FINDINGS
III. FINDINGS

III. 1. VEGETATION

The vegetation of the hills and hillocks of the area falls under the category of Southern Thorn Forests, often referred to as 'Scrub jungles'. It is characterized by the predominance of thorny hard wooded species of Acacia and large shrubs and herbs, mostly spiny and often with xerophytic characters. Herbaceous plants, creepers and grasses form the ground layer of the vegetation consisting of a number of annuals and perennials. They are found along the slopes, under the canopy, surface and crevices of the rocks, valleys, degraded areas of the hills, etc. Some of the herbaceous plants found in the area are: Aerva lanata, Aristida adsecensionis var. adsecensionis, Boerhavia diffusa, Cocholrus aescuans, Cyanotis tuberosa, Desmodium triflorum, Evovulus alsinoides, Hybanthus ennaespermus, Indigofera linnaeis, Leucas aspera, L. biflora, Mollugo pentaphylla, Perolis indica, Portulaca wightiana, Tribulus terrestris and Tridax procumbens. Cymbapogon flexuosus is the predominant grass found in the exposed slopes and valleys of the hills. Cheilanthes mysurensis, Selaginella wightii are the fern species commonly encountered in the hills. Shrubby vegetation is formed predominantly of Anisomelos malabarica, Canthium coromandelicum, Carmona retusa, Calotropis gigantea, Cassia auriculata, Flacourtia indica, Jatropha gossypifolia, Phoenix loureirii and Securinega leucopyrus. Thickets of bushes formed of woody shrubs and climbers are met frequently in the hills. Climbers, twiners and stragglers together form the chief constituent of the vegetation like herbs and shrubs. Some of the common species of this category found in the hills are: Abrus fruticulosus, Cajanus albicans, Cissus quadrangularis, Coccinia grandis, Pergularia daemia,
Phyllanthus reticulatus, Rivea hypocratireiformis, Vigna trilobata, and Zyzphyus oenoplea. Tresses are fewer in number, mainly represented by the species of Acacia (A. planifrons, A. nilotica ssp. nilotica) and Prosopis cineraria. The Acacia species are found all over the hill groups in patches along the valleys, base and slope of the hills and other areas. Acacia planifrons forms the dominant tree species of the forest. Trees like Azadirachta indica, Borassus flabellifer, Dichrostachys cinerea ssp. cinerea, Ficus benghalensis, F. tsjakela, Tamarindus indicus, etc. are also encountered occasionally in the hills. Euphorbia antiquorum and E. tortilis are the tree-like shrubs found all over the forest. Parmelia spp., Ramalina capitata, Usnea barbata (Lichens) and Riccia spp. (Bryophyte) are the lower group plants representing the vegetation. Several places in the forests are degraded particularly at the slopes in the southeastern and northeastern sector of the hills. Degraded areas in the forests are represented by a few herbaceous plants and species of Acacia and Euphorbia (Plate 2).

III.2. PRESENTATION OF DATA

While presenting the data the information on plant characters has been given in the following order: family, scientific name, local name(s) in Tamil (L.N), Hindi name (H.N), diagnostic description including phenology, global distribution (G. dist.), status and distribution of species in the study area (S. dist.), part(s) used of medicinal plant, medicinal uses in traditional human health care system and note on extended distribution of the species where ever necessary. The arrangement of families (angiosperm) followed in this piece of work is in accordance with the Bentham and Hooker's system of classification (1862-1883), followed in the Flora of British India and Flora of Presidency of Madras adopting a few recent changes in the
Establishment of *Acacia* ssp. on the slope

Acacia planifrons, *Prosopis cineraria* and *Borassus flabellifer* form the major elements of the foot hills (eastern side)

Thickets of *Prosopis cineraria* and *Borassus flabellifer* on the leeward side of the hill groups

Grassy patches and *Euphorbia* ssp. on the valley towards Pillathadom

Thickets of *Acacia* and *Euphorbia* ssp. at the Northwestern side of the Pillathadom

Northern (windward) side of the main hill

Plate 2. Land Cover Features
circumscription of families as per International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. The genera in a family and species within a genus are arranged alphabetically for convenience. In the case of pteridophytes, species are arranged in alphabetical order.

PTERIDOPHYTES

Actinopteridaceae

Actinopteris australis (L.f.) Link.

Nilappanai (L. N) Morpanki (H.N)

Small xerophytic fern. Rhizome suberect, subglobose, densely covered by scales; scales lanceolate. Stipes numerous, tufted up to 5-15 cm long, pale brown, soft thin, transparent. Scales distributed on the stipes sparsely all over. Laminae flabellate, semicircular or wedge shaped, repeatedly, dichotomously divide up to six times; segments rachiform; costa and veins indistinct; lamina pale green, coriaceous. Sporangia borne in intramarginal grooves throughout; spores trilete, 50 x 50µm.

G. dist.: India, especially the peninsula below 3,000 feet; Sri Lanka, North Africa, Mascareen Islands, Persia, Kabul.

S. dist.: Rare, exposed slopes of the main hill among the rocks in clay-sandy soil up to an altitude of 250 m in the western and southern sides. The shriveling fronds dried in the dry season getting refreshed at the rainy season.

Part used: Young frond

Medicinal use: The crushed young fronds are used for healing fresh wounds. The paste made from the frond of the plant is applied to the body of women after delivery for reducing oedema.
**Adiantaceae**

**Adiantum incisum** L. Mant.

*Mankkayar Koonthal* (L.N)  
*Marshikha* (H.N)

Small terrestrial/lithophytic fern. Rhizome erect, densely covered by scales all over; scales lanceolate or linear oblong-lanceolate, progressively narrowing towards the wiry acuminate apex. Pinnae simple, alternate, sessile or subsessile; veins dichotomously branched; texture herbaceous; hairs pale brown densely covered all over the pinna and rachis. Sori marginal, reniform or orbicular.

_G. dist._: India, Sri Lanka and Malay Peninsula, in the plains and on lower slopes of hills.

_S. dist._: Rare, found in the humus rich soil between the rocks in association with herbaceous plants between 150-250 m at the northern sector of the main hill.

*Parts used:* Frond, Whole plant

*Medicinal use:* The fronds are made into paste and applied topically for skin diseases. The ash of the plant is mixed with coconut oil and applied over burns.

**Sinopteridaceae**

**Cheilanthes mysurensis** Wall. ex Beddome

*Perani* (L.N)

Small xerophytic fern. Rhizome erect, densely scaly at the apex; scales linear-lanceolae. Stipes tufted, castaneous, glossy, brittle, densely scaly at the base, sparsely above. Lamina linear-lanceolate, bipinnatifid; pinnae dark green, opposite, unequal; pinnules alternate, oblong; veins forked, free; rachis sparsely covered by dark brown, linear scales. Sori semicircular, solitary or in pairs on the margin of
the each lobe; spores monolete, globose.

**G. dist.**: Western Ghats and Shevaroy hills (South India), Sri Lanka, Burma.

**S. dist.**: Common, slopes of the hills in the rock crevices and between the rocks with thin layer of soil in the exposed and semi shaded area except in the foothills. This xerophytic fern remain shriveled during hot days and getting refreshed at the arrival of rain.

**Part used**: Whole plant

**Medicinal use**: The ash of the plant is mixed with coconut oil and applied topically to fasten the healing of burns.

**Pteridaceae**

**Pteris quadriaurita** Retz. var. *argentea* Beddome Handb.

Rhizome erect covered by scales at apex; scales lanceolate. Stipes tufted, numerous. Lamina broadly to narrowly deltoid, bipinnate; pinnae opposite, subopposite, oblong-lanceolate; veins pinnate up to 14 pairs. Spores with minutely reticulate exine.

**G. dist.**: Tropical; Peninsular India at high latitude.

**S. dist.**: Rare, located from the western side of the main hill between the rocks on the way to Pillathadam at an altitude of 300 m.

**Selaginellaceae**

**Selaginella wightii** Hieron. Hedw.

Small lithophytic fern; stem terete, rooting occasionally all over the main stem; branches many, irregular, unequal. Leaves greenish-black, linear, spirally arranged. Strobilus more or less quadrangular, borne on ultimate branches, two short ligule present at the subbasal region, microsporangia and megasporangia borne on the same spike.
microspores yellowish brown 50×50 μm; megaspores dark brown up to 250μm.

**G. dist.**:: Southern and Eastern India, Sri Lanka, Eastern Africa.

**S. dist.**:: Common, exposed slopes of the rocks and rock crevices over thin layer of soil, up to the top of the hills. This lithophytic, xerophytic fern shriveled and rolled up during the dry season and gets refreshed during the rainy season.

**ANGIOSPERMS**

**Annonaceae**

**Annona squamosa** L.

*Seethapazham* (L.N) *Sharifa* (H.N)


**G. dist.**:: Native of tropics now widely cultivated in the tropics; naturalized in parts of India.

**S. dist.**:: Rare, isolated places in the slopes at the southeastern and western sectors of the main hill.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Bark, Fruit, Seed

**Medicinal use:** The leaf paste is applied for healing ulcers and skin diseases. Bark is used internally for the treatment of asthma and fever. The pulp of the ripe fruit is mixed with common salt and applied for malignant tumours. The powdered seeds are used as a good hair wash and for controlling lice in the head.
Menispermaceae

*Coccules hirsutus* (L.) Diola

Shukuttukodi (L.N) Jamtiki-bol (H.N)


G. *dist.*: Tropical Africa; Asia from Central Arabia to South China

S. *dist.*: Occasional, in the slopes and foothills up to 250 m except towards the eastern sector of the hills.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Root

*Medicinal use*: The juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is applied over the infected area to cure skin diseases like itch and ringworm. The juice expressed from the leaves of the plant is mixed with water and sugar, drunk to stop dysentery, leucorrhoea and blenorrhagia. The crushed root of the plant is boiled in 500 ml of water and reduced in to one fourth. Two ounce of the decoction is mixed with *Piper nigrum* powder and goat milk is administered internally to relieve biliousness and rheumatism. The decoction prepared from equal quantity crushed root of the plant and ginger are mixed with honey and drunk for enhancing digestion, stop vomiting and to stimulate appetite. 50 ml root decoction is mixed with 50 ml decoction prepared from *Andrographis paniculata* and taken orally for alleviating fever.
Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Hook.f and Thomson

Chittamirthu, Seenthil (L.N)  Giole, Gulancha (H.N)


G. dist.: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.

S. dist.: Rare, base hill areas at the northwestern sector.

Part used: Stem

Medicinal use: About 20-30 gm dried stem is crushed coarsely and boiled in 500 ml of water in simmer flame till reduces ½ of the volume. 1 ounce of the decoction is drunk twice daily for three days to cure painful or difficult urination, snakebite and dyspepsia. The decoction is mixed with honey or milk and taken twice, daily for general debility and for improving vitality. 5 gm powder of the dried stem is mixed with honey and consumed twice daily in the morning and evening for three days to cure cough and cold.

Capparaceae

Cadaba fruticosa (L.) Druce

Vizhuthi (L.N)

Straggling or half-climbing shrub. Leaves simple, oblong-lanceolate, 2.5-4 x 1-2.5 cm. Corymbs terminal, to 6 cm. Sepals 2+2, unequal. Petals 4, greenish, clawed. Stamens 4. Gynophore elongate. Berry red, 4 x 0.5 cm, tortulose. Flowers February to April and July to
November. Fruits throughout the year.

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and lower slopes to 175 m, climbing on trees; scarcely seen towards the interior of the forest.

**Part used: Leaf**

**Medicinal use:** Juice of fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with equal quantity of sesame oil and taken orally in the empty stomach early morning for three days to cure back pain and general debility. The leaves of the plant along with leaves of *Cassia auriculata* and crushed garlic is taken in a clean cloth and made into a poultice. The poultice is heated in castor oil and rubbed over the legs in mild heat for alleviating rheumatic pain and swelling. The same mixture is applied over the affected area for speedy recovery.

**Capparis sepiaria** L.

*Karumchoorai* (L.N) *Kanthari* (H.N)

Straggling shrub. Leaves oblong, lanceolate-elliptic, 2-3 x 0.5-1 cm. Flowers in corymbose subumbels, ca.20-30 in a cluster. Sepals 2+2, ovate or orbicular. Petals 4, white, obovate. Stamens 30-45. Berry globose, dark blue, 1 cm across. Flowers February to March. Fruit March onwards.

G. dist.: Africa, Sri Lanka, India, South East Asia, Malaysia, Australia.

S. dist.: Occasional, in the slopes and foothills at the southeastern and northeastern segments of the hills on thickets.

**Part used: Bark**

**Medicinal use:** The crushed stem or root bark of the plant is boiled in 500 ml of water in simmer flame till reduces to ¼th of the volume and
decanted. 50 ml of the decoction is taken along with sugar or palm jaggery twice daily for curing fever and indigestion.

**Capparis zeylanica** L.

*Kaathotti* (L.N) **Ardanda** (H.N)

Straggler. Leaves ovate, elliptic or lanceolate, 2-6 x 2-4 cm, coriaceous. Flowers 4 cm across, in serial clusters on fresh shoots. Sepals 2+2, unequal. Petals 4, oblong. Stamens to 75, inserted on the torus at the base of the gynophore. Ovary stalked, ellipsoid; ovules many, stigma capitate. Berry globose, 3.5 x 2.5 cm, blood red. Flowers peak during February to March. Fruits February to June.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Southeast and East Asia, Malaysia

S. dist.: Occasional, in the foothills and slopes up to 200 m at the western and southeastern sides of the hill, scarcely seen towards interior of the forest.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Bark

**Medicinal use:** 2-3 drops of juice expressed from the slightly warmed fresh leaves of the plant is dropped in the ear for earache. Poultice or paste made from the fresh leaves of the plant is applied over fresh wounds, boils and inflammatory swellings. The decoction prepared from the bark of the plant is taken along with sugar for treating heat diseases and fever.

**Cleome aspera** J. Koenig ex DC.

*Punal Murungai, Vayaruthi* (L.N)

Annual spreading herb, softly prickled. Leaves apically simple,
basally 3-foliolate; leaflets oblanceolate, middle one 8 x 0.5 cm, laterals 1 x 0.4 cm. Racemes to 2.5 cm. Sepals 4, linear. Petals 4, yellow, elliptic. Stamens 6. Capsule glabrous, obliquely striate; seeds 15-20. Flowers July to March. Fruits whole year.

G. dist.: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes of the hills among the rocks and in the waste places of the foothills on sandy and gravelly ground.

Cleome gynandra L.

Thyvazhai (L.N.) Karalia (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves 3-5 foliolate, 7 x 6.5 cm; leaflets obovate. Racemes corymbose, to 20 cm. Sepals 4, equal, ovate or lanceolate. Petals 4, white, obovate. Stamens 6, inserted upon the long gynophore. Capsule terete, striate; seeds many, reniform. Flowers and fruits August to January.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Southeast and East Asia, Malaysia and widely introduced in New World.

S. dist.: Rare, slopes and foothills at northwestern and eastern segments of the hills in the sandy-clay soil.

Parts used: Leaf, Seed

Medicinal use: Equal quantity fresh leaves of the plant along with leaves of Trianthema portulacastrum, Acalypha indica and Boerhavia diffusa are boiled in ghee and eaten for cough, gas trouble, constipation and to cure menstrual haemorrhage. The juice expressed from the cooked flowers are mixed with enough quantity of Curcuma aromatic powder and given for babies to cure fever, chest congestion, and general debility. The same in higher doses (½ - 1 tea spoon) is given to the adults for the treatment of same diseases and
also diarrhoea. The seeds are roasted in ghee, powdered and mixed with honey and given (1 gm for children and 5-8 gm for adults) internally to expel intestinal worms and stomach pain. 5-10 gm seed powder is mixed in boiled water with pinch of common salt and given orally for strangury.

*Cleome icosandra* L.

*Naikadugu* (L.N)  *Hulhul* (H.N)

Annual herb; branchlets viscid to glandular. Leaves 3-5-foliolate, leaflets obovate or elliptic; middle one 2-5 x 1-2 cm; laterals 1.5-3.5 x 1-1.5 cm. Racemes to 30 cm. Petals 4, yellow, oblong to ovate. Stamens 12-18. Capsule terete, to 7 cm, ribs oblique, glandular hairy; seeds many, reniform. Flowers and fruits August to March.

*G. dist.*: Tropical Africa, S. Arabia, tropical Australia, Malaysia.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, in the bare slopes and foothills up to 250m in disturbed ground, wastelands and among the rocks in arable sandy and gravelly soil.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Seed

*Medicinal use*: Equal quantity fresh leaves of the plant along with leaves of *Trianthema portulacastrum*, *Commelina benghalensis* and *Boerhavia diffusa* are roasted in ghee and eaten along with food as a side dish for gas trouble, improving appetite and menstrual haemorrhage. A few drops of leaf juice are dropped in to the ear for reducing ear pain. The paste of the leaves is applied topically to prevent the formation of pus. The seeds are ground in to paste and taken internally in hot water for curing rheumatism and constipation.
**Cleome monophylla** L.  
*Fluuk-Sakkathli* (L.N)  
Annual herb; branchlets glandular-pubescent. Leaves simple, linear oblong, 3-6 x 1-2 cm. Racemes to 20 cm. Flowers pink or dull purple. Sepals linear or lanceolate. Petals 4, pink, oblong. Stamens 6. Gynophore to 2 cm. Capsule to 8 cm, strongly ribbed, beak flat; seeds reniform. Flowers and fruits August to January.  

G. *dist.*: Tropical Africa and India.  
S. *dist.*: Rare, in the slopes of the hill between the rocks at the western segment of the main hill to 200 m on shallow humus rich soil.  

*Part used:* Seed  

*Medicinal use:* The seeds of the plant are used as a substitute for the seeds of *Cleome icosandra*.  

**Violaceae**  

**Hybanthus ennaespermus** (L.) F. Muell.  

*Oorithalthaamarai* (L.N)  
*Ratan-purus* (H.N)  
Perennial herb to 25 cm. Leaves linearly lanceolate/elliptic, 2.5 x 0.6 cm, subsessile. Flowers solitary, axillary, 8 mm across. Sepals 5, lanceolate, subequal. Petals 5, pink, imbricate, unequal. Stamens 5; anthers connate. Capsule subglobose; seeds ribbed. Flowers and fruits through the year.  

G. *dist.*: Africa, Madagascar, India, Sri Lanka, South East China and Australia.  
S. *dist.*: Common, foothills and slopes up to 300m in exposed and partially exposed places in arable soil.
Parts used: Whole plant, Leaf, Flower.

Medicinal use: 5-10 gm paste of the plant is mixed in goat's milk and drunken twice daily for curing leucorrhrea, blenorrhrea, burning sensation of the body and for improving strength of the body. The linctus prepared from the herb with other ingredients is eaten twice daily for improving sexual vigour (increasing sperm count), and vitality. The decoction is made by boiling tender leaves and flowers in water, cooled, strained and poured in the eyes for eye diseases and to drunk to reduce heat of the body.

Flacourtiaceae

Flacourtia indica (Burm. f.) Merr.

Soththaikala (L.N)       Bilangra (H.N)

Shrub. Leaves clustered at apex, (ob)ovate, 1.5-2.5 x 1-1.5 cm. Racemes short, to 1 cm. Flowers unisexual, 3 mm across. Sepals 4 or 5, cream, basally connate, ovate, ciliate. Petals 0. Male flower: stamens numerous; pistilode 0. Female flower: ovary 3-celled; ovules 2 per cell; styles 3; stigma 3-fid. Drupes globose; seeds obovoid. Flowers peak during July to September and January to March. Fruits September onwards, persistent, red when ripe.

G. dist.: Africa, India, S. E. Asia, Polynesia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes of the hills up to 300 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Bark, Fruit.

Medicinal use: Coarsely powdered bark of the plant is boiled in coconut or sesame oil, decanted and used in gout. Infusion of the leaves and root is used as antidote against snakebite. The fruits are used to cure jaundice and enlarged spleen.
Polygalaceae

*Polygala arvensis* Willd.

Meradu (H.N)

Perennial herb. Leaves elliptic, linear, obovate, orbicular, 1-2.5 x 0.5-1 cm. Racemes lateral, ca. 10-flowered, sometimes flowers solitary. Flower 4 mm across. Sepals 5, unequal; outer ovate; wing obliquely ovate or falcate. Petals yellow; keels crested with fimbriate appendages. Ovary obovoid, turgid. Capsule ovoid, to 4 mm, flat; seeds ca. 2, ellipsoid. Flowers peak during August to January. Fruits through the year.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Indo-China, Hong Kong, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, foothills and slopes of the hills; scarcely found towards southeastern side.

Part used: Root

Medicinal use: Root paste with common salt is given internally for the treatment of hydrophobia.

*Polygala bolbothrix* Dunn var. *bolbothrix*

Annual herb. Leaves elliptic or oblong, obovate 1.2 x 0.6 cm. Racemes axillary, 2-3-flowered. Flowers 5-8 mm long. Petals 5, unequal, rose. Capsule suborbicular, to 5 mm, ciliate along margins; seeds dark, pilose; caruncle hood-like, with 3-appendages. Flowers and fruits October to January.

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, in the slopes at the northwestern sector of the main hill among herbaceous plants.

Note: This species occurs in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka,
Kerala and Tamil Nadu (Sharma and Balakrishnan, 1993). In Tamil Nadu it is known from the districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Salem and Tirunelveli (Nair and Henry, 1983). Presence of this species in this area extends the distribution to southern end of Western Ghats, (Kanyakumari District).

**Polygala javana** DC.

Perennial herb. Leaves obovate or obovate-lanceolate, 2.5 x 1 cm. Racemes lateral, 3-8 cm. Flowers 1 cm across. Sepals yellow, winged sepals broadly ovate, densely puberulous. Petals 3; lower boat-shaped, crested at the tip. Stamens 8; filaments joint at the same level. Capsule oblong, pubescent; seeds 2, oblong; caruncle 2-appendaged. Flowers and fruits whole year, less in summer.

G. *dist.*: India, Burma, Sri Lanka, tropical East Africa.

S. *dist.*: Common, foothills and exposed slopes of the hills. The stout rootstocks help the survival of the species from grazing, which sprouts during the rainy season.

**Caryophyllaceae**

**Polycarpacea corymbosa** (L.) Lam.

**Nilachadachi** (L. N)

Annual erect herb. Leaves linear to subulate 1 x 0.2 cm; stipules scarious, fimbriate; internodes with scattered hairs. Flowers dense excessively branched silvery cymes. Sepals 5, lanceolate, scarious much exceeding the petals and the capsule. Petals 5, shorter than the sepals. Ovary 1-celled; ovules numerous. Capsule oblong, 3-valved. Seeds ovoid. Flowers November to February. Fruits January onwards.

G. *dist.*: Both Eastern and Western hemispheres.
S. *dist.*: Occasional, slopes and foothills up to 300 m in the arable sandy and red soil.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Whole plant

*Medicinal use:* Freshly collected plant is made into paste and applied externally as an antidote for scorpion sting and insect bite. The poultice made from the fresh leaves of the plant is applied over boils and inflammatory swellings.

**Portulacaceae**

*Portulaca oleracea* L. var. *oleracea*

*Kozhikeerai, Karikeerai* (L.N)  
*Khursa* (H.N)

Annual, succulent herb. Leaves spatulate, obovate, 0.5-1.5 x 0.5-1.5 cm. Flowers 3-6 in a terminal cluster, rarely solitary, surrounded by a whorl of leaves. petals 5, yellow, obovate, basally subconnate. Stamens 12. Ovary obovoid, half enclosed by calyx, 1-celled. Seeds 20-25. Flowers and fruits July to December.

G. *dist.*: Pan tropical

S. *dist.*: Rare, in the slopes and foothills at the western segment of the main hill up to 250 m in the arable clay-sandy soil.

*Part used:* Whole Plant

*Medicinal use:* The plant is made into paste with ghee and applied externally to cure erysipelas. The paste of the plant is applied topically to cure burns, scalds, itch and eczemaloid. The plant is cooked and eaten for constipation, expel intestinal worms, dysuria and to reduce heat of the body.

*Portulaca quadrifida* L.

*Pasalaikeerai* (L.N)  
*Chotaluniya* (H.N)

Annual herb; branchlets creeping, fluffy at nodes, pinkish.
Leaves lanceolate to ovate, 4-8 x 1-3 mm, succulent, axillary hairs canescent. Flowers terminal, solitary, surrounded by 4 involucral leaves; hairs copious. Petals 4, yellow, obovate. Ovary ellipsoid half-embedded in receptacle. Capsule oblong 3.5-4.5 mm. Flowers and fruits August to January.

G. dist.: Pan tropical.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes at the western and northern sectors of the hills in the arable red and sandy soil.

Part used: Whole Plant

Medicinal use: The plant is cooked along with red gram and consumed as side dish for strangury, production of blood, excessive heat and to induce active movement of bowels. The paste made from freshly collected plant is applied to cure itch and eczema.

**Portulaca suffruticosa** Wight and Arn.

Erect herb; base stumpy; nodal hairs setose. Leaves alternate, 1-1.5 x 0.1-0.2 cm subsucculent. Flowers terminal, 1 or 2-3 in a cluster, surrounded by 8 foliar involucres. Stamens 16. Ovary semi-inferior, 1-celled; ovules many. Capsule subglobose; seeds dark, tubercled. Flowers and fruits with a peak during August to September and November to January (Plate 7).

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, slopes at the northern and western segments of the hill in the arable clay-sandy soil.

Note: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, South Arcot, Salem Tiruchchirappally and Tirunelveli (Nair and Henry, 1983). Presence of this species in this area form additional locality in
Tamil Nadu State and extends distribution to southern end of Western Ghats.

**Portulaca wightiana** Wallich ex Wight and Arn.

Herb; branchlets with closely jointed nodes. Leaves alternate, obovate or oblanceolate 6 x 2 mm. Flowers terminal, solitary surrounded by a whorl of leaves. Petals 4, yellow exceeding and adnate to sepals. Stamens 8. Flowers and fruits throughout the year (Plate 3).

_**G. dist.**:_ Peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

_**S. dist.**:_ Common, in the crevices and between the rocks on the exposed slopes with shallow humus rich sandy-clay soil.

### Malvaceae

**Abutilon indicum** (L.) Sweet ssp. *indicum*

Thuthii (L. N) Kanghi (H. N)

Under shrub; branchlets cinereous by minutely short stellate-pubescent and simple hairs. Leaves cordate, 2.5-6 x 2-6 cm, glaucous below. Flower solitary, to 3 cm across. Petals 5, yellow, obovate, rotate. Shizocarp globose; mericarps densely stellate hairy, much erect; seeds ovoid. Flowers September to December. Fruits whole year.

_**G. dist.**:_ Throughout tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres.

_**S. dist.**:_ Occasional, foothills along the waysides, rarely seen at the eastern sector of the hills.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Flower, Seed

**Medicinal use:** The leaf paste is used for joining bone fracture. Decoction of the leaves is mixed with sugar and taken orally for the
treatment of itch, strangury and jaundice. A handful of flowers of the plant is cooked in cow's milk and eaten by mixing with sugar candy for haematemesis, vitality and to reduce heat of the body. The decoction of the seed is mixed with sugar candy and consumed twice daily for 15 days for curing blenorrhagia, gonorrhea, bleeding piles and constipation.

**Hibiscus ovalifolius** (Forssk) Vahl

Subshrub. Leaves ovate, suborbicular or elliptic, 1.5-3 x 2-3 cm; stipules filiform. Flower solitary; pedicel jointed above the middle, accrescent. Epicalyx segments 6, subbulate. Petals 5, white, oblong-elliptic. Staminal column 6 mm, antheriferous throughout, glabrous. Ovary subglobose, 5-celled; ovules 3 per cell. Capsule not exceeding calyx, puberulous. Flowers peak during November to January. Fruits through the year.

G. dist.: Tropical India, tropical Africa, Arabia, Sri Lanka.

S. dist.: Occasional, in the slopes and base of the hill.

**Malvastrum coromandelianum** (L.) Garcke

Annual herb; branchlets stellate-tomentose. Leaves entire, ovate-lanceolate/deltoid, 2-4.5 x 2-3.5 cm; stipules linear. Flowers axillary, solitary or in terminal clusters. Epicalyx segments 3, elliptic. Petals 5, pale yellow, obliquely obovate. Staminal column glabrous, truncate and antheriferous at apex. Ovary subglobose, 13-15 celled. Schizocarp 3 x 6 mm. Flowers and fruits August to January.

G. dist.: Pantropical.

S. dist.: Occasional, the waysides and wastelands at the base and lower slopes of the hills.
Parts used: Leaf, Flower

Medicinal use: Leaves applied to inflamed sores and wounds as a cooling and healing salve. Flowers given as pectoral and diaphoretic.

Pavonia odorata Willd.

Peramutti (L.N)  Sugandhabala (H.N)

Annual herb; branchlets viscid. Leaves ovate-suborbicular, shallowly 3-lobed; lobes ovate, 1-2.5 x 0.5-2 cm. Flower(s) solitary or paired. Epicalyx segments 10-12. Petals 5, pink or white. Shizocarp globose, pubescent; mericarp not winged; seeds pubescent. Flowers peak during September to January. Fruits through the year.

G. dist.: India, Burma, tropical East Africa, India.

S. dist.: Occasional, in the slopes of the hills up to 300 m in the shallow sandy soil in full sun; scarcely seen towards eastern sector.

Part used: Root

Medicinal use: Equal quantity of root of the plant is taken along with Pavonia zeylanica (root), Abutilon indicum (leaf), Vitex negundo (leaf) Terminalia chebula (fruit rind) and Tinospora cordifolia (stem). The ingredients are crushed together and boiled with 500 ml of water, reduced into 100 ml and decanted. The decoction is divided into three equal parts and given three times daily for three days to cure nocturnal seminal emission, fever, biliousness, and rheumatism.

Pavonia zeylanica (L.) Cav.

Chittamutti, Mammatti (L. N)

Annual herb; branchlets viscid and stellate-pubescent. Leaves deeply 3-lobed; lobes obovate, 0.5-1.5 x 0.6-1.5 cm. Flowers axillary, solitary, 1.5 cm across. Epicalyx segments 8-11, setaceous. Petals 5,
bright pink or white. Shizocarp globose, 5 mm; mericarp winged at edges; seeds pubescent. Flowers peak during July to January. Fruits whole year.

G. dist.: India, Sri Lanka, tropical Africa, Mauritius.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes and foothills at the southeastern and western sectors of the hill associated with herbaceous plants.

Parts used: Leaf, Root

Medicinal use: The medicated oil prepared from the leaves of the plant is applied for rheumatism, sprain and body pain. About 15 gm root of the plant is cut into small pieces, crushed coarsely and boiled in 150 ml water and reduced into one-third and decanted. The decoction is mixed with small quantity of *Piper longum* powder and taken orally twice daily for treating intermittent fever and abdominal disorders.

*Sida acuta* Burm.f.

*Malai Thangi Poondu* (L.N)  
*Bariara* (H.N)

Undershrub; branchlets minutely stellate-pubescent. Leaves oblong-lanceolate/elliptic, 1.5-5 x 1-2 cm; stipules each pair different, linear to lanceolate. Flower(s) 5 cm across, solitary sometimes 2-7 in cluster. Petals pale yellow, obliquely ovate, ciliate at base. Staminal column shorter than petals. Shizocarp not exceeding calyx; mericarps 2 awned. Flowers August to February. Fruits throughout the year.

G. dist.: Pan tropical.

S. dist.: Occasional, isolated places of the hill groups up to 200 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Root

Medicinal use: The fresh leaves of the plant is roasted in sesame oil and plastered for the treatment of sores. About 7-10 gm crushed root of the plant is boiled in 400 ml of water till it is reduced to about a
third and decanted. The decoction is divided into two equal parts and
administered internally along with ginger for the treatment of severe
fever and flatulence.

*Sida cordata* (Burm.f.) Borssum Weak.

*Palampasi* (L.N)  *Bhiunl* (H.N)

Herb; branchlets prostrate to ascending. Leaves palminerved;
basal ones suborbicular; upper ones cordate-ovate, 1.5-3 x 1.5-2.5
cm; stipules subulate. Flower(s) axillary, 1 or 2, sometimes in lax
racemes. Petals 5, yellow, oblique obovate. Staminal column shorter
than petals, hairy, apically truncate and antheriferous. Schizocarp not
exceeding calyx; mericarps 5, tetrahedral. Flowers August to
November. Fruits August to February.

*G. dist.*: Pantropical

*S. dist.*: Occasional, exposed slopes and foothills in arable soil
associated with herbaceous plants.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Flower, Fruit

*Medicinal use*: The poultice made from the leaves of the plant is
applied to cuts and bruises. Flowers and fruits along with sugar are
used for curing micturition.

*Sida cordifolia* L.

*Nilathuthi* (L.N)  *Kungyi* (H.N)

Subshrub; branchlets densely stellate tomentose. Leaves
cordate or ovate, 1.5-4 x 1.5-3 cm. Flowers 1 cm across, solitary or 5-
6 in cluster. Petals 5, yellow, oblique-rhomboid. Staminal column
tomentose. Schizocarp 6 x 7 mm, exceeding calyx; mericarps 8-10, 3-
gonous; seeds ovoid. flowers and fruits through the year.
G. *dist.*: Pantropical, throughout Malaysia.

*S. dist.*: Rare, slopes of hill among the rocks at the western sector of the main hill associated with herbaceous plants.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Root

*Medicinal use:* Castor oil coated leaves are fried and dressed over inflamed piles and other inflammatory swellings. 50 gm crushed root of the plant is boiled with 500 ml of water and reduce to a volume of 250 ml and decanted. 100 ml of the decoction is mixed with sugar and taken orally three times daily to cure itch, throat infection, and strangury, ulcer in the stomach and pain in the genital organs.

*Sida rhombifolia* L.

*Tenacham* (L.N)  
*Sweta-barela* (H.N)

Subshrub; branchlets stellate-tomentose. Leaves ovate-elliptic / rhomboid, 2-4 x 1-3 cm, margin proximately entire. Flowers solitary or 5-7-flowered, cymose clusters. Calyx-tube shortly stellate-pubescent. Petals 5, yellow, oblique-rhomboid. Mericarps 7-10, tomentose at apex; seeds ovoid. Flowers September to February.

G. *dist.*: Old and New tropics and subtropics.

S. *dist.*: Common, slopes, waysides and waste places in the foothills in the open places and under the canopy.

*Part used:* Leaf

*Medicinal use:* The paste made from the leaves of the plant is applied to stop bleeding and to heal wounds caused by knife and glass pieces. The fresh leaves are ground in to paste with sufficient quantity of black pepper and garlic. About the berry size of the paste is taken internally in the empty stomach for three days in the morning and evening for alleviate headache and also used as an effective antidote.
for scorpion sting and snakebite. Plastering of the paste over the bitten spot is said to be effective in healing wounds.

*Sida schimperiana* Hochst. ex A. Rich.

Perennial herb; branchlets densely stellate-tomentose. Leaves oblong-obovate, up to 1 x 0.6 cm. Flowers 1 cm across, solitary or 3-5 in cluster. Calyx hairy without, glabrous within. Petals 5, bright yellow, obovate. Schizocarp 4 mm, not exceeding calyx; seeds 3-gonous. Flowers peak during October to January. Fruits almost throughout the year.

G. *dist.:* India, Abyssinia, South Africa.

S. *dist.:* Rare, base of the hill at the southeastern segment of the hill in loose clay- sandy soil.

*Note:* In Tamil Nadu it is known from the Districts of Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram, North Arcot, South Arcot, Thanjavur and Tiruchchirappalli (Nair and Hentry, 1983). Presence of this species in Maruthua Malai form an additional locality in the state.


*Poovasaru, Cheeliandhi* (L. N) *Paraspipal* (H.N)

Tree. Leaves entire, ovate, orbicular, 4-12 x 4-7 cm, palminerved, peltate scaly. Flower solitary, axillary, to 7 cm across; hypanthium discoid. Epicalyx segments 3-5, free, caducous. Petals 5, obovate, margins scaly. Ovary 5-celled; ovules 3 per cell. Capsule globose, indehiscent. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. *dist.:* Widely distributed in the tropics.

S. *dist.:* Rare, a few places at the foothills (along border) at the western and eastern sides of the hill.
Parts used: Leaf, Bark, Fruit

Medicinal use: The leaves are ground into paste and applied topically to cure inflammation of legs. 5-10 gm bark of the plant is cut into small pieces and boiled in coconut or sesame oil. The medicated oil is massaged in moderate heat over the inflamed joints and swelling in the legs and foot. About 20-30 gm crushed bark of the plant is boiled in 750 ml of water till it is reduced to about a third and decanted. One ounce of the decoction is mixed with sugar and administered internally thrice daily for the treatment of dysentery and discharge of mucus and blood. The decoction is used for speedy healing of wounds. The yellow juice collected from fruit is applied for the treatment of insect bite, scabies, eczema and sores.

Urena lobata L. ssp. lobata

Shrub; branchlets stellate-tomentose. Lower leaves orbicular, shallowly lobed; upper ones ovate or elliptic, 3-8 x 3-7 cm. Flowers axillary, 2 or 3 in a cluster or solitary. Epicalyx cupular, appressed to mericarps. Petals 5, obovate, rose, united below to the staminal tube. Shizocarp globose; mericarps 5, 3-gonous; seeds reniform. Flowers peak during November to January. Fruits December onwards.

G. dist.: Circumtropical.

S. dist.: Occasional, waysides and waste places at the base of the hill in loose red sandy soil.

Sterculiaceae

Melhania incana Heyne ex Wight & Arn.

Herb; branchlets densely stellate- tomentose. Leaves lanceolate or elliptic, 3 x 3.5 cm. Cymes axillary, 1-or a few-flowered. Calyx-tube accrescent, deeply lobed; lobes 5, lanceolate. Petals 5, yellow,

**G. dist.**: Drier parts of Peninsular India.

**S. dist.**: Rare, exposed slopes at the western sector of the main hill at an altitude of 250 m.

*Note*: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the Districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Salem and Tiruchchirappally (Nair and Henry, 1983). Presence of the species in this area form an additional locality in the state and extend its distribution to the southern end of Western Ghats.

**Waltheria indica** L.

Shrub. Leaves simple, ovate or elliptic, 2-4 x 1-2 cm, wolly, margin serrate. Flowers 5 mm across, in axillary clusters. Calyx tube campanulate, strigose; lobes 5, triangular. Petals 5, yellow, oblanceolate, clawed. Stamens 5; anthers subsessile. Capsule obconical, 2-valved. Flowers and fruits July to April.

**G. dist.**: Pantropical.

**S. dist.**: Occasional, in the slopes and foothills up to 200 m in full sun.

*Part used*: Whole plant

*Medical use*: The plant is considered as emollient and bechic and used for the treatment of cough. The decoction prepared from the plant is used for the treatment of syphilis and to improve immunity.

**Tiliaceae**

**Corchorus aestuans** L.

Herb. Leaves ovate, elliptic or oblong, 2-4 x 1-2.5 cm, basal
serrature liliform. Cymes leaf-opposed, 2-3 flowered. Petals 5, yellow, spathulate. Stamens ca. 20. Ovary 3-celled; ovules short, stigma capitate. Capsule terete, 2 x 0.5 cm, 3-winged; beak 3-fid, radiating; seeds truncate. Flowers and fruits whole year, less in summer.

G. dist.: Asia, Malaysia, Australia, tropical Africa, West Indies and Central America.

S. dist.: Common, in the slopes and foothills on shallow or thin layer of soil, among the rocks and crevices.

Corchorus fasicularis Lam.

Subshrub. Leaves oblong, lanceolate/elliptic, 3-5 x 1-1.5 cm, basal serrature not appendaged. Flowers 4 mm across. Petals 5, yellow, oblong or obovate. Ovary 2-5-celled; ovules 2. Capsule terete, 1.5 cm, shortly beaked, densely strigose, 3-loculed. Seeds 3-gonous. Flowers and fruits November to January.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, West and South East Asia, North Australia, Arabia, tropical Africa.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the southeastern sector in arable sandy soil.

Grewia rhamnifolia Heyne ex Roth

Shrub. Leaves ovate or lanceolate 3-6 x 2.5-3 cm. Cymes leaf-opposed, axillary or terminal, ca. 3-flowered. Sepals 5, lanceolate, wolly without. Petals 5, lanceolate, ciliate below. Torus angular, glabrous. Androgynophore grooved, wolly. Ovary globose, densely stiff wolly, 4-celled. Drupe globose, 1.5 cm across, obscurely 4-lobed, velvety. Flowers July to October.

G. dist.: India, Sri Lanka.
S. dist.: Rare, near Pillathadam among the rocks at an altitude of 360 m.

Note: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the Districts of Chongalpallu, Coimbatore, Madurai, Nilgiri, North Arcot, Salem Tiruchchirappalli and Thanjavur (Nair and Hentry, 1983). Presence of this species in this area extends the distribution to southern end of Western Ghats.

**Triumfetta rhomboidea** Jacq.

**Puramutti, Ottarai (L.N) Chiki (H.N)**

Subshrub. Lower leaves palmately lobed, 8 x 8 cm; upper ones rhomboid to narrow lanceolate or elliptic, 2 x 0.7 cm. Flowers axillary or leaf opposed cymes or racemes. Petals 5, yellow, obovate or oblong. Ovary spherical, 4-celled. Capsule stellate-tomentose; prickles glabrous; seed 1 per cell. Flowers August to December. Fruit whole year.

G. dist.: Pantropical.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the northeastern sector.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Root, Bark, Flower

*Medicinal use:* The hot infusion of the root or bark is taken to facilitate childbirth or to hasten the inception of parturition when it is delayed. The leaves, flowers and fruits are mucilaginous and used for the treatment of gonorrhoea.

**Zygophyllaceae**

**Tribulus terrestris** L.

**Neringil (L.N) Chotagokshru (H.N)**

Prostrate herb. Leaves subopposite, even-pinnate, 2-4 cm; leaflets 4 or 5 pairs, unequal, oblong, 7 x 4 mm. Flower axillary, solitary; pedicel to 1.5 cm. Petals 5, golden yellow, obovate. Stamens
5+5, subtended by 5 glandular scales. Schizocarp with 5 spinous cocci, each with pair of unequal spines; seed 1 per coccus. Flowers and fruits throughout the year (Plate 5).

G. dist.: Throughout the tropics.

S. dist.: Common, almost all places in the hill group up to 350 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Seed, Thorn.

Medicinal use: A handful fresh leaves of the plant is cut into small pieces and boiled in 750 ml water in an earthen pot till it is reduced to about a third and decanted. 100 ml of the decoction is taken orally twice daily for the treatment of diabetes, urinary disorders, hydrocele and poisonous affections. The leaves and root is cut into small pieces and cooked along with rice decanted and mixed with jaggery and drunk for hydragogue and inflammation. The seed is cooked in cow milk and powdered after drying. About 5 gm of the powder and sugar is mixed in cow milk and taken twice, daily for general debility and for improving vitality. The powder is mixed in tender coconut and drunk for oedema. The thorn of the plant along with black pepper, Syzigium cumini (bark) and rock salt are made into powder. About 2-3 gm of the powder is mixed in coconut water and drunk for urinary disorders. The decoction prepared from the aerial part of the plant is taken orally a few times daily to control high blood pressure for pregnant woman.

Rutaceae


Koovalam, Vilvam (L.N) Bel (H.N)

Armed tree; spines axillary, to 2(4) cm. Leaves 3-(5)-foliolate, to 5 cm; leaflets elliptic, lanceolate or oblong-obovate. Panicles axillary, to 10 x 4.5 cm. Flowers 2.5 cm across. Petals 5, white, oblong, fleshy,
spreading. Disc obscure. Berry ovoid, woody; seeds numerous, oblong. Flowers February to March. Fruits September to December (Plate 8).

G. dist.: Sub-Himalayan tract, Southward to Peninsula, Burma, Indo-China.

S. dist.: Rare, in front of the Siva temple at the western side of the main hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Flower, Fruit

Medicinal use: A decoction is prepared by mixing leaves of the plant along with leaves of Ocimum tenuiflorum (O. sanctum) and Azadirachta indica (all in equal quantity). 50 ml of the decoction is taken orally for alleviating headache. 50 gm mature leaves of the plant is taken along with same quantity shade dried leaves of Cynodon dactylon, Azadirachta indica and Ocimum tenuiflorum and powdered. The ingredients are mixed with powder of Coriandrum sativum (100 gm) and Cuminum cyminum (10 gm). Boil the ingredients in 1 litre water, over medium flame till reduces to 1/6. 50 ml of this infusion is taken orally in the empty stomach, early morning, daily to prevent heart attack and heart diseases. 10-15 ml leaf juice extracted from the fresh leaves of the plant is drunk orally in the morning to cure diabetes. Juice expressed from the leaves of the plant is boiled with coconut oil. A few drops of this medicated oil are dropped in to the ear for alleviating ear pain and ottorhoea. Fine leaf powder of the plant is rubbed over the body and left for a few minutes at the time of bathing, daily to control skin diseases. One teaspoon root powder along with honey is given internally to cure dysentery. The decoction (milk) prepared from the root bark of the plant is consumed daily for improving stamina and vitality. The decoction prepared from the pulp of the young fruit is taken orally to alleviate stomach pain. The decoction prepared
from the flower of the plant is used to cure constipation. Small piece of root of the plant is cut into small pieces and soaks in glass of water over night and decanted in the next morning. It is drunk in the empty stomach with honey or jaggery for removing mild fever. The pulp of the ripe fruit is mixed with sugar candy and given internally for cleaning and strengthening the intestine.

**Atalantia monophylla (L.) Corr. Serr.**

*Kaattu Elumichai (L. N)*

Armed shrub. Leaves 1-foliolate, lanceolate/elliptic, 3-5 x 1.5-2.5 cm. Racemes axillary, contracted, to 1.5 cm. Flowers 1 cm across, fragrant. Calyx-tube irregularly lobed. Petals 4, cream, obovate. Berry globose; seeds ovoid. Flowers October to January. Fruit February to March.

*G. dist.:* Peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Khasia Hills.

*S. dist.:* Rare, at the base of the hill in the southeastern sector and a few places in the western side of the hills in full sun.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Root, Fruit, Seed

*Medicinal use:* The fresh leaves are pounded into paste. It is applied externally, twice daily for a few days to heal abscess, scabies and skin complaints. The decoction prepared from the plant is used as antidote against insect poisons and rheumatism. The oil extracted from the seed is applied topically to alleviate rheumatic pain, swelling and paralysis.

**Todalia asiatica (L.) Lam var. gracilis Gamble**

*Milakaranai (L.N) Kanj (H.N)*

Climbing shrub; branchlets with straight/recurved prickles. Leaves odd pinnate; leaflets lanceolate-elliptic 3-5 x 1-1.5 cm;
midnerv spiny below. Flowers 5-merous, unisexual. Maleflower: panicles to 6 cm. Petals 4, cream, glandular. Stamens 5; pistillode 4-partite. Female flower: racemes to 5 cm. Ovary oblong, 4 or 5-celled, ovules 2. Berry orange to red; seed 3 or 4. Flowers July to October. Fruit December to February.

G. dist.: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.
S. dist.: Occasional, in the denuded slopes and valleys of the hill.

Parts used: Bark, Fruit

Medicinal use: About 30 gm stem or root bark is boiled in 200 ml water till it is reduced to a third by volume. 30 ml of the decoction is given orally twice daily to cure dysentery, cold and fever. Fruit and bark of the plant is crushed and boiled in sesame oil, decanted, applied topically for swelling and sprain.

**Meliaceae**

*Azadirachta indica* Adr. Juss.

Veppu (L.N) Nim (H.N)

Tree. Leaves odd/even-pinnate, 18 x 8 cm; leaflets oblong-lanceolate, falcate, inequilateral, margin serrate. Flowers hermaphrodite, in large many-flowered axillary panicles. Petals 5, cream, oblong-ovate. Staminal-tube a little shorter than the petals; anthers 10, apiculate. Drupe oblong-ovoid; seed 1, ellipsoid. Flowers and fruits March to June.

G. dist.: India, China, Pakistan, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Occasional, in the slopes and foothills up to 250 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Bark, Flower, Seed

Medicinal use: Half a gooseberry size of paste made from young
leaves of the plant is mixed in buttermilk and taken orally in the morning and evening for a few days to expel intestinal worms. The leaf paste is applied to get rid off skin diseases, sores and leprosy. The leaves boiled in water, cooled and bathed for reduce body pain and to control dandruff. Cleaning the tooth with young stem would give strength and protection to gums and teeth from diseases. The decoction made from the bark of the plant is used as gargle for tooth pain, healing burns, boils and wounds. Chutney made from a handful of dried flowers, tamarind, common salt and ghee is used to improve appetite, reducing body pain, vomiting and get rid off worms. 10-15 gm leaves boiled in 150 ml of water in an earthen pot, decanted after cooling. The decoction is taken orally in the night before sleep for chest pain. Neem oil, Indigofera tinctoria leaf juice, pinch of sulphur and camphor are mixed together and kept in glass bottle. This medicated oil is used for skin diseases, eczema, itch, healing wounds, sores, etc.

**Icacinaceae**

*Pyrenacantha volubilis* Wight

Climbing shrub. Leaves rhomboid-lanceolate, 5-8 x 2.5-4 cm, pennisinerved. Flowers minute, dioecious; male in filiform axillary spikes; female in capitate heads, monochlamydeous. Perianth deeply 4-lobed; lobes oblong, inflexed at tip. Stamens 4, small. Ovary oblong, 1-celled; ovules 2. Drupe ovoid yellow; seed solitary. Flowers December to February. Fruits April onwards (Plate 8).

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Occasional, gregarious on dense bushes and thickets of the hill slopes at the western and northern sectors of the main hill up to 250 m.
**Note:** In Tamil Nadu it is hitherto known from the Districts of Coimbatore, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, South Arcot, Tiruchchirappally and Tirunelveli (Nair and Hentry, 1983). The present report from the area is an additional locality of its occurrence in the state.

**Rhamnaceae**

*Ziziphus oenopilla* (L.) Miller

*Thodali* (L. N)  

*Ber* (H. N)

Straggling or climbing shrub; thorns recurved. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, 2-3 x 1.5-2.5 cm, asymmetric, 3-nerved. Cymes axillary, in umbellate clusters, 5-8-flowered. Petals 5, greenish, obovate. Disc 10-lobed, pitted. Ovary embedded in disc; ovule solitary, 2-celled. Drupe globose, woody; seed 1, ovoid. Flowers and fruits August to January.

**G. dist.**: India, Sri Lanka, tropical Asia, Australia.

**S. dist.**: Common, throughout the hill group up to 350 m.

**Part used:** Bark

**Medicinal use:** The decoction prepared from the bark of the plant is used as an antiseptic on cuts and wounds.

*Ziziphus xylopyrus* (Retz.) Willd.

Small tree; thorn(s) paired or solitary. Leaves ovate-oblong, 4-6 x 3-5 cm, asymmetrical, 3-nerved. Cymes in panicles, to 25 cm. Petals 5, greenish, spatulate. Disc 5-lobed. Drupe globose; seeds oblong, 2 or 3, sulcate in middle. Flowers May to July. Fruit June to January.

**G. dist.**: India, Sri Lanka.

**S. dist.**: Rare, exposed slopes at the northern sector of the main hill at an altitude of 250 m.
Vitaceae

*Cissus quadrangularis* Linn.

*Pirandai* (L.N) *Hadjora* (H.N)

Perennial rambling shrub; stem 4-angular, winged or margined, contracted at the nodes. Leaves ovate-suborbicular/subreniform, 3 x 3 cm, early caducous. Cymes umbellate, divided, opposite to leaves. Calyx cup shaped. Petals ovate, greenish-yellow, red tipped. Berry globose, green turning red when ripens. Flowers usually through the year attain peak during September to November. Fruits whole year (Plate 5).

*G. dist.*: Drier parts of Africa, Arabia and India.

*S. dist.*: Common, in the slopes and foothills in well-drained soil.

*Parts used*: Stem, Root

*Medicinal use*: The stem of the plant is roasted in ghee and ground into paste. Berry size of the paste is taken internally twice daily for eight days for the treatment of piles and aemorrhoids. The underground root is cleaned, dried and powdered. About 1-2 gm of the powder is given twice daily for bone fracture. During the period of treatment the fractured bone is kept in right position and paste of the plant is applied externally and bandaged till the time of recovery. The young stem of the plant is made into paste and berry size of the paste is taken internally for curing asthma. The young stem of the plant is made into paste along with common salt. Berry size of the paste is mixed in buttermilk and given orally for dyspepsia, dysentery and flatulence. The pickle made from stem of the plant is used as side dish to expel intestinal worms, constipation, and flatulence and to strengthen digestion.
Sapindaceae

Cardiospermum helligacabum L.

Mudakkalathan (L.N)  Kanphuli (H.N)

Vine. Leaves alternate; leaflets ovate-lanceolate, 3-5 x 2-4 cm, coarsely dentate. Flowers axillary, corymbose racemes, irregular, polygamo-dioecious. Sepals 2+2, concave; outer pair smaller. Petals 2+2, white; upper ones oblong; lower ones obovate. Stamens 8. Ovary 3-celled; ovule 1. Capsule globose, 3-lobed; seeds 3, globose. Flowers and fruits August to March.

G. dist.: Tropical and subtropical Africa, America, Malacca, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan.

S. dist.: Occasional, waste places and waysides at the base and lower slopes in sandy-clay soil.

Parts used: Whole plant, Root

Medicinal use: A handful of the plant is grated and boiled with 750 ml of water in an old earthen pot, till it is reduced to about a sixth. One ounce of the decoction is given orally twice daily for three days for nervous disorders, rheumatism, bronchitis and stomach ache for pregnant women. The decoction prepared from root of the plant is used for the treatment of rheumatism, bilious affection, colic and hernia.

Dodonaea angustifolia L. f.

Veerali (L.N)  Santha (H.N)

Shrub. Leaves elliptic-oblanceolate, 5-9 x 2-3 cm, gland-dotted. Flowers small, polygamous, in axillary or terminal racemes or panicles. Sepals 4 or 5, oblong, ciliate. Petals 0. Stamen 5-10, inserted outside the disc. Ovary 2-4 celled; ovule 2. Capsule 1.5 x 2 cm, strongly
nerved, winged; seed(s) globose, 1-3. Flowers August to March. Fruit throughout the year (Plate 4).

*G. dist.*: Cosmopolitan

*S. dist.*: Occasional, exposed slopes of the hills up to 300 m.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Bark

**Medicinal use:** The leaves are fried with sesame oil and plastered for healing wounds, cuts, bruises and burns. About 3-5 gm bark powder of the plant is mixed with honey and taken internally twice daily for curing fever.

**Lepisanthes tetraphylla** (Vahl) Radlk.

Tree to 15 m; branchlets glaucous. Leaves even-pinnate, 15-20 x 8-13 cm; leaflets alternate, 2 pairs, elliptic-oblong, thick-coriaceous. Flowers regular or irregular, polygam dioecious panicles. Male flower: 5 cm across, regular or irregular. Sepals 2+3, subequal. Petals 4-5, white, obovate, subequal, obtuse, 2-fid. Disc thick, 4-5 lobed. Stamens 8. Bisexual flower: ovary globose, 2-celled, gibbous, ovule 1. Drupes 3-gonous, velvety, 1-seeded. Flowers and fruits March to June.

*G. dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, South East Asia.

*S. dist.*: Rare, in the slopes between the rocks at the northern and western sectors of the main hill.

**Anacardiaceae**

**Mangifera indica** L.

**Maamaram** (L.N)  **Amba** (H.N)

Tree. Leaves oblong/elliptic-lanceolate, 10-15 x 2-4 cm. Flowers small, polygamous, in terminal panicles; pedicels jointed; bracts deciduous. Calyx-lobes 5, ovate, caducous. Petals 5, cream, oblong-
obovate, imbricate, subequal. Stamens 5, inserted inside disc, fertile stamen(s) 1 or 2, the others sterile, apically gland-tipped. Drupe ovoid-oblong. Flowers and fruits February to May.

G. dist.: India, South East Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Rare, a few places at the base of the hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Bark, Resin, Fruit, Seed

Medicinal use: 1 gm dried young leaf powder is mixed in a glass of water, boiled and decanted after cooling. The decoction is given orally twice daily for a few days to cure diabetes, and haemoptysis. Cleaning of tooth with leaf powder would ease tooth pain and protect the gum and tooth from diseases. 10 ml of juice expressed from the root bark is mixed with a few ml of lime water and given orally, daily for seven days to cure leucorrhoea. Resin of the plant is made into paste with water and applied topically to heal cracks in the foot. The juice expressed from the ripened fruit is mixed with honey and drunk for nervous weakness and leukaemia. The seed kernel powder is mixed in cow milk or honey and taken orally for dysentery and to expel intestinal worms. The decoction prepared from the bark or seed kernel is used for the treatment of menorrhagia and leucorrhoea. The fruit is eaten for constipation and to improve vitality.

Papilionaceae

Abrus fruticulosus Wall. ex Wight and Arn.

Climbing shrub. Leaves abruptly pinnate, 4-7 x 3-5 cm; leaflets very small, linear-ligulate. Racemes few-flowered, exceeding the leaves. Calyx-tube small, campanulate; teeth distinct. Corolla much exserted; standard ovate, acute, adhering below the staminal tube; wings narrow; keel curved. Stamens 9, in a sheath, the vexillary one
absent. Pod compressed, linear-oblong, 4-6 seeded. Flowers and pods August to April.

*G. dist.*: Tropics.

*S. dist.*: Common, throughout the hill groups in full sun.

**Alysicarpus vaginalis** (L.) DC.

Prostrate perennial herb. Leaves obovate-oblong, 1-2 x 0.7-1 cm. Racemes 3 cm. Flowers 6 mm across. Calyx-tube glumaceous, deeply 4-lobed, unequal. Corolla purple to scarlet, not exserted; petals clawed. Stamen 9+1; anthers uniform. Pod terete, 1.5 x 0.3 cm, moniliform; articles 3-6, transversely ribbed. Flowers peak during August to January. Pod whole year.

*G. dist.*: West Asia, India, through to Sri Lanka and Malaysia; Old World Tropics.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, in the slopes and foothills up to the top among the rocks and rock crevices.

**Part used:** Root

**Medicinal use:** The decoction prepared from the root of the plant is used for curing cough.

**Cajanus albicans** (W.A) van der Maesen

Climbing shrub. Leaves 3-foliolate; leaflets 3 x 2.5 cm, obovate. Racemes short, slender. Calyx-tube campanulate; teeth short. Corolla yellow, more or less exserted. Stamens diadelphous; anthers uniform. Pod 3 cm long, oblong; seeds 5-7. Flowers and fruits October to April.

*G. dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka

*S. dist.*: Rare, exposed slopes of the hills among the thickets up to 250 m at the southeastern sector of the hills.
Canavalla virosa (Roxb.) Wight and Arn.

Kantukozhi-avarai (L.N)

Vine; branchlets glabrous. Leaves pinnately 3-foliolate 10-15 cm; leaflets ovate-lanceolate. Racemes to 2.5 cm; 5-8 flowered; bracts connate; bracteoles appressed to calyx. Corolla purple to lilac. Stamens monadelphous; anthers uniform. Pod 10-15 x 2 cm, pubescent, horned; seeds 10-12. Flowers July to March. Fruits throughout the year.

G. dist.: India, Sri Lanka.

S. dist.: Occasional, base of the hills along the way sides at the southern and western sides.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: Juice of fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with a little quantity of turmeric powder and applied externally on the infected portion to cure boils, cut and wounds.

Centrosema pubescens Benth.

Climber; branchlets hooked-pubescent. Leaves 3-foliolate, 6-9 cm; leaflets ovate-lanceolate; stipules persistent. Racemes axillary to 4 cm, 5-8-flowered. Corolla exserted. Pod oblong, compressed, with 4 raised ribs near sutures, apical horn to 1 cm, subseptate between seeds; seeds oblong. Flowers August to December. Pod January onwards.

G. dist.: Tropical America now widely cultivated and often naturalized.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and slopes on thickets at the western and northern sectors of the hills.
**Clitoria ternatea L.**

*Sankhupuspam, Kakkattan (L.N) Aparajita (H.N)*

Vine. Leaves odd-pinnate, 8 x 5 cm; leaflets 2 or 3 pairs; stipules persistent. Flowers showy, axillary, solitary or in clusters. Calyx membranous, tubular. Corolla much exserted, deep blue or white; petals clawed. Stamens 9+1. Pod linear, oblong, compressed, apically beaked. Seeds 10-15, reniform. Flowers August to January. Fruit whole year.

G. dist.: South America, widely cultivated in the Tropics.

S. dist.: Occasional, base and slopes on thickets up to 250 m, not found towards leeward side of the hills.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Bark, Seed

*Medicinal use:* The paste made from fresh leaves is applied topically over the inflamed area of the neck for the treatment of mumps and also for stop bleeding and healing wounds caused by glass piece. Plastering the paste over the spot, bitten by snake, is said to be an effective remedy for snake poison. A few drops of juice expressed from the root bark are dropped into the nostril to alleviate headache. The seed is fried in ghee and powdered. The powder is mixed with sugarcandy and eaten as a remedy for enlargement of liver and abdominal viscera. The seed is grated in breast milk and given internally for babies to treat trismus, fever and cough.

**Crotalaria angulata** Miller

Prostrate herb. Leaves simple, ovate-orbicular, 1-1.5 x 0.4-0.8 cm; stipules minute or 0. Racemes lateral, 2-flowered. Calyx-tube hispid; lobes lanceolate. Corolla exserted, yellow; standard orbicular; wings oblong; keels ovate, beak spirally twisted. Pod subglobose, 1 x
0.8 cm, stiff-hispid; seeds c.10. Flowers October to January. Fruit November to February.

*G. dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Java.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, slopes and foothills in arable soil.

**Crotalaria montana** Roth

Suberect herb. Leaves simple, oblong-oblanceolate, 1-1.5 x 0.2-0.4 cm. Racemes terminal, to 12 cm. Flowers 1.5 cm across. Corolla slightly exserted, yellow; standard broad-ovate; wings oblong; keels ovate-oblong. Pod ovoid 1 x 0.5 mm, slightly exceeding calyx; seed 10. Flowers and pods August to March.

*G. dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, Burma to Malaysia, China, Philippines.

*S. dist.*: Rare, exposed slopes of the hills in the clay-sandy and gravelly soil up to 300 m.

**Crotalaria pallida** Aiton

Subshrub. Leaves 3-foliolate, to 7 cm; leaflets obovate. Racemes to 30 cm. Calyx-tube appressed-pubescent; lobes lanceolate, unequal. Corolla twice as long as calyx, yellow. Ovary stipitate, flat, densely pubescent. Pod oblong, 4 x 0.6 cm, glabrescent, much exceeding calyx. Flowers August to December. Fruit September to January.

*G. dist.*: Central and tropical America, tropical Africa, Asia, Malaysia, Queensland.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, in the slopes and foothill up to 250 m.

**Desmodium triflorum** (L.) DC.

*Chiru-pulladi* (L.N) *Kudaliya* (H.N)

Prostrate herb. Leaves 3-foliolate, to 6 mm; leaflets obovate; laterals equilateral. Flowers 3 mm across, 3-5 in a cluster. Calyx-tube
subequally 5-lobed. Corolla 5, violet; standard obovate. Stamens 9+1. Ovary sessile; style incurved. Pod to 1 cm, lower margin deeply indented, upper entire; articles 4-6, hooked pubescent; seeds broadly oblong. Flowers peak during October to January. Pods through the year.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, East and South East Asia, Malaysia to North Australia, New Caledonia.

S. dist.: Common, forming compact mass in the moist places of the hill group in arable sandy soil.

Parts used: Leaf, Root

Medicinal use: Paste of fresh leaves is mixed with cow milk and taken orally in the morning for the treatment of dysentery and indigestion. Juice of the fresh leaves applied externally to heal long-standing wounds. About 20 gm root of the plant is cut into small pieces after washing cleanly and mixed with 750 ml of water. The mixture is boiled well and reduce to 150 ml and decanted. One ounce of the decoction is given orally, three times daily for curing biliousness.

Galactia tenuiflora (Willd.) Wight and Arn.

Twiner; branchlets appressed-pubescent. Leaflets oblong-lanceolate, 3-6 x 2.5-4.5 cm. Raceme(s) leaf-opposed, solitary or paired. Flowers 1 cm across. Corolla slightly exserted, purplish to whitish; standard suborbicular. Stamens 9+1; vexillary one free. Ovary stipitate, flat, ovules 2. Pod slightly falcate, 4.5 x 0.5 cm; seeds ca. 8, estrophilate. Flowers September to January. Pod November onwards.

G. dist.: Africa, Sri Lanka, India, East Asia, Malaysia, Australia.

S. dist.: Occasional, on thickets in shallow soil by rocks on the slopes and foothills.
**Indigofera aspalathoides** Vahl ex DC.

*Sivanarvembu, Korandu* (L. N)  *Sivanimba* (H.N)

Subshrub; branchlets stiff, spreading. Leaves digitately 3-(5)-foliolate; leaflets linear 5 x 0.5 mm. Flowers 4 mm across, axillary, solitary. Corolla exserted, purple to brick-red; standard orbicular, shortly clawed. Ovary sessile, pubescent; style glabrous. Pod straight, terete or subangular, 1.5 cm, straight; seeds ca. 8, cuboid, smooth. Flowers December to March. Pods January onwards.

*G. dist.*: Carnatic plains and Sri Lanka.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, exposed slopes of the hills in a shallow soil by rocks at the southeastern and western sectors of the hill groups.

**Parts used**: Leaf, Root

**Medicinal use**: Bruised fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with cow-ghee and applied for syphilis, burns and scalds. Chewing roots of the plant is recommended for healing wounds in the mouth and alleviates tooth pain. The leaf paste is applied externally to reduce oedematous tumour. The ash of the plant is mixed with coconut oil and rubbed on the scalp to cure itches on the head. The medicated oil prepared from the root is used for healing elephantiasis, leucoderma and syphilis.

**Indigofera linifolia** (L.f.) Retz.

*Torki* (H.N)

Prostrate herb. Leaves simple, linear, 0.8-2 x 0.2-0.4 cm. Racemes axillary; peduncle reduced; bracts 2, linear. Corolla exserted, red to crimson; petals clawed; standard ovate; wings oblong. Ovary sessile; style short, incurved, glabrous. Pod globose 3 mm, appressed, silvery-pubescent; seed solitary, globose. Flowers September to January. Pods October onwards.
\textit{G. dist.}: Africa, West Asia, Himalaya, India, Sri Lanka, South East Asia, Malaysia, Australia.

\textit{S. dist.}: Rare, base of the hill at the northern sector of the hills in loose, clay-sandy soil.

\textit{Part used}: Whole plant

\textit{Medicinal use}: The plant is given for febrile eruptions and amenorrhoea.

\textit{Note}: In Tamil Nadu it is hitherto known from the Districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Nilgiri, Tiruchchirappally, Salem and South Arcot (Nair and Henry, 1983). The present report from the area is an additional locality if its occurrence in the state.

\textit{Indigofera linnaei} All

Cheppunerunchil (L. N)

Prostrate or trailing herb. Leaves odd-pinnate; leaflets 4 or 5 pairs, oblanceolate 2-5 x 5-7 mm. Racemes axillary, subcapitate, 10-20-flowered, shorter than leaves. Calyx-tube campanulate; lobes setaceous. Corolla exserted, pink, glabrous; petals clawed; standard obovate. Ovary stipitate; ovules 2. Pod ellipsoid, 4 mm, turgid, white-hirsute; seeds 2, cuboid. Flowers and fruits through the year.

\textit{G. dist.}: West Asia, India, Sri Lanka, South East Asia, Australia.

\textit{S. dist.}: Common, in the slopes and foothills on sandy and gravelly soil forming a compact mass.

\textit{Part used}: Leaf

\textit{Medicinal use}: About 50 gm leaves of the plant are mixed with 750 ml of water. The mixture is boiled and reduce to a volume of 200 ml and decanted. About 30-50 ml of the decoction is drunk orally, for every 4
hours for increasing the secretion and discharge of urine, cough and fever.

*Indigofera tinctoria* Linn.

*Neela Avuri* (L.N) *Nil* (H.N)

Subshrub to 1.5 m. Leaves 3-foliate; leaflets obovate, membranous, turning blackish when dried. Flowers in axillary racemes. Calyx minute, silvery; teeth as long as the tube. Corolla reddish-yellow. Ovary sessile; ovules many. Pod sharply pointed, slightly tortulose. Flowers August to December. Pods September to March (Plate 6).

G. dist.: Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes of the hills among the rocks and crevices in full sun.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Root, Seed

*Medicinal use:* The berry size leaf paste is mixed in 200 ml of goat milk, boiled and filtered. The decoction is given internally once daily for three days to cure hepatitis. The leaf paste is applied externally for healing itch, wounds, boils and burns. The leaf powder is sprayed over the infected areas to heal wounds and itch. About 1-2 gm leaf powder is mixed in water and given internally, twice daily for a few days to cure epilepsy, liver complaints, haematemesis and nervous disorders. The leaf powder is mixed in castor oil and rubbed over the abdomen of the children for constipation. The fresh root is ground into paste. About berry size of the paste is mixed in 200 ml of cow milk, decanted and given internally, daily for eight days as an antidote for spider-bite and rat-poisoning. During the period of treatment salt should be avoided. The root of the plant is used as an ingredient in the multiple
medicine. For this equal quantity (10 gm) of root of the plant, black pepper, *Alpinia speciosa* (rhizome) are crushed, homogenized and taken in an earthen pot and mixed with 400 ml of water. The mixture is boiled in a moderate heat reduced into 100 ml and filtered. 50 ml of the decoction is given internally, twice daily for curing fever, cough, cold and lung diseases. The medicated oil prepared from the seed is used for curing sores and bronchitis.

*Indigofera trita* Linn. f. var. *scabra* (Roth) Ali

Erect, woody herb; branches erect to horizontal. Leaves 5-7-foliolate, often basal leaves 3-foliolate, opposite, obovate. Racemes 5-15 cm long, sessile, axillary, 15-30-flowered. Ovary linear, glabrous, up to 10 ovuled. Pod oblong, 4 angular, 2-3 cm, straight, spreading; seeds 6-8. Flowers September to November. Fruits November to January.


*S. dist.*: Rare, slopes of the hills up to 300 m in the open places on shallow soil.

*Indigofera trita* Linn.f. var. *trita* Graham ex Wight and Arn.

Erect woody herb. Leaves pinnately trifoliolate, leaflets 3, opposite, elliptic, sometimes obovate. Racemes 1.5-4 cm long, sessile, axillary, 15-30-flowered. Ovary linear, up to 10-ovuled. Pods 15-30, deflexed to spreading, straight, sharply beaked, 6-10 seeded. Flowers August to February. Pods throughout the year.

*G. dist.*: India, throughout Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Malaysia, Australia, West Asia.

*S. dist.*: Common, slopes of the hills up to 250 m in full sun associated with grasses and herbaceous plants.
Part used: Seed

Medicinal use: The seed is used for making nutritive tonic.

*Indigofera uniflora* Buch.- Ham.

*Korandu, Sivanarvembu* (L.N)

Prostrate herb; branchlets slender, reddish. Leaves odd-pinnate; leaflets 3-7, 4-8 x 1-2 mm, narrow, oblanceolate, membranous, with a few obscure depressed hairs. Flowers axillary, solitary; pedicels filiform; bracts caducous. Corolla pink. Pods straight, sub cylindrical, 3-7 seeded. Flowers July to March. Pods August onwards (Plate 7).

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes of the hills among the rocks on shallow soil in full sun at the western and southeastern sectors of the hills up to 200 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Whole plant, Root, Seed

Medicinal use: The medicinal use of the species is same as that of *Indigofera aspalathoides*. Local health practitioners prefer *I. uniflora* to *I. aspalathoides*.

Note: In Tamil Nadu it is hitherto known from Viramandandpalayam and Anamalais (Hajra et al., 1995). The present report from the area form an additional locality of the species in the state and extends the distribution of the species to the tail end of Western Ghats.

*Mundulea sericea* (Willd.) A. Chev

*Kodupporasu* (L.N)

Shrub, silky-pubescent. Leaves odd pinnate 15 x 4 cm; leaflets 8-10 pairs, (sub)opposite, elliptic-lanceolate or oblong. Flowers in terminal racemes, 1.5 mm across; lobes short, triangular. Corolla
exserted, violetish. Stamens monadelphous, the vexillary one free along at base. Pod linear, 10 x 1.5 cm tomentose, compressed, 6-5 seeded. Flowers August to December. Pods October onwards (Plate 3).

G. dist.: Africa, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, India.

S. dist.: Common, slopes of the hills among rocks on shallow soil in full sun at the Western and southern sectors of the hill group.

*Pseudathria viscida* (L.) Wight and Arn

*Moovilai* (L.N)

Subshrub; branchlets densely villous, viscid. Leaves 3-foliolate, 7 x 6.5 cm; leaflets ovate-rhomboid. Flowers in pairs or clusters in terminal or axillary racemes. Corolla exserted, purplish-violet; petals clawed; standard obovate. Stamens 9+1; anthers uniform. Ovary oblong, terete. Pod oblong, 1.4 x 0.5 cm, flat, compressed, apex apiculate; seeds 4, reniform. Flowers November to January. Pods February to May (Plate 8).

G. dist.: Tropical regions of Africa and Asia.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes of the hills among the rocks on shallow soil up to 200 m, rarely seen towards northeastern side of the hill groups.

*Part used:* Root

*Medicinal use:* Local people and Medicare practitioners use its root for multipurpose treatment to cure fever, biliousness, rheumatism and heart diseases. A decoction is prepared by boiling the crushed root in water. About 25 ml of the decoction is mixed with equal quantity of honey/boiled cow milk and given orally, twice daily for a period of two weeks.
**Rhynchosia minima** (L.) DC.

Spreading herb to vine. Leaves 3-foliolate, 1.5-3 cm; terminal and lateral leaflets obovate-rhomboïd, gland dotted below. Flowers 8 cm across. Corolla exceeding calyx, yellow; standard oblong-ovate; wings slightly exceeding keels. Pod 1.5 x 0.5 cm, nearly glabrous, slightly falcate, horned; seed(s) 1 or 2, estrophiolate. Flowers October to January. Fruits November onwards.

G. dist.: Africa, West Asia, Himalaya, India, Sri Lanka, East and South East Africa, Malaysia, tropical America.

S. dist.: Common, foothills and slopes to 200 m at the southeastern and northern sides.

*Part used:* Leaf

*Medicinal use:* Leaves are used as abortifacient.

**Rhynchosia rufescens** (Willd.) DC.

*Malaikollu, Kattukollu* (L.N)

Spreading vine; branchlets viscid, pubescent. Leaves 3-foliolate, 4-8 cm; terminal leaflet ovate-elliptic; laterals narrow, obovate-rhomboïd, thin-coriaceous. Racemes lax, 3-5 in a cluster. Calyx-tube accrescent, foliaceous. Corolla yellow, slightly exceeding or equal to calyx; standard orbicular. Pod ovoid, 1 x 0.8 mm, apically beaked, slightly exceeding calyx; seed 1, strophiolate. Flowers October to December. Pods November to March.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Southeast Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, foothills on wayside thickets and slopes among rocks up to 250 m.
**Rhynchosia suaveolens** (L.) DC.

Viscid subshrub. Leaves 3-foliolate, to 7 cm; terminal leaflet ovate-oblong; laterals narrow, ovate. Flower(s) in pairs rarely solitary. Calyx lobes lanceolate, apex setaceous. Corolla slightly exserted, yellow, glabrous; standard orbicular. Pod oblong 2 x 0.8 cm, septate between seeds, exceeding calyx; seeds 2, strophiolate. Flowers August to January. Pods September onwards.

**G. dist.**: Sri Lanka, Peninsular India.

**S. dist.**: Occasional, slopes of the hill to 250m between the rocks and on thickets.

**Stylosanthes fruticosa** (Retz.) Alston

Stiff herb. Leaves 3-foliolate, to 1.5 cm; leaflets oblong-elliptic; stipules large, adnate to the base of the petiole. Flowers 3-5 in dense, terminal heads, sessile. Receptacle long, filiform; upper 4 calyx-lobes subconate; lower one lanceolate. Corolla yellow; petals inserted at the throat of the calyx-tube. Pod oblong, beaked; article(s) 1 or 2; seeds reniform. Flowers peak during September to January. Pods through the year.

**G. dist.**: India, Nepal, East Asia.

**S. dist.**: Common, foothills especially at the western side of the hills in dry sandy soil.

**Tephrosia maxima** (L.) Pers.

Prostrate herb. Leaves odd-pinnate, to 9 cm; leaflets 8-10 pairs, oblong-ovate or oblanceolate. Pseudoracemes leaf-opposed, 5-8 cm. Flowers 1 cm across. Corolla purple to pink; standard obovate, sericeous; wings obovate. Pod to 4 x 0.5 cm, sparsely pubescent; seeds ca. 15, orbicular, strophiolate. Flowers and pods August to February.
G. dist.: India, Sri Lanka, East Africa.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and slopes among the rocks in gravelly ground, rarely seen towards slopes at the northeastern region.

**Tephrosia purpurea** (L.) Pers.

*Kolingil* (L. N) *Sarpphonka* (H.N)

Subshrub. Leaves to 7 cm; leaflets 4-9 pairs, obovate. Pseudoracemes to 8 cm. Flowers 1 cm across. Corolla bluish-pink to purple, exserted; standard orbicular, sericeous. Ovary sessile; ovules many. Pod 4 x 9.4 cm, downy-puberulous, slightly falcate; seeds ovoid. Flowers August to February. Pods September to March (Plate 5).

G. dist.: Himalaya, India, East Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, slopes of the hill among the rocks in shallow soil and occasionally in the foothills.

**Part used:** Root

**Medicinal use:** The root powder is smoked for cough, asthma and chest congestion. The root of the plant and piece of turmeric are ground into paste by adding cow-milk and applied for scrofula. 10-15 gm crushed root is boiled in water along with black pepper. The decoction is decanted and given orally, twice daily for 5-7 days to cure biliousness, nephritis and enlargement of spleen and liver. The root is ground into paste by adding buttermilk and given internally for dropsy, acne, and carbuncle. The decoction prepared from the root is also recommended for dyspepsia.

**Teramnus labialis** (L.f.) Sprengel ssp. *labialis* var. *labialis*

Slender twining herbs. Leaves pinnately 3-foliolate; terminal leaflet obovate-lanceolate; laterals inequilateral, 3.5 x 2 cm. Raceme(s) to 6 cm, 1 or 2-3 in a fasicle on rachis. Flowers 4 cm
across. Corolla slightly exserted, pink; petals clawed; standard obovate; wings oblong, adherent to keel. Stamens monadelphous; anthers alternately fertile, small and sterile. Pod linear, 5 x 0.3 cm, compressed, septate; horn hooked; seeds c.10 oblong. Flowers September to January. Pods October onwards.

G. dist.: Madagascar, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, South East Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Occasional, base of the hill and slopes to 300 m on bushes rarely seen at the leeward side of the hill.

**Vigna trilobata** (L.) Verdc.

*Panipayer* (L.N) *Rakhakalai* (H.N)

Prostrate or twining annual herb. Leaves 3-foliolate; leaflets palmately 3-lobed; midlobe large, obovate-spathulate; lateral lobes oblique, small, 1-3 x 1-4 cm; stipules obovate. Racemes axillary. Flowers 8 mm across. Corolla yellow; lobes 5; standard orbicular, appendaged; wings falcate; keels obovate, auricled. Pod subterete, turgid, to 4 cm; seeds 7-10, oblong. Flowers and pods September to March.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Burma, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, foothills and slopes to 350 m on arable soil.

*Part used:* Leaf

*Medicinal use:* The decoction made from the leaves of the plant is used for bilious affections, and intermittent fever. Leaf paste is applied for haemorrhoids and eye diseases.

**Zornia diphylla** (L.) Pers.

*Ottathi* (L.N)

Annual prostrate herb. Leaves digitately 2-foliolate; leaflets
broadly ovate, 1.5 x 1 cm. Racemes terminal or axillary, 2-13 cm; 5-13 flowered. Flowers 8 mm across; bracts with epunctate auricle. Corolla yellow; standard suborbicular, narrow above claw. Stamens monadelphous in a closed tube; anthers dimorphic. Pod 2.5 cm; articles 3-5, apically with glochidiate prickles. Flowers peak during November to January. Pods January to February.

G. dist.: Himalaya, India to China, Malaysia, Australia.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes or on rocks with a thin layer of soil.

Part used: Whole plant

Medicinal use: The paste made from the plant is used for stop bleeding and healing cuts and wounds.

Caesalpiniaceae

Caesalpinia cristata Linn.

Kazhanchikai (L.N) Karanjes (H.N)

Armed straggler to 4 m. Leaves abruptly pinnate, prickled; leaflets 7-9 pairs, ovate-elliptic, 1.5-3 x 1.2 cm. Racemes axillary, simple or branched to 15 cm. Flowers 1.5 cm across. Petals 5, yellow, oblanceolate. Stamens 10, declinate. Pod oblong, obovoid, inflated, 7 x 4 cm, apex beaked, densely prickled; seeds subglobose. Flowers September to January. Fruits October onwards.

G. dist.: Tropics of the New and Old Worlds.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the extreme eastern sector of the hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Bark, Seed

Medicinal use: The tender leaves of the plant are used in compound medicine for colic, dyspepsia and to reduce the heat of the body. The kernel of the seed is ground into paste by adding water and drunk for
gravel and hydrocoele. The paste is also applied externally over the abdomen and waist for the speedy recovery of the same. The kernel of the seed is rubbed on milk and given internally for haematemesis. The kernel of the seed and black pepper is ground into paste by adding leaf extract of the plant and taken internally twice, daily for 10-15 days to cure hernia and flatulence. The root bark, young leaves and kernel of the seed is used as an ingredient in multiple medicine in the cases of convulsion and tympanites. The patient is advised to avoid tamarind during the period of treatment.

Cassia auriculalata L.

Aavaarai (L.N)   Tarhalar (H.N)

Shrub. Leaves 7-12 cm; leaflets 7-12 pairs, oblong-ovate, 1-2 x 0.5-1 cm. Racemes corymbose, terminal or axillary to 10 cm. Flowers 3 cm across. Petals 5, golden yellow, ovate-orbicular. Stamens 10; upper 3 staminodes, antheriferous 7. Pod long-stipitate, flat turgid, 7.5-11.5 x 1-1.5 cm. Seeds 6 or more, ovoid. Flowers August to March. Fruits September onwards (Plate 5).

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, South East Asia.

S. dist.: Common, foothills and slopes among the rocks in shallow soil up to 300 m in full sun.

Part used: Leaf, Bark, Root, Resin, Fruit

Medicinal use: 20 gm well crushed bark of the plant is mixed in 750 ml of water. The mixture is boiled in moderate heat and reduced to about a third and filtered. 50 ml of the decoction is taken orally in the morning and evening for a few days, to cure hyperdispla, bloody urine and sexual weakness. 1gm resin of the plant is mixed in boiled cow-milk and given orally in the morning and evening for 30-45 days for
seminal weakness, hyperdispia, diabetes and diuresis. The whole
plant along with Terminalia chebula (bark) Sizygium cumini (bark and
seed), Asparagus racemosus (rhizome), Acorus calamus (rhizome) and
Trachyspermum ammi (fruit) are homogenized and ground into powder.
About 10-15 gm powder is boiled in 400 ml of water and reduced to a
volume of 100 ml and filtered. The decoction is mixed with sugar and
cow milk and given orally twice, daily for diabetes, hyperdispia, sexual
impotency, colic and general debility.

Cassia fistula L.

Kanikonna, Charakonna (L.N) Amaltas (H. N)

Tree. Leaves 15-40 cm; leaflets ca. 5 pairs, oblong-broadly
ovate 8 x 3.8 cm. Racemes terminal, 20-40 cm, drooping. Flowers to 4
cm across. Petals 5, yellow, obovate. Stamens 10, all antheriferous.
Pod shortly stipitate, oblong, terete, 40-60 cm long, dark, indehiscent;
seeds 2, transverse. Flowers March to April. Fruits April onwards.

G. dist.: India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, China.

S. dist.: Rare (planted), near the premises of the Paramarthlingeswar
temple.

Parts used: Bark, Flower, Fruit

Medicinal use: 5-10 gm crushed root bark of the plant is boiled in
500 ml of water and reduced to a volume of 100 ml and decanted.
50 ml decoction is given internally, twice daily for the treatment of
fever, heart diseases and rickets. 5 gm flower of the plant is boiled
in 400 ml of water and reduced to 100 ml, decanted and given orally
for intestinal disorders, expel internal worms and syphilis. The
chutney made from the flower is used as a laxative. Pulp of the
fruits is cathartic useful for stomach disorders, flatulence and
billosness. The pulp of the fruit is dissolved in *Coriandrum sativum* leaf juice. The mixture is boiled in a moderate heat for 10-15 minutes and decanted. The decoction is used as a gargle for curing throat infection.

*Cassia kleinii* Wight and Arn.

Prostrate herb. Leaves to 2 cm; leaflets 8-10 pairs, oblong-elliptic, margin entire; gland sessile. Racemes axillary, two flowered. Flowers 1 cm across. Petals 5, yellow, ovate-oblong, clawed. Stamens 10, all antheriferous. Pod short-stipitate, flat, 3 x 0.4 cm, compressed; seeds 10, ovoid. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. *dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.*: Rare, on the slopes in between the rocks to 300 m in loose sandy-clay soil.

*Cassia mimoisoides* L.

Prostrate herb. Leaves 1.5-4.5 cm; leaflets opposite, 25-40 pairs, oblong-elliptic, inequilateral. Flower(s) axillary, solitary or 2 or 3 in a cluster. Petals 5, yellow, ovate, clawed. Stamens 10, all antheriferous, alternatively long and short. Pod short-stipitate, flat, 2.4-3.5 cm long, compressed; seeds ca.15. Flowers September to March. Pods whole year.

G. *dist.*: Widespread in Old World Tropics.

S. *dist.*: Common, in the slopes among the rocks in shallow red and sandy soil.

*Part used*: Root

*Medicinal use*: Root is given in spasms of stomach.
Cassia occidentalis L.

Peyavaarai, Ponaavarei (L.N) Kasondi (H.N)

Subshrub. Leaves to 15 x 6 cm; leaflets 4 or 5 pairs, opposite, oblong-lanceolate; rachis glandular. Racemes axillary and terminal, corymbose to 3 cm. Petals 5, yellow, oblong-ovate. Stamens 10; upper 3 staminodes. Pod short-stipitate, slightly falcate, flat 12 x 1 cm, compressed, obtuse at apices, horned; seeds 20-25, ovoid. Flowers August to December. Fruits September to March.

G. dist.: Pantropical.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and lower slopes, scarcely seen towards the leeward side of the hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Seed

Medicinal use: The leaves and seeds of the plant are made in to a pounded mass. About berry size of the paste is mixed in hot water and taken orally in the morning for clearing bowel complaints and remove toxic substances (water) from the body. The fresh leaf of the plant along with same quantity of Phyllanthus amarus leaves are made into paste. About berry size of the paste is mixed in hot water and taken orally in the morning and evening for a week to cure hepatitis. About 40 gm root of the plant is cut into small pieces and boiled in 400 ml of water and reduce to a volume of 200 ml along with 5 gm of black pepper and dried ginger. It is taken orally, twice daily to cure biliousness and dropsy.

Cassia siamea Lam.

Manjai-konnai (L.N)

Tree. Leaves 15-20 cm; leaflets 7-10 pairs, ovate-oblong; rachis and petiole eglandular. Panicles terminal, corymbose to 25 cm.
Flowers to 3 cm across. Petals 5, yellow, ovate-elliptic. Stamens 10; upper 3 staminodes. Pod long-stipitate, flat, 20-25 x 1-1.5 cm, compressed, woody; seeds 20-30, longitudinal. Flowers peak during March to May. Fruit April to October.

G. dist.: South East Tropical Asia, now widely cultivated.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the southern sector of the main hill.

_Tamarindus indica_ L.

_Puli_ (L.N)     _Imli_ (H.N)

Tree. Leaves even-pinnate, to 8 x 2 cm; leaflets 15-17 pairs, small, narrowly oblong. Racemes terminal on short branchlets. Calyx-tube narrowly turbinate, lined by disc; lobes 4. Petals 3, yellow. Stamens 3, monadelphous; staminodes 2, bristly. Pod linear-oblong, to 12 x 2 cm, fruit-wall crustaceous, mesocarp pulpy; seeds 2-10, obovoid-orbicular. Flowers May to June. Pods ripening on December.

G. dist.: Tropical Africa, India, widespread in the Tropics.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills at the south-eastern end of the hills.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Bark, Flower, Seed

**Medicinal use:** All the parts of the tree are used medicinally for the treatment of various diseases. The leaves are boiled in water and used as lotion for cleaning and healing wounds. The leaf paste or powder is applied for speedy healing. The leaves boiled in water and bathed for body pain and tiredness. The ash of the bark is mixed in boiled water and used as gargle for healing wounds in the mouth and throat. The bark powder and common salt is roasted in flame for 30 minutes. The powder is mixed with decoction prepared from _Cuminum cyminum_ and taken orally twice, daily for stomach pain and dyspepsia. About 5 gm fried red outer covering of the seed is taken along with sugar for
chronic dysentery. About 3 gm red outer covering of the seed along with 5 gm *Cuminum cuminum* (fruit) and sufficient quantity of sugarcandy are homogenized and made into pounded mass. The mixture is taken internally in the morning and evening for three days for seminal weakness, dysentery and bleeding piles. The chutney made from the flower is taken along with food for biliousness, vomiting and to reduce heat of the body. The juice squeezed from the pulp of the fruit (1 year old) and common salt is mixed in water and taken orally for dysuria. A decoction (milk) is prepared by mixing equal quantity pulp of the fruit and dates fruit (*Phoenix dactylifera*). The decoction is mixed with cardamom powder and taken orally for bilious-fever, hysteria and heart diseases.

**Mimosaceae**

*Acacia eburnea* (L.f.) Willd.

*Chilodai* (L.N)

Tree. Leaves 3-5 in a cluster, to 2 cm; pinnae 3-5 pairs; leaflets 5-8 pairs, ovate; stipular thorns unequal, straight, white. Flower-heads to 1 cm across, in racemes; flowers ca. 30 per head. Petals 5, orange-yellow. Pod subterate, to 8 cm, curved, thin; seeds 2-5, ovoid. Flowers February to March. Fruit March onwards.

*G. dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, West Asia.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, in the slopes and floor of the hills.

*Acacia horrida* (L). Willd.

*Odai* (L.N)

Small tree to 6 m. Leaves 3-5 in a cluster; pinnae 2-5 pairs, 0.5-1.5 cm; leaflets 10-15 pairs, elliptic; stipular thorns unequal, white, hollow. Spikes axillary, 2.5 x 1 cm. Flowers 2.5 mm across. Calyx-tube
5-lobed. Petals 4(5), cream. Pod flat 3.5 x 1.5 cm, curved; seeds 10, ovoid. Flowers August to October. Fruits November onwards.

G. dist.: India, parts of Africa.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and bare slopes at the southeastern and northern sectors of the hills.

**Acacia nilotica** (L.) Del. ssp. **indica** (Benth.) Brenan

**Karungali** (L. N)  
**Babul** (H.N)

Tree to 7 (10) m; branchlets grey-pubescent. Leaves alternate, to 5 cm; pinnae 4 or 5 pairs, 1-3 cm; leaflets 15-20 pairs, elliptic, 4 x 1 mm; stipular thorns straight, to 2 cm, white. Flower-head(s) globose, solitary, sometimes 2 or 3 in an axillary cluster, ca. 50-flowered per head. Flowers 1mm across. Petals 5, bright yellow. Pod stipitate, to 18 x 1.5 cm, glaucous, monoliform, constricted; seeds c.13. Flowers peak during September to November. Fruits November to February (Plate 3).

G. dist.: India

S. dist.: Common, in the slopes and foothills up to 350 m.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Bark, Root, Resin

**Medicinal use:** The paste of the young leaves is applied for healing wounds, boils and cuts. The paste of the young leaves are mixed in butter milk and taken orally for dysentery. The young leaves are made into paste by adding breast milk. The paste is tied in clean cloth, warmed and massaged for sore eye. The leaf paste is applied externally for bleeding piles. 5-10 gm root is crushed, boiled in 750 ml of water and reduced to a volume of 150 ml. 1 ounce of the decoction is mixed with honey and given orally twice, daily for a few days to expel intestinal worms, leucorrhoea, blood dysentery and genito-urinary affections. The decoction is taken continuously for a few
months to cure leprosy. 1 ounce root bark decoction is given 2-3 times, daily for strangury and diarrhoea. The decoction is used as a lotion for healing wounds. The bark powder is mixed with tooth powder and used for loosened tooth, caries, bleeding gum and pyorrhea. The resin of the plant is used in the preparation of tonic for seminal weakness, syphilis, blenorrhoea, vitality and vigour.

**Acacia planifrons** Wight and Arn.

*Odai* (L.N)

Tree, to 6 m; crown flat. Leaves 3-5 in cluster, 1-2.5 cm; leaflets 4-13 pairs, elliptic; stipular thorns unequal, divergent, white. Flower heads 1 cm across, in clusters; peduncle with involucel at the base. Calyx-tube connate. Petals 5, cream. Pod subterete, acute, circinate. Flowers and fruits January to April.

G. *dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.*: Common, almost all segments of the hill groups.

**Albizia chinensis** (Osbeck) Merr.

*Vaathanarayana, Vaathamadakki* (L.N)

Tree; branchlets yellowish pubescent. Leaves 15-20 cm; pinnae 6-13 pairs; leaflets 25-30 pairs, narrow-elliptic. Flower-heads in axillary or terminal racemes, to 8 cm. Pod flat, compressed, 20-24 x 3-4 cm; seeds orbicular, compressed. Flowers April to May. Pods May to July.

G. *dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China, South China, Malaysia.

S. *dist.*: Rare, around the Paramarthilengeswar and Cave temples located at the western side of the main hill.
months to cure leprosy. 1 ounce root bark decoction is given 2-3 times, daily for strangury and diarrhoea. The decoction is used as a lotion for healing wounds. The bark powder is mixed with tooth powder and used for loosened tooth, caries, bleeding gum and pyorrhea. The resin of the plant is used in the preparation of tonic for seminal weakness, syphilis, blenorrhoea, vitality and vigour.

**Acacia planifrons** Wight and Arn.

*Odai* (L.N)

Tree, to 6 m; crown flat. Leaves 3-5 in cluster, 1-2.5 cm; leaflets 4-13 pairs, elliptic; stipular thorns unequal, divergent, white. Flower heads 1 cm across, in clusters; peduncle with involucel at the base. Calyx-tube connate. Petals 5, cream. Pod subterete, acute, circinate. Flowers and fruits January to April.

G. *dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.*: Common, almost all segments of the hill groups.

**Albizia chinensis** (Osbeck) Merr.

*Vaathanarayana, Vaathamadakki* (L.N)

Tree; branchlets yellowish pubescent. Leaves 15-20 cm; pinnae 6-13 pairs; leaflets 25-30 pairs, narrow-elliptic. Flower-heads in axillary or terminal racemes, to 8 cm. Pod flat, compressed, 20-24 x 3-4 cm; seeds orbicular, compressed. Flowers April to May. Pods May to July.

G. *dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China, South China, Malaysia.

S. *dist.*: Rare, around the Paramarthilengeswar and Cave temples located at the western side of the main hill.
*Parts used:* Leaf, Bark, Seed

The leaves boiled in water and bath is taken in mild heat to alleviate all kinds of body pain. 1 ounce juice expressed from the leaves of the plant is taken twice, daily to cure rheumatic pain and swellings. Powdered bark of the plant is applied to heal ulcers and wounds formed by snake-bite. The oil (seed) of the plant is boiled with pinch of turmeric powder and applied to cure leucoderma and to heal leprous wounds.

*Albizia lebbeck* (L.) Benth.

*Vaagai Maram* (L.N) *Siris* (H.N)

Deciduous tree. Leaves evenly bipinnate; pinnae 2 or 3 pairs; leaflets 4-8 pairs, basal ones oblong-elliptic; terminal obovate, 2-4 x 1-2 cm. Flower-head(s), axillary, in umbellate clusters or solitary. Petals 5, greenish, lanceolate. Pods, thin, straw-coloured, 10-20 x 4-5 cm, linear-oblong, 4-12 seeded. Flowers October to November. Pods November onwards.

G. *dist.:* Tropical and Subtropical Asia, Africa, India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.:* Rare, slopes at the western and southeastern sectors of the hills.

*Parts used:* Bark, Seed

*Medicinal use:* 5-10 gm bark powder is mixed in 100 ml boiled water and decanted. The decoction is given internally, for 10-15 days to cure diabetes, piles and stomach disorders caused by excessive heat. 40 gm crushed root bark of the plant is mixed in 750 ml of water and boiled in moderate heat for 15-30 minutes and filtered. ½ -1 ounce of the decoction is given orally twice, daily for a few days to cure dysentery, fever and syphilis. The decoction is also used for loosened
tooth, stomatitis and bleeding gum. The medicated oil prepared from
the seed is given internally and applied externally for leucoderma.

*Dichrostachys cinerea* (L. Wight and Arn. sep. cinerea var. cinerea)

*Vidateri* (L. N) *Vurtuli* (H.N)

Armed small tree to 5 m; crown spreading; branchlets spine
tipped. Leaves 2-pinnate; pinnae 5-15 pairs; leaflets 12-18 pairs,
elliptic 2.5 x 1 mm. Spike(s) 1 or in pairs, oblong, yellow above pink
below. Flowers 5-merous, polygamous; upper bisexual, yellow; lower
ones male and sterile, pink. Pod linear, flat to 4 cm, coiled,
indehiscent, opening from apex; seeds 4-6, ovoid. Flowers peak during
August to September. Pods October onwards (Plate 3).

G. *dist.*: India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.*: Common, slopes of the hill up to 300 m, particularly in the
windward side of the hill group.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Bark, Resin

*Medicinal use*: The leaves are macerated with cow milk and given
daily for skin eruptions. The root bark of the tree is used in the
multiple medicine. The root bark of the plant along with bark of
*Fluggea virosa*, *Terminalia chebula* and the young prop root of *Ficus
benghalensis* (20 gm each) are crushed, homogenized and taken in
an earthen pot and mixed with 1 liter water. This mixture is boiled
well till it is reduced to 250 ml, decanted and cooled. 1-2 ounce of
this decoction is administered internally, 2-3 times daily for piles,
extcessive thirst and stomach problems. The resin of the plant is
made into paste by adding water and applied on the infected area
for scabies. The resin of the plant is also used for the treatment of
blenorrhoea and diabetes.
**Mimosa pudica** L.

*Thottavadi, Thottachurunki* (L.N)  
*Lajwanti* (H.N)

Spreading herb; prickles erect/curved. Leaves to 4 cm; pinnae 2 or 3 pairs; leaflets 14-20 pairs, small, elliptic-oblong. Flower heads axillary, oblong-globose, polygamous; bracteoles linear. Petals 4, pink. Stamens 4. Pods clustered, flat, 1.5 x 0.5 cm, slightly undulate, jointed, bristly along margins; seeds 2-5 compressed. Flowers October to December. Pods January onwards.

G. *dist.*: Probably native of South America, now Pantropical.

S. *dist.*: Occasional, moist places in the foothills at the southern side where grazing is not possible.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Root

**Medicinal use:** The young leaves are made into paste and applied for stop bleeding and healing cuts and wounds. Leaves of the plant along with equal quantity *Indigofera tinctoria* leaves are made into pounded mass. The berry size of the mixture is mixed in butter-milk and given internally in the early morning for a month to cure diabetes. 30-40 gm root of the plant is crushed thoroughly and mixed with 500 ml of water. The mixture is boiled in a simmer heat and reduced to a volume of 150 ml and decanted. 15-20 ml of the decoction is given 2-3 times daily for hydrocele and calculus affection. The dried root and leaves are made into powder. About 10 gm of the powder is mixed in boiled cow milk, left for some time, and decanted. The decoction is drunk for fistula and piles. The decoction of the leaves is poured in moderate heat for alleviate back pain and pain in the genital organ. The juice of the leaves is mixed in tender coconut water and given internally for a few days for children to cure bronchial asthma.
**Prosopis cinoraria** (L.) Druce  

*Vannl Maram* (L.N)  

*Thand* (H.N)

Small tree with thorns. Leaves bipinnate, to 7 cm; pinnae usually few paired; leaflets many, small narrow; stipules small or 0; stipels 0. Flowers small, in narrow spikes; bracts and bracteoles 0. Calyx-tube campanulate, shortly toothed. Petals 5, connate at base. Stamens 10, free, slightly exserted; anthers with a deciduous gland. Pod cylindrical, torulose and pulpy. Flowers peak during February to April. Fruits May onwards (Plate 3).

*G. dist.:* Southeast Asia. Occasional in dry deciduous forests.

*S. dist.:* Common, in the slopes and foothills up to the top in full sun.

*Part used: Bark*

*Medicinal use: The crushed bark of the plant is boiled in castor oil and decanted. About 25 ml of the decoction is given internally in the empty stomach, early morning for five days to cure white discharge. 50 ml decoction prepared from the bark of the plant is drunk three times daily for 5-10 days to cure asthma, scurvy, apoplexy and antidote for insect bite.*

**Myrtaceae**

**Syzygium cumini** (L.) Skeels  

*Naaval Maram* (L.N)  

*Jamun* (H.N)

Tree. Leaves decussate, elliptic or ovate-lanceolate, to 10 x 6 cm. Cymes axillary or terminal panicles to 10 cm. Flowers 1 cm across. Petals cream, orbicular, connate into calyptra, fugaceous. Berry globose, green, red to dark blue, 1-seeded. Flowers March to April. Fruits June to August.

*G. dist.:* Sri Lanka, India, Subtropical Himalaya, Malaysia, Australia.
S. dist.: Rare, western sector of the main hill near the Siva temple.

Parts used: Bark, Fruit, Seed

Medicinal use: The decoction of the bark is used as mouthwash and gargle for stomatitis and throat disease. The bark powder is applied over the wounds for stop bleeding and healing. The decoction of the bark is mixed with sugar and ghee and used for dysentery, discharges, dysuria and bilious fever. The ripened fruit is eaten for strengthening the digestive system, heart diseases and constipation. The juice expressed from ripened fruit is mixed with equal quantity of sugar. The mixture is boiled in a moderate heat for 15 minutes. 10-15 ml of this mixture is mixed with hot water and drunk for dysmenorrhoea and dysurea. 2-3 gm powder of the seed is eaten 2-3 times daily for controlling diabetes.

Lythraceae

Lawsonia inermis Linn

Maruthani (L.N) Hena (H.N)


G. dist.: Central Asia, India.

S. dist.: Rare (planted), near the cave temple located at the western side of the main hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Root

Medicinal use: The leaf paste is mixed with coconut oil and boiled well in moderate flame till it becomes slightly thick and decanted. The
medicated oil is applied over the head for long and luxuriant hair growth and hair loss. The decoction of the leaves is used as gargle for stomatitis. The leaves are prepared in the form of pounded mass. This berry size of the pounded mass is mixed in cow milk, decanted and drunk for gonorrhoea and vaginal discharges. 4 gm crushed root of the plant is mixed in 750 ml of water and left for a night. The decoction is boled in a simmer heat for 15-30 minutes, decanted and cooled. The decoction is taken orally, for 40 days to cure leucoderma. The decoction is also given for jaundice, dissolving stones in the bladder and kidney and dyspepsia. The paste of the leaves is applied for whitlow and fresh, healthy growth of nail.

**Passifloraceae**

*Passiflora foetida* L.

*Poonapidukku* (L.N)

Vine. Leaves 3-5 lobed to halfway; suborbicular-ovate, 5-8 x 4-8 cm; stipules subreniform. Flower(s) to 4 cm across, axillary, often solitary; bracts and bracteoles deeply pinnatisect, glandular-pubescent. Petals 5, slightly shorter than calyx-lobes. Disc prominent, annular. Berry globose; seeds ellipsoid. Flowers and fruits August to February.

*G. dist.*: Native of America, runs wild in India.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, base and lower slopes of the hills in sandy soil, not seen towards the interior of the forest.

**Part used**: Leaf

**Medicinal use**: Decoction of the leaves is used for asthma and biliousness. Infusion of the leaves is applied on the head for giddiness and headache.
Cucurbitaceae

*Coccinia grandis* (L.) J. Voight

*Kovai* (L.N)  *Kanduri* (H.N)

Dioecious vine. Leaves 5-angled or obscurely/deeply 5-lobed, 3-7 x 3-5 cm; tendril simple. Flower rather large, solitary, dioecious. Male flower: 1.5 cm across. Corolla campanulate, white; petals 5. Stamens 3, inserted at the base of calyx-tube; filaments connate into a column; anthers connate, triplicate, flexuous, one 1-celled, others 2-celled; pistillode 0. Female flower: 2.5 cm across. Staminodes 3. Ovary oblong; ovules 2, horizontal. Fruit ovoid-oblong, red when ripe; seeds compressed. Flowers and fruits August to March.

*G. dist.*: North tropical Africa, tropical West to East Asia, Malaysia, tropical Australia, Fiji, introduced into West Indies and tropical South America.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, base and slope of the hills particularly at the windward side, climbing over the species of *Acacia* and *Euphorbia*.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Root, Fruit

*Medicinal use*: The extraction of leaves is mixed with sesame oil and boiled well till all water evaporates. It is applied for healing wounds, herpes, and itch, burning sensation in the anus and skin eruptions. 1-2 tea spoon juice expressed from the root of the plant is given internally for scrofula and diabetes. The root powder is mixed in honey and consumed for gonorrhoea. The unripe fruit is chewed and eaten for healing stomatitis. The fruit is said to be laxative and diuretic so it is cooked and eaten for constipation and urinary diseases.

*Corallocarpus epigaeus* (Rottler) C.B. Clarke

*Akasakarundan* (L.N)  *Akasgaddah* (H.N)

Vine. Leaves broadly suborbicular, angled or deeply 3-5 lobed,
2.5-5 x 2-4 cm; lobes obovate; tendril simple. Flowers monoecious.

Male flower: racemes to 1.5 cm. Corolla campanulate, greenish-yellow.

Stamens 3, inserted in the middle of calyx-tube. Pistillode obscure.

Female flower: solitary, 2 mm across. Corolla yellow. Ovary oblong-ovoid, beaked; ovules 8-10, horizontal. Fruit ellipsoid 1.5 x 0.6 cm, rostrate; seeds ovoid, smooth. Flowers September to November. Fruits October onwards (Plate 4).

_G. dist._: Oman, Tropical Africa, Pakistan, India.

_S. dist._: Occasional, on the slopes of the hill on thickets in the western and southeastern sectors of the hills to 200 m.

*Part used:* Root

*Medicinal use:* The tuberous root is grated into paste. About 5 gm paste is mixed in boiled cow milk, decanted and given internally, twice daily for biliousness, venereal disease, and chronic dysentery. The decoction of the root is used for enteritis.

*Mukia maderaspatana* (L.) M. Roemer

_Musu-Musukai* (L.N) _Agumaki* (H.N)

Annual, monoecious, climbing vine. Leaves ovate-deltoid, angular or 3-5 lobed, 4-6 x 3.5.5 cm. Flowers small, monoecious.

Male flower: 5 mm across. Calyx-tube campanulate, villous. Corolla campanulate, yellow; petals 5, ovate. Stamens 3, inserted at the calyx-tube. Pistillodes 3-lobed. Female flower: solitary or in a cluster. Ovary globose, villous; placentae 3; ovules numerous, horizontal. Berries 1.5 x 0.6 cm, globose, greenish white turning reddish when ripe; seeds smooth. Flowers and fruits October to February.

_G. dist._: India, Sri Lanka, Africa, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand.
S. dist.: Rare, on the rocky slopes and foothills in the extreme eastern sector of the hill.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Root

**Medicinal use:** The infusion of the leaf is mixed with honey and given for children to cure cold, cough and fever. 30-50 ml leaf juice is mixed with honey and taken orally in the empty stomach, early morning for three days to cure asthma. 10 gm well crushed root of the plant is boiled in 250 ml of cow milk and given internally, twice daily for three days to cure throat infection, dyspepsia and chest pain. The fresh root of the plant is chewed and eaten for alleviating toothache.

**Cactaceae**

*Opuntia stricta* (Haw.) Haw. var. *dilleni* (Ker Gawler) L. Benson.

*Chappaathi kalli* (L.N)             *Nagphana* (H.N)

Perennial herb; stems jointed, fleshy, flattended; areoles raised, densely elongate-bristly, glochidiate; spines 5-7 per areole. Leaves deciduous. Flower solitary, sessile. Perianth many, rotate, yellow. Stamens many. Berry obovoid, with glochidiate and spiny areoles; seeds many. Flowers peak during December to January. Fruits January onwards.

G. dist.: America, naturalized in hotter parts of India.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes and foothills in the dry sandy soil.

**Parts used:** Stem, Fruit

**Medicinal use:** ½-1 teaspoon juice of the plant (stem) is mixed with sugar and given internally for constipation. The pulp of the stem is heated and applied to boils to hasten suppuration. The juice of the fruit is mixed with sugar, boiled and given internally, three times daily for cough and asthma.
Alzoaceae

_Trianthema decandra_ L.

_Vollaicharadai_ (L.N) _Gadabani_ (H.N)

Prostrate herb. Leaves oblong or ovate-elliptic, 1.5-2.5 x 0.6-2 cm, subsucculent, papillose. Flowers axillary, 6-8 in a subumbellate cluster. Calyx-tube obconical. Sepals 5, oblong-obovate, green without, pink within. Petals 0. Stamens 10, unequal. Capsule subterete, beak 2-lobed; seeds 2 in the beak. Flowers and fruits August to November.

_G._ dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Australia.

_S._ dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the western side of the hill in arable clay-sandy soil.

_Part used:_ Root

_Medicinal use:_ Juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with breast milk and applied to cure eye diseases. 10-15 ml juice expressed from the plant is mixed with cow or goat milk and given orally for curing colic, stomach disorders and swellings of the body. Powder made from the dried mature root is used for the effective treatment of rheumatism and elephantiasis. For this, at first dose of 1 grain is given in the first day, increased gradually to 40 grains in the 40th day and gradually decreases the dose in the following days.

_Trianthema portulacastrum_ L.

_Chaaradai_ (L.N) _Lalsobuni_ (H.N)

Prostrate herb. Leaves very unequal; larger ones orbicular-obovate, smaller ones oblong, 1-3.5 x 1-2.5 cm, sub fleshy, purplish on margins. Flower axillary, solitary, basally inserted in the sheath. Calyx-lobes pinkish-white, oblong-lanceolate. Stamens ca.20. Capsule
turbinate, slightly exerted, 2-lobed; seeds 2 in the operculum. Flowers October to January. Fruits November onwards.

G. dist.: Pantropical.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills at the southeastern sector along the waysides and waste places.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Whole plant

**Medicinal use:** Juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with same quantity of onion juice. A few drops of this mixture are dropped into the nostril to alleviate migraine and stop bleeding from the nose. The decoction of the plant is mixed with honey and given twice daily for 7-10 days to cure emenorrhoea and asthma. The plant is cooked along with red gram and given for strangury, dropsy, constipation and to increases milk in mothers.

**Molluginaceae**

**Gisekia pharnaceoides** L. Mant.

*Manal keerai* (L.N) *Balukasag* (H.N)

Diffuse annual herb. Leaves oblong or obovate-ob lanceolate, pairs unequal, 1.5-3 x 0.5-1 cm, fleshy. Cymes axillary, umbellate, to 1.5 cm. Flowers 6 mm across. Sepals 5, green, oblong, thin, hooded. Petals 0. Stamens 5. Capsule 5-celled, papillose, indehiscent; seed 1 per cell. Flowers and fruits peak during October to March.

G. dist.: India, Sri Lanka, South Africa.

S. dist.: Common, slopes of the hill in arable loose soil at the western and northeastern sides of the hill.

**Part used:** Whole plant

**Medicinal use:** Paste of the whole plant along with ginger juice is
mixed with warm water and given internally for stomach pain and to expel intestinal worms. The whole plant is cooked along with onion and black pepper and eaten for rheumatism, insanity, expel intestinal worms and to expel mucus from lungs.

*Mollugo cerviana* (L.) Ser. var. *spathulifolia* Fenzl

*Parpadagapul* (L.N)

Herb; branchlets wiry. Radical leaves rosulate, narrow, to 1 cm; cauline leaves 5-7 in a cluster, narrowly linear to 1.5 cm. Flower polychasial, umbellate. Petals 0. Stamens 5-8. Capsule ellipsoid, to 2 mm; seeds numerous, ovoid. Flowers and fruits peak during October to February.

G. *dist.*: Widespread in tropics and subtropics of the Old World.

S. *dist.*: Occasional, slopes of the hill among the rocks and rock crevices on thin layer of soil.

*Part used*: Whole plant

*Medicinal use*: The plant is taken along with same quantity of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* (stem) and a little quantity of *Cuminum cyminum*. The ingredients are homogenized, crushed and boiled in 400 ml of water and reduce to a volume of 200 ml. About 50 ml of the decoction is taken in the morning and evening for curing dengue fever and malaria. The plant is taken along with sufficient quantity of *Adhatoda zeylanica* (leaf), *Solanum trilobatum* (leaf), *Piper longum* and *Piper nigrum*. The ingredients are crushed together and boiled in 400 ml of water and reduce to a volume of 200 ml. The decoction (50 ml) is taken orally, twice daily for curing asthma, cough and cold.
**Mollugo pentaphylla** L.

*Choornakapoondu* (L.N)

Annual herb. Radical leaves oblanceolate-spathulate; cauline ones, obovate/elliptic, 1-3.5 x 0.5-1.5 cm. Cymes leaf opposed and/or terminal, polychasial, to 5 cm. Flowers 3 mm across. Sepals 5, white, oblong. Petals 0. Stamens 3-5. Ovary ellipsoid, 3-celled. Capsule oblong; seeds dark brown. Flowers and fruits through the year, less in summer.

*G. dist.*: Tropics and Subtropics of the Old World.

*S. dist.*: Common, base of the hill and exposed slopes in the crevices of the rocks over the thin layer of soil.

*Part used*: Whole Plant

*Medicinal use*: Infusion of the plant is used as emmenagogue and to strengthen stomach and promotes it action.

**Apiaceae**

**Centella asiatica** (L.) Urban

*Vallarai* (L.N) **Brahma-manduki** (H.N)


*G. dist.*: Widespread in tropical and subtropical regions throughout the world.

*S. dist.*: Rare, base of the hills at the south-eastern sector along the drainage canal and streams.
Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: About 40 gm shade dried leaves of the plant is mixed in 250 ml of boiled water, left for some time and decanted after cooling. 1 ounce of the decoction is taken along with milk and sugar twice daily for curing leucoderma, malignant tumor, hysteria, neurasthenia, insanity, memory loss and scrofula. The leaf powder is mixed with boiled coconut oil and applied for wounds and boils. A few leaves are macerated with cumin seed and given along with sugar for children to cure dysentery. The juice of the leaves is mixed with equal quantity of coconut oil, boiled and decanted. The medicated oil is applied over the scalp for healthy growth of hair. ½ ounce juice of the leaves is mixed with butter/honey and given in the early morning regularly for children to improve memory power. The juice expressed form fresh leaves is mixed in cow milk is taken orally, twice daily for 5-7 days for jaundice.

Rubiaceae

Canthium coromandelicum (Burm.f) Alston

Kaarai (L.N)

Armed shrub; spines to 4 cm, supra axillary. Leaves 2-4 x 1.5-2.5 cm, elliptic-ovate to obovate. Flowers in decussate, lax cymes. Calyx cupular, 4-toothed, glabrous. Corolla greenish, salver-form; lobes 4, obovate, acute, spreading or reflexed. Stamens 4, capitlate. Drupe globose, orange when ripe; pyrenes furrowed. Flowers January to March. Fruit April onwards.

G. dist.: India, Southeast and East Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, base and slope of the hills in open places.

Catunaragam spinosa (Thunb.) Trivengadam

Kaatu Naaragam; Marakkarai (L.N) Mainphal (H.N)
Armed shrub; spines to 2 cm. Leaves narrowly obovate, 2-5 x 1-2 cm, spathulate. Flower(s) axillary, solitary or in fascicles. Calyx cupular; lobes 5. Corolla white turning yellow; lobes 5, (sub)orbicular, thick. Stamens 5, exserted. Berry globose with a crown of enlarged calyx lobes. Flowers December to June. Fruit whole year.

G. dist.: East tropical Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Rare, base and slopes of the hills at the western and southeastern sectors of the hill.

Parts used: Root, Fruit.

Medicinal use: 5-8 gm root powder of the plant is mixed in *Trachyspermum ammi* decoction, left for some time and decanted. It is given as nauseant for the treatment of biliousness, rheumatism and catarrhal affections. The powder is given in doses of 3-5 gm mixed with honey for dysentery, cough and rheumatic pain. Paste of the root is applied to hasten suppuration. The dried pulp of the fruit is given for chronic dysentery.

*Gardenia gummifera* L.f.

*Thikkamalli* (L.N)    *Dikamali* (H.N)

Shrub. Leaves decussate, obovate-oblong, 6-7 x 3-5 cm. Flowers shortly pedicellate, usually solitary or in lax cymes, generally white, changing to yellow. Calyx-lobes 5, triangular. Corolla 5-lobed, obovate. Stamens 5, included. Ovary terete to 5-gonous; stigma fusiform. Berry oblong, 4 x 3 cm; seeds rugose. Flowers and fruits January to May.

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, on the degraded slopes between the rocks at the western and northern sectors of the main hill between 175-300 m.
Parts used: Resin, Root

Medicinal use: The resinous exudation of the plant is macerated with butter and applied for piles and ulcers. Crushed root of the plant along with Curcuma aromatica powder, sandal wood powder are mixed in castor oil, boiled well, and decanted. This medicated oil is applied for headache and skin diseases.

Hedyotis corymbosa (L.) Lam.

Impura, Parpadagam (L.N) Daman papar (H.N)

Annual Herb. Leaves decussate, linearly obovate to lanceolate, 1-2 x 0.1-0.3 cm, 1-nerved, (sub)sessile. Flowers generally 3, rarely in stalked paris; stalk to 1.5 cm. Calyx-lobes 4, lanceolate. Corolla white to pinkish; lobes 4, lanceolate. Stames, 4 (sub)exserted. Capsule loculicidal 3 x 3.5 mm; seeds reticulate. Flowers and fruits August to March.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, tropical Asia, Africa, America.

S. dist.: Occasional, in the slopes between the rocks on the thin layer of soil up to 300 m at the northwestern sector of the hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Whole plant

Medicinal use: A handful leaves of the plant is boiled in 500 ml water in a moderate heat till it becomes slightly thick and decanted. 50 ml of the decoction is drunk twice daily for fever and jaundice. Decoction of the plant is given for intermittent fever with gastric irritation and nervous depression. Juice extract of the plant is applied for burning sensation of hands and soles. The plant is also used to expel intestinal worms and liver diseases.
**Hedyotis herbacea** L.

*Kattukolthamalli* (L.N)

Erect herb; branches 4 winged. Leaves decussate, linear-lanceolate, 1.5-2.5 x 0.2-0.3 cm, 1-nerved. Flowers solitary or 2 or 4 per node. Calyx tubular; lobes 5, ovate, lanceolate, herbaceous. Corolla white; lobes 4, ovate, acute. Stamens 4, included. Capsule loculicidal, 2.5 x 2.5 mm; seeds reticulate. Flowers and fruits September to January.

G. Dist.: Tropical and South Africa, Asia.

S. dist.: Common, in the slopes between the rocks on shallow soil.

*Part used:* Whole plant

*Medicinal use:* Decoction prepared from the plant is used in mild cases of malarial fever of a low remittent type.

**Hedyotis puberula** (G. Don) Arn.

*Saaya* (L.N) *Chirval* (H.N)

Biennial or perennial herb. Leaves decussate or appearing clustered from axillary leaves, linear-lanceolate, 1-3 x 0.2-0.3 cm, (sub) sessile. Flowers 3-12, dimorphic, in lax, (sub)capitate, pedunculate umbels. Calyx (sub)truncate; lobes 4, lanceolate. Corolla pinkish white, campanulate; lobes 4, lanceolate. Stamens 4, exserted. Capsule loculicidal, 1.5 x 2.5 mm, usually falling off leaving the calyx; seeds reticulate. Flowers July to January. Fruit August onwards.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, Peninsular India, Burma.

S. dist.: Common, in the slopes among the rocks and crevices of rocks on the shallow and thin layer of soil.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Bark, Whole plant
Medicinal use: The juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with cow milk and given orally twice daily for a few days to overcome the burning sensation of heart. 40 gm freshly collected plant is crushed along with same quantity of Contrella asiatica (leaf) and mixed with 500 ml of water. The mixture is boiled well and decanted. About 50 ml of the decoction is taken orally twice daily for 5-7 days to cure asthma and bronchial catarrh. The tonic made from root bark of the plant is given twice, daily for haematemesis, asthma and bronchitis.

Morinda coreia Buch.-Ham.
Manjinathi (L.N) Ach (H.N)

Tree. Leaves 5-12 x 3-5 cm, elliptic, oblong-lanceolate; stipules triangular, acute. Head simple, to 1.5 cm across, terminal, axillary or leaf-opposed. Calyx truncate, rim even. Corolla white; lobes 5, oblong, glabrous within. Stamens 5, exserted. Syncarpium 2 cm, across; seeds oblong or obovoid. Flowers and fruits most of the seasons.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the western sector of the main hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Bark

Medicinal use: The leaves are cut into small pieces, fry it with sesame oil and rubbed over the injured portion of the body for declotting the blood and alleviate swellings. Extract of the fresh leaves is applied for alleviate lumbago. The ash (bark) is mixed with sesame oil and rubbed over the infected areas for scabies.
**Spormacoco hispida** L.

**Taara (L.N) Nandanaganti (H.N)**

Diffuse to ascending herb. Leaves ovate to obovate, 1-2.5 x 0.5-1.5 cm. Flowers in axillary fascicles. Calyx oblong-globose; lobes 4, spreading, obovate. Corolla pinkish white, tinged purple, funnel-shaped; lobes 4, oblong. Stamens 4, exserted. Capsule globose 6 x 4 mm; seeds oblong; septum membranous, persistent. Flowers with peak during October to January. Fruit November onwards.

*G. dist.*: India, East Asia, Malaysia.

*S. dist.*: Common, foothills and bare slopes over the thin layer of soil in full sun.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Root, Seed

*Medicinal use:* A decoction is prepared by boiling the root and leaves in water. About 25 ml of decoction is taken orally, twice daily for a period of two weeks to cure rheumatism, haemorrhoids and to improve stamina. The paste of the root is mixed in cow milk, decanted and given twice daily for increase the secretion of mother's milk. The powder of the seed is mixed with cow milk and given orally for sexual weakness and kidney trouble.

**Asteraceae**

**Ageratum conyzoides** L.

**Pum-pillu, Aattupul** (L.N)

Annual herb. Leaves broadly ovate to obovate, 4-7 x 3-5 cm. Corymb lax to 1.5 cm. Capitula homogamous, disciform; receptacle convex; involucre campanulate. Phyllaries oblong-lanceolate, scarious. Florets 50-75, white. Papus of 5, paleaceous scales, terminating in a bristle-like awn. Corolla tubular; lobes 5, ovate. Achenes slightly
curved. Flowers and fruits July to January.

G. dist.: Native in America, now a common weed of all warm countries.

S. dist.: Occasional, base and slopes up to 300 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Stem

Medicinal use: The juice or paste prepared from the fresh leaves of the plant is applied topically for healing fresh wounds. An infusion prepared from the whole plant is given for colic and diarrhoea. A hot poultice prepared from the leaves and stem of the plant is applied topically for skin diseases and leprous sores. Juice of the plant is boiled with coconut oil and applied in rheumatism.

Blainvillea acmella (L.) Philipson,
Kakranda (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves obovate to lanceolate, 6-9 x 3-4 cm. Inflorescence solitary. Capitula heterogamous, radiate; receptacle convex; involucre campanulate. Phyllaries multi-seriate. Outer florets female, 1 or 2-seriate; inner ones bisexual. Pappus of 1-3 short, weak bristles. Achenes truncate, 4 mm, angles projecting. Flowers and fruits July to January.

G. dist.: Pantropic weed.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and slopes among rocks in shallow soil.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: Juice of the fresh leaves is given internally to expel intestinal worms. The leaf is also used for catarrhal affections, cholera and stop bleeding.
**Blumea lacera** (Burm.f.) DC.

**Narakkarandai, Thaevuppula** (L.N) 

**Kakranda** (H.N)


**G. dist.**: Africa, Asia, Australia.

**S. dist.**: Rare, exposed slopes among the rocks in the shallow red and clay soil on the western sector of the hills.

**Part used**: Leaf

**Medicinal use**: Juice of the leaves is drunk to expel intestinal worms. The leaf is used for catarrhal affections, cholera and stop bleeding from fresh cuts and wounds.

**Blumea mollis** (D.Don) Merr.


**G. dist.**: Tropical Africa, Asia.

**S. dist.**: Rare, exposed slopes among the rocks on the way to Pillathadam at an altitude of 250 m at the western side of the main hill.
Chromolaena odorata (L.) R. King and H. Robinson

Aromatic, viscid-pubescent subshrubs. Leaves obovate to deltoid-ovate, 6-8 x 3-5 cm. Capitula homogamous, disciform in corymbose panicles, stalked; receptacle flat/slightly convex; involucre cylindric. Phyllaries many seriate, scarious, unequal. Florets bisexual, bluish-white or pure white; pappus 1-seriate, barbellate. Cypsella 5-angled, scabrid. Flowers and fruits November to April.

G. dist.: Native of America, now widely naturalized in tropical Asia.

S. dist.: Occasional, base of the hill along the forest border and in the exposed slopes among the rocks up to the top of the hill.

Part used: Young leaf

Medicinal use: Paste prepared from the young leaves of the plant is applied topically to heal minor cuts and wounds.

Eclipta prostrata (L.) L.

Karisilanganni, Kaithoni (L.N) Bhangra (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves opposite, simple, lanceolate 2-5 x 0.5-1 cm. Capitula 1-3, axillary or terminal, heterogamous. Phyllaries 2-seriate; outer ovate-obovate; inner oblong-lanceolate. Outer florets female, inner bisexual; pappus reduced to 2 teeth. Corolla shortly tubular, campanulate. Stamens 5; anther-base obtuse. Cypsella oblong or 3-quetrous, hairy above. Flowers and fruits peak during July to August and October to January.

G. dist.: Pantropical.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the northern sector of the hill in arable sandy-clay soil.

Part used: Leaf
Medicinal use: The juice of the leaves is mixed with equal quantity of coconut oil. The mixture is boiled till all the water evaporates. This medicated oil is applied on the head to prevent hair loss, healthy hair growth and blackening of the hair. The fresh leaves are ground in the form of a paste along with black pepper. Half gooseberry size of the paste is mixed in buttermilk or warmed milk and drunk for jaundice, dropsy and anaemia. The medicated oil (Karislalanganni Thylum) prepared from the juice of the plant in combination with other plants are used for treating eye diseases, headache, ear diseases, leucoderma, and to improve the complexion of skin. It is prepared by taking juice of Eclipta prostrata, gooseberry, Aloe vera and sesame oil in the ratio of 4:1:1:4. The ingredients are mixed together along with a paste prepared from Curcuma aromatica (rhizome) and Myristica fragrans (seed) in milk. The mixture is heated on medium fire, boiled and decanted after cooling. It is applied to cure above diseases. The leaf juice mixed with castor oil (1:2) is taken orally, empty stomach (early morning) for expel intestinal worms. 50 ml leaf juice is mixed in buttermilk and drunk orally as an antidote for snake bite and scorpion sting. The paste prepared from leaves of the plant along with turmeric is consumed for 10-15 days for curing piles.

Emilia sonchifolia (L.) DC.

Muyalchevian (L.N) Hirankuri (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves both radical and cauline, 5-12 x 2-4 cm, base acutely auriculate, apex acute. Inflorescence a lax, terminal corymb; capitula long-peduncled, homogamous, disciform; receptacle convex; involucre cylindric. Phyllaries 1-seriate, oblong-lanceolate, herbaceous. Florets purple, bisexual; pappus 1-seriate, shorter than corolla, softly setose. Cypsella angled, pubescent. Flowers and fruits most of the seasons, less in summer.
G. dist.: (Sub) tropical Asia and Africa.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and slopes up to the top except at the slopes in the leeward side of the hills.

**Part used:** Leaf

**Medicinal use:** The juice expressed from fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with equal quantity of sesame oil and boiled well. It is applied to heal bruises, declotting of blood caused by minor accidents and to alleviate swelling in the hands and legs. The leaves are made into paste along with black pepper. Gooseberry size of this paste is mixed in dried ginger decoction and taken orally, three times daily for the treatment of rheumatism. The paste prepared from the leaves is applied to stop bleeding and healing cuts and wounds. The juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is filtered using fine cloth and a few drops are poured on the eyes for sore-eye, inflammation and to promote coolness.

**Glossocardia bosvallea** (L.f.) DC.

**Seri** (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves pinnatisect; pinnule linear 8x0.6 mm. Capitulum, solitary, axillary or leaf-opposed, heterogamous, radiate; receptacle flat; involucre cylindric. Phyllaries 2-4 series; outer 3 oblong-lanceolate; inner ones oblanceolate. Corolla yellow, tubular-campanulate; lobes 4, ovate-acute. Stamens 4, included; anthers oblong, flat. Cypsella compressed, ciliate along angles. Flowers and fruits peak during October to April.

G. dist.: India.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes in the sandy and gravelly soil up to the top of the hill.
Part used: Whole plant

Medicinal use: The plant is used as an emmenagogue in female complaints.

Kleinia gradndiflora (DC.) N. Rani

Muyalkadhu (L.N)

Perennial subshrub; branchlets subsucculent. Leaves closely alternate, obovate to oblanceolate 5-11 x 3-4 cm. Capitula 5-7 stalked, homogamous, in terminal corymbs, disciform; receptacle convex; involucre cylindric. Phyllaries 1-seriate, (sub)equal. Florets light yellowish, bisexual. Pappus 1-seriate, filiform. Corolla-lobes 5, oblong-lanceolate. Cypsella faintly ribbed. Flowers and fruits peak during October to March (Plate 6).

G. dist.: Sri Lanka through India to Nepal.

S. dist.: Occasional, exposed slopes among the rocks over the shallow soil, rarely seen at the eastern and southeastern sectors of the hill.

Part used: Stem

Medicinal use: The juice extracted from the stem of the plant is used against hydrophobia.

Lactuca runcinata DC.

Ezhuthuaani (L.N)

Annual herb. Leaves radical and alternate, runcinate-pinnatifid, 6-12 x 4-7 cm, margins minutely spinulose-serrate. Captulum solitary, axillary and terminal, homogamous; receptacle minute; involucre cylindric. Phyllaries (sub)biseriate; outer elliptic-ovate; inner ones oblong. Pappus 1-seriate. Corolla pinkish white. Cypsella black, fusiform, ribbed, beaked above, terminating in a cup-shaped disc.
Flowers and fruits peak during October to February.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, Central America, Europe, South Africa and South East Asia.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and slopes at the western and southern sectors of the main hill in arable sandy and red soil in full sun and under the canopy up to 300 m.

*Part used:* Leaf

*Medicinal use:* The juice extracted from the fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with equal quantity of sesame oil. The mixture is boiled in an old earthen pot till all water evaporates and decanted. It is applied externally for itch, eczema and syphilis. The leaf paste of the plant is taken internally for dysentery and constipation.

**Parthenium hysterophorus** L.

*Parthenium* (L.N)

Annual herb. Leaves alternate, pinnatifid; pinnules (sub)opposite, lanceolate-oblong, 5-15 x 0.5-0.8 cm. Panicles terminal, lax, dichotomous. Capitula heterogamous, radiate; receptacle convex; involucre campanulate. Phyllaris 1-seriate, 5. Disc florets: paleae tubular. Pappus 0. Corolla-lobes 5, ovate. Ray florets 5, with 2 sterile disc florets on either side. Paleae concave. Pappus of 2. Cypsella compressed, 3-quetrous. Flowers and fruits peak during August to December.

G. dist.: North America, now a Pantropical weed.

S. dist.: Occasional, at the base of the hill particularly along with waysides and waste places.

**Synedrella nodiflora** (L.) Gaertner

Annual herb. Leaves elliptic-ovate, 5-10 x 3-5 cm. Capitulum
yellow, solitary, heterogamous, radiate; receptacle flat; involucre compressed, campanulate. Phyllaries 2-seriate yellow; outer florets ligulate, female; inner bisexual; pappus of 2 awns. Cypsella dimorphic; outer ones compressed with corky margins; inner ones trigonous. Flowers and fruits most of the seasons, less in summer.

S. dist.: Common, almost all places in the hill group.

G. dist.: Native of West Indies introduced in India, China, Malaya, Polynesia. up to 275 m.

**Part used:** Leaf

**Medicinal use:** Boiled leaves are used as laxative.

**Tridax procumbens** L.

*Muryan Pachalai, Odiyan Pachalai* (L.N)  *Murivunakkai* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves ovate 2-4 x 1-3 cm. Capitulum solitary, heterogamous, radiate; receptacle flat to (sub)convex; involucre broadly campanulate. Phyllaries multi-seriate; florets yellowish-white; outer ones female, few; inner bisexual, several; pappus of slender, setose hairs; stamens 5, subexserted. Cypsella turbinate, smooth or faintly ribbed. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. dist.: Central America, now widespread.

S. dist.: Common, almost all segments of the hill groups.

**Part used:** Leaf

**Medicinal use:** The fresh leaves of the plant is crushed along with onion and plastered to stop bleeding and healing cuts and wounds. Fresh paste is replaced to dry one in the following days till the wound heals.
**Vernonia albicans** DC.

Annual herb. Leaves ovate-rhomboid, 1.5-3 x 1-2.5 cm. Panicles lax, cymose, terminal. Capitula stalked; receptacle (sub)convex; involucre campanulate. Phyllaries herbaceous; outer lanceolate; inner ones oblong. Pappus 2-seriate; outer setose; inner barbellate. Cypsella villous. Flowers and fruits October to February.

G. *dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.*: Rare, slopes among rocks at the western sector of the main hill.

**Vernonia cinerea** (L) Less.

*Poovankuranthil, Neichandipoondu* (L.N) *Sahadevi* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves lanceate 3-6 x 1-2.5 cm. Panicles lax, corymbose, terminal. Capitula pink to purple, 10-15-flowered; receptacle (sub)convex; involucre campanulate. Phyllaries acute to acuminate; outer linear-lanceolate; inner oblong to lanceolate. Pappus 2-seriate; outer setose; inner one barbellate. Cypsella 4-5-angular, villous. Flowers and fruits whole year, less in summer.

G. *dist.*: Tropical Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand.

S. *dist.*: Common, throughout the hills in the exposed and shaded places associated with herbaceous plants.

**Parts used**: Leaf, Whole plant

**Medicinal use**: 20 gm fresh leaves of the plant is boiled in 750 ml of water and reduced to a volume of 250 ml. About 50 ml of the decoction is taken orally three times daily to promote perspiration, reduce the heat of the body, syphilis and leucorrhoea. The medicated oil prepared from the plant along with cow ghee, cardamom, *Santalum album* (wood), *Vetiveria zizanoides* (root), *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* (bark), *Glycyrrhiza glabra* (root) is given internally and applied externally for
jaundice, dropsy, body pain, conjunctivitis and febrile affections. Juice of leaves boiled with coconut oil and applied to cure elephantiasis.

**Vicoa indica** (L.) DC.

Annual herb. Leaves lanceolate, 5 x 1 cm. Capitulum solitary, heterogamous; receptacle convex; involucre campanulate. Phyllaries multi-seriate, linear-lanceolate; outer florets female; inner bisexual. Pappus of disc florets filiform, of ray 0; corolla yellow. Cypsella terete, pubescent. Flowers November to March.

**G. dist.**: India, China, Thailand, West tropical Africa.

**S. dist.**: Occasional, exposed slopes among rocks in full sun up to 275 m at the leeward side.

**Plumbaginaceae**

**Plumbago zeylancia** L

Vellaikoduveli (L.N) Chitra (H.N)

Perennial subshrub. Leaves elliptic-ovate, 4-9 x 3-4 cm. Racemes terminal; 6-9 cm. Calyx tubular, 10-ribbed, covered with stalked glands. Corolla white, 1 cm across. Stamens 5, opposite the petals. Capsule 5-valved above, enclosed in persistent calyx; seed flattened. Flowers and fruits whole year, peak during August to November (Plate 4).

**G. dist.**: Tropical and subtropical.

**S. dist.**: Occasional, slopes among the rocks and under the trees in shallow loose soil up to 350 m, rarely seen towards the south eastern side.

**Parts used**: Root, Bark

**Medicinal use**: Half gooseberry size of the paste prepared from the root
bark is mixed with cow milk or goat milk and given orally 10-15 days to cure syphilis, long standing fever, piles and paralytic affections. Half gooseberry size paste of the root bark is mixed in hens white and consumed in the morning and evening for three days to control menstrual disorders and neurasthenia. The root bark paste is applied topically to cure leucoderma and elephantiasis. 1 ounce of the decoction prepared from the root of the plant along with *Tinospora cordifolia* (stem) is taken orally in the morning and evening, regularly to control diabetes. The root paste is mixed in buttermilk and administered internally in the morning and evening for piles and easy movement of bowels.

**Oleaceae**

*Jasminum auriculatum* Vahl

*Oosimallikai* (L.N) *Joohi* (H.N)

Climbing shrub. Leaves 3-foliolate; leaflets deltoid, 1.5-5 x 1-3 cm; lateral leaflets reduced. Cymes-3-chotomous, (sub)terminal. Calyx-lobes 5, triangular, thick, puberulous. Corolla white; lobes 5-7, obovate. Berry globose, 7 mm across. Flowers September to March. Fruit whole year.

*G. dist.*: Sri Lanka, India.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, slopes and base of the hill, along the forest border on thickets at the southeastern side of the hill.

**Parts used:** Stem, Root, Flower

**Medicinal use:** The crushed stem and root of the plant are boiled in water. The decoction is taken orally to arrest secretion of mother's milk. The decoction of the root is taken orally for fever and purifying blood. The flowers are used for mental disorder and to reduce the internal heat of the body.
**Jasminum cuspidatum** Rottler

Perennial rigid shrub. Leaves simple, obovate, 5 x 3 cm. Cymes 3-7-flowered, corymboid, terminal and axillary. Calyx-lobes (4)5, linear-subulate. Corolla-lobes 5-7, white, obovate, imbricate in bud. Berry oblong-globose, 0.6 x 0.5 cm. Flowers October to March. Fruits November onwards.

**G. dist.**: Sri Lanka, Peninsular India.

**S. dist.**: Rare, exposed slopes at the northeastern sector and a few places at the base in the southern side of the hills.

**Jasminum trichotomum** Heyne ex Roth

Climbing shrub. Leaves simple, ovate-lanceolate, 1-3.5 x 0.8-2 cm. Cymes terminal and axillary. Calyx-lobes 4, triangular. Corolla 2.5 cm across; tube to 1 cm; lobes 5-6, obovate-oblancoolate. Berry, globose; seeds oblong-globose. Flowers August to October. Fruit October onwards.

**G. dist.**: Peninsular India.

**S. dist.**: Rare, slope of the hill among the rocks at the western sector of the main hill at an altitude of 200 m.

**Note**: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Nilgiri, Salem and Ramanathpuram (Henley et al., 1987). Presence of the species in this area forms the additional locality in the state.

**Apocynaceae**

**Carissa carandas** L.

**Kalakkai** (L.N) **Karaunda** (H.N)

Shrub; branches horizontal; spines to 3 cm. Leaves obovate /
oblanceolate 3-5 x 2-3 cm. Inflorescence 2-3-chotomous. Calyx-lobes 5, linear-lanceolate. Corolla white; lobes 5. Stamens 5, attached from above the middle of tube. Berry ellipsoid.

G. dist.: South and South East Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Rare, once collected from western side of the main hill at an altitude of 290 m.

Part used: Fruit

Medicinal use: The unripe fruits are cut into small pieces after removing the seed and washed well in clean water. The cut pieces are added with sufficient quantity of common salt and left for some time. A few pieces of the unripe fruit is chewed and eaten for biliousness, improving appetite, excessive thirst and to reduce internal heat of the body. The paste of unripe fruit is applied as an antidote against scorpion-sting.

**Carissa spinarum** L. Mant var. *spinarum* Hook.f.

Sirunulli, Sirukila (L.N) Karaunda (H.N)

Perennial shrub, spines to 2.5 cm. Leaves elliptic-ovate, 3-4.5 x 1.5-3 cm. Flowers in terminal and axillary pedunculate trichotomous cymes. Calyx-lobes 5, lanceolate. Corolla white, salverform; lobes 5, oblong, overlapping to right. Stamens 5, attached to near the middle of tube. Berry globose, 0.8 cm across. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. dist.: South and South East Asia.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the southeastern sector of the hills in dry sandy soil.

Parts used: Latex, Root

Medicinal use: Latex is applied to remove thorns without pain. Root of
the plant along with black pepper and dried ginger are pounded and made into pills. It is given in the empty stomach thrice, daily for 3 days to cure stomach pain.

*Cascabela thevetia* (L.)

*Kaassrali* (L.N) *Pilakaner* (H.N)

Perennial shrub. Leaves linear-lanceolate, 10-14 x 0.6-1 cm. Inflorescence terminal, overtopped by axillary branches. Calyx-lobes 5, unequal. Corolla golden yellow, funnel-shaped; lobes 5, ovate, overlapping to left. Stamens 5, included. Ovary depressed-conic. 2-locular. Drupe broadly turbinate, 3 cm across. Flowers and fruits whole year.

*G. dist.:* Native of tropical America, widely naturalized elsewhere in tropics.

*S. dist.:* Occasional, at the base of the hill along the forest boundary and way side in the western side of the hill.

*Part used:* Seed

*Medicinal use:* All parts of the plant are poisonous. The oil extracted from the kernel of the seed is used for skin diseases and rheumatism.

*Catharanthus roseus* (L) Don

*Nithyakalyani, Poonari* (L.N)

Perennial herb. Leaves elliptic-ovate to oblong 4-8 x 2-4 cm. Flower(s) axillary, solitary or in pairs. Corolla white/pink, 5-lobbed, overlapping to the left. Stamens 5. Mericarp 3-4 x 0.3 cm. Flowers and fruits whole year.

*G. dist.:* Endemic in Madagascar, widely naturalized in tropics.

*S. dist.:* Occasional, exposed slopes at the western sector of the main hill up to 200 m.
Parts used: Leaf, Root, Flower

Medicinal use: Juice of the leaves is used as an antidote for wasp sting. Infusion of the leaves is administered internally for menorrhagia. About 10 flowers (white) of the plant is chewed and eaten daily, in the morning and evening for controlling diabetes. The decoction prepared from root is also given for diabetes.

_Nerium oleander_ L.

_Arali_ (L.N) _Kaner_ (H.N)


G. _dist._: Persia to Japan, cultivated throughout India.

S. _dist._: Occasional (planted), base of the hill and around the temple premises at the western sector of the main hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Bark

Medicinal use: Paste prepared from the leaf and bark (root) of the plant is applied externally for leprous wounds and to foul ulcers. Appropriate quantity root bark powder is mixed with honey and consumed thrice daily for bronchitis and eczema.

**Asclepiadaceae**

_Calotropis gigantea_ (L.) R. Br.

_Erikku_ (L.N) _Ak_ (H.N)

Shrub; latex milky. Leaves elliptic to oblong, 7-14 x 3-8 cm. Panicle umbellate, (sub)terminal, ca.10 cm. Corolla bluish-white; lobes
ovate, spreading, valvate, thick fleshy. Corona single, laterally compressed, horny and 3-fid at apex; spur upcurved, involute. Follicle oblong, inflated, 8-10 x 2.5-4 cm. Flowers and fruits almost throughout the year.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, tropical Himalaya, China, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, almost all segments of the hill in open places.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Bark, Latex, Flower

**Medicinal use:** The leaves are used for alleviating rheumatic pain in the heels. For this purpose a few fresh leaves are placed over the well warmed brick and the foot is pressed over the leaf for some time. It is repeated a few times a day till the pain disappear. One or two leaves are chewed and eaten as an antidote against snake-bite. The juice expressed from the leaves of the plant is taken along with honey to expel intestinal worms. 10-15 ml leaf juice of the plant is added with same quantity castor oil and taken internally for constipation and bowel complaints. The milky white latex of the plant is applied to remove the thorns without pain and scorpion sting. The tablets prepared from the flower of the plant and black pepper is consumed three times, daily for 3-5 days to cure malaria. The medicated oil prepared by boiling the flower of the plant in sesame oil is applied to alleviate neck pain. Powder made from the root bark is given in dose of 1 grain, twice daily and gradually increase the volume to 5 grains for sprain, dyspepsia, hernia and long standing fever.

**Calotropis procera** (Ait) R. Br.

**Vellerukku (L.N) Akada (H.N)**

Shrub; latex milky. Leaves elliptic to oblong, 6-14 x 3-8 cm. Flowers in umbellate or racemose lateral pedunculate cymes. Corolla
pale lavender; lobes ovate, spreading, valvate, thick fleshy. Pollinia pendulous; pollinial bags oblong, flattened. Corona-scales narrow, shorter than the staminal column, glabrous on the back, apex bifid without auricles; spur upcurved, acute. Mericarps, fleshy, thick, 9 x 4 cm. Flowers with a peak during March to May. Fruits through the year.

*G. dist.*: Tropical Africa, Persia, Pakistan (Sind), India (almost throughout).

*S. dist.*: Rare (planted), base of the hill at the northern sector and slopes at the western sector of the main hill

*Parts used:* Leaf, Bark, Latex, Flower

*Medicinal use:* The medicinal use of the species is same as that of *C. gigantea*. But the local people and Medicare practitioners prefer *C. procera* to *C. gigantea*.

**Caralluma adscendens** (Roxb.) R. Br. var. *attenuata* (Wt.) Gravely and Mayur.

*Kallimulaiyaan, Paaraikalli* (L. N)

Succulent herbs; stem 4-angled, distally attenuate; latex watery. Leaves along the angles, minute, fleshy, caducous. Flowers solitary, or in pairs at the upper nodes. Corolla brown to dark purple; lobes oblong, with concentric bands at base within, apex folded with fringed purple hairs. Staminal column short; anthers not appendaged; pollinia erect, subspheric; caudicle indistinct; receptacle with membranous flaps. Follicle 6-10 cm long, cylindric, comose. Flowers with peak during July to November. Fruits August onwards *(Plate 7).*

*G. dist.*: Southern Peninsular India.

*S. dist.*: Rare, on the exposed slopes among the rocks in the dry sandy-clay soil in sheltered places, not located from the eastern and extreme southern sector of the hill.
Part used: Stem

Medicinal use: 3 parts of stem paste along with two parts common salt mixed together and warmed over the flame slightly and applied to cure swelling caused by sprain.

Caralluma procumbens Grav. and Mayur.

Miralthadai (L.N)

Perennial herb; stem fleshy, angled; branches procumbent. Leaves minute, on the angles of the stems, caducous leaving scars. Umbel few-flowered, terminal. Corolla lobes 5, whitish within with concentric purple streaks, glabrous, not fringed. Pollinia erect, subspheric, with pellucid margins. Corona double staminal; lobes strap-shaped and inflexed over the gynostegium. Follicles paired, slender, terete. Flowers September to November (Plate 7).

G. dist.: Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli Districts of Tamil Nadu, India.

S. dist.: Rare, this critically endangered species has been observed from the western side of the main hill at an altitude of 150 m. It grows by rooting among the rocks in full sun.

Part used: Young stem

Medicinal use: The chutney made from the young stem of the plant is eaten for bowel complaints and constipation.

Note: This critically endangered species (Nayar,1996) was first reported from Kanyaykumri district by Gravely and Mayuranathan in the year 1931. Present report from this area form the relocation of the species from the type locality after seven decades. No herbarium specimen was located from the herbarium of Botanicl Survey of India, Southern circle, Coimbatore.
Pergularia daemla (Forsskal) Chiov.

Veliparuthi, Oothamani (L.N) Utran (H.N)

Perennial straggler; latex milky. Leaves cordiform, 2-6 x 2-8 cm. Racemes umbelliform. Calyx-lobes subequal. Corolla foetid, greenish, campanulate; tube slightly inflated; lobes lanceolate, sepaloid, herbaceous. Pollinia pendulous; pollinial bags oblong, flat. Follicles paired, curved, basally swollen, 6 x 2 cm. Flowers and fruits whole year (Plate 4).

G. dist.: Tropical Africa and West Asia, East to South East Asia.

S. dist.: Common, base and slopes on the bushes, scarcely found towards the southeastern (leeward) side of the hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Bark

Medicinal use: About ½ ounce juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with egg white (albumen), alcohol and water. The mixture is drunk for chest pain and internal haemorrhage caused by accidents. About 1-2 teaspoon juice expressed from fresh leaves of the plant along with same quantity of Ocimum tenuiflorum leaf juice is given orally for infants as an expectorant in catarrhal affections. ½ - 1 ounce juice expressed from leaves of the plant is given for adults as a remedy for asthma and catarrhal affections. Juice expressed from fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with dried ginger powder and Ferula foetida powder and mixture is boiled in simmer heat and applied for alleviating pain and swelling in the joints. The leaves of the plant along with piece of turmeric is made into a pounded mass and applied externally for itch, bruises and boils. The root bark of the plant is ground in the form of paste. The paste is mixed in milk, decanted and taken orally, three days for syphilis, snake bite, sprain, colic and gastritis.
**Sarcostemma acidum** (Roxb.) Volgt Hort.

**Somam, Kodikalli (L.N) Somlata (H.N)**

Leafless trailing shrub; branchlets succulent, jointed. Flowers small, in sessile terminal umbels. Corolla white, rotate; lobes 5, ovate, obtuse. Pollinia 5, pendulous. Corona double, staminal; outer 5-lobed, short, cupular; inner 5-lobed; lobes fleshy, erect, apices strongly inflexed. Follicles lanceolate, to 12-15cm. Flowers and fruits December to May.

**G. dist.:** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

**S. dist.:** Rare, base of the hill at the northwestern sector of the hills on the bushes and also in between the rocks in dry sandy soil.

*Parts used:* Stem, Latex

*Medicinal use:* The stem of the plant is used for treating psychopathy, general debility and hydrophobia. The latex of the plant is applied to cure skin diseases and heal crack on feet.

**Secamone emetica** (Roxb.) R. Br. ex Schultes

**Angaaravalli, Sagadam (L.N)**

Climbing shrub. Leaves linear to lanceolate 3-4.5 x 1-1.5 cm. Cymes 3-chotomous, axillary. Corolla yellowish, lobes 5, oblong, recurved, overlapping to right or left. Pollinia erect; pollinial bags 4; anther tips inflexed, connivert around style-apex. Corona single, staminal, beaked. Follicles paired, cylindric 6 x 1 cm; seeds oblong. Flowers October to February.

**G. dist.:** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

**S. dist.:** Rare, base of the hill at the northwestern sector of the main hill.
Part used: Root

Medicinal use: Decoction of the root is used to cure joint pain and swelling. Crushed root of the plant is boiled in gingill oil and the medicated oil is applied for rheumatic pain and swelling.

\textit{Tylphora indica} (Burm.f.) Merr.

\textit{Nanchu Aruthaan} (L.N) \textit{Antamul} (H.N)

Straggler. Leaves cordiform, oblong to lanceolate, 4-7 x 2-5 cm. Umbels compound; umbellules 2-4. Corolla greenish-yellow outside, purple inside; lobes ovate. Pollinia horizontal; caudicle filiform, receptacle linear. Corona staminal, fleshy, closely adnate to depressed staminal column. Follicle paired, cylindric, 7 x 1.5 cm. Flowers peak during September to November and February to March. Fruits October to May (Plate 8).

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Southeast Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, base and slopes of the hills on the bushes up to 300 m, scarcely found at the slopes in southeastern (leeward) side of the hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Whole plant

Medicinal use: 2 gm leaf powder of the plant is mixed in boiled water and taken internally, thrice daily to induce perspiration and for the treatment of dysentery and catarrhal affections. 2-3 grains powder of the leaves is given as above for babies to cure cough and asthma. The decoction prepared from the plant is given internally as an antidote against snake poison.

\textit{Wattakaka volubilis} (L.f.) T. Cooke

\textit{Kurinchhan} (L.N) \textit{Nakchini} (H.N)

Straggler to liane. Leaves cordiform, 8 x 6 cm. Umbels axillary,

G. dist.: India, East Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Common, base and slopes of the hills, scarcely found towards extreme southern and eastern sectors of the hills.

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Latex

Medicinal use: The latex or paste of the leaves is applied externally to boils and abscesses to enhance the process of healing. The past of the fresh root is applied topically to the forehead for alleviating headache.

Periplocaceae

Cryptolepis grandiflora Wight

Twiner. Leaves elliptic-ovate to obovate, 3-7 x 2.5 cm. Inflorescence an axillary, umbellate raceme. Calyx-lobes 5, ovate, acute. Corolla cream, shortly tubular; lobes 5, oblong, obtuse. Stamens 5; anthers sagittate; translators spatulate. Ovaries depressed; ovules many; stigma conic. Follicles paired, cylindric, 10 x 1 cm; seeds obovoid. Flowers July to August.

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, once located from the western sector of the main hill among rocks at an altitude of 275 m.

Note: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, North Arcot, South Arcot Salem, Tiruchchirappally and Tirunelveli (Henry et al., 1987).
Presence of this species in this area form additional locality of its occurrence in Tamil Nadu State.

**Hemidesmus indicus** (L.) R. Br. var. *indicus*

*Nannaari* (L.N) *Magrabu* (H.N)

Straggler. Leaves narrowly to broadly oblong, 3-8 x 0.5-1.5 cm, glabrous above, somewhat glaucous below, base rounded to (sub) cordate, apex obtuse or broadly acute, tip mucronate. Calyx-lobes 5, broadly ovate, 2 x 1.8 mm. Corolla yellow, 6 mm across. Follicles 6-9 x 0.7-0.9 cm. Flowers peak during November to February. Fruits February onwards.

*G. dist.*: India, Sri Lanka.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, foothills and slopes almost all hill segments, deeply rooted in shallow soil.

**Part used:** Root

**Medicinal use:** 5-10 gm root bark powder is mixed in boiled milk and sugarcandy. It is taken orally twice daily to cure strangury and ardor urine. 40 gm root of the plant is boiled in 400 ml of water and reduced to volume of 200 ml and decanted. 1 ounce of the decoction is taken orally, twice daily by adding sugarcandy to cure long standing cough, hysteria, strangury and white discharge. The decoction is also used as gargle to relieve tooth pain. 5-10 gm root powder is taken along with sugarcandy/ honey and consumed twice daily for seven days to cure dyspepsia, diabetes and leucorrhoea. The fresh or dried root is crushed and soaked in water over night and decanted in the next morning. The water is taken orally a few times daily to cure bilious affection, thirst and itch. Continuous use of this will cure rheumatism and skin diseases.
Hemidesmus indicus (L.) R. Br. var. pubescens (Wight & Arn.) Hook.f.

Nannaari, Makali Kizhangu (L.N)

Twinner. Leaves elliptic to broadly oblong, 4-7 x 2-3 cm, softly pubescent above, velvety-tomentose below, base broadly acute to rounded, apex gradually narrowed, tip apiculate. Calyx-lobes 5, ovate to lanceolate, 2.5 x 1mm. Corolla dark purple, 0.8-1 cm. Follicles 14 x 0.5 cm. Flowers June to December. Fruits February onwards (Plate 8).

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes between 150-275 m, deeply rooted in the soil between the rocks.

Part used: Root

Medicinal use: The fresh tuberous root is cut in to small pieces after removing the skin. It is made into pickle along with lemon fruit. The pickle is used as side dish to reduce heat of the body, bilious affection and improving appetite.

Note: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the districts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Nilgiri and Tirunelveli (Henry et al., 1987). The present report from Maruthua Malai is an additional locality of its occurrence in the state.

Gentianaceae

Enicostema axillare (Lam.) A. Raynal ssp. axillare

Vellerku (L.N) Chhota-chiraita (H.N)

Erect herb; stem 4-angular. Leaves lanceolate-oblong, 2-3 x 0.5 x 1 cm, sessile. Flowers 5-merous, in fascicles. Calyx cupular; lobes 5, oblong, unequal, herbaceous, acute. Corolla white; lobes 5, equal, twisted, obtuse. Stamens 5. Capsule septicidally 2-valved; seeds
reticulate. Flowers and fruits August to March (Plate 4).

G. dist.: India, Sri Lanka, Malaya, tropical Africa, West Indies.

S. dist.: Occasional, base and slopes in the well drained sandy-clay soil at the windward side of the hills.

Part used: Whole plant

Medicinal use: The powder of the plant (3-5 gm) and black pepper powder is mixed with honey and taken at night for 30 days to cure amenorrhoea and to cure white discharge. This is also useful against rheumatism, dropsy and hernia. About 2-3 gm powder of the plant is consumed daily before food for controlling diabetes. The juice expressed from the plant is mixed with black pepper powder and given orally 2-3 times daily for curing malaria and fever.

Boraginaceae

Carmona retusa (Vahl) Masamune

Kuruvingan (L.N) Bo-Pala (H.N)

Small shrub. Leaves fascicled, coriaceous, obovate 1 x 0.5 cm. Flowers small in terminal or axillary corymbs. Corolla with a short cylindric tube; lobes 5. Ovary 2-celled with 2 ovules in each cell. Drupe globose, 1-4 seeded. Flowers and fruits August to November (Plate 6).

G. dist.: Tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world; throughout warmer parts of India.

S. dist.: Common, slopes among the rocks up to the top.

Part used: Root

Medicinal use: 2-3 gm root powder of the plant is mixed with honey and taken internally twice daily for two weeks to cure spermatorrhoea,
sterility, excessive heat of the body and general debility. About 10 gm root powder of the plant is boiled in milk and decanted and taken twice daily for curing the above diseases.

**Ehretia ovalifolia** Wight

Shrub. Leaves broadly elliptic-ovate, 4 x 2.5 cm. Cymes dichotomous, to 3 cm. Calyx-lobes 5, oblong. Corolla-lobes 5, oblong, subacute. Stamens 5; anthers oblong. Ovary oblong; style divided from near the middle. Drupe globose, 4-celled. Flowers and fruits December to March.

G. *dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.*: Rare, slopes of the main hill among rocks at the northern side to 200 m.

**Heliotropium marifolium** Retz. ssp. *wallichii* (Clarke) Kazmi

*Umichadai* (L.N)

Spreading herb. Leaves elliptic-oblong, 1 x 0.5 cm, 1-nerved. Racemes to 3 cm. Calyx-lobes 5, obovate to lanceolate. Corolla white; lobes 5, broadly ovate. Stamens 5; anthers ovate-cordate. Ovary globose; style short, disciform above, tip conical, pointed. Nutlets 1.3 mm, appressed-hirsute. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. *dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.*: Occasional, exposed slopes on the thin layer of soil.

*Part used*: Whole plant

*Medicinal use*: Decoction is prepared from the plant is used as gargle for tooth pain.

*Note*: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the districts of Chengalpattu, Ramanathapuram, Tituchchirappally and Tirunelveli (Henry et al.,
1987). The present report from Maruthua Malai is an additional locality of its occurrence in the state.

**Trichodesma indicum** (L.) R. Br.

*Kavizhthumbai* (L.N) *Chota Kulpha* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves sessile lanceolate or cordate lanceolate, 4-6 x 1-1.5 cm. Flower(s) solitary. Calyx-lobes 5, hastate at base, 1-ribbed. Corolla light blue; throat with 10 yellow glandular spots. Stamens 5, exserted; anthers pilose; connectives twisted. Nutlets 0.5 cm long, smooth on the outer, rugosely pitted on the inner face. Flowers and fruits October to February.

*G. dist.*: Afghanistan, South East Asia.

*S. dist.*: Rare, moist places at the base of the hill in the southwestern sector of the hills among grasses.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Root

*Medicinal use*: Leaves or root of the plant along with same quantity turmeric is ground into paste. The paste is applied to heal the wound caused by scorpion sting and snake-bite. The root paste is applied to reduce swellings and pain in the joints.

**Convolvulaceae**

*Argyreia osyrensis* (Roth) Choisy

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, Peninsular India, South East Asia.

S. dist.: Rare, slopes at the western and northeastern sector of the hills above 200 m.

**Evolvulus alsinoides** (L.) L.

*Vishnukiranthi* (L.N) • *Shankhapushpi* (H.N)

Perennial herb. Leaves elliptic, oblong to lanceolate, 1 x 0.6 cm. Flowers usually solitary; pedicel jointed to a filiform stalk. Calyx-lobes 5, sericeous. Corolla blue, rotate; lobes 5, obtuse. Stamens 5, exserted. Capsule 2-celled. Flowers through the year peak during October to January. Fruit whole year.

G. dist.: Tropical and subtropical regions of both hemisphere.

S. dist.: Common, almost all parts of the hills in open places.

*Part used*: Whole plant

*Medicinal use*: Decoction prepared from the plant along with *Cuminum cyminum* and clove is administered orally for chronic dyspepsia and dysentery. Decoction prepared from the plant along with *Ocimum tenuiflorum* (leaf) and *Alpinia galanga* (rhizome) is drunk for catarrhal affections and cough. The whole plant is said to be effective for the treatment of dysentery, fever, tuberculosis, asthma and biliousness. 50 gm plant is crushed coarsely, boiled in 750 ml of water and reduced to ¼ and decanted. About 2 ounce of the decoction is taken orally, thrice daily. Juice expressed from the plant is mixed with cow milk and given in the early morning for a few weeks to enhance memory power.

*Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker Gawler

*Siruthali* (L.N)

Slender twiner. Leaves simple, broadly ovate, acuminate, deeply
cordate, 3-4 x 2.5-4 cm. Flower(s) solitary to 0.8 cm. Corolla tinged pink, funnel-shaped; tube 3 cm long. Stamens 5, villous at base. Capsule subglobose, apically beaked; seeds thinly pubescent. Flower and fruits November to March.

**G. dist.**: Tropical and South Africa, Madagascar, tropical Asia, Queensland, China, Formosa.

**S. dist.**: Occasional, base and slope of the hill at the western sector of the main hill up to 150 m.

*Part used*: Leaf

*Medicinal use*: Juice expressed from the leaves of the plant is mixed with coconut oil and boiled well till all water evaporates. This medicated oil is applied topically to alleviate headache and controlling dandruff.

**Ipomoea pes-tigridis** L.

**Pulichuvadi** (L.N)

Twiner; branchlets hispid. Leaves palmately 5-9 lobed, divided from below the middle; lobes obovate, 3-5 x 2-2.5 cm. Flowers subsessile, aggregated in capitate clusters; peduncle to 8 cm. Calyx-lobes 5, unequal. Corolla funnel-form; lobes slightly unequal, hispid without. Stamens 5, unequal, included. Capsule globose; seeds pubescent. Flowers and fruits August to January.

**G. dist.**: Tropical East Africa, tropical Asia.

**S. dist.**: Occasional, exposed slopes up to 250 m at the northern and western sector of the hill.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Whole plant

*Medicinal use*: Leaf juice mixed with coconut oil, warmed and applied
for ulcer, leucoderma, boils and carbuncle. Decoction of the plant is given internally for fever and epilepsy.

_Ipomoea sepiarla_ J. Koenig ex Roxb.

*Chuttithali* (L.N)  
*Bankalmi* (H.N)

Slender vine; branchlets hirsute. Leaves triangular-cordiform, 3-5 x 2-3 cm. Flowers in subumbellate cymes; peduncle to 10 cm. Calyx-lobes subequal. Corolla cream, with purple throat, salver-form. Capsule globose, 0.7 cm across; seeds velvety. Flowers and fruits November to March.

_G. dist._: Tropical Africa, tropical Asia, Malaysia to Formosa and Queensland, Australia.

_S. dist._: Rare, moist places in the base of the hill at the southern sector of the hill on thickets.

*Part used:* Leaf

*Medicinal use:* The juice expressed from the fresh leaf of the plant is boiled with coconut oil and decanted after cooling. This medicated oil is applied for healthy hair growth, controlling dandruff and headache.

_Merremia tridentata_ (L.) Hallier f.

*Theruppanpul* (L.N)

Perennial herb with thick root stock giving off slender branches. Leaves simple, spathulate, oblong to pandurate, 1.2-2.5 x 0.6-1 cm. Flower(s) solitary, rarely cymose. Calyx-lobes 5, subequal, ovate, outer 3 acuminate; inner 2 acute. Corolla cream to yellowish with a purple throat. Capsule 4-valved; seeds glabrous. Flowers peak during August to September. Fruit whole year.

_G. dist._: Tropical and South Africa, tropical Asia to Formosa, Malaysia,
Australia, Micronesia.

S. dist.: Common, foothills and exposed slopes up to top of the hill.

Part used: Whole Plant

Medicinal use: Powder of the plant is mixed in coconut water, decanted and given orally twice daily for three days to cure fever. 10-15 ml juice of the plant is taken with milk twice daily to cure defective vision, excessive thirst, rheumatism and urinary disorders. The juice of the plant is mixed with honey and taken orally for relieving burning sensation of stomach. The medicated oil prepared from the plant is applied for healthy hair growth.

*Rivea hypocrateriformis* (Desr.) Choisy

Musutai (L.N)

Vine. Leaves cordiform, 2.5-3.5 x 3-5 cm, subcoriaceous. Flower(s) axillary, solitary or in cymes. Calyx-lobes 5, ovate. Corolla white, salver-form. Stamens 5, unequal, villous at base. Ovary oblong, 4-locular, each 1 ovulate. Capsule conical, indehiscent; seeds 4 or a few. Flowers fragrant, showy, with a peak during August to October and December to February. Fruits whole year.

G. dist.: India, Nepal.

S. dist.: Common, base and slopes of the hills in full sun, scarcely seen towards the leeward side of the associated hills at the southeastern end.

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Bark

Medicinal use: The fresh leaves and root of the plant is made into paste and applied externally to heal abscess, scabies, itch, and scorpion sting. 20 gm crushed bark of the plant is boiled with 500 ml of water and reduced to a volume of 200 ml and decanted. One ounce of
the decoction is taken twice daily for fever, dyspepsia, and inflammation of urinary bladder and genital organs.

**Solanaceae**

*Datura metel* L.

*Oomathai* (L.N) *Sdah, Datura* (H.N)

Subshrub. Leaves large, elliptic to angulate, 8-15 x 6-12 cm. Flower(s) large, solitary, axillary. Calyx-lobes 5, lanceolate. Corolla white, trumpet-shaped; tube cylindric, gradually widened from middle; lobes 5; teeth 5, lanceolate. Stamens 5, included. Capsule globose, armed; spines short, stout, blunt. Flowers and fruits September to January.

G. *dist.*: Tropical and subtropical Asia and Africa.

S. *dist.*: Rare, foothills and lower slopes along the waysides and waste places at the western and eastern sides of the hills.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Flower, Seed

*Medicinal use*: The juice expressed from the warmed fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with equal quantity of sesame oil. The mixture is boiled well till it becomes slightly thick. A few drops of this are dropped into the ear twice daily for two days to alleviate earache and otorrhoea. The dried powder of leaves or flower is smoked for chronic coughs with scanty expectoration. The leaf powder is mixed in boiled water and vapor is inhaled for bronchial asthma. The past of the leaves is applied for rheumatic swelling and arthritis. Coarsely ground 10 gm seed of the plant is boiled with milk and ghee and decanted after cooling. One ounce of this decoction is taken orally, twice daily for impotency.
Physalis minima Linn

*Kundu-thakkali* (L.N)  *Taultipati* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves elliptic-ovate, 5-8 x 4-5 cm. Flower(s) solitary, axillary, pedicellate. Calyx lobes 5, triangular, strigose-pubescent. Petals 5, triangular-ovate, prominently nerved. Stamens 5, attached near the base. Berry globose, 1 cm across; seeds compressed. Flowers and fruits September to December.

*G. dist.*: Tropical Asia, Africa, Australia.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, foothills and slopes of the hills up to 250 m.

*Part used*: Leaf

*Medicinal use*: Juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with coconut oil and boiled well. A few drop of this medicated oil is dropped into the ear for alleviating ear pain.

*Solanum incanum* L.

*Karuthachundai* (L.N)

Armed subshrub. Leaves angulate, 7-12 x 6 cm, thick, stellate-pubescent, prickly along nerves. Flowers 1-4, extra-axillary. Calyx-lobes 5, lanceolate. Corolla purple to violet; lobes 5, triangular. Stamens 5, exserted. Berry 1, oblong-globose, 3 cm across; seeds minutely pitted. Flowers and fruits whole year (Plate 5).

*G. dist.*: India, Sri Lanka.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, foothills and exposed slopes in shallow sandy soil among the rocks.

*Parts used*: Root, Fruit

*Medicinal use*: The root along with equal quantity (10 gm) root of *Solanum xanthocarpum, Solanum trilobatum, Adhatoda zeylanica,*
**Oldenlandia umbellata,** *Aloe vera* (leaf) and dried ginger are crushed together and mixed with 600 ml of water. The mixture is boiled well and reduces to a volume of 300 ml and decanted. 1 ounce decoction is taken orally by adding honey and *Piper longum* powder, three times daily for three days to cure rheumatism, hernia, fever, and dropsy. The unripe fruit of the plant along with equal quantity of unripe fruit of *Solanum trilobatum* is fried in ghee and consumed by adding a pinch of common salt, for the treatment of asthma. The decoction of the root is taken for impotency and sexual vigour.

**Solanum trilobatum** Linn.

*Thuthuvalai* (L.N)

Armed, climbing under shrub. Leaves ovate-angular, sinuate, 3-6 x 2-5 cm or 3-5 nerved, prickly on both sides. Racemes extra-axillary, ca.6 cm across. Calyx cupular; lobes 5, linear, prickly, acute, recurved. Corolla purple, lobes 5, triangular, apiculate. Berry globose, 1 cm across, green with white spots; seeds circular. Flowers and fruits September to January.

*S. dist.*: Peninsula, Malay Peninsula, Malacca.

*S. dist.*: Rare, base of the main hill around the forest office in arable sandy-clay soil.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Root, Flower, Fruit

**Medicinal use:** A handful of fresh leaves of the plant is crushed coarsely and boiled in 750 ml of water till it is reduced to about a third and decanted. About 50 ml of the decoction is taken along with small quantity of honey, 2-3 times daily for bronchitis and severe cough. The leaves are roasted in ghee and macerated along with common salt and tamarind and taken along with food as a side dish for improving
appetite and gas trouble. The flowers is roasted in ghee and consumed as an excellent aphrodisiac and to improve vigour and vitality. The mature fruit is fried in ghee and eaten for biliousness, constipation, cough, bronchitis and rheumatism. The fruit decoction prepared from the powder of the ripened fruit is taken orally twice daily for cold, cough, heart congestion and also as an antidote to snake bite. The powder of the plant is mixed with honey and taken to get relief from hiccup. The medicated oil prepared from the leaves or root of the plant is used to alleviate rheumatic pain, otorrhoea, one sided headache and swellings.

Scrophulariaceae

Micrargeria wightii Benth.

Scabrid, erect herb. Leaves (sub)opposite below, alternate above, blade linear/dissected, deflexed, 2 x 0.2 cm. Flower(s) axillary, solitary,(sub)sessile. Calyx-lobes 5, equal. Corolla pink-purple; tube dialated above; lobes 2+3, obscurely 2-lipped, subequal; upper lip inner in bud. Stamens 4, didynamous, included. Capsule globose, loculicidal; seeds oblong. Flowers November to May. Fruits December onwards

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Common, slopes at the southeastern (leeward) side of the hills in full sun.

Sopubia trifida Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don

Striga densiflora (Benth.) Benth.

Annual herb. Leaves narrowly oblong, 1-2 x 0.2 cm, recurved. Flowers in dense spikes. Calyx-lobes 5, (sub)equal; lobes united throughout except apex. Corolla white, tubular; lobes 5, upper lip 2-lobed. Ovary globose; stigma 2-lamellate. Capsule loculicidal; seeds oblong. Flowers and fruits October to January.

G. dist.: India.

S. dist.: Rare, wet places at the base of the hill among the grasses at the southeastern sector.

Striga gesnerioides (Willd.) Vatke

Lalagia (H.N)

Annual herb, rootstock tuberous. Leaves scaly 0.5 x 0.4 mm. Flowers in dense terminal spikes. Calyx-lobes 5, unequal, each 1-ribbed, lanceolate. Corolla pink to purple, tubular; lobes 5, (sub)equal, obtuse. Capsule obovoid-(sub) globose; seeds oblong/elliptic. Flowers and fruits September to November.

G. dist.: South Africa, Arabia, India, Sri Lanka.

S. dist.: Rare, parasitic herb associated with the roots of Euphorbia antiquorum, E. tortilis and also among the grasses at the western and southern sector of the main hill.

Part used: Rhizome

Medicinal use: The rhizome of the plant is used for the treatment of diabetes.
Gesneriaceae

Didymocarpus tomentosa Wight

Scapigerous herb. Leaves arising from a rosette; blades ovate to broadly elliptic 4-10 x 3-6 cm; petiole winged. Inflorescence cymose, axillary, scapose. Calyx 5-lobed, lanceolate, tomentose entire. Corolla bluish-purple; tube campanulate; lobes 5, entire. Stamens 2, with 2 or 3 staminodes, included. Ovary linear, 1-locular. Capsules slender, slightly curved; 10-14 mm long; seeds relictulate/pitted.

Flowers August to January. Fruits October onwards.

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, on the crevices and between the rocks over thin layer of fertile soil.

Pedaliaceae

Pedalium murex L.

Yanai Nerungil (L.N) Baragokhr (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves alternate or (sub)opposite with unequal leaves, repand-angulate, 3-5 x 2-4 cm, succulent. Flower(s) solitary, axillary, ebracteate; pedicel short with a pair of yellow glands. Corolla yellow, 2 cm across, 2 + 3. Stamens 4; staminode 1. Ovary conical, 2-locular; ovules 2 per cell. Drupe indehiscent with 4 spines; seeds oblong. Flowers and fruits August to March.


S. dist.: Occasional, waysides and waste places in the foothills and in loose arable sandy soil.

Parts used: Leaf, Fruit, Whole plant

Medicinal use: Paste prepared from the leaves of the plant is applied
to heal wounds and ulcers. 10 gm leaf paste is mixed with butter-milk (200 ml) twice daily in the morning and evening for 5-7 days for strangury, scalding of urine and burning sensation of the body. The juice of the plant along with jaggery is taken orally twice daily for white discharge, seminal weakness and dysuria. For nocturnal emission and spermatorrhoea fruit powder (5 gm) with milk (1 glass) is taken orally in the night after food for seven days.

*Sesamum orientale* L.

*Ellu* (L.N) *Til* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves opposite below, alternate above, elliptic to lanceolate, 13 x 6 cm. Flower(s) solitary, axillary. Calyx-lobes 5, persistent. Corolla pink or white; lobes 5, pubescent without, villous at the throat within. Capsule oblong, bilateral, 2 x 0.8 cm, apically beaked. Flowers and fruits August to November.

*G. dist.*: Extensively cultivated -Tropical Asia, South East Asia.

*S. dist.*: Rare, in the slopes at the western sector of the main hill.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Seed

*Medicinal use*: Dehusked black sesame (1 part) dried ginger (1 part), jaggery (2 parts) are made into powder. 5 gm of the powder is taken along with hot milk on empty stomach to alleviate pain in vagina after delivery. Sufficient quantity of the sesame seed is soaked in 300 ml of water and left for a night and decanted. About 1-2 ounce of this is taken along with small quantity of sugar for every 3-4 hours to promote menstruation. The tonic (*Ellu lekyam*) made from the sesame seed is consumed for anemia, sexual vigour, and general debility, strengthens and renews vitality of the body and to increase the flow of milk. The other ingredients used invariably for the preparation of tonic are:
Elellaria cardamomum (fruit), Piper nigrum (seed), Cinnamomum varum (bark), Terminalia chebula (bark), Trigonella foenum-graecum (seed), Myristica fragrans (seed), honey, ghee and water. The seed is grated with goat's milk and taken orally for curing bowel complaints and blood dysentery. The decoction prepared from the seed and leaves is mixed with butter milk and drunk (25 ml) continuously for 5-7 days for stomach pain and to expel intestinal worms. The seed oil is applied over the body before sunrise and bath is taken after 30 minutes for promoting softness and complexion of the skin and vigour to the body. The oil is mixed with hen's egg and consumed for three days to cure menorrhagia, dysmenorrhoea and blenorrhoea. The juice extracted form Eclipta prostrata (leaf), Phyllanthus emblica (fruit) is boiled with the sesame oil and applied for skin diseases, hair growth and hair loss.

Acanthaceae

Adhatoda zeylanica Medikus

Aadaadhodai (L.N) Adulasa (H.N)

Shrub. Leaves oblanceolate, 7-4 x 3-6 cm. Spikes dense, leafy, axillay; bracts leafy; bracteoles elliptic-oblong. Corolla cream-white; lobes 5, bilipped, 2 + 3. Stamens 2, attached at the throat of tube, exserted. Capsule basally beaked; seeds 4, rugose. Flowers and fruits January to March.

G. dist.: Subtropical Himalaya, India, Indo-China, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Rare (planted), near the cave temples at the western sector of the main hill.

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Bark

Medicinal use: About 20 gm leaves of the plant is cut into small pieces and boiled in 300 ml of water, till it becomes slightly thick and
decanted. One ounce of the decoction taken orally by adding small quantity of *Piper longum* or *Piper nigrum* powder and honey, twice daily for cough, fever, bronchitis, asthma and purifying blood. The leaves of plant is taken along with equal quantity (10 gm each) of *Piper longum* (fruit), ginger, *Alpinia glanga* (rhizome) and *Solanum torvum* (leaf) and the ingredients are boiled with 500 ml of water and reduce into 100 ml. 1 ounce of the decoction taken along with honey, twice daily for fever, cough, rheumatism, bronchitis, and biliousness. 15 ml juice of the plant is mixed with jaggery and taken internally for menstrual disorders. The bark (root) and flower is also used for the same purpose.

*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Wallich ex Nees

*Nila-Vembu, Kisaathu* (L.N)  
*Kirayat* (H.N)

Annual herb, branchlets 4-gonous or terete. Leaves linear-obovate, 4-6 x 1-2 cm, acuminate at both ends. Panicle branches zigzag, to 15 cm. Calyx-lobes 5, sparsely glandular-hairy. Corolla white with pink tinge, tubular, 2-lipped; lobes 5. Stamens 2, exserted. Capsule oblong, compressed. Flowers and fruits September to January.

*G. dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

*S. dist.*: Rare, foothills and lower slopes at the southwestern and northern sector of the hill.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Root

*Medicinal use*: Decoction is prepared from the leaves of the plant along with equal quantity of *Alpinia galanga* (rhizome), dried ginger and *Hemidesmus indicus* (root). 1 ounce decoction is taken orally
three times daily for 15 days to cure arthritis and flatulence. One tablespoon leaf juice is mixed with equal quantity of honey and given to babies in the morning and evening for inflammation of liver. The leaves and root is used as an ingredient in multiple medicine for curing dyspepsia, neuralgia and general debility. The decoction (Nilavembu Kudineer) prepared from leaves along with other ingredients is useful against fever. For this one handful of leaves of the plant, 5 gm each of crushed *Cyperus rotundus* (rhizome) and ginger are boiled in 400 ml of water and reduce to one fourth. 30-50 ml of the decoction is taken orally twice daily till recovery.

**Asystasia gangetica** (L.) T. Anderson.

*Medai-keerai* (L.N)

Perennial (sub)shrub, usually (sub)scandent. Leaves elliptic-ovate, 3-5 x 2-3 cm. Racemes (sub)terminal, to 15 cm. Calyx-lobes 5, lanceolate. Corolla yellow, funnel-form; tube narrowed below; lobes 5. Stamens 2, included. Ovary oblong-cylindric, 2-celled. Capsule 1.5 x 0.5 cm, apically pointed; seeds angular. Flowers and fruits peak during August to March.

G. dist.: Africa, Sri Lanka, West and South East Asia.

S. dist.: Common, foothills and slopes up to the top in the semi-shaded areas under the vegetation.

**Part used:** Whole plant

**Medicinal use:** Juice of the plant is given orally for rheumatism, expel intestinal worms and fever.

**Barleria buxifolia** L.

Armed, hispid, rigid subshrub. Leaves orbicular to elliptic ovate, 1-2 x 0.6-1.2 cm. Flower(s) solitary, axillary; bracts 0. Calyx-lobes 4,
herbaceous, acute. Corolla pink to violet, lobes 5, ovate, obtuse. Stamens 5; staminodes with sterile anther cells; central one rudimentary. Capsule ellipsoid; seeds appressed hairy. Flowers September to March. Fruits September to May.

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the extreme eastern sector of the hill.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Root

*Medicinal use:* Root and leaves of the plant are used for curing cough and inflammation.

**Barleria cuspidata** Heyne ex Nees

Armed, rigid, subshrub; nodes with small bristle-like hairs; spines 4, white. Leaves linear-lanceolate, 3-5 x 0.4-0.6 cm. Flowers solitary, axillary, subsessile; bracts linear, rigid, spine tipped. Corolla yellowish, 2.5 cm across. Stamens 2; staminodes 2, with sterile anther cells. Capsule ovoid; seeds 2, appressed-hairy. Flowers and fruits whole year (Plate 8).

S. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Common, slopes of the hills in full sun, among the rocks and crevices.

**Barleria noctiflora** L.f.

Rigid, subshrub; nodal spines white, to 1 cm, sometimes forked. Leaves clustered, obovate-spathulate 1.5 x 0.6 cm. Flower(s) solitary, axillary, sessile, bracts 0. Calyx-lobes 4, scarious, prominently nerved. Corolla white; tubes 3.5 cm, lobes 5, ovate, obtuse. Stamens 2; staminodes 3. Capsule ellipsoid; seeds 4, appressed hairy. Flowers October to December. Fruits November onwards.
G. *dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

*S. dist.*: Rare, base of the hill at the northern side of the hill in dry sandy soil.

**Blepharis maderaspatensis** (L.) Roth

Prostrate herb rooting at nodes. Leaves in a whorl at the same node, elliptic-ovate to oblanceolate, 3-5 x 2-3 cm. Flower(s) solitary or 2-3 together. Corolla white with pink nerves; tube urceolate; upper lip subobtuse; lower spreading, flat, with 3-5 rounded lobes. Capsule ovoid, 2 x 4 mm; seeds 2, flattened. Flowers November to March. Fruit December onwards.

G. *dist.*: Tropical Africa to India.

S. *dist.*: Common, base of the hills at the southeastern sector under the vegetation in semi shaded place.

**Blepharis molluginifolia** Pers.

Prostrate herb. Leaves narrowly oblong to oblanceolate 2-3.5 x 0.5-1 cm. Flowers 4-merous, subsessile. Calyx-lobes 4, forked. Corolla-tube cartilaginous, shorter than lobes. Stamens 4; anthers oblong, sterile cell bearded. Capsule ellipsoid 5 x 4 mm; seeds 2-4. Flowers peak during November to January. Fruits December onwards.

G. *dist.*: India, Sri Lanka.

S. *dist.*: Rare, base of the hill at the northern and southern sector of the hill.

**Dipteracanthus prostratus** (Poiret) Nees

*Pottakanchi*(L.N)

Prostrate herb. Leaves ovate-elliptic to deltoid 2-5 x 1.5-3 cm. Flower(s) solitary, axillary; bracteoles elliptic. Calyx-lobes 5, linear-
subulate. Corolla blue, funnel-form; lobes 5. Stamens 4, didynamous. Capsule 1.5 x 0.6 cm, oblong with a basal solid beak. Flowers and fruits through the year.

G. dist.: India

S. dist.: Occasional, lower slopes of the hills among the rocks and rock crevices over the thin layer of soil except at the south eastern sector.

*Part used:* Leaf

*Medicinal use:* The fresh leaves are ground in the form of paste. Plastering the paste over the spot bitten by snake is an effective antidote for snake poison. A few leaves are also chewed and eaten for effective treatment.

*Elytraria acaulis* (L.f) Lindau

Acaulescent herb. Leaves subradical, in close spirals, obovate to oblanceolate 6-12 x 3-7 cm. Spikes scapigerous, (un)branched, slender, 10-15 cm. Calyx-lobes 4, lanceolate, shortly connate, unequal. Corolla white tinged pink; lobes 5, bilipped, 2+3. Stamens 2, included. Capsule oblong 1 x 0.3 cm; Seeds many, flattened. Flowers and fruits August to February.

G. dist.: Tropical Africa, Sri Lanka, Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the eastern and southern sectors of the hill in red and sandy soil.

*Hygrophila auriculata* (Schum.) Heine

*Neer-Mulli* (L.N) *Tal -makhana* (H.N)

Perennial (sub) shrub. Leaves appear whorled; outer pair larger, lanceolate, 5-10 x 2-3 cm, subsessile; thorns 2-3 cm. Flowers in
axillary whorls; bracts and bracteoles leafy. Corolla purple, shortly tubular; lobes 5, lips subequal. Stamens 4; anther cells unequal. Capsule 1 x 0.4 cm; seeds orbicular, flattened. Flowers September to December. Fruits October to January.

*S.* dist.: Tropical Himalaya, India, South East Asia, Malaysia.

*S.* dist.: Rare, base of the hill at the southern side of the hill in the drainage canal.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Stem, Seed

**Medicinal use:** The leaves or stem of the plant is mixed in water in the ratio of 1:20 and reduces to a volume of ¼. One ounce of the decoction is given orally twice daily for dropsy, anaemia, and disease in the uro-genito tract. The ash of the plant is dissolved in urine and applied to alleviate swellings in the body. The medicated oil prepared from the stem and leaves of the plant along with other herbs is given orally in the empty stomach early morning for sprain, piles, anasarca, and white discharge. 2-3 gm powder of the seed is taken along with cardamom and sugar in sufficient quantities is mixed with warm milk and drunk for cough, rheumatism, purifying blood, impotency and to increase sperm count.

**Indoneesiella echoides** (L.) Sreemadh.

**Gopuramthanangi** (L.N)

Annual erect herb. Leaves oblong to oblanceolate, 2-5 x 0.5-1 cm, subsessile. Flowers in unbranched or scarcely branched racemes. Calyx-lobes 5, linear-lanceolate, glandular hairy. Corolla white with brown tinge, tubular, 2-lipped. Capsule ovoid, 1 x 0.5 cm. Flowers and fruits September to February.

*G.* dist.: Tropical India, Sri Lanka.
S. dist.: Occasional, open places in the slopes and base of the hills.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: The leaves are prepared in the form of pounded mass. It is mixed with coconut oil and boiled well. This medicated oil is cooled, decanted and applied externally to the scalp for controlling patchy hair loss due to worm infection and to cure scabies and itch.

*Justicia betonica* L.

An erect shrub. Leaves ovate-lanceolate to ovate 7-15 x 4-7 cm. Spikes 1-3, terminal or subterminal. Calyx-lobes 5, obovate-lanceolate, 3-ribbed. Corolla white with purple streaks; lobes 5, 2-lipped. Ovary oblong, 2-celled. Capsule 1.5 x 0.5 cm, apically mucronate. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. dist.: Through Old World Tropics.

S. dist.: Common, slopes and base of the hills at the northern and western sectors of the hills, scarcely found at the eastern and southern sectors.

*Justicia gendarussa* Burm. f.

*Karunochi* (L.N) Nili-nargandi (H.N)

Perennial shrub; branchlets terete, dark purple. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, 5-10 x 2-3 cm, gradually tapering at both ends. Spikes 1-3 to 10 cm. Corolla pinkish white with purple lines, shortly tubular. Capsule oblong; seeds 4, ovate.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Malacca, China, Philippines.

S. dist.: Rare (planted), foothills at the western sector of the main hill.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: Bruised fresh leaves are warmed and applied over body.
for sprain, pain and swellings. A tea-spoonful of the juice expressed from fresh leaves is mixed with equal proportion of honey and a little quantity of *Piper nigrum* powder. The whole mixture is given thrice daily for common cold, wheezing, fever and rheumatism. Juice expressed from the leaves is mixed with onion juice (warmed) and dropped into the ear for ear pain. Paste made from the leaves of the plant along with dried ginger is applied on the forehead to relieve headache.

*Justicia glauca* Rottler

Undershrub. Leaves elliptic-ovate, 2-3 x 1-2 cm. Spikes terminal and axillary, to 8 cm; bracts broadly ovate. Calyx-lobes 5, lanceolate, 3-nerved. Corolla-lobes 5, puberulous along the throat without. Stamens 2, divergent, unequal. Capsule 1 x 0.5 cm, apically pointed. Flowers and fruits peak during August to March.

*G. dist.*: Peninsular India.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, base and lower slopes of the hills, scarcely seen towards the interior of the forest.

*Justicia procumbens* L.

*Odu-odukki* (L.N)

Diffuse herb. Leaves elliptic, 1-2 x 0.5 -1 cm. Spikes terminal, to 1-2 cm; bracts obovate; bracteoles lanceolate. Calyx-lobes 4, sometimes with a 5th rudimentary lobe, subequal, lanceolate. Corolla pink, shortly tubular; lobes 5, 2-lipped. Stamens 2, (sub)exserted. Capsule oblong 4 x 1.5 mm. Flowers and fruits peak during October to March.

*G. dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Australia.

*S. dist.*: Common, foothills and slopes among rocks and crevices with thin layer of soil.
Parts used: Leaf, Stem

Medicinal use: The paste made from the stem and leaves of the plant is plastered for bone fracture. Fresh paste should be replaced in the next day by removing the dried one. Decoction prepared from the leaves and stem of the plant is given thrice daily during the period of treatment for effective healing.

Verbenaceae

Clerodendrum inerme (L.) Gaertner

Peenarichangu (L.N) Lanjai (H.N)

Straggling shrub. Leaves obovate to (sub)orbicular, 1.5-3 x 1.5 cm, coriaceous. Flowers large, in axillary cymes, generally 3-flowered. Calyx cupular, 5-toothed; accrescent. Corolla white with pink lines; lobes 5, 2 cm across, salver-shaped. Stamens 4, didynamous, inserted in the upper half of tube. Drupe globose, 0.6 cm across. Flowers and fruits August to April.

G. dist.: Coastal India, Sri Lanka, naturalized in East and South East Asia, Australia.

S. dist.: Rare, once located from top of the main hill among the rocks at the western side on the way to Pillathadam.

Parts used: Leaf, Root

Medicinal use: 20 gm fresh leaves of the plant is boiled in 250 ml of water till it is reduced to about half and decanted. ½ to 1 ounce of the decoction is given orally twice daily for malaria, dry cough, scrofula and blenorrhagia. One ounce juice of the leaves is taken along with equal quantity juice of Centella asiatica and Pongamia pinnata (bark). The ingredients are mixed with 400 ml of castor oil and boiled well in moderate flame and decanted after cooling. ½ ounce of this is taken
orally in the empty stomach early morning for paralysis, syphilis, scrofula and venereal diseases. Sufficient quantity crushed root of the plant is boiled well in sesame oil and decanted. This medicated oil is applied externally for sprain, muscular pain, leucoderma and gouts.

**Clerodendrum phlomides** L.f.

*Taludhaazhai* (L.N)  *Arni* (H.N)

Shrub to 6 m. Leaves decussate, deltoid-ovate, 1.5-5 x 1.4 cm. Panicles axillary and/or terminal, to 8 cm. Calyx campanulate; lobes 5, ovatelanceolate. Corolla cream, lobes 5, subequal, oblong-ovate, obtuse. Stamens 4, inserted well below the corolla-tube. Drupe globose; seeds oblong. Flowers November to January. Fruit March onwards (Plate 6).

G. *dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Burma.

S. *dist.*: Rare, near the premises of the cave temples located at the western side of the main hill.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Root

**Medicinal use:** This plant is reported to be very effective in the treatment of rheumatism. The leaves are cut into small pieces, warmed, placed in a piece of cloth, rubbed and bandaged at the place of rheumatic pain. The root and leaves are to be made into a decoction with water and taken internally for rheumatism and paralysis. A few handfuls of leaves boiled in water and bath is taken for relieving body pain. The leaves of the plant is boiled in coconut oil and applied to the head for biliousness and sores in joints.

**Gmelina asiatica** L.

*Kumizh* (L.N)  *Badhara* (H.N)

Armed perennial shrub; spines to 2.5 cm. Leaves elliptic-ovate 1-4
x 1-2.5 cm. Racemes axillary and terminal, to 8 cm. Corolla golden yellow; lobes 5, upper lip 3-lobed, acute. Stamens 4, sometimes with a 5th rudimentary one. Ovary globose, 4-locular. Drupe 2.5 x 2 cm, fleshy, ellipsoid-globose. Flowers September to March. Fruits October onwards.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, Peninsular India, Bangladesh.

S. dist.: occasional, foothills and slopes among the rocks, scarcely found at the extreme eastern sector of the hills.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: A handful of fresh leaves of the plant is grated into paste. The paste is mixed in warmed cow milk, decanted and administered orally twice daily as a remedy for rheumatic fever, bilious fever and syphilis.

**Lantana camara** L.

*Poochedi, Unnichedi* (L.N)

Armed, straggling shrub. Leaves ovate to elliptic ovate, 5-8 x 4-6 cm, scabrid. Spike condensed, 3-5 cm across. Corolla yellow, red or scarlet, salver form; lobes 5, obscurely 2-lipped, spreading, obtuse. Drupe fleshy, globes, dark blue when ripe; seeds reticulate. Flowers and fruits peak during September to March.

G. dist.: Native of tropical America, widely naturalized in tropic and subtropics.

S. dist.: Occasional, slopes among the rocks at the western and northern sectors of the main hill up to 250 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Shoot

Medicinal use: The paste made from the leaf or shoot of the plant is applied for controlling bleeding and healing cuts and wounds.
Stachypheta jamaicensis (L.) Vahl var. Indica H. J. Lam.

Cheemannaiyuruvi (L.N)

Annual herb. Leaves obovate-elliptic, 3-7 x 2-4 cm, margin serrate. Spikes 10-15 cm. Calyx tubular, 4-ribbed; tooth 4, unequal. Corolla bluish, salver-form; tube curved; lobes 4, subequal, rounded. Stamens 2. Pyrenes oblong, 6 mm. Flowers and fruits peak during October to March.

G. dist.: Very widespread.

S. dist.: Occasional, moist places in the base of the hills at the southeastern sector of the hills.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: Decoctio made from leaves of the plant is applied externally for purulent ulcers and given orally for fever, rheumatism and inflammation.

Vitex negundo L.

Nochi (L.N) Nirgandhi (H.N)

Large shrub. Leaves 3-5-foliolate; leaflets oblanceolate, 5-11 x 2-3 cm. Panicles terminal and from the upper axils, to 20 cm. Calyx white-spotted without, 5-toothed. Corolla purple to violet, 2-lipped, unequal. Stamens 4, didynamous, exserted. Drupe globose, 4 mm across. Flowers and fruits November to May.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Philippines, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Rare (planted), near the cave temples located at the western side of the main hill on the way to Pillathadam.

Parts used: Leaf, Bark

Medicinal use: About 10 ml of the juice extracted from the fresh leaves
of the plant is mixed with honey and pinch of Piper nigrum powder. The mixture is taken orally thrice daily to cure common cold, fever, indigestion, sprain and body pain. A paste made from the leaves of the plant along with a piece of dried ginger is applied on the forehead to relieve headache. A few handful leaves of the plant are boiled in water and bath is taken for relieving general body pain due to rheumatism. Equal quantity of juice extracted from the leaves of the plant and Ocimum tenuiflorum is mixed with sufficient quantity caraway seed powder. One spoonful of the mixture is given internally for children to relieve colic. The decoction prepared from the leaves of the plant is used as a gargle for alleviating throat pain and healing sores in mouth. 2-3 gm root bark powder of the plant is taken with honey internally, twice daily for alleviating nerve pain, sprain, common cold and dyspepsia.

Lamiaceae

Anisochilus carnosus (L.f.) Wallich

Karpooravalli (L.N) Panjiri-ka-pat (H.N)

Undershrub, often fleshy. Leaves ovate, 6 x 5 cm, verrucose above, pubescent below. Spikes to 5 cm, bracts caducous. Calyx oblique, truncate; lobes 5, 1+4. Corolla purple; tube truncate; lobes 5, bilabiate, 4+1. Stamens 4. Nutlets 4, orbicular, shining, brown. Flowers peak during September to February. Fruits March to June.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Himalaya, Burma.

S. dist.: Occasional, exposed slopes among the rocks and rock crevices in full sun.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: Half teaspoon leaf juice of plant is mixed with equal
quantity of breast milk. This mixture is added with a pinch of *Curcuma aromatica* powder and given orally for babies to cure cough, cold and to remove phlegm. For adults breast milk can be substituted with palm sugar. The juice boiled with sesame oil is applied on the head to prevent cold.

**Anisochilus paniculatus** Benth.

Annual herb. Leaves ovate or orbicular, thick, 3-6 x 2.5-3.5 cm. Spikes short, in many branched trichotomous panicles. Corolla pale white; lobes 5; upper lip small, obtuse, ciliate. Stamens 4. Nutlets ovoid, dry, basal scar small. Flowers and fruits November to March.

G. *dist.*: Deccan Peninsula, Sri Lanka.
S. *dist.*: Rare, dry rocky slopes among the rocks at the western and northern sector of the main hill.

*Note:* In Tamil Nadu it is known from Madurai and Tirunelveli districts (Henry *et al.*, 1987). The present report from Maruthua Malai is an additional locality of the species in the state.

**Anisochilus scaber** Benth.

Annual shrub. Leaves ovate, 3-5 x 3-4 cm. Spikes 1.5 cm. Calyx oblique truncate, inflated below; lobes 1+4; lower lip truncate. Corolla white tinged with pink, 5 x 1 mm across. Stamens 4, dydynamous. Nutlets 4, erect, basilar. Flowers peak during September to January. Fruits December onwards.

G. *dist.*: Peninsular India.
S. *dist.*: Common, exposed slopes among the rocks and rock crevices in shallow soil, rarely seen towards the southeastern side of the hill range.
**Anisomeles malabarica** (L.) R.Br. ex Sims

*Polmorati* (L.N)

Aromatic subshrub. Leaves oblanceolate, 4-7 x 1.5-2.5 cm. Spikes interrupted, up to 30 cm. Calyx tubular-campanulate; lobes 4. Corolla purple; tube annulate within; lobes 2+3. Stamens 4, didynamous. Nutlets erect, basilar. Flowes and fruits through the year.

G. *dist.*: Mauritius, continental South East Asia to tropical Australia, Malaysia.

S. *dist.*: Common, slope of the hills in open places among the rocks in shallow soil.

*Parts used:* Whole plant

*Medicinal use:* About 50 gm plant is cut into small pieces and boiled in 750 ml of water in a new earthen pot along with equal quantity (5 gm) of black pepper and *Trachyspermum ammi*. The decoction is taken orally twice daily in the morning and evening for vomiting, cough, cold, excessive thirst and purifying blood. The crushed plant is boiled in water and the vapour is inhaled for curing headache and fever. Decoction prepared from the plant is taken internally for vomiting, diarrhoea, cough and cold.

**Becium filamentosum** (Forsskal) Chiov.

Annual herb. Leaves elliptic-oblanceolate, 2-4 x 1.5-2.5 cm, sparingly toothed. Verticils a few-flowered in terminal, 3-chotomous racemes. Calyx campanulate; lobes 5, 1+4. Corolla pale rose; lobes 5, unequal, 4+1; upper lip spreading; lower lip deflexed, entire. Stamens 4, didynamous. Nutlets erect, basilar, red-brown. Flowers and fruits July to December.

G. *dist.*: India, Sri Lanka.
S. *dist.*: Rare, slopes among the rocks and under the trees up to 300 m at the northern and western sectors of the hills.

**Hyptis suaveolens** (L.) Poit.

*Navarapachilai* (L.N)

Annual herb. Leaves opposite, ovate, denticulate, 2-7 x 1-6 cm. Flowers in verticils or in short stalked cymes. Calyx campanulate; tubes 10-ribbed; lobes subequal. Corolla blue, lobes 5, bilipped, 2+3; lower lip saccate. Stamens 4, didynamous, declinate; filaments free. Nutlets 2, ovoid, 2 aborted and seen as rudimentary structures at base. Flowers and fruits through the year except summer.

*G. dist.:* Central America, widely cultivated in Asia.

*S. dist.:* Common, throughout the hills up to 300 m.

**Part used:** Leaf

**Medicinal use:** Leaf of the plant along with equal proportion *Leucas aspera* leaves and sufficient quantity of camphor is taken in an earthen pot. The ingredients are boiled in water over moderate flame and the steam is inhaled for brain fever, sinuses and headache. 10-15 ml of leaf juice mixed with honey is taken orally 2-3 times daily relieves bilious fever, blood vomiting and influenza. The paste made from the young leaves is applied to heal cuts and skin eruption.

**Leucas aspera** (Willd.) Link

*Thumbai* (L.N)  
*Chota-halus* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves oblanceolate, 2-6 x 0.5-1 cm. Verticils terminal and axillary; bracts equaling calyx. Calyx tubular; mouth oblique, 10-toothed; teeth unequal. Corolla white; tube obliquely annulate within; lobes 5, bilipped, unequal. Nutlets 4, ovoid,
subtrigonous; fruiting calyx enlarged. Flowers and fruits July to March.

G. dist.: India, Asia, Malaysia, Mauritius.

S. dist.: Common, almost in all segments of the hills up to 350 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Flower

Medicinal use: The juice of the leaves is mixed with pinch of slaked lime and applied on the forehead for alleviating headache. Paste made from the leaves is applied topically for insect bite, scorpion sting, itch and skin eruptions. A handful of leaves of the plant and old tamarind are grated in to pounded mass. It is eaten as a side dish for curing diabetes, thirst and fatigue. To one part of juice extracted form the flower is added with 2 part honey. Mix the ingredients together by adding a pinch of Curcuma aromatica powder and consume about a teaspoonful (½ teaspoon for babies), three times a day to cure cold, cough, apoplexy and pyrexia. The flowers boiled in sesame oil and decanted and applied on the head before bath against migraine and nasal blocks.

Leucas biflora (Vahl) R. Br.

Annual herb. Leaves ovate, 2-3 x 1-2 cm. Flower(s) axillary, solitary, 2 or 4 per node. Calyx-tube puberulous without; mouth straight, 10-toothed; teeth subequal, linear. Corolla white; tube cylindric; lobes 5, bilipped, 1+4. Nutlets 4, subtrigonomous, erect. Flowers and fruits peak during August to March.

G. dist.: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes among the rocks and crevices in shallow and over thin layer of soil.

Leucas urticaefolia (Vahl) R. Br.

Annual herb. Leaves oblanceolate, 2-4 x 1-2 cm. Verticils
axillary, dense. Corolla white; tube cylindric; lobes 5, bilipped, 1+4; upper lip villous without; lower lip puberulous without. Nutlets 4, subtrigonal. Flowers and fruits September to December.

G. dist.: India, Baluchistan, Arabia, Abyssinia.

S. dist.: Rare, slopes among the rocks near the Siva temple on the way to Pillathadam at an altitude of 200 m associated with herbaceous plants.

Parts used: Whole plant

Medicinal use: The plant is used to cure fever.

Note: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madural, Ramanathapuram, South Arcot, Salem Tiruchchirappally and Tirunelveli (Henry et al., 1987). The present report from Maruthua Malai is an additional locality of its occurrence in the state.

Ocimum americanum L.

Naithulsai (L.N) Kala tulshi (H.N)

Perennial herb; branchlets terete to (sub) 4-angular. Leaves elliptic-oblong, 1-3 x 0.5-2 cm. Verticils 10-15 cm; bracts ovate, stalked. Calyx lobes 5; unequal. Corolla white; lobes 5, unequal, 4+1; upper lip spreading; lower lip deflexed, sericeous without, acute. Nutlets narrowly ellipsoid, punctulate. Flowers peak during October to December. Fruit whole year.

G. dist.: Paleotropic.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes between the rocks in sandy-clay soil.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: ½ - 1 teaspoonful juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with a pinch of Curcuma aromatica powder and
consumed twice daily against fever, wheezing, cough and diarrhoea. The leaf paste is applied to cure eczema and cycosis. 5 gm leaf powder is mixed in 1 ounce boiled water and left for 15 minutes. The mixture is decanted and taken along with sugar and boiled milk, twice daily for cough related disorders. Leaf paste is applied to the finger and toe-nails to warm-up the body against extremities of cold during fever.

*Ocimum tenuiflorum* L.

*Thulasi* (L.N) *Tulsi* (H.N)

Subshrub; branchlets hispid, terete. Leaves elliptic-oblanceolate, 1-4 x 1-2 cm. Calyx purplish; lobes 5. Corolla white, purplish within; lobes 5, unequal. Stamens 4, didynamous. Nutlets subglobose, broadly-oblong, slightly compressed, nearly smooth. Flowers and fruits throughout the year peak during November to January.

G. *dist.*: Mainland Asia, Malaysia.

S. *dist.*: Rare, base of the hill in the northern sector of the main hill.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Seed

*Medicinal use*: Handful of fresh leaves of the plant is boiled in water along with sufficient quantity of palm jaggery, piece of crushed ginger (dried) and black pepper. The decoction is drunk for cold, fever, throat pain, bronchitis, cough and headache. The juice of the leaves is applied for skin and cutaneous diseases. Juice expressed from the fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with turmeric powder and applied 2-3 times daily for spider-bite and scorpion sting. Leaf juice is mixed with equal quantity of sesame oil and boiled in moderate flame and decanted. A few drops of this oil are dropped into the ear after cooling
for earache. 50 ml of the decoction prepared from the leaves of the plant is given twice daily for improving appetite, strengthening of heart and liver and to increase the secretion of mother's milk. 2-3 gm coarsely powdered seeds of the plant is soaked in boiled milk and left for 60-90 minutes, decanted and taken orally for gonorrhea, strangury, dysentery and to improve stamina of the body.

**Orthosiphon thymiflorus** (Roth) Sleesen

Subshrub. Leaves ovate to elliptic, 1.5-5 x 2-3 cm. Flowers usually in whorls of 6 or less in terminal 3-chotomous raceme. Calyx-lobes 5, bilipped. Corolla white; lobes 5, bilipped, 4+1, unequal. Nutlets erect, enclosed in persistent calyx. Flowers July to January. Fruits whole year.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka through South East Asia to Malaysia.

S. dist.: Rare, slopes of the hill among rocks at the western sector in shallow soil.

**Plecranthus barbatus** Andrews

Herb. Leaves oblong to elliptic, 3-8 x 2-4 cm, thin-fleshy. Verticils ca. 9-flowered; peduncle to 25 cm; bracts closely imbricate, ovate, acuminate. Calyx campanulate; lobes 5; bilipped. Corolla blue, tubular-bilabiate; lobes 5, unequal. Nutlets 4, ovoid, smooth, brown. Flowers and fruits August to February.

G. dist.: Tropical East Africa, Madagascar, West Asia, Himalaya, India, Sri Lanka.

S. dist.: Occasional, exposed slopes among the rocks and crevices at the western and northern sectors of the hill.
Nyctaginaceae

Boerhavia diffusa L.

Chaarana, Mookarattal (L.N)  Sant (H.N)

Diffuse herb. Leaves ovate to (sub)cordiform, 2-4 x 2-3.5 cm. Panicles 5-6 cm, axillary and terminal, 3-6-flowered. Perianth deep pink; tube short, funnel shaped. Stamens 2 or 3, as long as perianth tube. Anthocarp club-shaped, 3 mm, glandular-hairy, top rounded. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. dist.: Pantropical, throughout Malaysia, Australia, Pacific.

S. dist.: Common, base and slopes of the hills up to the top in shallow soil.

Parts used: Leaf, Root

Medicinal use: Leaves of the plant is taken along with equal quantity leaves of Alternanthera sessilis and Phyllanthus amarus and powdered. One teaspoon of the powder is mixed in milk and taken internally for 4-8 days to cure eye pain and to improve the vision. The root of the plant along with piece of Acorus calamus (rhizome) is prepared in the form of pounded mass. It is taken along with honey for cough and asthma. The leaves of the plant is cooked along with leafy vegetables and eaten for constipation, gastritis, oedema and high blood pressure. About 50 gm root of the plant is boiled in 500 ml of water till it is reduced to about a third. About 1 ounce of decoction is taken orally in the morning and evening for a period of 15-21 days as a remedy for rheumatism, dropsy, ascities, chest pain and impure blood.

Amaranthaceae

Achyranthes aspera L.

Nayurivi (L.N)  Latjiva (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves elliptic-ovobovate to (sub)orbicular 2-6 x 2-4.5 cm. Spikes terminal and axillary, to 20-30 cm. Tepals 5, lanceolate, base
truncated to rounded, apex acute. Stamens 5, interposed with limbricate staminodes. Utricle 1-seeded. Flowers and fruits whole year.

**G. dist.**: Tropics.

**S. dist.**: Common, base and slopes of the hills up to 250 m, rarely seen in the slopes at the northeastern segment.

**Parts used**: Leaf, Root, Seed

**Medicinal use**: The leaves of the plant along with black pepper, garlic and sugarcandy is homogenized and made into pounded mass. It is made into small tablets and given thrice daily for malaria. A few drops of juice expressed from the leaves of the plant are dropped into the ear to stop purulent discharge from the ear. The juice expressed from the fresh root of the plant is given internally as an antidote against scorpion sting. The paste made from the leaves of the plant is applied to heal drancontiasis. The paste made from the roots and leaves of the plant is applied on the infected teeth to alleviate tooth pain and to expel intestinal worms. Two teaspoons powder of the seed is mixed in a glass of boiled water and taken internally in the morning and evening for curing lung diseases. The juice of the plant is mixed in slaked lime and applied as an antidote against dog-bite. Handful of leaves of the plant is made into pounded mass by adding rice gruel water. It is boiled along with 200 gm sugarcandy and 100 gm ghee till it becomes thick and thready. About 5-10 gm of the tonic is taken internally in the morning and evening for a few days to cure piles. The ash of the plant is mixed in water and left for some time. The water is decanted and taken for stomach pain. The decoction of the plant is given internally for renal dropsy. 2-3 grains root bark powder and same quantity black pepper powder is mixed in honey and given internally, 2-3 times daily for cough. The leaf decoction is used as gargle for tooth and throat pain.
Aerva lanata (L.) Juss.

Surupeelai (L.N) Chaya (H.N)

Annual herb, pubescent when young. Leaves closely alternate, ovate to orbicular, 2-3 x 1-1.5 cm, gradually smaller towards apices. Spicate clusters axillary, to 1.5 cm. Tepals 5, oblong to obovate, membranous; outer 2 lobes faintly 1-nerved; inner 3 with green midrib. Utricle thin-walled, irregularly rupturing. Flowers and fruits whole year (Plat 6).

G. dist.: Widespread in the drier parts of the tropics and subtropics of the Old World.

S. dist.: Common, almost all segments of the hill up to the top in full sun.

Parts used: Stem, Root

Medicinal use: About 25 gm crushed root or stem of the plant is boiled with 200 ml of water. The decoction is mixed with 100 ml of milk and boiled again and reduced it to milk quantity i.e. 100 ml and decanted. It is given in the morning and evening for leucorrhoea. 20 gm crushed root of the plant is boiled in 500 ml of water till it becomes a volume of 150 ml, decanted and divided into two equal parts. The decoction is given in the morning and evening for oedema, bladder and kidney stones and clears urinary path.

Allamania nodiflora (L) R. Br. ex Wight

Kumattikeerai (L.N)

Annual herb. Leaves alternate, oblong-spathulate or elliptic, 2-4 x 0.5 -1 cm. Spikes yellowish, globose to oblong, (sub)sessile. Flowers bisexual, in groups of 3; bract and bracteoles lanceolate, narrower than tepals, midrib excurrent. Tepals 5, obovate-oblong, 1-nerved.
Stamens 5, unequal, Utricle circumscissile, 3 mm; seed compressed. Flowers and fruits September to March.

G. *dist.*: India, Sri Lanka, East Asia and South East Asia, Malaysia.

S. *dist.*: Occasional, exposed slopes among the rocks and rock crevices on the thin layer of soil.

**Part used:** Whole plant

**Medicinal use:** The plant is cooked and eaten continuously for a few weeks to reduce the heat of the body and piles. Juice of the plant along with sesame oil and lime water (1:1:2) is taken orally in the morning for 10 days to cure the blood discharge along with urine.

*Alternanthera pungens* Kunth

*Ottaramul* (L.N)

Spiny, prostrate herb. Leaves of the same pair unequal, obliquely elliptic to (sub)orbicular, 1.5-3 x 1-2 cm. Spikes 2 or more; bracts oblanceolate, 1-nerved. Tepals 5; outer 2 lobes oblanceolate; inner 2 lobes linear, curved with a tuft of glochidiate, barbellate bristles at middle. Stamens 5; staminodes dentate. Utricle depressed-globose, 5 mm; seed discoid. Flowers and fruits October to March.

G. *dist.*: America, widely spread as a the tropics and (sub)tropics.

S. *dist.*: Common, waste places in foot hill at the western sector of the hills.

**Part used:** Leaf

**Medicinal use:** Leaf paste is applied topically to heal the cracks in the feet.

*Amaranthus graecizans* L. ssp. *thellunganus* (Nevski) Gusev

*Mulaikeera* (L.N)

Annual prostrate herb. Leaves elliptic-ovate, 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 cm.

G. dist.: Most hot countries, Sri Lanka, India (throughout).

S. dist.: Rare, exposed slopes on the way sides to Pillathadam at the western sector of the hills at an altitude of 200 m.

Parts used: Leaf, Stem

**Medicinal use:** The stem and leaves of the plant is cooked along with onion, *Capsicum annum* and enough quantity of common salt. It is eaten to reduce the heat of the body, purifying blood and biliousness. The paste of the leaves is applied externally to cure itch and scabies.

*Amaranthus viridis* L.

*Kuppai-keerai* (L.N)


G. dist.: Cosmopolitan.

S. dist.: Common, base and slopes up to 200 m in waste places and way sides, mostly in the western and southern sectors of the hill, rarely seen towards northeastern sector.

Parts used: Leaf, Stem

**Medicinal use:** The paste made from the leaves or stem of the plant is
applied to heal boils. The stem and leaves of the plant is cut into small pieces, cooked, and eaten for gonorrhea, indigestion and constipation.

**Celosia polygonoides** Retz.

A diffuse herb. Leaves deltoid-ovate, 2-3 x 1-2 cm. Spikes lax, thyrsiform, puberulous. Flowers rose, 2 mm across. Tepals 5, oblong-ovate, midrib thin, base rounded, apex shortly acute. Stamens 5, connate below into a sheath. Capsule urceolate, breaking off like a cap with embedded style; seeds 6 or more, smooth. Flowers and fruits whole year.

_G. dist._: India, Sri Lanka.

_S. dist._: Common, slopes among the rocks in open places and under the tree canopy, not found towards southeastern sector of the hills.

**Digera muricata** (L.) C. Martius

_Thoyyakeerai_ (L.N)  _Latmachurai_ (H.N)

Erect or ascending herb. Leaves alternate, deltoid to elliptic-ovate or lanceolate, 2-5 x 2-3 cm. Flowers in axillary peduncled spike, ternate, the 2 outer reduced to crested scales, the central perfect. Tepals 5, unequal. Stamens 5, basally connate. Ovary 1-celled, compressed truncate. Nutlet indehiscent. Flowers and fruits October to March.

_G. dist._: India, West and South East Asia, Malaysia, Africa, Madagascar.

_S. dist._: Rare, slopes among the rocks at the western and northern sectors of the hills in full sun.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Stem, Seed

*Medicinal use:* The juice expressed from the leaves and stem of the
plant is boiled in coconut or sesame oil and applied to the head to alleviate headache, induce sleep and is said to be good for the eyes. The leaves and stem of the plant is cooked and eaten to improve vitality, purifying blood and constipation. Cow milk with 3-5 gm seed powder and sugar is given internally twice daily for promoting lactation, sexual desire and to clear chylous urine.

**Gomphrena celosioides** C. Martius

Ascending or erect annual herb. Leaves lanceolate, obovate to spatulate, 2-5 x 1-2 cm. Spikes terminal and axillary, globose to elongate. Flowers small; bract concave, membranous, 1-nerved. Tepals 5, faint, 1-nerved. Stamens 5, included. Ovary compressed-globose; ovule 1, compressed. Utricle 2 mm; seed shiny. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. dist.: South America, weed in tropics.

S. dist.: Occasional, foot hills and exposed slopes among the rocks in full sun.

**Part used**: Leaf

**Medicinal use**: Fresh leaf juice is used as a wound healer caused by sickle and farmyard tools. After cleaning the wound with hot water, a few drops of the juice are applied externally on the wound or thick paste is applied and tightened with a clean piece of cloth.

**Psilotrichum elliotii** Baker and C.B. Clarke.

An erect or somewhat climbing under shrub. Leaves deltoid to elliptic-ovate, 2-4 x 1.5 cm, hirsute below, acuminate. Spikes axillary to 1.2 cm long. Tepals 5, greenish white; outer 2 larger; inner 3 smaller, 3-nerved. Stamens 5, shortly connate. Ovary 1-ovuled. Flowers and fruits whole year.
G. *dist.*: Peninsular India, tropical Africa.

*S. dist.*: Common, along the forest border and slopes under the vegetation.

*Psilotrichum nudum* (Wallich) Moq.

*Kallurunchi* (L.N)

Herb. Leaves 1.5-2.5 x 0.8-1.5 cm, densely sericeous below, bracts and bracteoles cordiform. Spikes few, in upper axils to 1.2-2.4 cm long. Tepals 5; outer 2 larger, 5-nerved; inner 3 smaller, 3-nerved. Stamens 5, shortly connate. Utricle (sub) compressed. Flowers and fruits September to March.

G. *dist.*: Peninsular India.

*S. dist.*: Rare, foothills and slopes among the rock on the thickets and hedges at southern and western sectors of the hill.

*Parts used:* Stem, Root

*Medicinal use:* Decoction prepared from stem or root of the plant is given internally for abdominal pain and removing calculi or stones formed in the urinary system.

**Aristolochiaceae**

*Aristolochia indica* L.

*Isuramuli, Karudagodi* (L.N) *Isharmul* (H.N)

Profusely branched twiner. Leaves oblong, 2-6 x 2-3 cm, base truncate to (sub)cordate, 3-nerved from base. Racemes to 3 cm, 5-15-flowered. Flower dark purple, 5 cm long. Perianth lurid; lobes narrowly tubular; limb 1-lipped, rolled back, emarginate. Stamens (sub)sessile. Ovary oblong, ribbed. Capsules 6-nerved, 4 x 2 cm; seeds laterally winged. Flowers and fruits December to May.
G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, South East Asia.

S. dist.: Rare, base of the hill along the forest boundary at southern and western part of the hill.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Root

**Medicinal use:** The root or leaf is prepared in the form of pounded mass. It is mixed with coconut oil, boiled well, and decanted after cooling. It is applied externally for leprosy, leprosy, headache, scabies and itch. The root and leaf is used externally and internally as a valuable antidote to snake bite, scorpion sting, and bites of poisonous insects. The root or leaves is grated and prepared into a pounded mass. The pounded mass is applied externally to the bitten part. ½ ounce of juice expressed from the leaves or root of the plant is mixed with black pepper powder and given internally 4-5 times daily for the same purpose. About 25 gm crushed root or leaves is boiled in 500 ml of water till it is reduced to about a third. One ounce of the decoction is taken in the evening and morning for a period of 10-15 days to cure asthma, cough, biliousness, rheumatism and cystitis.

**Lauraceae**

**Cassytha filiformis** L.

*Moodillathazhi, Akashavalli* (L.N)  *Amarbeli* (H.N)

Parasitic twiner. Leaves 0. Flowers small in terminal or axillary spikes; bracteoles 3, ovate. Tepals 6, unequal 3+3. Fertile stamens 9; anthers 2-celled; staminodes 3. Ovary globose, 1-locular, sessile; ovule 1; style short; stigma peltate. Drupe green, enclosed within inflated perianth. Flowers and fruits September to March.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Asia, Australia, Africa, America.

S. dist.: Occasional, in dense clustered yellowish mass on thickets at
the base in the northern and southern sectors of the hills.

Part used: Whole plant

Medicinal use: The ash of the plant is mixed with gingill oil or coconut oil and applied for healing wounds and ulcers. The juice extracted from the plant is mixed with coconut oil and boiled well. It is applied over the scalp for controlling dandruff and healthy growth of hair. The extract of the plant is applied externally for skin eruptions and skin diseases. The plant is made in to pounded mass. It is mixed with buttermilk and consumed for gonorrhoea and painful urination.

Loranthaceae

Helicanthes elastica (Desr.) Danser

Ithil (L.N)


G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, this parasitic species is found growing on the species of Euphorbia tortilis and E. antiquorum at the base in the south-eastern sector of the hills.

Parts used: Leaf, Seed

Medicinal use: The leaf paste is mixed in boiled milk and given orally for pregnant women to preserve the fetus. The tonic made from the seeds of the plant in combination with other ingredients is consumed in the night for a few weeks to improve sexual vigour and seminal weakness.
Euphorblaceae

*Acalypha indica* L.

*Kuppieni* (L.N) *Khokala* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves broadly ovate, 2.5-6 x 2-4 cm. Spikes axillary, nearly as long as petiole; male flowers from above the middle, terminating in an allomorphic flower; female ones at the lower half; bracts folded, campanulate, shortly dentate. Anthers vermiculiform, subsessile. Pistils 2, one sterile. Allomorphic flowers long-stalked, with 2, narrow, toothed, tubular whorls. Capsule of 3, bivalved cocci. Flowers and fruits whole year except summer.


*S. dist.*: Common, almost all segments of the hill.

*Part used*: Leaf

*Medicinal use*: The leaf juice is mixed with sufficient quantity slaked lime and applied for scorpion sting, leech bite and wasps. The fresh leaves are pounded into a paste by adding common salt. It is applied externally daily for a few days to heal abscess and scabies. The powder made from the dried leaves of the plant is sprayed to heal boils and bed sore. 2-3 gm leaf powder is mixed with honey and consumed daily in the morning and evening for fistula and piles. A teaspoonful of powder (leaf) of the plant is mixed in buttermilk and taken internally for indigestion. A handful of fresh leaves of the plant and 1 teaspoon cumin are made into pounded mass. It is mixed in cow milk and taken internally for haemorrhoids. The juice of the plant is applied on the forehead to alleviate headache. Teaspoonful of powder of the plant and black pepper (10:1) is mixed in cow milk and taken orally in the morning and evening for about 3 months to cure anemia.
**Acalypha paniculata** MLq

Herb. Leaves broadly ovate, 4-10 x 3-6 cm. Male flowers in slender, elongate, axillary spikes, to 10 cm, at times terminating in sterile female flower(s). Female flowers in terminal panicles; bracts minute, each subtending in terminal female flowers. Ovary 1 mm across, glandular ciliate. Flowers and fruits August to December.

**G. dist.**: Tropical Africa eastwards to Sri Lanka, Peninsula, Java.

**S. dist.**: Rare, slopes of the hill among the rocks in shallow soil at the western sector of the main hill.

**Breynia retusa** (Dennst.) Alston

*Mula- vengai* (L.N) *Khaja* (H.N)


**G. dist.**: Sri Lanka, India, South East Asia.

**S. dist.**:Rare, slopes at the northern side of the main hill among rocks near Pillathadam.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Root, Bark, Fruit

*Medicinal use*: Decoction prepared from the leaves, root and fruits of the plant is recommended for the treatment of cough, asthma and tuberculosis. The leaves and bark are boiled in the infusion of rice and reduced to the form of poultice and placed over swelling and tumour is said to ripen them effectively. The medicated oil prepared from the bark of the plant is used as liniment in rheumatism. The bark of the plant is also used for healing pleurisy.
**Croton bonplandianus** Ballon

*Peenaari* (L.N)

Annual herb; branchlets white warty. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, 2.5-4 x 1.5-2.5 cm. Racemes terminal, female (lower) and male (upper), subsessile. Male: tepals 10. Stamens many; anther-cells parallel. Female: Tepals 5, lanceolate. Capsule of 3, bivalved cocci; seeds carunculate. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. dist.: Temperate South America, naturalized throughout the subcontinent.

S. dist.: Common, in the foot hills and lower slopes of the hill, scarcely found towards interior of the forest.

**Euphorbia antiquorum** L.

*Mattakkalli, Sadhurakkalli* (L.N) *Tridhava Sahuna* (H.N)

Armed small tree; branchlets 3-5-angular, subsucculent. Leaves early deciduous. Cyathia in axillary, lax cymes. Involucre cupular, thick; appendages 0. Male florets in 5 groups of c.8 each, a few sterile, bracteolate; anthers globose. Female: floret single. Capsule 3-gonous, 1 cm across; seeds globose. Flowers whole year peak during December to January (Plate 6).

G. dist.: India, Sri Lanka.

S. dist.: Common, almost all places in the hills.

*Parts used:* Bark, Latex

*Medicinal use:* The bark of the plant is macerated by adding water. The paste is wrapped with clean cloth on the infected part of the body for the treatment of dracunculiasis. The decoction of the bark is given internally for rheumatism and to relieve pain in gout. The milky white
latex of the plant is applied as an antidote against poisonous animal bites. The milky white latex of the plant is used for tooth pain, for this cotton is dipped in the latex and placed over the infected tooth. ½ teaspoon juice extracted after warming the branch of the plant over the flame. It is mixed with pinch of *Curcuma aromatica* powder and given orally twice daily for bowel complaints, whooping cough and abdominal swelling.

**Euphorbia heyneana** Sprengel ssp. *heyneana*.

*Palla* (L.N) *Kshiree* (H.N)

Glabrous spreading herb. Leaves obovate to oblanceolate, to 4 x 3 mm. Cyathia axillary. Involucre tubular, 1 x 0.7 mm; glands 4; appendage inconspicuous. Male: floret(s) 1-4, ebracteolate; anther globose, dehiscence transverse. Female: laterally pendulous. Ovary 0.5 mm across. Capsule glabrous, 1.5 mm across, obscurely keeled; seeds 4-angled. Flowers and fruits whole year, less in summer.

G. *dist.*: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Burma, Java.

S. *dist.*: Common, open places at the western and southeastern sides of the main and adjacent hills in loose sandy soil.

*Part used*: Whole plant

*Medicinal use*: Bruised leaves of the plant are applied to on fresh cuts to arrest bleeding. The plant is also used improve the secretion of mother’s milk.

**Euphorbia hirta** L.

*Ammanpacharasi* (L.N) *Dudhi* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves decussate, broadly oblone to elliptic-lanceolate, 1-2.5 x 0.6-1.5 cm, 3-nerved. Cyathia aggregated in single
or paired, axillary clusters. Involucre campanulate; glands 5, minute, red; appendage as big as gland. Male: florets 4-6, ebracteolate; anther dehiscence transverse or longitudinal. Female: laterally pendulous. Capsule pubescent; seeds 4-angled. Flowers and fruits through the year.

G. dist.: Pantropical.

S. dist.: Common, almost all places in the hill groups.

Parts used: Whole plant, Latex, Flower

Medicinal use: A gooseberry size paste of the plant is mixed in boiled cow milk or butter milk and given internally, 3-5 days to cure constipation, biennorrhagia, leucorrhoea, anemia and body pain. The milky white latex of the plant is applied to cure whitlow and pimples. About 2-3 gm powder of the plant is (shade-dried) mixed in butter milk and given internally for babies for clearing bowel complaints, expel intestinal worms, ulcer and renal colic. The past made from the plant is applied to cure ring worms, herpes and cycosis. The milky white latex of the plant is applied to remove the dark and white spots on the skin. The flowers grated into a fine paste. A gooseberry size of the paste is mixed in warmed cow milk and given internally, twice daily for increasing the secretion of mother's milk.

Euphorbia thymifolia L.

Chitrappalai, Siruammanpacharasi (L.N) Chotidudh (H.N)

Softly hispid, prostate reddish, annual herb. Leaves suborbicular to oblong, 1-1.5- 0.5-1.5 cm 1-nerved. Cyathia solitary/in clusters. Involucre campanulate; glands 4, equal; appendage minute. Male: floret(s) 1-4, ebracteolate; anther dehiscence vertical. Female: laterally pendulous. Capsule ripening within the cyathium, appressed
hairy; seeds 4-angular. Flowers and fruits December to March.

G. dist.: Tropical Asia.

S. dist.: Rare, in the slopes among the rocks and rock crevices in open places; scarce at the south-eastern sector of the hills.

*Part used*: Leaf

*Medicinal use*: The fresh leaves are pounded into a paste along with black pepper. About a gooseberry size of the paste is given internally in the empty stomach early morning for white discharge, dysuria and blenorrhoea. The decoction of the leaves is given for babies to cure stomach pain, abdominal swelling and to expel intestinal worms. The juice of the plant is used to control skin infections.

**Euphorbia tirucalli** L.

*Kodikalli, Payittukalli (L.N) Sebund, Konpal (H.N)*

Small tree; branchlets terete, succulent; articulate. Leaves deciduous, linear to lanceolate, 1 x 0.5 cm. Cyathia a few, terminal, subsessile. Involucre broadly cupular; glands 5, circular to angular; appendage 0. Capsule globose, 0.5 x 0.8 cm; seed globose.

G. dist.: Old world Tropics.

S. dist.: Occasional, along the road sides and way sides of the forest at the western side of the hill.

*Parts used*: Leaf, Bark, Stem, Latex

*Medicinal use*: The milky white latex of the plant is applied to remove the thorns without pain. Paste prepared from the bark of the plant is applied externally and bandaged for bone fracture. The latex of the plant is dipped in cotton and placed over the infected teeth to alleviate tooth pain. The juice is applied to relieve pain of gout, paralysis and
rheumatism. The milky white latex of the plant is applied as an antidote against poisonous animal bite. The young leaves are collected along with piece of young stem. It is prepared in the form of pounded mass along with sufficient quantity of black pepper. Gooseberry size of the paste is given internally thrice, daily for 3-5 days to cure bronchitis and asthma. The fresh branch of the plant is warmed over the flame and the juice is extracted. About ¼ teaspoon of the juice is mixed with Curcuma aromatica powder and given internally for babies to cure bowel complaints, whooping cough and catarrhal affections.

**Euphorbia tortilis** Rottler ex Ainslie

*Thirugukalli* (L.N)

Small tree; branchlets 3-angular, twisted. Leaves deciduous. Cyathia paired, in groups of 3 or 4, axillary. Involucre cupular, coriaceous; glands 5, semicircular; appendage 0. Male: florets in 5 groups of 5 each, bracteolate; anther dehiscence vertical. Female: laterally pendulous. Capsule 3-gonous. 0.6 cm across; seeds 4-angled. Flowers and fruits December onwards.

*G. dist.*: Peninsular India.

*S. dist.*: Common, almost all places in the hill groups.

*Parts used*: Bark, Latex

*Medicinal use*: The medicinal uses of the plant are same as that of *E. antiquorum*.

**Jatropha curcas** L.

*Kadalaazhi* (L.N)  

*Bagbhenda* (H.N)

Shrub. Leaves entire or shallowly 5-lobed, 6-16 x 5-11 cm, cordiform. Flowers monoecious, in terminal cymes. Perianth 2-seriate,
5+5; outer tepals equal in male, unequal in female, ovate-ovate, sericeous at base within; inner tepals obovate, villous within. Stamens 10, (sub)bliseriate. Disc-glands 5, free, yellow. Capsule oblong (globose) 3 x 2.5 cm. Flowers April to July. Fruits May onwards.

G. *dist.*: New World tropics; planted in other tropical areas.

S. *dist.*: Rare, lower slopes at the southeastern sector of the hill.

*Parts used:* Bark, Young branch, Seed

*Medicinal use:* The root bark is grated and prepared into a pounded mass with cow milk. About berry size of this paste is mixed in cow milk and given internally for leprosy, dropsy and stomach disorders. The juice of the plant is applied on the fresh wounds to stop bleeding and healing. The juice of the plant is dipped in cotton and placed over the infected teeth to alleviate tooth pain. The juice of the plant is mixed with water and used as gargle to cure sores in the mouth. The young branch is cut and used as tooth brush to alleviate tooth pain, loosened tooth and pyorrhea. The oil extracted from seed is mixed with coconut oil and applied for curing sore, itch and abscess.

*Jatropha gossypifolia* L.

*Kattamanakku* (L.N) Janglierandi (H.N)

Shrub; branchlets purplish. Leaves in close spirals, deeply 3-5 lobed, 6-10 x 6.5-12 cm, margin serrate. Cymes dichasial, ca.6 cm. Flowers unisexual, 7 mm across. Tepals free, 5 + 5; outer lanceolate, sepaloid; inner ones obovate, petaloid. Stamens 8, diadelphous, 5+3; inner longer. Capsule 3-lobed, 2 x 1.5 cm. Flowers and fruits throughout the year.

G. *dist.*: New World tropics, planted elsewhere in tropics.

S. *dist.*: Common, almost all places in the hills up to 300m.
*Parts used:* Leaf, Seed

*Medicinal use:* The leaves are cut into small pieces and mixed in castor oil. The mixture is roasted in flame and rubbed over the body to cure rheumatic pain, swellings and paralysis. The oil extracted from the seed is mixed with coconut oil and applied for ringworm, scabies and eczema.

*Jatropha maheshwaril* Subr. et Nayar


G. *dist.::* Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts of Tamil Nadu State, India.

S. *dist.::* Occasional, foothills and lower slopes at the southern and eastern sectors of the hill in dry sandy and red soil.

*Phyllanthus amarus* Schum. and Thonn.

*Jar-aml* (H.N) *Kizharnelli* (L.N)


G. *dist.::* America, now pantropical.
Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: The paste made from leaf is applied to stop bleeding from cut and to fasten the healing of wounds. The fresh leaves are ground into a fine paste. A gooseberry size of the paste is mixed in cow milk and taken internally twice daily in the morning and evening for curing jaundice. It is also used effectively against anaemia, dropsy and hepatitis. The leaves of the plant along with equal quantity leaves of Azadirachta indica and Cynodon dactylon is dried and powdered. ½ - 1 teaspoon of this powder is mixed in water and taken orally twice daily for a few weeks as a preventive medicine against cancer. The juice extracted from fresh leaves of the plant is mixed with honey and drunk for curing urinary bladder and urinary diseases. The plant is ground into a paste by adding coconut water and applied over the body, left for some time and bath is taken to reduce the heat and burning sensation of the body. Leaves of this plant along with coriander leaves are macerated by adding milk. The paste is applied to prevent skin diseases and remove dark spots on the face. The juice extracted from the plant is mixed with milk and taken orally to cure the discharge of blood in the urine.

Phyllanthus maderaspatensis L.

Kanocha (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves linear to obovate, 0.5-1 x 0.3-0.6 cm; stipules peltale, lanceolate. Flowers small, solitary, axillary, male flowers above, female ones below; pedicel filiform; bracts 2; acute. Tepals 6, obovate. Stamens 3; filaments connate; anthers oblong. Ovary 3-celled. Disc-glands 6. Capsule 3-valved, globose, 4 mm across. Flowers and fruits whole year.
G. dist.: Tropical Africa, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Australia.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and slopes up to the top, rarely seen towards the slopes at the southeastern side of the hill.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: Infusion of the leaf is given for headache.

**Phyllanthus missionis** Hook f.

Herb. Leaves elliptic to obovate, 0.6-1.5 x 0.5-1 cm, stipules ovate. Flowers very small, monoecious. Calyx-lobes with obscure scarious margins. Petals 0. Staminal column slender; anthers reniform. Ovary 3-celled; style erect. Disc-glands peltate in male cushion-like in female. Capsule 3-valved; seeds trigonous. Flowers and fruits August to December (Plate 7).

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Rare, among the rocks in shallow soil at the exposed slopes in the western sector of the main hill up to 350 m.

Note: In Tamil Nadu it is known from the districts of Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram, Salem and Tirunelveli (Henry, et al., 1987). The present report from Maruthua Malai is an additional locality of its occurrence in the state.

**Phyllanthus reticulatus** Poiret

*Kattu kilanelli, Poolathi* (L.N) *Panjoli* (H.N)

Shrub. Leaves oblong-elliptic, 1.5-2 x 1-1.5 cm. Male: 5-7, in fasicles. Tepals 5, unequal, obovate. Stamens 5; inner 2 or 3 connate and longer, the rest free. Female: fewer and lower. Ovary 5-12-locular; ovules superposed; styles as many as, or fewer than, locules. Disc-glands 5. Berry dark blue, globose. Flowers January to May. Fruits June to October.
G. *dist.*: Tropical Africa, Sri Lanka, India, South East Asia, South China, Malaysia.

S. *dist.*: Common, foothills and slopes among the rocks and gorge.

**Parts used:** Young branch, Leaf, Bark, Fruit

**Medicinal use:** Young branches are cut into pieces and used in brushing teeth to control bleeding gum and strengthening of gum and enamel. 20 ml fresh leaf extract of the plant is drunk twice daily to cure haemorrhoids. About 100 gm crushed root bark of the plant is boiled in 500 ml of water till it reduces the volume of about 200 ml and decanted. The decoction is said to be useful as gargle in bleeding gum and psilosis. ½ ounce of the decoction is administered internally, twice daily for bleeding piles, lumbago and pain in the joints. The medicated oil prepared from the fruit of the plant is used for healthy growth of hair and alleviate the burning sensation of the eyes.

**Phyllanthus urinaria L.**

*Sivappukizharnelli* (L.N) *Hazarmani* (H.N)

Annual herb. Leaves small, oblong, 0.5-1.2 x 0.3-0.5 cm. Male: in upper axils, 1.5 mm across. Tepals 6, orbicular; anther dehiscence vertical. Stamens 3, connate. Disc 6-lobed. Female: in lower axils. Tepals 6, obovae-oblong. Capsule 3-valved, globose; seeds triquetrous. Flowers and fruits whole year.

G. *dist.*: Pantropical.

S. *dist.*: Common, exposed slopes of hills on the thin layer of soil up to the top of the hill, associated with herbaceous plants. Scarcely found at the slopes in the eastern and southern sectors of the hills.

**Parts used:** Whole plant, Leaf

**Medicinal use:** The whole plant is used for the treatment of dropsy and
urogenital trouble. The leaf juice is mixed with coconut milk and given internally for liver disease and jaundice.

**Sebastlanla chamaelea** (L.) Muell. Arg.

Monoecious herb. Leaves alternate, linear-lanceolate, 4-6 x 0.5-1 cm. Flowers in axillary spikes. Male: minute, in cluster of 3. Tepals unequally 5-partite or lobed, ovate. Stamens 3, exserted. Female: solitary, axillary or below the male flowers in the spike. Tepals 3, ovate. Ovary 3-lobed, echinate, 3-locular; ovules 3, pendulous. Disc 0. Capsule 3-lobed of 2-valved cocci; seeds oblong. Flowers and fruits whole year, less in summer.

G. dist.: India and Sri Lanka to Australia and Pacific.

S. dist.: Occasional, in the slopes and foothills at the western and southern sectors of the hills.

*Part used:* Whole plant

*Medicinal use:* Juice of the plant is used as astringent. The tonic made from the plant is applied to the head in vertigo. The oil prepared from the whole plant is useful for washing the head for alleviating giddiness and strengthening the brain.

**Securinega leucopyrus** (Willd.) Muell-Arg.

*Vellaipoola* (L.N) *Hartto* (H.N)

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Burma.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes of the hill up to the top.

**Part used:** Leaf

**Medicinal use:** Fresh leaves made into paste and applied to cure sores.

**Tragia plukenetii** R.-Sm.

Monoecious vine with stinging hairs. Leaves palmatifid, lanceolate or 3-5 lobed, 2-6 x 1-2 cm. Spikes slender axillary. Male: tepals initially connate, splitting in to 3, ovate, valvate, acute lobes. Stamens 3, included. Female: tepals 6, ovate, pinnatifid, accrescent, thinly pubescent without. Ovary pubescent, 3-locular; ovules 3; styles 3, stigmatiferous. Disc 0. Capsule 3-lobed; seeds globose. Flowers August to January. Fruits whole year.

G. dist.: Tropical and Sub tropical countries.

S. dist.: Rare, foothills at the south western sector of the hills over the bushes.

**Urticaceae**

**Pouzolzia auriculata** Wight


G. dist.: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes among the rocks and rock crevices.
**Pouzolzia zeylanica** (L.) Bennett

*Kalluruki* (L.N)


G. *dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, Asia, Malaysia.

S. *dist.*: Rare, slopes among the rocks in the fertile humus rich soil at the western sector of the main hill.

*Part used*: Whole plant

*Medicinal use*: The plant is used for the treatment of syphilis and gonorrhoea.

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**Moraceae**

**Ficus arnottiana** (Miq.) Miq.

*Kallarasua* (L.N) *Paraspipal* (H.N)

Small tree. Leaves cordiform, cordate at base 12 x 9 cm, glabrous. Figs in axillary pairs or crowded near apex, sessile, globose, 6-8 mm across, reddish when ripe, orifice plane. Tepals 3-4 lobed, brownish red, glabrous. Male around the orifice, and sparsely scattered in the interior of fig. Stamen 1. Female: sessile, cream, somewhat reddish on stylar side. Ovary depressed-globose; ovule 1; style filiform. Gall flowers stalked. Achenes smooth. Synconia December onwards.

G. *dist.*: India, Sri Lanka.
S. *dist.*: Rare, in the rock crevices and among the rocks in the upper reaches of the hill at the northern sector of the hills.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Bark

*Medicinal use:* Leaves and bark of the plant is used for skin diseases.

**Ficus benghalensis** L.

*Aala Maram* (L.N) *Bor* (H.N)


*S. dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, now widely cultivated.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, slopes and foothills at the western side of the main hill, particularly near the temple premises.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Bark, Young prop root, Latex, Seed

*Medicinal use:* The young prop root is cut into pieces and used in brushing teeth for strengthening the gum and enamel. The juice expressed from the young prop root is mixed with sugar or honey and taken orally for strengthening the body and vigour. Gooseberry size of the paste made from the young leaves of the plant is mixed in buttermilk and given internally for curing blood dysentery. The young twigs and seed are grated into a fine paste by adding milk. About berry size of the paste is given internally daily for 5-7 days to improve secretion of mother's milk, gonorrhoea and to reduce the burning sensation of the body. The seed of the plant along with seeds of *Ficus religiosa* is grated into a paste by adding milk. Berry size of the paste
is given internally daily for 5-7 days to cure blood vomiting and improve vitality. 100 gm bark of the plant is cut into small pieces, boiled in 1 liter water and reduced to 100 ml and decanted. 50 ml of decoction is mixed with palm jaggery and given orally in the morning and evening daily to cure diabetes and painful urination. The latex of the plant is mixed with water and used as gargle to heal the sores in the mouth. The latex of the plant is applied to heal cracks in the foot. The ash of the prop root is mixed in gingili oil and applied to cure erysipelas.

**Ficus mollis** Vahl Symb.

Tree, branchlets fulvous-tomentose. Leaves elliptic-ovate to pandurate, 6-15 x 3-9 cm, subcoriaceous. Figs monoecious, axillary, paired or clustered, sessile, globose, 0.5-0.8 cm across; fig-wall (sub)fleshy, brownish, tomentose; internal bristles sparse to abundant. Perianth almost free. Tepals 3-4, ovate-lanceolate, brown. Male: disperse, subsessile. Stamen 1; anther oblong. Female: sessile. Ovary ellipsoid-globose, brown. Achenes smooth. Synconia August onwards.

**G. dist.**: India, Sri Lanka.

**S. dist.**: Rare, base of the hill in the southern sector of the hills among rocks.

**Ficus religiosa** L.

**Arasu Maram** (L.N) **Pipal** (H.N)

Tree. Leaves broadly ovate, 5-12 x 5-9 cm. Figs monoecious, axillary, paired, sessile, obovoid/globose, to 6 (7) mm across; fig wall thick; basal bracts cupular, persistent; orifice umbonate, closed by 3 apical bracts. Male: ostiolor, sessile. Tepals 2, free, ovate-lanceolate. Stamen 1; anther oblong, parallel. Female: sessile. Tepals 3-4, free,

**G. dist.**: Himalayan forest from Rawalpindi eastwards, Yunnan, Cochin-China, North Thailand.

**S. dist.**: Occasional, base of the hill at the leeward side of the hill particularly around the temple premises.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Bark, Seed

*Medicinal use:* The young leaves made into paste and applied to cure sores, burns and boils. About 50 gm, young leaves is boiled in milk and decanted. The decoction is mixed with sugar and taken orally to reduce heat of the body. The juice extracted from the plant is applied to cure cracks in the foot. The decoction prepared from the bark of the plant is given internally for white discharge and syphilis. The mature bark of the plant along with equal quantity bark of *Ficus benghalensis*, *Azadirachta indica* and *Syzygium cumini* are dried and powdered. One spoonful of this powder is boiled in 400 ml of water and reduces to a volume of 100 ml and decanted. The decoction is taken orally in the empty stomach early morning for controlling diabetes. The young leaves are boiled in milk and taken orally by adding sugar to cure fever. The tonic made from seeds of the plant is used to improve sexual vigour.

*Ficus tsjakela* Rheede ex Burm.f.

*Kallal* (L.N)

Tree. Leaves broadly elliptic-oblong, 10-20 x 5-9 cm; stipules leafy; reddish. Figs monoecious, axillary or on leafless branchlets, 2-6, rarely 1, sessile, depressed-globose, 0.4-0.6 cm across; fig-wall thin. Tepals 2-3 in male; 3-4(5) in female, free or basally jointed, ovate-lanceolate, brown, glabrous. Male: ostiolar, (sub)sessile, 1-seriate.

*G. dist.*: Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, exposed slopes among the rocks up to the top of the hill, scarcely seen towards the eastern side of the associated hills.

**Streblus asper** Lour.

*Prayan* (L.N)  
*Siora* (H.N)

Stiff bush. Leaves elliptic-ovate to rhomboid, 4-8 x 2-3.5 cm, scabrid. Flowers dioecious rarely monoecious, axillary. Male: in stalked clusters. Female: solitary or 2-4 together, peduncled, bracteate at base. Tepals 4, ovate, puberulous. Stamens 4. Pistillode dialated at the apex. Ovary straight; style branching from below. Drupe enclosed by enlarged perianth. Synconia August to October.

*G. dist.*: Sri Lanka, India, East and South East Asia, Malaysia.

*S. dist.*: Rare, top of the hill at the western sector of the main hill on the way to Pillathadnam, not found in the rest of the hills.

**Parts used:** Young Stem, Leaf, Bark, Latex

**Medicinal use:** Young branches are cut into pieces and used in brushing teeth to cure pyorrhea. The milky white latex of the plant is applied to cure leprosy. The leaves are cut in to small pieces after removing the veins. It is roasted in ghee and ground into paste along with palm sugar. Gooseberry size paste is given internally thrice daily for curing blood dysentery and cystitis. The paste made from the bark of the plant is applied to heal boils, ulcers and acne.
Agavaceae

*Agave angustifolia* Haw.

*Kattalai* (L.N)  
*Khetki* (H.N)


G. *dist.*: Naturalized in Peninsular India.

S. *dist.*: Occasional, exposed slopes and base of the hills.

*Part used*: Leaf

*Medicinal use*: Juice extracted from the leaves is applied to cure bruises. The pulp of the plant is made into paste and applied to heal wound caused by spider bite.

*Agave cantula* Roxb.

*Aanai kattalai* (L.N)  
*Kantala* (H.N)

Perennial arborescent shrub. Leaves radical, fleshy, coriaceous, dorsiventrally flat, prickly on the margins and apex ashy grey. Scape stout 3-5 m. Perianth shortly tubular below; lobes 3+3, subequal. Stamens 6. Ovary 3-celled; ovules many. Capsule loculicidal, seeds numerous. Flowers and fruits March to June (Plate 6).

G. *dist.*: Naturalised in many parts of India

S. *dist.*: Occasional, along the forest border at the southeastern and extreme eastern sectors of hill.

*Parts used*: Leaf

*Medicinal use*: The pulp of the plant is mixed with sugar candy and
consumed for curing white discharge. The juice extracted from the leaf of the plant is applied to cure bruises. About 100 gm gel collected from the fleshy leaf of the plant is mixed with 25 gm *Hemidesmus indicus* root powder. The mixture is boiled in 500 ml of water till it is reduced to about a third and decanted. One ounce of the decoction is given orally thrice daily for curing venereal diseases.

**Sansevieria roxburghiana** Schultes and Schultes f.

*Marul* (L.N)       *Marul, Murha* (H.N)


*G. dist.*: Coromandel Coast.

*S. dist.*: Occasional, foothills and lower slopes in the rocky sandy soil and among the rocks at the southeastern and northwestern sectors of the hills.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Rhizome

**Medicinal use:** The leaves warmed over the flame and juice is extracted. One teaspoon of this juice is mixed with breast milk and given internally for babies to clear viscid phlegm from the throat. A few drops of the juice are dropped into the ear to alleviate ear pain. Gooseberry size of the past made from the rhizome of the plant is mixed in milk and decanted. It is given twice daily for a few days to cure long-standing cough, piles, heart diseases, thirst and rickets.
**Liliaceae**

*Aloe barbadensis* Mill.

*Chottukattalai, Kumari* (L.N) *Ghikanvar* (H.N)

Perennial herb. Leaves radical, in rosettes, ensiform, 20-50 x 3-6 cm, succulent, spiny. Scape(s) 1-3, racemes to 40 cm, stout. Perianth-tube terete, somewhat curved; lobes 6, orange, oblong, 3-nerved. Stamens 3+3. Capsule ellipsoid-oblong. Flowers November to December.

*G. dist.:* Mediterranean, Canary Island, naturalized in Florida, West Indies, Central America and Asia.

*S. dist.:* Rare (planted), slopes among the rocks near the cave temples located at western side of the main hill.

**Part used:** Leaf

**Medicinal use:** The gel drawn from the thick fleshy leaf is applied to minor burns, cuts, scalds and sun-burns, skin eruption and hemorrhoids. After washing the gel repeatedly, two teaspoons gel along with pinch of turmeric powder is taken internally to cure peptic ulcer. The gel of the fresh leaves cut into small pieces and wash thoroughly. It is mixed with sugarcandy and consumed to reduce the heat of the body and to alleviate the burning sensation of eyes, legs and hands. 10-15 ml juice extracted from the fresh leaf of the plant is taken orally in the morning and evening to cure dyspepsia and stomach pain formed during menstruation. The gel is mixed in buttermilk and taken orally for white discharge and menorrhagia.

*Asparagus racemosus* Willd.

*Sathaveri* (L.N) *Satavar* (H.N)

Armed vine, spines erect. Leaves scaly, triangular, to 5 mm,
stiff-acuminate. Cladodes 2-6, linear. Raceme(s) 1 or 3 in a cluster, to 6 cm. Flowers bisexual, strongly scented. Perianth-lobes 6, white, oblong-ovate, 1-nerved. Stamens 6. Berry globose; seeds 3-6, globose. Flowers and fruits November to March.

G. dist.: Africa through South East Asia, South Malaysia and North Australia.

S. dist.: Occasional, in the slopes and base of the hill up to 300 m.

Part used: Rhizome

Medicinal use: 15-20 ml juice extracted from the fresh rhizome of the plant is mixed with equal part of milk and sufficient quantity of sugar. It is taken orally three times daily in cases of dysuria, tuberculosis, seminal weakness, impotency and to improve vitality and vigour. The juice expressed from the rhizome of the plant is mixed with milk or ghee and taken orally twice daily to increase breast milk. 10-15 ml of juice mixed with honey is taken 2-3 times daily, relieves burning sensation and pain in the stomach, hoarseness of voice and bilious affections. 10-15 ml of juice is taken orally, 3-4 times a day, to arrest diarrhea and for treating fever. The tonic, special preparation made from the rhizome of the plant along with other ingredients is taken (two teaspoons, twice daily) as an excellent aphrodisiac and lactagogue. It is also used for treating general debility, burning sensation of the body, defective vision and gonorrhea. The other ingredients invariably used in the preparation are the seeds of three figs (F. racemosa, F. religiosa, F. benghalensis), glove, Myristica fragrans, Curcuma aromatic, Curculigo orchioides, Acorus calamus, turmeric and ghee.
Commellinaceae


Neerpulli (L.N) Solraj (H.N)

Creeping or suberect herb. Leaves narrow-lanceolate, 4-8 x 0.5-1 cm, succulent; sheaths pilose, pouched. Cymes in axillary clusters at leaf-sheaths. Calyx-lobes lanceolate. Petals pink-purple, ovate. Stamens 6. Ovary 3-celled, wolly; style pilose. Capsule ellipsoid. Flowers and fruits August to September and November to December.

G. dist.: Himalaya, India to China, Malaysia, Australia.

S. dist.: Common, throughout the hill especially in the moist places.

Part used: Whole plant

Medicinal use: The plant is used as a remedy in tympanitis. It is applied externally to cure ascites.

Commelina benghalensis L.

Kaanavazhai (L.N) Kanchara (H.N)

Herb; rootstock with cleistogamous flowers. Leaves ovate or oblong ovate, 2.5-5 x 2-3 cm. Spathes clustered, funnel-shaped, pubescent; upper cymes 2-flowered; lower one 1 or 2-flowered. Petals 3, blue, clawed, unequal. Stamens 3. Ovary glabrous, 3-celled. Capsule ellipsoid, 3-celled, to 6 mm; seeds 5. Flowers and fruits whole year except summer season.

G. dist.: Africa, India, East Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Occasional, moist places of the hill along the valleys, streams and also under the vegetation in loose soil.

Part used: Leaf

Medicinal use: The leaves are made into paste and applied to cure
cracks and wounds in the nipple. The leaves cooked along with red gram and taken internally for blood dysentery and seminal weakness.

Commelina diffusa Burm. f.

Kanshura (H.N)

Herb. Leaves lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, 3-6 x 0.5-0.7 cm, chartaceous; sheath ciliate, spathes complicate, oblong-lanceolate. Sepals 3; inner 2 often connate at the base. Petals 3, clawed, ovate. Capsule 3-celled, oblong, apex beaked. Flowers and fruits throughout the year except summer.

G. dist.: Pantropical and warm-temperate regions.

S. dist.: Occasional, wet places at the base of the hills.

Parts used: Leaf, Whole plant

Medicinal use: The whole plant is crushed and applied externally to heal burns. Poultice made from fresh leaves of the plant is used to cure sores.

Commelina ensifolia R. Br.

Perennial herb. Leaves linear 4-9 x 0.5-0.7 cm. Spathe solitary, ovate, to 1.4 cm long; peduncle to 1 cm. Petals 3, blue, unequal. Capsule 2-celled, to 6 mm; seeds ca. 3, ovoid, smooth. Flowers and fruits August to January.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Australia.

S. dist.: Occasional, moist places of the hill groups among the rocks associated with herbaceous plants.

Cyanotis tuberosa (Roxb.) Schultes and Schultes f.

Densely villous or pubescent herb; roots tuberous. Leaves radical and cauline, oblong-lanceolate, 7-15 x 3-5 cm, often pinkish-
green. Cymes to 2 cm, corymbose. Calyx-tube villous; lobes 3. Petals 3, purple, unequal, united. Stamens 6. Ovary 3-celled; ovules 2 per cell. Capsule to 3 mm. Seeds c. 6, obscurely rugose. Flowers and fruits whole year (Plate 7).

G. dist.: Peninsular India.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes among the rocks and rock crevices in the sandy-clay and rocky soil up to 350 m.

**Part used:** Tuber

**Medicinal use:** The decoction prepared from the tuber of the plant is taken orally twice daily for a few days to cure fever.

**Areceae**

**Borassus flabellifer** L.

Panai Maram (L.N) Tart (H.N)


G. dist.: Africa, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, India, South East Asia, Malaysia.

S. dist.: Occasional, base of the hill at the south eastern sector of the hill groups and a few places in the western sector of the main hill.

**Parts used:** Leaf, Fruit, Young bulb

**Medicinal use:** The tender kernel is eaten along with its coat a few
times a day to cure dysentery. The water of the tender kernel is drunk to reduce the heat of the body and to control hiccup and to cure acne. 300-400 ml toddy of the plant is taken orally for a few days to cure bilious affection, itch, dysuria and strengthening of the body. Cooked young bulb of the plant is eaten to reduce heat of the body, scabies and blood dysentery. The juice expressed from the ripened fruit is applied on the scalp to control lice and dandruff. The ash of the leaves is mixed in honey and eaten to stop vomiting and hiccup. Jaggery is mixed with parched grain flour, cooked and eaten to cure dyspepsia, burning sensation of heart, biliousness and to improve the vigour of the body. Jaggery is also used as one of the important ingredient in many medicinal preparations.

Phoenix loureirii Kunth

Siruueecham, Eenthi (L.N)

Dioecious shrubs; stem very short or none. Leaves pinnate to 2.5 m long; leaflets 15-30 x 0.8-1 cm, pliable, base narrow, apex acuminate, spinous. Spadices interfoliar. Male; spadix to 40 cm; spikes in clusters; spathes 15-20 cm. Calyx-lobes triangular. Petals 3, oblong. Stamens 6. Female: spadix to 1 m; spikes to 8 cm. Drupe oblong to 1.5 cm. Flowers and fruits peak during October to January (Plate 3).

G. dist.: India, Himalaya, Burma, Indo-China, China.

S. dist.: Common, exposed slope of the hill among the rocks up to the top.

Part used: Tender shoot

Medicinal use: The tender shoot is cut into small pieces and boiled in 500 ml of water and reduced to a volume of 150 ml and decanted. About 50 ml decoction is taken orally twice daily in the morning and
evening seven days to cure hepatitis. Berry size of the past made from the tender shoot of the plant is given twice daily for women to promote menstruation or regulates menstrual periods.

**Cyporacon**

*Bulbostyliis barbata* (Roth) C. B. Clarke


*G. dist.*: Old World tropics and subtropics from North Africa to India, East Asia and South to Malaysia and Australia.

*S. dist.*: Common, exposed slopes and floor of the hills in dry soil.

**Cyperus rotundus** L.

*Korai* (L.N) *Motha* (H.N)

Stem sparsely tufted, rigid, triquetrous. Leaves flat, 7-12 x 0.3-0.3 cm, scabrous. Spikes at right angles to rachis. Spikelets 2-8, spicate, narrow-oblong, 10-20-flowered, rachilla persistent, winged. Stamens 3, red-crested. Nut oblong, trigonous. Flowers and fruits whole year.

*G. dist.*: Cosmopolitan.

*S. dist.*: Common, foothills and slopes among rocks aerated soil.

**Part used**: Tuber

**Medicinal use**: The decoction prepared from root tuber is taken to cure fever and quenching thirst. 40 gm crushed tuber of the plant is boiled in 500 ml of water till it is reduced to about a third. 1-1½ ounce of the decoction is mixed with a little quantity of honey and given internally
2-3 times daily to improve mental power, appetite, vitality, vigour and to increase the secretion and discharge of urine. The crushed tuber of the plant is boiled in cow milk and decanted after cooling. It is given for babies to control vomiting and stomach pain caused by intestinal worms. The cleaned tuber is ground into paste along with a small piece of ginger. It is mixed with honey and consumed to cure dysentery.

**Cyperus stoloniferus** Retz.


*G. dist.:* Mauritius, Madagascar, South East Asia, Queensland, Malaysia.

*S. dist.:* Common, in the crevices of rocks and exposed slopes of the hill.

**Cyperus tenuispica** Steudel.

Stem tufted, erect, slender, triquetrous. Leaves flat, to 18 cm, to 4 mm wide. Inflorescence (de)compound, 3-7 cm. Spikelets 3-5, narrowly linear, pale-brown or stramineous, ca.20-flowered; rachilla flexuous, wingless. Glumes ovate, membranous; keel 3-nerved. Stamen(s) 1(2). Nut ovoid to subglobose. Flowers and fruits September to December.

*G. dist.:* Tropical and subtropical Africa and Asia.

*S. dist.:* Occasional, moist places of the hills in red soil along the sides of the rocks.
Fimbristylis falcata (Vahl) Kunth

Perennial herb, with a short rhizome; stem sparsely tufted. Leaves flat, to 5 x 0.3 cm; ligule 0. Inflorescence compound or decompound, at times capitate; involucral bracts 3-5, rigid; primary rays 3-5, slender; secondary rays(s) 1-3. Spikelet(s) ellipsoid, solitary, rarely 2-5 in a cluster; rachilla winged. Glumes ovate; keel 3-5 nerved. Stamens 3. Nut obovoid, brown or pale, minutely tubercular. Flowers and fruits August to January.

G. dist.: Sri Lanka, India, Nepal.

S. dist.: Common, exposed grassy hill slopes.

Kyllinga bulbosa P. Beauv.


G. dist.: Tropical Africa, Asia to Northern Australia.

S. dist.: Rare, among the rocks on the slopes

Poaceae

Apluda mutica L.

Muzhamchadee (L.N)

Perennials; culms branched, rooting at lower nodes. Leaves 18 x 0.5 cm. Panicles to 20 cm, narrow; racemes many; spikelets 3 per raceme, 1-sessile, 2 pedicelled. Sessile spikelet: 2-flowered, lower male or bisexual, upper bisexual, oblong, falling entire. Glumes equal; lower convolute; upper keeled. Lemmas hyaline, paleate; lower lemma
oblong, 2-keeled. Anthers 3; upper lemma deeply 2-fid; awn to 1.6 cm, glabrous. Caryopsis ellipsoid to 1.5 mm. Pedicelled spikelet bisexual, awnless. Flowers and fruits January to March.

G. dist.: West Asia, Tropical Asia, India, New Caledonia.

S. dist.: Occasional, exposed slopes of the hill.

*Aristida adscensionis* L. var. *adscensionis*


G. dist.: Throughout tropics.

S. dist.: Occasional, base and lower slopes of the hills in open places.

*Aristida setacea* Retz.

*Moonchudai* (L.N)

Perennial grass; culms erect, up to 50 cm tall. Leaves flat 10-25 cm, convolute, smooth. Panicle contracted. Spikelets 1-flowered; rachis terete, glabrous. Glumes linear, convolute, aristate. Lemma with bearded callus; awn sessile; setae 3, slender; palea very small, bisexual. Caryopsis linear, to 2 mm. Flowers and fruits July to February.

G. dist.: South East Asia, India, Sri Lanka to Mascarene Island.

S. dist.: Common, almost all segments of the hills in open places.

*Brachiaria distachya* (L.) Stapf

Perennial grass; culms straggling, up to 40 cm high. Leaves linear to narrowly lanceolate, 1-2 x 0.4 cm. Racemes 2-4, spikes up to

G. dist.: West Asia, India to Sri Lanka, South East Asia, introduced in Africa.
S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes in the south eastern sector of the hills.

**Brachiaria ramosa** (Linn.) Stapf

*Sanam pul* (L.N)

Perennial grass; culms erect, up to 50 cm. Leaves linear-lanceolate, 5-12 cm long. Racemes 10-12 cm long. Spikelets greenish, broadly ellipsoid 3 x 1.5 mm. Glumes, membranous, unequal, membranous; lower glume broadly ovate, 5-nerved, nearly half as long as spikelet. Lemmas dissimilar. Anthers 3. Caryopsis broadly-elliptic, covered by transversally rugose glume. Flowers and fruits August to February.

G. dist.: Senegal to Yemen and Southwards to Malawi and South Africa, West Asia, India and tropical Asia.
S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes at the south eastern sector of the hills.

**Chloris inflata** Link

*Kodai pillu* (L.N)

Erect or geniculate ascending perennial herb; culms sparsely tufted. Leaves narrowly-linear with rolled margins, 5-17 cm long; ligule hairy or membranous. Spikes 8-15, purplish, slender. Spikelets subsessile, 3-flowered. Glumes unequal, membranous; fertile lemma 3-nerved, obovate, densely stiff-ciliate on margins and on keel, awn to
5 mm. Caryopsis to 1.8 x 0.2 mm. Flowers and fruits September to February.

**G. dist.:** Widespread throughout tropics.

**S. dist.:** Common, exposed slopes at the eastern and south eastern sectors of the hills.

**Chrysopogon fulvus** (Sprengel) Chiov.

Perennial herb; culms densely tufted at base. Leaves to 5 x 0.4 cm, tubercled-ciliate. Panicles terminal, lax, ovate. Sessile spikelet: lower glume folded, apically hispid without; upper glume densely stiff, rugous-hairy without on the keel; awn to 8 mm. Stamens 3. Caryopsis laterally compressed. Pedicelled spikelet. Flowers and fruits December to March.

**G. dist.:** Plains- tropics of Asia and East Africa.

**S. dist.:** Occasional, top of the hill at the southeastern side over thin layer of soil.

**Cymbopogon flexuosus** (Nees ex Steud.) Wats.

**Chukkunaari (L.N)**

Annuals; culms up to 1.5 m tall. Leaves linear, 25 cm-1 m long, flat; sheaths glabrous; ligule membranous. Panicle greyish, lax; spathes inconspicuous. Spikelets binate. Sessile spikelet: oblong, dorsally compressed. Lower glume 2-keeled; winged; upper glume boat-shaped, 1-keeled. Caryopsis oblong. Pedicelled spikelet to 5 mm. Flowers and fruits peak during November to January.

**G. dist.:** Indomalesia.

**S. dist.:** Common, exposed slopes among the rocks and valleys of the hills.

*Parts used:* Leaf, Root
Medicinal use: The leaves boiled in water and water is poured over the body in mild heat to alleviate rheumatic pain, swellings, and skin diseases. The leaves and root boiled in water and the steam is inhaled to cure colds and cough and headache.

*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.

*Arugampul* (L.N) *Durba* (H.N)

Perennial grass; erect culms with creeping rhizome. Leaves linear-oblong, to 10 cm long, folded; sheaths to 3.5 cm long. Spikes 1-sided, oblong to 5 cm long. Spikelets sessile, laterally compressed, alternately 2-seriate, imbricate, 1-flowered. Glumes 2, lanceolate, 1-nerved, persistent; lemma pubescent on keel; palea as long as lemma. Stamens 3. Caryopsis linear. Flowers and fruits November to January.

*G. dist.*: Tropical and warm temperate regions throughout the world.

*S. dist.*: Common, foothills and lower slopes in loose shallow soil, rarely seen towards the top and interior of the hill

Parts used: Leaf, Root, Whole plant

Medicinal use: A few drops of juice expressed from the leaves of the plant are dropped into the nostril to stop bleeding from the nose. Paste made from the plant is applied externally to stop bleeding and fasten healing wounds. 40 gm root of the plant along with equal quantity of *Hemidesmus indicus* (root), *Aloe vera* (leaf gel), *Cassia auriculata* (bark) are mixed and crushed together. The mixture is boiled in 1 liter water and reduced to a volume of 250 ml and decanted. ½ ounce of the decoction mixed with 100 ml of boiled water and given orally every 4 hours to cure syphilis, gleet, and blennorrhoea. The infusion prepared from the plants along with turmeric and pinch of caco₃ is
applied to cure whitlow. The plant is mixed with equal quantity leaves of *Ocimum tenuiflorum*, *Betal*, *Mangifera indica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Leucas aspera*, *Phyllanthus amarus* and root of *Catheranthus roseus*. The ingredients are macerated by adding water, decanted, and taken orally in the morning for a few months to cure cancer.

**Dactyloctenium aegyptium** (L.) P. Beauv.

Annual grass; culms to 50 cm tall, matty, geniculate. Leaves linear 5-2 x 0.4-0.6 cm. Spikes 2-6 digitate, oblong. Spikelets 2-3-flowered, sessile, laterally compressed, in two rows. Glumes subequal, folded; lower glume scabrid along keel. Lemmas 3-5, membranous. 1-keeled. Anthers 3. Caryopsis obovoid-globose, 0.1-0.2 cm long. Flowers and fruits September to February.

**G. dist.**: Widely distributed in tropics and warm temperate regions of the Old World.

**S. dist.**: Occasional, exposed slopes up to 275 m.

**Digitaria ciliaris** (Retz.) Koeler.

Annuals; culms to 60 cm tall. Blades oblong-linear, 3-8 x 0.3-0.6 cm, flat. Racemes digitate or in 1-3 whorl(s); rachis serrate. Spikelets oblong, binate, homomorphous, smooth. Lower glume a triangular scale; upper glume linear-lanceolate, 3-5 nerved; lower lemma, 5-nerved, inequidistant; upper lemma obscurely 3-nerved. Stamens 3. Caryopsis ellipsoid-oblong. Flower and Fruits September to December.

**G. dist.**: India, Pakistan; common throughout much of the tropics.

**S. dist.**: Common, along the waysides and among the rocks in the slopes associated with other herbaceous species.
Eragrostilella bifarla (Vahl) Bor

Perennial herb; culms to 50 cm. Blades linear, 2-12 cm long, involuted, 1-2 mm wide, apex acute. Racemes 5-20 cm. Spikelets to 1.5 x 0.4 cm, straw coloured, 6-40 flowered. Glumes lanceolate, puncticulate; lemma broadly ovate-suborbicular. Stamens 3. Caryopsis oblong, 0.6 mm. Flowers and fruits August to December.

G. dist.: Himalaya, India.
S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes on the thin layer soil by rocks.

Eragrostilella brachyphylla (Stapf) Bor

Perennial herb; culms to 30 cm. Blades canaliculate, 2.5 x 0.1-0.2 cm, glabrous, apex obtuse. Raceme to 10 cm. Spikelets narrowly linear, 5-15 flowered. Glumes asymmetrical, 1-nerved; keel scaberulous. Lemma broadly ovate, 3-nerved. Anthers minute. Caryopsis ellipsoid. Flowers and fruits July to February.

G. dist.: Plains, wayside grass - India.
S. dist.: Common; foothills and lower slopes of the hill.

Ergrostis tenella (L.) P. Beauv. ex Roemer and Schultes var. insularis C.E. Hubb.

Tufted perennial grass; culms up to 25 cm tall. Leaves up to 9 x 0.4 cm, linear-lanceolate, acuminate; sheaths bristly. Spikelets oblong, 8-flowered, pale yellow, breaking up from apex; florets slightly overlapping. Caryopsis globose, to 0.5 mm. Flowers and fruits September to March.

G. dist.: Peninsula, Sri Lanka, Madagascar and Mascarenes.
S. dist.: Common, exposed slopes of the hill up to the top.
**Heteropogon contortus** (L.) P. Beauv. ex Roemer and Schultes

*Oosi Pullu* (L.N)  *Shurval* (H.N)

Perennial tufted grass. Leaves lanceolate, 22 x 1 cm, flat. Spikelets in terminal, solitary spikes, densely imbricated; the lower pair neuter, the upper ones hermaphrodite; awn of the fourth glume stout, twisted, 1 cm long. Caryopsis 0.8 cm long, obovate, apiculate. Flowers and fruits September to February.

G. *dist.*: Tropical and warm temperate regions.

S. *dist.*: Occasional, in the dry areas along the northeastern sector of the hills among the rocks in open places.

*Parts used*: Root

*Medicinal use*: The root of the plant is used as diuretic and stimulant.

**Panicum psilopodium** Trin.

Simple or branched grass, often tufted, 25-55 cm high. Leaves flat, linear, smooth, glabrous with cartilaginous margins, 5-20 x 0.7 cm. Panicles ovate-oblong, to 17 cm; branches alternate. Spikelets greenish, deciduous, oblong-ellipsoid, 2-flowered. Glumes herbaceous, unequal. Lemmas dissimilar; lower lemma 9-nerved. Caryopsis oval, to 0.3 cm long. Flowers and fruits September to February.

G. *dist.*: West Asia, India, Sri Lanka, South East Asia, Malaysia.

S. *dist.*: Common, base and slopes of the hill among the rocks.

**Panicum trypheron** Schultes

Culms tufted, to 40 cm. Blades linear to narrowly lanceolate, 3-7 x 0.3-0.6 cm. Panicles 5 - 12 cm. Spikelets ellipsoid; gaping at maturity; glumes unequal; lower glume 3-5 nerved; upper glume 7-9-nerved; lemma similar to upper glume. Anthers 3. Caryopsis ovoid.
Flowers and fruits November to February.

**G. dist.**: West Asia, India to South East to East Asia.

**S. dist.**: Common, exposed slopes of the hill up to the top.

**Pennisetum polystachyon** Schult.

Herb; culms stout. Leaves expanded, to 40 cm long. Panicles linear, slender. Spikelets sessile, subtended by scabrid, involucral bristles. Glumes small, hyaline, subequal; lemmas thin, chartaceous; lower lemma with a male or sterile floret; upper lemma with a bisexual floret. Caryopsis oblong, enclosed in the slightly hardened lemma and palea. Flowers and fruit October to December.

**G. dist.**: Old World tropics.

**S. dist.**: Rare, moist places of the hill particularly at the extreme eastern side.

**Perotis indica** (L.) Kuntze

**Narival, Kudiraival** (L.N)

Annuals; culms slender, tufted to 35 cm long. Leaves ovate or lanceolate, 1.5-2.5 x 0.3-0.6 cm, flat, rigid. Spike slender, to 10 cm. Spikelets dark-pink or greenish yellow, linear, awned, 1-flowered. Glumes subequal, narrow, 1-nerved; lemma 1-nerved. Stamens 3. Caryopsis linear, terete, to 0.2-0.3 cm long. Flowers and fruits October to December.

**G. dist.**: India, South East Asia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia.

**S. dist.**: Common, exposed slopes of the hill among rocks up to 275 m.

**Rhynchelytrum repens** (Willd.) C.E. Hubb.

Perenials; culms to 1 m. Leaves oblong, narrow-lanceolate 4-16
x 0.3-0.5 cm. Panicles to 15 cm. Spikelets ovoid, laterally compressed, pink to purple, callus bearded; lower glume linear, bristly without; upper glume, gibbous, 5-nerved, keeled, densely bristly without, beaked, emarginate; lemmas dissimilar; palea 2-keeled, containing male floret. Caryopsis narrow-ellipsoid, to 1 mm. Flowers and fruits August to December.

G. dist.: Throughout Africa, India, West Asia, introduced to most other tropical countries.

S. dist.: Occasional, foothills and slopes of the hill in full sun associated with herbaceous plants.

*Rottboellia cochinchinensis* (Lour.) Clayton

Annual or perennial tall grass. Leaves oblong-linear, to 75 cm long. Raceme(s) to 32 cm; internodes clavate, fused to adjacent pedicel. Spikelets 2-nate, sessile and pedicelled. Sessile spikelets: glumes paleate, subequal; lower convex; upper boat shaped; lemmas hyaline, lower enclosing male, upper bisexual. Caryopsis ellipsoid. Pedicelled spikelets male, oblong-lanceolate. Flowers and fruits September to February.

G. dist.: Tropical Asia, Africa, Malaysia, Australia

S. dist.: Rare, moist places at the base of the hill at the southern sector of the hill.

*Themeda triandra* Forsskal

Perennial, densely tufted grass. Leaves 15-30 x 0.3-0.6 cm, linear, rigid, glabrous, spreading. Spikelets greenish in leafy panicles of racemes; hermaphrodite spikelet only one in a raceme. Caryopsis linear-obovate, grooved in the front. Flowers and fruits almost throughout the year.
G. *dist.*: All warm and tropical regions of the Old World.

S. *dist.*: Common, along the rocky slopes and open forest floor.

**Tragus roxburghii** Panigra

Annual herb; culms to 10 cm. Blades densely crowded, lanceolate, 1-2.5 x 0.2-0.3 cm, flat. Raceme to 5 cm, solitary. Spikelets 2 in deciduous, subsessile cluster, lanceolate, 1-flowered. Glumes dissimilar, prickled, apically hooked; lemma lanceolate, membranous, pubescent without, paleate. Caryopsis ellipsoid, to 1.5 mm. Flowers and fruits November to February.

G. *dist.*: South East Asia, East Africa.

S. *dist.*: Rare, in the open forest floor at the western and south eastern sector of the hills.
Plate 3. Common Floristic Elements of The Hill Group
Plate 4. Important Medicinal Elements of The Area
Plate 5. Important Medicinal Elements of The Area

- *Cissus quadrangularis*
- *Cocculus hirsutus*
- *Tribulus terrestris*
- *Solanum incanum*
- *Tephrosia purpurea*
- *Cassia auriculata*
Plate 6. Important Medicinal Elements of The Area

- *Aerva lanata*
- *Securinega leucopyrus*
- *Clerodendron phlomides*
- *Euphorbia antiquorum*
- *Carmona retusa*
- *Indigofera tinctoria*
- *Kleinia grandiflora*
- *Pouzolzia zeylanica*
- *Agave cantula*