nimmo, *Nerium oleander* L., *Ocimum tenuiflorum* L., *Phyllanthus amarus* Schum & Thonn, *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb., *Rauwolfia tetraphylla* L., *Curculigo orchoides* Gaertn., *Curcuma longa* L., *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb, *Gloriosa superba* L., *Asparagus racemosus* Wild.

#### List of plants used to cure Urinary diseases

*Acalypha indica* L., *Coix lacryma-jobi* L., *Cordia obliqua* Willd., *Crinum asiaticum* L., *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers., *Hybanthus enneaspermus* (L.) Muell. *Merremia tridentata* (L.) Hall.f., *Mimosa pudica* L., *Pedaliium murex* L., *Phyllanthus amarus* Schum & Thonn., *Plectranthus amboinicus* (Lour.) Spr., *Portulaca quadrifida* L., *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam.

#### List of plants used to cure diseases of Vaatham

*Balanophora fungosa* J.R. & G. Forst., *Clerodendrum inerme* (L.) Gaertn., *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb, *Gloriosa superba* L.

#### List of plants used for Abortion

*Gloriosa superba* L., *Annona squamosa* L., *Celastrus paniculatus* Willd., *Cleistosanthus collinus* (Roxb.) Benth.

#### List of plants used to cure Cancer

*Cascabela thevetia* (L.) Lipp., *Vitex trifolia* L.

#### List of plants used to cure Worm infestation

*Cadaba fruticosa* (L.) Druce., *Plumbago zylanica* L., *Ricinus communis* L., *Tinospora cardifolia* (Willd.) Miers ex Hook. f. & Thoms., *Vitex altissima* L.f., *Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb.) Wt. & Arn., *Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb., *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb, *Gloriosa superba* L.

#### List of plants used to cure Scabies

*Clerodendrum inerme* (L.) Gaertn., *Pandanus fascicularis* Lam., *Plumbago zeylanica* L., *Terminalia catappa* L., *Argemone mexicana* L.

#### List of plants used to cure Fever

*Acacia leucophloea* (Roxb.) Willd., *Acanthospermum hispidum* DC., *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Wall., *Adhatoda zeylanica* Medic., *Carica papaya* L., *Amaranthus spinosus* L., *Carissa carandas* L., *Clitoria ternatea* L., *Diospyros montana* Roxb., *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. Mant., *Euphorbia antiquorum* L., *Gossypium herbaceum* L., *Incocarpus frutescens* (L.) R. Br., *Indigofera tinctoria* L., *Justicia adhatoda* L., *Ludwigia perennis* L., *Morinda pubescens* J.E. Sm., *Moringa concanensis* Nimmo, *Murraya koenigii* (L.) Spreng, *Pavonia odorata* Willd. *Peristrophe paniculata* (Forssk.) Brummit., *Piper nigrum* L., *Pupalia lappacea* (L.) Juss., *Scoparia dulcis* L., *Strychnos nux-vomica* L., *Tinospora cardifolia* (Willd.) Miers ex. Hook. f. & Thoms., *Curcuma longa* L., *Phyllanthus emblica* L., *Terminalia chebula* Retz, *Asparagus racemosus* Wild.

#### List of plants used for control Diabetes mellitus

*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Wall., *Biophytum sensitivum* (L.) DC., *Carica papaya* L., *Cassia auriculata* L., *Cassia fistula* L., *Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don., *Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigh., *Ficus racemosa* L., *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L., *Justicia adhatoda* L., *Madhuca longifolia* (J.Konig) J.K.Macbr., *Orthosiphon thymiflorus* (Roth) Sleen., *Phyllanthus amarus* Schum & Thonn., *Tecoma stans* (L.) Kunth., *Asparagus racemosus* Wild.

#### List of plants used to cure Dental problems

*Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb., *Solanum anguivi* Lam., *Achyranthes aspera* L., *Cassia occidentalis* L.

#### List of plants used for Parturition

*Triumfetta rotundifolia* Lam., *Rivea hypocrateriformis* (Desr.) Choisy, *Premna tomentosa* Willd., *Breynia vitis-idaea* (Burm. f.) Fisch.

**List of plants used to cure Cough**

*Cissampelos pareira* L., *Euphorbia hirta* L., *Gomphrena globosa* L., *Justicia adhatoda* L., *Mollugo nudicaulis* Lam., *Mukia maderaspatana* (L.) M. Roam, *Opuntia dillenii* (Ker.-Gawl) Haw., *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierree, *Portulaca quadrifida* L., *Scoparia dulcis* L., *Solanum surattense* Burm. f., *Solanum trilobatum* L., *Solanum torvum* Sw., *Solanum tuberosum* L., *Sorghum vulgare* L., *Sphaeranthus indicus* L., *Tinospora cardifolia* (Willd.) Miers ex Hook. f. & Thoms., *Tylophora indica* (Burm. f.) Merr., *Vernonia cinerea* (L.) Less., *Wedelia chinensis* (Osb.) Merr.

**List of plants used to cure Asthma**

*Ailanthus excelsa* Roxb., *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R.Br., *Datura innoxia* Mill., *Dendrophthoe falcata* (L.f.) Etting., *Euphorbia hirta* L., *Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L., *Hedyotis puberula* (G.Don) Arn., *Justicia adhatoda* L., *Passiflora foetida* L., *Pergularia daemia* (Forssk.) Chiov., *Portulaca quadrifida* L., *Semicarpus anacardium* L.f., *Solanum surattense* Burm. f., *Tylophora indica* (Burm. f.) Merr., *Curculigo orchiooides* Gaertn., *Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb.

**List of plants used to cure Jaundice**

*Citrullus colocynthis* (L.) Schrad., *Curculigo orchiooides* Gaertn., *Curcuma longa* L., *Ecbolium viride* (Forssk.) Alston, *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. Mant., *Indigofera tinctoria* L., *Phyllanthus amarus* Schum & Thonn., *Tinospora cardifolia* (Willd.) Miers ex Hook. f. & Thoms., *Terminalia chebula* Retz.

**List of plants used to cure Snake-bite**

*Cissampelos pareira* L., *Clerodendrum inerme* (L.) Gaertn., *Peristrophe paniculata* (Forssk.) Brummit., *Tiliacora acuminata* (Lam.) Hk.f. & Th., *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R.Br.

**List of plants used to cure Cardiac diseases**

*Phyllanthus emblica* L., *Vitex altissima* L.f., *Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban., *Carica papaya* L.

**List of plants used to cure Kidney diseases**

*Achyranthes aspera* L., *Aerva lanata* (L.) Juss. Ex Schult.

**List of plants used to cure Wounds**

*Bergia capensis* L., *Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb., *Dodonea viscosa* (L.) Jacq., *Ficus microcarpa* L. f., *Gossypium herbaceum* L., *Heliotropium indicum* L., *Piper betel* L., *Tridax procumbens* L.

**Conservation**

The rural inhabitants and tribal peoples do not have any well-defined conservation strategy of the kind we understand in modern terms. But they do conserve plants that are socially, medically, economically and culturally significant to them.

In general the rural inhabitant and tribal peoples also follow certain rules regarding collection of the root from any climber or shrub, i.e. taking roots only from one side of the plant; if these are not enough, then take roots from another plant; always avoid one's shade falling directly on the plant while removing the root; and for removing bark from down to up, instead of from up to down. All these general rules help in preserving the plants from destruction.

However, unscrupulous slashing of forests, felling of trees for wood, etc. are still going on. So, there is need for a systematic effort for conservation.

**Table 1: Medicinal plants in Palamalai.**

S.No	Botanical name	Local name	Family
1.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Gundumani	Fabaceae
2.	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> L.	Thuthi	Malvaceae
3.	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i> (Roxb.) Willd.	Velvelam	Mimosaceae
4.	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Willd. ex Del.	Karuvellam	Mimosaceae
5.	<i>Acacia sinuta</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Sigakai	Mimosaceae
6.	<i>Acalypha ciliata</i> Forssk.	Chiruchinni	Euphorbiaceae
7.	<i>Acalypha fruticosa</i> Forssk.	Chinni	Euphorbiaceae
8.	<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.	Kuppaimeni	Euphorbiaceae
9.	<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC.	Kombumul	Asteraceae
10.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Nayuruvi	Amaranthaceae
11.	<i>Adhatoda zeylanica</i> Medic.	Adathodai	Acanthaceae
12.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.	Vilvam	Rutaceae
13.	<i>Aerva peresica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.	Perumpeelai	Amaranthaceae
14.	<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss. ex Schult.	Poolaipoo	Amaranthaceae
15.	<i>Aeschynomene indica</i> L.	Netti, Thakkai	Fabaceae
16.	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> Linn.	Poompillu	Asteraceae
17.	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	Peeyan	Simaroubaceae
18.	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (L.f.) Wang.	Alinjil	Alangiaceae
19.	<i>Albizia lebbek</i> (L.) Willd.	Vagai	Mimosaceae

20.	<i>Allium cepa</i> Linn.	Vengayam	Alliaceae
21.	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm.f.	Kumari	Liliaceae
22.	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) R.Br. ex DC.	Ponnanganni	Amaranthaceae
23.	<i>Alysicarpus vaginalis</i> (L.) DC.	Vennaikattipullu	Fabaceae
24.	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Mullukeerai	Amaranthaceae
25.	<i>Ammannia baccifera</i> L.	Neermel neruppu	Lythraceae
26.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f.) Wall.	Nilavembu	Acanthaceae
27.	<i>Anisochilus carnosus</i> (L.f.) Wall.	Poochanthira pattai	Lamiaceae
28.	<i>Anisomeles indica</i> (L.) Kuntze	Perumthumbai	Lamiaceae
29.	<i>Anisomeles malabarica</i> (L.) R.Br.	Peythumbi	Lamiaceae
30.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Seetha	Annonaceae
31.	<i>Aponogeton natans</i> (L.) Engler & K. Krause	Kottikizhangu	Aponogetonaceae
32.	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L.	Piramathandu	Pappavaraceae
33.	<i>Arisaema leschenaultii</i> Blume	Kattukarunai	Araceae
34.	<i>Aristida adscensionis</i> Linn.	Oosipullu	Poaceae
35.	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i> Lam.	Aadutheendapalai	Aristolochiaceae
36.	<i>Aristolochia indica</i> Lam.	Easwaramooli	Aristolochiaceae
37.	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam.	Pala	Moraceae
38.	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> Linn.	Kurthipoo	Asclepiadaceae
39.	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Wild.	Thanneervittan kizhangu	Liliaceae
40.	<i>Asystasia gangetica</i> (L.) T. Anderson	Pasathi keerai	Acanthaceae
41.	<i>Atalantia monophylla</i> (Roxb.) DC.	Kattunaragam	Rutaceae
42.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Vembu	Meliaceae
43.	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i> (L.) Pennell	Neerpirami	Scrophulariaceae
44.	<i>Balanophora fungosa</i> J.R. & G. Forst.	--	Balanophoraceae
45.	<i>Barleria buxifolia</i> L.	Korandai	Acanthaceae
46.	<i>Barleria longiflora</i> Linn.f.	Vellai Kurinji	Acanthaceae
47.	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> Linn.	Semmulli	Acanthaceae
48.	<i>Basella alba</i> L.	Kodippasalai	Basellaceae
49.	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> Linn.	Mandarai	Cesalpiniaceae
50.	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> Linn.	Vellai Mandarai	Cesalpiniaceae
51.	<i>Bergia capensis</i> L.	-----	Elatinaceae
52.	<i>Biophytum sensitivum</i> (L.) DC.	Melsurukki	Oxalidaceae
53.	<i>Blepharis maderaspatensis</i> (L.) Heyne ex Roth.	Nethirappoondy	Acanthaceae
54.	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	Mookarattai	Nyctaginaceae
55.	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> Linn.	Ilavu	Bombacaceae
56.	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> Linn.	Panai	Arecaceae
57.	<i>Breynia vitis-idaea</i> (Burm. f.) Fisch.	Sempool	Euphorbiaceae
58.	<i>Bridelia retusa</i> (L.) Spreng.	Mulluvengai	Euphorbiaceae
59.	<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub.	Purasu	Fabaceae
60.	<i>Cadaba fruticosa</i> (L.) Druce.	Vizhuthi	Capparaceae
61.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) R.Br.	Erukku	Asclepiadaceae
62.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) R. Br.	Vellerukku	Asclepiadaceae
63.	<i>Canthium dicoccum</i> (Gaertn.) Tejism. & Binn.	Nekkini	Rubiaceae
64.	<i>Canthium coromandelicum</i> (Burm.f.) Alston	Karai chedi	Rubiaceae
65.	<i>Capparis grandis</i> Linn. f.	Kattu koyya	Capparaceae
66.	<i>Capparis sepiaria</i> Linn.	Thoratti	Capparaceae
67.	<i>Capparis zeylanica</i> L.	Aathandai	Capparaceae
68.	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> Linn.	Usimilagai	Solanaceae
69.	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i> Linn.	Milagai	Solanaceae
70.	<i>Cardiospermum canescens</i> Wall.	Peru Mudakkatran	Sapindaceae
71.	<i>Cardiospermum halicabum</i> L.	Mudakkartan	Sapindaceae
72.	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.	Pappali	Caricaceae
73.	<i>Carissa carandas</i> L.	Kala	Apocynaceae
74.	<i>Cascabela thevetia</i> (L.) Lipp.	Ponnarali	Apocyanaceae
75.	<i>Cassia absus</i> L.	Kattu kollu	Caesalpiniaceae
76.	<i>Cassia auriculata</i> L.	Avaram	Caesalpiniaceae
77.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn.	Konnei	Caesalpiniaceae

78.	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	Peithagarai	Caesalpiniaceae
79.	<i>Cassia tora</i> (L.) Roxb.	Oosithagarai	Caesalpiniaceae
80.	<i>Catharanthus pusillus</i> (Murr.) G.Don.	Milgaipoondu	Apocynaceae
81.	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G. Don.	Nithyakalyani	Apocynaceae
82.	<i>Catunaregam spinosa</i> (Thunb.) Triven.	Madukkarai	Rubiaceae
83.	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Ilavam	Bombacaceae
84.	<i>Celastrus paniculatus</i> Willd.	Valuluvai	Celastraceae
85.	<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.	Kozhikondai	Amaranthaceae
86.	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urban.	Vallarai	Apiaceae
87.	<i>Chlorophytum tuberosum</i> (Roxb.) Baker	Vipuruthi	Liliaceae
88.	<i>Chloroxylon sweitenia</i> DC.	Purasu	Flindersiaceae
89.	<i>Chukrasia tabularis</i> A. Juss.	Karagil	Meliaceae
90.	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i> L.	Vattathiruppi	Menispermaceae
91.	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Pirandai	Vitaceae
92.	<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i> (L.) Schrad.	Peykkumutti	Cucurbitaceae
93.	<i>Cleistosanthus collinus</i> (Roxb.) Benth.	Oduvan	Euphorbiaceae
94.	<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L.	Thai vezhai	Capparaceae
95.	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> L.	Naikkadugu	Capparaceae
96.	<i>Clerodendrum inerme</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Pinarichangankuppi	Verbenaceae
97.	<i>Clerodendrum serratum</i> (L.) Moon	Chiruthekku	Verbenaceae
98.	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L.	Sangupushpam	Fabaceae
99.	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> (L.) Voigh.	Kovai	Cucurbitaceae
100.	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Diels	Kattukodi	Menispermaceae
101.	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> Linn.	Thennai	Arecaceae
102.	<i>Coix lacryma-jobi</i> Linn.	Nelpavazham	Poaceae
103.	<i>Combretum indicum</i> (L.) DeFilipps	Rangoonmalli	Combretaceae
104.	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L.	Kanavazhai	Commelinaceae
105.	<i>Corallocarpus epigaeus</i> (Rottler) C.B.Clarke	Akashakarudan	Cucurbitaceae
106.	<i>Cordia obliqua</i> Willd.	Narivili	Boraginaceae
107.	<i>Crateva magna</i> (Lour.) DC.	Maavilingam	Capparaceae
108.	<i>Crinum asiaticum</i> L.	Visamoonkil	Amaryllidaceae
109.	<i>Cryptolepis buchanani</i> R. & S.	Nagathali	Asclepiadaceae
110.	<i>Curculigo orchoides</i> Gaertn.	Nilapanai	Hypoxidaceae
111.	<i>Curcuma longa</i> Linn.	Manjal	Zingiberaceae
112.	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb.	Akasvalli	Cuscutaceae
113.	<i>Cyclea peltata</i> (Lam.) Hk. f. & Thoms.	Sirupathavalli	Menispermaceae
114.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Arugampullu	Poaceae
115.	<i>Cyperus iria</i> L.	Vattakorai	Cyperaceae
116.	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Korai	Cyperaceae
117.	<i>Cyperus triceps</i> (Rottb.) Endlich.	---	Cyperaceae
118.	<i>Datura innoxia</i> L.	Oomathai	Solanaceae
119.	<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Karu oomaththai	Solanaceae
120.	<i>Dendrophthoe falcata</i> (L.f.) Etting.	Pulluruvi	Loranthaceae
121.	<i>Desmodium triflorum</i> (L.) DC.	Sirupulladi	Fabaceae
122.	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.) Wt. & Arn.	Vidathari	Mimosaceae
123.	<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i> Linn.	Kavla-kodi	Dioscoreaceae
124.	<i>Dioscorea pentaphylla</i> L.	Irulaikodi	Dioscoreaceae
125.	<i>Diospyros montana</i> Roxb.	Vakkanai	Ebenaceae
126.	<i>Dodonea viscosa</i> (L.) Jacq.	Virali	Sapindaceae
127.	<i>Ecbolium viride</i> (Forssk.) Alston	Nilambari	Acanthaceae
128.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> (L.) L. Mant.	Karisalai	Asteraceae
129.	<i>Elaeocarpus serratus</i> Linn.	Uttraccham	Elaeocarpaceae
130.	<i>Elytraria acaulis</i> (L.f.) Lindau.	Nilakadambu	Acanthaceae
131.	<i>Embelia ribes</i> Burm. f.	Vaivilangam	Myrsinaceae
132.	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> (L.) DC.	Neichittipoondu	Asteraceae
133.	<i>Enicostema axillare</i> (Lam.) J.Raynal	Vellaragu	Gentianaceae
134.	<i>Epaltes divaricata</i> (L.) Cass.	Kakkaranthai	Asteraceae
135.	<i>Erythroxylum monogunum</i> Roxb.	Chempulichan	Erythroxylaceae

136.	<i>Euphorbia antiquorum</i> L.	Sadurakalli	Euphorbiaceae
137.	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i> L.	Thirukalli	Euphorbiaceae
138.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Amman pacharisi	Euphorbiaceae
139.	<i>Euphorbia rosea</i> Retz.	Chinna Ammanpaccharisi	Euphorbiaceae
140.	<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> (L.) Linn.	Vishnukirandhi	Convolvulaceae
141.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Aal	Moraceae
142.	<i>Ficus hispida</i> Linn. f.	Peyatthi	Moraceae
143.	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i> Linn. f.	Kalichchi	Moraceae
144.	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> Linn.	Atthi	Moraceae
145.	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.	Arasu	Moraceae
146.	<i>Ficus talbotii</i> King	Kal-ithi	Moraceae
147.	<i>Ficus tsjahela</i> Burm. f.	Kal-aal	Moraceae
148.	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Mill.	Shombu	Apiaceae
149.	<i>Glinus oppositifolius</i> (L.) A. DC.	Thura	Molluginaceae
150.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	Kalappai kizhangu	Liliaceae
151.	<i>Gmelina asiatica</i> L.	Siru kumiz	Verbenaceae
152.	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i> L.	Vadamalli	Amaranthaceae
153.	<i>Gossypium herbaceum</i> Linn.	Paruthi	Malvaceae
154.	<i>Grewia villosa</i> Willd.	Kodiunnu	Tiliaceae
155.	<i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i> Lam.	Nattu ruthratcham	Sterculiaceae
156.	<i>Hedyotis puberula</i> (G. Don) Arn.	Chayaver	Rubiaceae
157.	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i> L.	Thelkodukku	Boraginaceae
158.	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.) R. Br.	Nannari	Asclepiadaceae
159.	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> Linn.	Pulichai	Malvaceae
160.	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Semparathai	Malvaceae
161.	<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i> (Roxb. ex Flem.) Wall.	Kudasapalai	Apocynaceae
162.	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i> (Roxb.) Planch.	Ayil	Ulmaceae
163.	<i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i> (L.) Muell.	Orilaitaamarai	Violaceae
164.	<i>Hydrocotyle javanica</i> Thunb.	Malai vallarai	Apiaceae
165.	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> (L.) Poir.	Aartuthulasi	Lamiaceae
166.	<i>Ipomoea frutescens</i> (L.) R. Br.	Udarkodi	Apocynaceae
167.	<i>Impatiens chinensis</i> Linn.	---	Balsaminaceae
168.	<i>Indigofera aspalathoides</i> Vahl.	Sivanar vembu	Fabaceae
169.	<i>Indigofera linnaei</i> L.	Seppu nerunji	Fabaceae
170.	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i> L.	Avuri	Fabaceae
171.	<i>Ipomoea obscura</i> (L.) Ker Gawl.	Siruthali	Convolvulaceae
172.	<i>Ipomoea pes-tigridis</i> L.	Pulisuvadi	Convolvulaceae
173.	<i>Ipomoea quamoclit</i> Linn.	Mayirmanickam	Convolvulaceae
174.	<i>Jasminum angustifolium</i> Willd.	Kattumalligai	Oleaceae
175.	<i>Jasminum bignoniaceum</i> Wall. ex G. Don.	----	Oleaceae
176.	<i>Jasminum ritchiei</i> C.B. Clarke	----	Oleaceae
177.	<i>Jasminum sambac</i> (L.) Ait.	Malligai	Oleaceae
178.	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> L.	Kaatu-amanakku	Euphorbiaceae
179.	<i>Jatropha glandulifera</i> Roxb.	Vella adalai	Euphorbiaceae
180.	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L.	Sivappu adalai	Euphorbiaceae
181.	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L.	Adathodai	Acanthaceae
182.	<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	Unnichi	Verbenaceae
183.	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> Linn.	Maruthontri	Lythraceae
184.	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link.	Thumbai	Lamiaceae
185.	<i>Limonia acidissima</i> Linn.	Vilangai	Rutaceae
186.	<i>Ludwigia perennis</i> L.	----	Onagraceae
187.	<i>Luffa acutangula</i> (L.) Roxb.	Peerku	Cucurbitaceae
188.	<i>Luffa cylindrica</i> (L.) M. Roem.	Nurai peerkan	Cucurbitaceae
189.	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (J. Konig) J. K. Macbr.	Illupei	Sapotaceae
190.	<i>Mallotus philippensis</i> (Lam.) Muell.	Kamala	Euphorbiaceae
191.	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Maamaram	Anacardiaceae
192.	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz	Maravalli kizhangu	Euphorbiaceae
193.	<i>Martynia annua</i> L.	Pulinagam	Pedaliaceae

194.	<i>Melochia corchorifolia</i> L.	Punnakkuthalai	Sterculiaceae
195.	<i>Merremia emarginata</i> (Burm. F.) Hallier f.	Elikkaadilai	Convolvulaceae
196.	<i>Merremia hederacea</i> (Burm.f.) Hall.f.	---	Convolvulaceae
197.	<i>Merremia tridentata</i> (L.) Hall. f.	Ammayar koonthal	Convolvulaceae
198.	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Thottal sinungi	Mimosaceae
199.	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> Linn.	Andhimantharai	Nyctaginaceae
200.	<i>Mollugo nudicaulis</i> Lam.	Parpadagam	Molluginaceae
201.	<i>Mollugo pentaphyla</i> L.	Seeragapoondu	Molluginaceae
202.	<i>Momordia charantia</i> Linn.	Pavakai	Cucurbitaceae
203.	<i>Morinda pubescens</i> J.E. Sm.	Nuna	Rubiaceae
204.	<i>Moringa concanensis</i> Nimmo	Kattumurungai	Moringaceae
205.	<i>Moringa pterygosperma</i> Gaertn	Murungai	Moringaceae
206.	<i>Mukia maderaspatana</i> (L.) M. Roam.	Musumusukkai	Cucurbitaceae
207.	<i>Muntingia calabura</i> L.	Thean poosani	Elaeocarpaceae
208.	<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng.	Kariveppilai	Rutaceae
209.	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> Linn.	Vazhai	Musaceae
210.	<i>Nerium oleander</i> Linn.	Arali	Apocynaceae
211.	<i>Ocimum americanum</i> L.	Naithulasi	Lamiaceae
212.	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.	Thulasi	Lamiaceae
213.	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i> (Ker.-Gawl) Haw.	Chappathikalli	Cactaceae
214.	<i>Orthosiphon thymiflorus</i> (Roth) Sleen.	Kattuthulasi	Lamiaceae
215.	<i>Oryza sativa</i> Linn.	Nel	Poaceae
216.	<i>Ottelia alismoides</i> (L.) Pers.	-----	Hydrocharitaceae
217.	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> Linn.	Puliarai	Oxalidaceae
218.	<i>Pachygone ovata</i> (Poir.) Hk.f. & Thoms.	Kattukodi	Menispermaceae
219.	<i>Pandanus fascicularis</i> Lam.	Thazhai	Pandanaceae
220.	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> Linn.	Vishapullu	Asteraceae
221.	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.	Mosukkattan	Passifloraceae
222.	<i>Pavonia odorata</i> Willd.	Peramutti	Malvaceae
223.	<i>Pedaliium murex</i> L.	Yanai nerungi	Pedaliaceae
224.	<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk.) Chiov.	Veliparuthi	Asclepiadaceae
225.	<i>Peristophe paniculata</i> (Forssk.) Brummit.	Nagananda	Acanthaceae
226.	<i>Phoenix loureiroi</i> Kunth	Malai eecham	Arecaceae
227.	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> (L.) Greene.	Poduthalai	Verbenaceae
228.	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i> (L.) Skeels	Aranelli	Euphorbiaceae
229.	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schum & Thonn.	Keela nelli	Euphorbiaceae
230.	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Nelli	Euphorbiaceae
231.	<i>Phyllanthus maderaspatensis</i> L.	Melkainelli	Euphorbiaceae
232.	<i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i> Poir.	Karumpoola	Euphorbiaceae
233.	<i>Physalis minima</i> L.	Sudakkuthakkali	Solanaceae
234.	<i>Piper attenuatum</i> L.	Kattumilagu	Piperaceae
235.	<i>Piper betel</i> Linn.	Vertilai	Piperaceae
236.	<i>Piper nigrum</i> Linn.	Milagu	Piperaceae
237.	<i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i> (Lour.) Spr.	Karpuravalli	Lamiaceae
238.	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.	Chitramoolam	Plumbaginaceae
239.	<i>Plumeria alba</i> Linn.	Elashenbagam	Apocynaceae
240.	<i>Plumeria rubra</i> Linn.	Malaiarali	Apocynaceae
241.	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierce	Pongan	Fabaceae
242.	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> Linn.	Parupukkeerai	Portulacaceae
243.	<i>Portulaca quadrifida</i> Linn.	Pasalaikkeerai	Portulacaceae
244.	<i>Premna tomentosa</i> Willd.	Pidangunari	Verbenaceae
245.	<i>Psidium guajava</i> Linn.	Koyya	Myrtaceae
246.	<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i> Roxb.	Vengai	Fabaceae
247.	<i>Pupalia lappacea</i> (L.) Juss.	Adai-otti	Amaranthaceae
248.	<i>Rauvolfia tetraphylla</i> Linn.	Pambukazha	Apocynaceae
249.	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Amanakku	Euphorbiaceae
250.	<i>Rivea hypocrateriformis</i> (Desr.) Choisy	Musuttai kodi	Convolvulaceae
251.	<i>Ruellia tuberosa</i> L.	Vedikkai	Acanthaceae



252.	<i>Sanseivieria roxburghiana</i> Schult.	Marul	Agavaceae
253.	<i>Santalum album</i> L.	Chandanam	Santalaceae
254.	<i>Sarcostemma intermedium</i> Dence.	Kodikalli	Asclepiadaceae
255.	<i>Schefflera venulosa</i> (Wt & Arn.) Harms.	Peimiratti	Araliaceae
256.	<i>Ledebouria revoluta</i> (L.f.) Jessop	Narivengayam	Liliaceae
257.	<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> Linn.	Sarkaraivembu	Scrophulariaceae
258.	<i>Sebastiania chamaelea</i> (L.) Muell.– Arg.	Pullamanakku	Euphorbiaceae
259.	<i>Secamone emetica</i> (Retz.) R. Br.	Aangaaravalli	Asclepiadaceae
260.	<i>Securinega leucopyrus</i> (Willd.) Muell.	Vetpoola	Euphorbiaceae
261.	<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i> L.f.	Serankottai	Anacardiaceae
262.	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f.	Arvalmanai poondu	Malvaceae
263.	<i>Sida cordata</i> (Burm.f.) Borss.	Palampasi	Malvaceae
264.	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L.	Vellakurunthotti	Malvaceae
265.	<i>Solanum americanum</i> Mill.	Manathakkali	Solanaceae
266.	<i>Solanum anguivi</i> Lam.	Karimulli	Solanaceae
267.	<i>Solanum surattense</i> Burm. f.	Kandangathiri	Solanaceae
268.	<i>Solanum torvum</i> Sw.	Sundai	Solanaceae
269.	<i>Solanum trilobatum</i> Linn.	Thooduvalai	Solanaceae
270.	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> Linn.	Urulai kilangu	Solanaceae
271.	<i>Solanum virginianum</i> L.	Kandankathiri	Solanaceae
272.	<i>Sopubia delphinifolia</i> (L.) G. Don.	---	Scrophulariaceae
273.	<i>Sorghum vulgare</i> Linn.	Cholam	Poaceae
274.	<i>Sphaeranthus indicus</i> L.	Kottakarandai	Asteraceae
275.	<i>Stemodia viscosa</i> Roxb.	---	Scrophulariaceae
276.	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.	Pirayam	Moraceae
277.	<i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i> Linn.	Etti	Loganiaceae
278.	<i>Strychnos potatorum</i> L.f.	Thettran	Loganiaceae
279.	<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i> (L.) Gaertn	---	Asteraceae
280.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels.	Naval pazham	Myrtaceae
281.	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> (L.) R. Br.	Nandiyavattam	Apocynaceae
282.	<i>Tagetes erecta</i> L.	Kenthi	Asteraceae
283.	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	Puli	Caesalpinaceae
284.	<i>Tecoma stans</i> (L.) Kunth.	Ponnarali	Bignoniaceae
285.	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (L.) Pers.	Kolingi	Fabaceae
286.	<i>Tephrosia villosa</i> (L.) Pers.	Poonaikaivezhai	Fabaceae
287.	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb.) Wt. & Arn.	Maruthu	Combretaceae
288.	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Thaandrikkai	Combretaceae
289.	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> Linn.	Vadham	Combretaceae
290.	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz.	Kadukkai	Combretaceae
291.	<i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.) Sol. ex Correa	Puvarasu	Malvaceae
292.	<i>Tiliacora acuminata</i> (Lam.) Hk.f. & Th.	Kodivalli	Menispermaceae
293.	<i>Tinospora cardifolia</i> (Willd.) Miers ex Hook. f. & Thoms.	Chinthil	Menispermaceae
294.	<i>Toddalia asiatica</i> (L.) Lam.	Milagaranai	Rutaceae
295.	<i>Tonningia axillaris</i> (L.) Kuntze.	Vazhukai pul	Commelinaceae
296.	<i>Tragia involucrata</i> L.	Chenthatti	Euphorbiaceae
297.	<i>Trema orientalis</i> (L.) Bl.	Erumainakkilai	Ulmaceae
298.	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Nerunjil	Zygophyllaceae
299.	<i>Trichodesma indicum</i> (L.) R. Br.	Kasithumbai	Boraginaceae
300.	<i>Trichosanthes tricuspidata</i> Lour.	Savuri	Cucurbitaceae
301.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Kinathuppoondu	Asteraceae
302.	<i>Triumfetta rotundifolia</i> Lam.	Karunkurunthotti	Tiliaceae
303.	<i>Tylophora indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr.	Nanjaruppan	Asclepiadaceae
304.	<i>Typha angustata</i> Bory & Chaub.	Sambu	Typhaceae
305.	<i>Urena lobata</i> L.	Pavazhappoondu	Malvaceae
306.	<i>Drimia indica</i> (Roxb.) Jessop	Sirunarivengayam	Liliaceae
307.	<i>Uvaria narum</i> (Dunal) Wall.	Narumpanal	Annonaceae
308.	<i>Vernonia cinerea</i> (L.) Less.	Sahadevi	Asteraceae
309.	<i>Vigna mungo</i> (L.) Hepper	Ulundu	Fabaceae

310.	<i>Vitex altissima</i> L.f.	Mayilaadi	Verbenaceae
311.	<i>Vitex leucoxydon</i> L.f.	Nir nochi	Verbenaceae
312.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Nochhi	Verbenaceae
313.	<i>Vitex trifolia</i> L.	Moovilai nochi	Verbenaceae
314.	<i>Wattakaka volubilis</i> (L.f.) Stapf	Perunkurinchan	Asclepiadaceae
315.	<i>Wedelia chinensis</i> (Osborne) Merr.	Karisalankanni	Asteraceae
316.	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> (Roxb.) R. Br.	Vetpalai	Apocynaceae
317.	<i>Xanthium indicum</i> J. König.	Marul oomathai	Asteraceae
318.	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Ilandai	Rhamnaceae
319.	<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> (L.) Mill.	Suraimullu	Rhamnaceae
320.	<i>Ziziphus xylopyrus</i> (Retz.) Willd.	Kottei	Rhamnaceae

## CONCLUSION

Present work has documented the medicinal plants of Palamalai hills, Salem district of Tamil Nadu. It gives the list of medicinal plants used for various diseases and their management strategies. It was found that skin diseases, diarrhoea, fever, cough & cold, stomach ache are the most common diseases occurring in this area. Since the medicinal plant diversity is rich in study area proper conservation strategies must be prepared and implemented for the different habitants. Sustainable uses of biological resources must be organized for the study area. Cultivation of medicinal plants should be promoted. Grazing and tree cutting should be prevented. Soil erosion should be checked by increasing green cover all over the hill region.

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