Materials and Methods
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The present investigation was undertaken a view to study the Ethnobotany of Irulars from Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu. A good number of aboriginal tribals inhabiting at the foot hills of Western Ghats. These people maintaining their own identity in terms of marriage pattern and other cultural aspects. The field work in tribal areas is the most important part of all Ethnobotanical studies. Before starting this work the necessary informations were collected.

Mainly two methods were adapted in collecting Ethnobotanical information from tribal people. The first step in Ethnobotanical work is to identify plants with the help of the local inhabitants and the details of population, area of distribution of the Irulars. The second step is that the plants near the tribal hamlets were collected and brought to the tribal physician’s / tribals’ house. Every plant was shown to him one after another, and recorded utility of plants. The tribes are highly reserved, so the adequate information gathering is highly difficult from them. Although, both methods or steps were used in the present field work.

The first step is more promising as it is not necessary to collect all the plants of an area. Local names were recorded in variably for the species collected; these will be useful in referring to the same plant again. These field visits were carried out with the help of local informants. With the help of highly experienced old tribal people the utility of plants which are found in and around the hamlets were collected and studied.
The voucher specimens are collected and their local names were noted and the parts such as leaves, fruits, roots etc. were collected and their uses were recorded. The specimens were pressed with the help of blotting papers and news papers and then the specimens were poisoned. The right specimens were then made into herbarium.

The plant collected were given a field number identified with the help of Gamble and Fischer's flora of Presidency of Madras (1957) and by comparing authentic sheets available in the Madras Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore (MH). The specimens are pasted in herbarium boards and stitched with the help of thin threads. The data were labelled in herbarium boards. To each specimen a short description regarding the use and the method of application is noted.

Plants are poisoned with the help of saturated solution containing 5gms of mercuric chloride dissolved in one litre of rectified spirit. The barks, fruits and dried inflorescence were preserved using saturated solution of 30% Formaldehyd, 10 gms of copper sulphate, 1 gm of mercuric chloride and 20 gms of Allum crystals. Seeds and millets were reserved with the help of saturated solution of methylated spirit and mercuric chloride. They were then placed in polythene bags. The herbarium specimens are deposited in the herbarium of the department of Botany, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore for future reference.

During the field trips photographs of the tribal hut, tribal people and some of the plants and their products were taken with the help of "PENTAX A-3000 Camera" for future reference.