STUDY AREA

Palode is a village in Thiruvananthapuram district, situated in the foot hills of the southern most region of the Western Ghats, and located 40 km away to north of its state capital. This forest region is located at 76° 40’ 77° 17’ east longitude and 8°7’ 8°53’north latitude with an area of 107.501 sq.km. This forest range comprises patches of forests and of these, eastern patch is the largest area bounded in the north by Kulathupuzha forest range, east by Tamil Nadu and south by Paruthipally forest range. While, rest of the smaller patches are distributed and scattered in the western side around Palode town. The altitude ranges from 70-1000 m, with rainfall about 2500 mm per annum. Temperature ranges from 18-37° C and the humidity rises up to 90% during the south west monsoon. It includes a part of Peppara wild life sanctuary, Ponmudi, Kallar, Njaranceeli tribal settlement area, Braemore rubber and tea estate area. It also includes Asia’s largest conservatory botanic garden, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, with an area of 300 acres with natural forest, exotics, rare, endemic and threatened plants. The natural vegetation comprises the Sholas in the higher elevations, tea plantations in the lower altitudes, plantations of exotics like Acacia, etc. This forest area represents: West Coast Tropical Evergreen, West Coast Semi Evergreen, Southern Hill Top Tropical Evergreen, Southern Secondary Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest, Southern Sub Tropical Savannah and Reed Brakes.
STUDY AREA

INDIA.

Kasaragod
Kollam
Wayanad
Kozhikode
Malappuram
Palakkad
Thrissur
Ernakulam
Idukki
Kollam
Kollam
Thiruvananthapuram
Kollam
Pathanamthitta
Alappuzha
Kollam
Kollam
Thiruvananthapuram

PALODE FOREST RANGE

Anchal Range

Kulathupuzha Range

Tamil Nadu

Paruthipally Range

0 2 4 6 8 Kilometers
Typical Evergreen Forest near Palode

Lianas in the degraded forest at Meenmuutty
Grassland adjacent to Shola Forest at Ponmudy

Deciduous Forest at Meenmutty