CHAPTER – IV

ENUMERATION OF THE KALRAYAN HILL
ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS AND USES

4.1 Introduction

The data that were recorded in the field and gathered from interviews with tribals and medicine men and women are accounted here. The detailed information pertaining to medicinal uses, as well as dosage and mode of administration are presented. Ethnomedicinal species are alphabetically arranged in the sequence of botanical name, family, local name ethnomedicinal use, part used and specimen citation. Only those species that are frequently used are enumerated here. The data have also been compared with similar knowledge documented from other tribals in the other hills of Tamilnadu such as the Irulas, Paliyans and the Malayalis of tamilnadu.

4.2 Enumeration of Ethnospecies

Botanical Name : Abrus precatorius L. ssp. precatorius
Family : Fabaceae
Local Name : Kuntumani
Parts used : Root, Leaf

Preparation and Administration : Root paste is used in cough, cold, wounds and menstrual trouble. Leaf juice is taken orally twice daily for urinary complaints. Leaf paste is applied on affected parts twice a day for one week to cure any type of skin disease. Decoction of leaves is used to wash the eyes early morning for one month to cure poor eyesight.

Specimen examined : MNR – 209.
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Botanical Name: **Abutilon indicum (L.) Sweet ssp. indicum**
Family: **Malvaceae**
Local Name: **Thutti**
Description: Shrub; leaves simple; flowers yellow, 2.5 cm in diameter, opening in the evening; fruit of ripe carpels separating from the axis.
Parts used: Root and Leaf.
Preparation and administration: Leaf extract with buttermilk is given orally to cure dysentery. Leaf extract with castor oil is used to cure piles. Root powder is taken for the treatment of leucorrhoea.
Specimen examined: MNR – 177.

Botanical Name: **Acacia caesia (L.) Willd.**
Family: **Mimosaceae**
Local Name: **Kari Indu**
Description: Climber with minute, hooked prickles; leaves bipinnate, pinnae 5.0-7.5 cm long, leaflets 0.3-0.5 cm; heads yellow; pods straight strap-shaped, dehiscent, 8- to 12-seeded.
Parts used: Bark, Root.
Preparation and administration: For lesion and for burning sensation during high fever root paste is applied.
Specimen examined: MNR 150.

Botanical Name: **Acacia catechu (L.f.) Willd.**
Family: **Mimosaceae**
Local Name: **Nil**
Description: Tree up to 10 m; spikes axillary, cylindrical; flowers small, sessile, pale creamy white; fruits flat, brown pods, shiny with a triangular beak at the apex and narrowed at the base; seeds 3-10 per pod.
Parts used: Heartwood, Gum and Bark.
Preparation and administration: Gonorrhoea, anti-cancer and bark decoction for dysentery and diarrhoea
Specimen examined: MNR – 141.
**Botanical Name**: Acacia chundra Willd.

**Family**: Mimosaceae

**Local Name**: Surangali

**Description**: A moderate-sized tree; branches armed. Leaves bipinnate; leaflets oblong. Flowers yellowish-white, in spikes. Pods brown, compressed.

**Parts used**: Leaf.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf paste mixed with castor oil (*Ricinus communis*) applied to boils and blisters.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 072.

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**Botanical Name**: Acacia farnesiana (L.) Willd.

**Family**: Mimosaceae

**Local Name**: Chillodai

**Description**: Erect shrub with zigzag branches; leaves alternate, bipinnate with minute leaflets; flowers borne on axillary cymose heads, small, fragrant, bright yellow; pods 5.0-7.5 cm long, 1.25 cm thick, dull brown, marked with 10-12 fine close horizontal constrictions.

**Parts used**: Leaf, Flower, Pigments, Pods and bark.

**Preparation and administration**: Various parts mentioned above are used for Gonorrhoea, Abortion, and cholera and for convulsions; bark for malaria.

**Specimen examined**: MNR - 274.

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**Botanical Name**: Acacia nilotica (L.) Willd. ex Del. ssp. indica (Benth.) Brenan

**Family**: Mimosaceae

**Local Name**: Karuvelam

**Description**: A moderate-sized tree; branches armed. Leaves bipinnate; leaflets linear-oblong. Flowers yellow, in globose heads. Pods white-tomentose torulose.

**Parts used**: Leaves, Flowers and Fruits.

**Preparation and administration**: Paste made from 10 gm gum and two leaves of Amaltas is taken with cow milk. Powder of unripe fruit, flowers, and leaves mixed in equal quantity with sugar and water is taken to relieve from leucorrhoea.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 017.
Botanical Name: Acacia polyacantha Willd.
Family: Mimosaceae
Local Name: Kovalai Mullu maram
Description: A stout prickly climbing shrub; leaves bipinnate, main rachis bearing sharp hooked prickles and a large gland on the petiole, pinnae 8 pairs or more, leaflets subsessile, sensitive; flowers small in globose heads, polygamous; fruits short-stalked in thin pods; seeds 6-10 per pod.
Parts used: Stem bark
Preparation and administration: Stem bark paste for swelling of throat of cattle.
Specimen examined: MNR -074.

Botanical Name: Acacia sinuata (Lour.) Merr.
Family: Mimosaceae
Local Name: Chiyakaai
Description: A large, prickly climbing shrub. Leaves bipinnate; leaflets linear. Flowers greenish-white, in globose heads. Pods thick, fleshy, rugose, compressed.
Parts used: Leaf and Fruit
Preparation and administration: Pounded leaf is bandaged after setting the bone properly (Bone fracture). Ash obtained from burning the dried fruits is mixed with gingelly oil and applied for Eczema.
Specimen examined: MNR – 053.

Botanical Name: Acalypha fruticosa Forssk.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Sinni
Description: Shrubs. Leaves ovate; spikes 3-cm long. Bracts bell shaped.
Parts used: Leaf
Preparation and administration: Leaf juice mixed with common salt relieves stomach pain and stomach upset.
Specimen examined: MNR – 155.

Botanical Name: Acalypha indica L.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Kuppaimeni
Description: An erect herb. Leaves simple, ovate, cuneate at base, crenate-serrate, glabrous. Flowers in axillary spikes, coarsely hairy.

Parts used: Leaf

Preparation and administration: Leaf paste with common salt and mixed with curd is applied on sores and scabies. Leaf paste mixed with common salt for eczema.

Specimen examined: MNR – 279.

Botanical Name: Achyranthes aspera L.
Family: Amaranthaceae
Local Name: Nayurivi

Description: An erect, diffuse herb, fine-pubescent. Leaves simple, opposite, decussate, obovate-orbicular, entire, rounded. Flowers greenish-white, in terminal spikes. Fruits deflexed; seeds shining.

Parts used: Seed, Root, Inflorescence and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Plant decoction is used to cure swelling. Seed powder mixed with honey is given to cure cough. Inflorescence and seed paste is applied on the wound of snake bite. When brushed with root relieves pain and cleans the teeth. Root paste is applied on hypogastrium to relieve excessive labour pain.

Specimen examined: MNR -006.

Botanical Name: Actiniopteris radiata (Sw.) Link
Family: Pteridophyte
Local Name: Nil

Description: Ferns in cool and shady areas.

Parts used: Fronds

Preparation and administration: The paste of about twenty grams of fresh green fronds is applied externally on the stomach especially around the navel area for three days once or twice to reduce colic pain even among adults.

Specimen examined: MNR – 106.

Botanical Name: Acorus calamus L.
Family: Araceae
Local Name: Vasambu
Description: Semi-aquatic aromatic herbs with creeping root stocks; leaves simple, sessile; flowers in spadix; fruits berries.

Parts used: Rhizome and Root

Preparation and administration: Oil prepared with rhizome used for epilepsy along with Carrisa carandas L. Dried root powder with ash of cow dung (1:1) used for killing lice on bodies of chick.

Specimen examined: MNR -040.

Botanical Name: Adhatoda zeylanica Medik.
Family: Acanthaceae
Local Name: Aadathodai

Description: Shrubs; leaves opposite, simple elliptic lanceolate; flowers in thyrsiform spikes, white, bi-lobed; fruits capsules; seeds tubercular – verrucose.
Parts used: Root, bark and leaves.

Preparation and administration: Root bark juice is taken with honey. Leaf decoction is given during labour pain. Leaf and decoction mixed with fruits of Piper longum for Asthma and cough. Leaf powder is boiled in gingelly oil and applied on the affected part against Psoriasis.

Specimen examined: MNR -025.

Botanical Name: Aegle marmelos (L.) Corrêa
Family: Rutaceae
Local Name: Vilvam

Description: A medium-sized thorny tree. Leaves 3-foliolate, ovate, sub-crenulate, acute and glabrous. Flowers white, in axillary panicles. Fruit a large globose berry; seeds embedded in fleshy pulp.
Parts used: Leaves.

Preparation and administration: Shade dried powdered leaves used for decoction and consumed for cooling effect and diabetes.

Specimen examined: MNR – 242.

Botanical Name: Aerva lanata (L.) Juss. ex Schult.
Family: Amaranthaceae
Local Name: Sirukkanpulai
Description: An erect, white-tomentose, diffuse herb. Leaves simple, orbicular, attenuate or cuneate at base, ciliate, obtuse or mucronate at apex. Flowers white, in axillary spikes. Seeds obovoid or orbicular, black.

Parts used: Leaf and Stem.

Preparation and administration: Leaf and tender shoot decoction is taken for urinary bladder stone and to stop burning of the male genitalia. Filtered leaf juice when poured in eyes, relieves smelling in the face.

Specimen examined: MNR – 162.

Botanical Name: Ageratum conyzoides L.
Family: Asteraceae
Local Name: Vadaichedi

Description: Erect hispid herbs, 30-80 cm high. Leaves obovate. Heads in terminal Corymbs. Florets blue-purple or white.

Parts used: Leaf and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Leaf juice put in nostrils for headache in migraine. Plant crushed and applied to fresh cuts.

Specimen examined: MNR – 245.

Botanical Name: Ailanthus exelsa Roxb.
Family: Simaroubaceae
Local Name: Peemaram

Description: A large, deciduous tree. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets alternate or sub-opposite, elliptic, oblique at base. Flowers yellow, in axillary or terminal panicles. Fruit a samara, 1-seeded.

Parts used: Bark and Leaves.

Preparation and administration: 2-3 teaspoonful bark decoction is given as contraceptive. Leaf juice and fresh bark juice are given with rice water or coconut water or with honey to stop pain after delivery.

Specimen examined: MNR – 102.

Botanical Name: Alangium salviifolium (L.f.) Wangerin ssp. salviifolium
Family: Alangiaceae
Local Name: Azingi
Description : Small deciduous tree; leaves simple, alternate; flowers in small close fascicles and calyx tube usually woolly, silky white; ovary inferior; berries black; seeds albuminous.

Parts used : Fruit, Seed, Leaf, Bark of Stem and Root.

Preparation and administration : Seed oil is applied on boils; Stem bark as poison for fish; paste of root bark applied for wounds of dog biting.

Specimen examined : MNR -060.

Botanical Name : Albizia amara (Roxb.) Boivin
Family : Mimosaceae
Local Name : Usilai


Parts used : Leaves

Preparation and administration : Shade dried and powdered leaves used to clear the hair and relieve dandruff.

Specimen examined : MNR – 272.

Botanical Name : Albizia lebbeck (L.) Benth.
Family : Mimosaceae
Local Name : Vagal

Description : Tall tree; leaves bipinnate; heads round, many-flowered, short-peduncled, 3-4 together from crowded upper nodes; flowers small, fragrant, yellow or greenish yellow; pods strap-shaped, yellow-brown, firm; 6-10 seeded.

Parts used : Root-bark, leaf, stem bark and seed.

Preparation and administration : Root powder is used in treating Constipation. Bark decoction is given during severe attack of Asthma with cough. Leaf juice is dropped into the eyes for Night blindness. Seed powder mixed in rice powder is made into cakes and given against night blindness. Root bark mixed with Capsicum seed and garlic is pound well and the juice is given for Thoracic pain.

Specimen examined : MNR -256.

Botanical Name : Allium cepa L.
Family : Alliaceae
Local Name : Vengayam
Description: Bulbous herb. Leaves radical, cylindrical and fistular; leaf-base sheathing. Flowers white, in umbels. Capsules small; seeds black.

Parts used: Bulb.

Preparation and administration: Three onion bulbs tied in a thread worn on the neck of the person suffering from chicken pox will give cooling effect; paste of the bulb applied over the forehead will relieve fever.

Specimen examined: MNR – 203.

Botanical Name: Aloe vera L.
Family: Liliaceae
Local Name: Sothukattalai

Description: A herb, stoloniferous. Leaves ensiform, succulent, spinous-dentate. Flowers scarlet or yellowish-green, in terminal racemes. Capsules loculicidal.

Parts used: Leaf

Preparation and administration: Fresh juice is useful in fever and for healing wounds. Leaf pulp is useful in menstrual suppression. Leaf pulp and turmeric paste is applied on breasts to cure swelling during early lactation.

Specimen examined: MNR – 218.

Botanical Name: Alpinia galanga L.
Family: Zingiberaceae
Local Name: Peraraththai

Description: Plants 2m high with tuberous aromatic deep orange-brown rootstock. Panicles branched, and densely flowered. Flowers greenish white. Fruits orange red

Parts used: Rhizome

Preparation and administration: Slightly burnt rhizome is powdered and small quantity of powder mixed with honey and the mixture is administered for stomach upset and in digestion in children.

Specimen examined: MNR – 117.

Botanical Name: Alstonia scholaris (L.) R. Br.
Family: Apocynaceae
Local Name: Ealilaikalli
Description: Large, evergreen tree with straight and buttressed base; leaves simple, whorled; flowers aromatic, greenish white, pendulous, in clusters.

Parts used: Stem, Bark and Root.

Preparation and administration: Stem bark decoction is given for colic pain, stomach ache, and rheumatism. Root bark decoction is applied on scabies.

Specimen examined: MNR - 131.

Botanical Name: Alternanthera sessilis (L.) R. Br. ex DC.
Family: Amaranthaceae
Local Name: Ponnankanni
Description: Prostrate herb; leaves linear or oblong or lanceolate or elliptic; heads axillary, sessile, white, glistening; flowers minute with corky wings.

Parts used: Young Shoots.

Preparation and administration: Pain in ears is treated with young shoots of the plant and plant decoction with pepper is given for fever.

Specimen examined: MNR - 081.

Botanical Name: Amaranthus spinosus L.
Family: Amaranthaceae
Local Name: Mullukeerai
Description: Perennial, erect, strong herb; stem armed with prickles; leaves simple, petiole and axils with 5 spines; spikes densely flowered; unisexual, monoecious; seeds very small, black, shining.

Parts used: Leaves and Root.

Preparation and administration: Plant used as vegetable. Root paste is used in treating migraine.

Specimen examined: MNR - 179.

Botanical Name: Ammannia baccifera L.
Family: Lythraceae
Local Name: Kalluruvi (or) Neermelneruppu

Parts used: Leaves.
Preparation and administration: Leaves are used as poultice in rheumatism. Leaf paste applied to relieve joint pain.

Specimen examined: MNR – 168.

Botanical Name: Anacardium occidentale L.
Family: Anacardiaceae
Local Name: Munthiri
Description: A small tree. Leaves simple, obovate-elliptic, glabrous. Flowers yellow, in terminal panicles. Fruits reniform on a large fleshy pedicel.
Parts used: Fruit and Seed.

Preparation and administration: Seed coat oil is applied on cuts and heel cracks. Ripened hypocarp edible and also used as vegetable.

Specimen examined: MNR – 051.

Botanical Name: Andrographis alata (Vahl) Nees
Family: Acanthaceae
Local Name: Nil
Description: Subshrub at the foothills. Leaves elliptic-ovate. Flowers white. Capsules oblong glandular hairy.
Parts used: Leaf

Preparation and administration: Used as a substitute for Andrographis paniculata

Specimen examined: MNR – 092.

Botanical Name: Andrographis paniculata (Burm.f.) Wall. ex Nees
Family: Acanthaceae
Local Name: Nilavembu
Description: An erect herb. Leaves simple, opposite, decussate, linear-lanceolate, acute at apex. Flowers pink, in terminal paniculate racemes. Capsules ellipsoid.
Parts used: Leaf and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Plant and turmeric paste is applied on the body for seven days to cure scabies and other skin diseases. Leaf juice is taken as preventive medicine for malaria. Leaf paste together with paste of black pepper is given in the morning once for 7 days in liver complaints, jaundice and stomach pain. Leaf juice as anti cobra venom (internal).
Specimen examined : MNR – 109.

Botanical Name : Anisomeles indica L.
Family : Lamiaceae
Local Name : Pei miratti
Description : Undershrub. Stem tetraquetrous. Leaves ovate, hirsute on both surfaces. Flowers mauve in dense terminal spikes. Nutlets shining black.
Parts used : Root, Leaf and Whole plant.
Preparation and administration : Root is used as antidote to poisonous bites. Leaf for swelling of neck and wounds; whole plant for fever, muscle pain, nervous complaint, and as veterinary medicine.

Specimen examined : MNR – 194.

Botanical Name : Anisomeles malabarica R.Br.
Family : Lamiaceae
Local Name : Aruvachadachi
Parts used : Leaves.
Preparation and administration : Leaves are used to expel gas from intestine. Leaf paste is applied on affected part of scorpion sting and snake bite.

Specimen examined : MNR – 112.

Botanical Name : Annona squamosa L.
Family : Annonaceae
Local Name : Seetha
Description : Shrubby; leaves spirally arranged with the base, mostly with clustered radical rosettes, often with white glistening scales and margin very frequently prickly; flowers bisexual; fruit baccate, sometimes combined below into a syncarp.
Parts used : Fruit and Seed.
Preparation and administration : Fruit is given for digestion and anthelmintic purpose; seed powder applied on wounds of the cattle.
Specimen examined : MNR -160.
Botanical Name : **Anogeissus latifolia (DC.) Wall. ex Guill. & Perr.**  
Family : **Combretaceae**  
Local Name : Vekkalli  
Description : Middle sized trees; leaves alternate, simple, elliptic; flowers in dense globose axillary heads, tubular, greenish yellow; fruits small, long winged, yellow; seed solitary.  
Parts used : Gum and stem bark  
Preparation and administration : In case of cold and cough used as expectorant.  
Specimen examined : MNR -088.

Botanical Name : **Anthocephalus chinensis (Lam.) A. Rich, ex Walp.**  
Family : **Rubiaceae**  
Local Name : Kadamba  
Description : Large deciduous tree; leaves simple, opposite; flowers in globose heads, orange coloured, scented at night; fruits confluent into a fleshy globose mass of many few-seeded coriaceous pyrenes.  
Parts used : Bark and Leaf  
Preparation and administration : Juice of bark along with the mango is given for malarial fever, cholera and leaf paste is applied on ulcers.  
Specimen examined : MNR – 225.

Botanical Name : **Argemone mexicana L.**  
Family : **Papaveraceae**  
Local Name : Ponnummattai (or) Brahmathandu  
Description : A prickly, annual herb, with yellowish sap. Leaves white-variegated, sinuate-pinnatifid, spinulose-dentate. Flowers yellow, solitary. Capsules oblong or elliptic; seeds black.  
Parts used : Root, Leaf.  
Preparation and administration : Root extract in water is taken to cure roundworm. It is also said to purify blood. Leaf juice and latex are applied for eye complaints and conjunctivitis. Yellow latex applied to cure ulcer on the lips.  
Specimen examined : MNR – 157.

Botanical Name : **Argyreia kleiniana Roem. & Schultes**  
Family : **Convolvulaceae**  
Local Name : Onankodi
Description: A climbing shrub. Leaves simple, broadly ovate, cordate at base, glabrous above, tomentose beneath. Flowers pinkish-purple, in axillary cymes, with large bracts. Fruit a capsule.

Parts used: Stem.

Preparation and administration: The wiry stem tied tightly around the forehead relieves headache.

Specimen examined: MNR – 126.

Botanical Name: Argyreia speciosa Sw.
Family: Convolvulaceae
Local Name: Kanvalipoou
Description: Throughout India up to an elevation of 400m.
Parts used: Root and seed.

Preparation and administration: Dried root powder is used for the treatment of Tuberculosis and gonorrhea.

Specimen examined: MNR – 228.

Botanical Name: Aristolochia bracteolata Lam.
Family: Aristolochiaceae
Local Name: Adutinnappalai
Parts used: Leaf and Stem.

Preparation and administration: Plant is used as vermifuge. It is also used to rectify menstrual disorders. Leaf paste applied on the head while taking bath relieves dandruff and other infections. Leaf powder is applied on the wounds. Two spoonful of stem juice mixed with black pepper and given for Leucorrohea.

Specimen examined: MNR – 197.

Botanical Name: Aristolochia indica L.
Family: Aristolochiaceae
Local Name: Iswaramuli or Eswarmooligai
Description: Perennial twiner. Leaves simple, oblong-ovate or obovate. Flowers greenish-white, in axillary racemes. Fruit a septicidal capsule; seeds winged.
Parts used : Leaf and Root.

Preparation and administration : Leaf and root-paste is applied in stomach ache and as an antidote for snakebite and scorpion bite. Root-paste with paste of 7 long pepper is given as antidote to snake bite. Lukewarm leaf-paste is applied on boils and blisters on skin. Leaf-paste used for eczema (external), decoction relieves stomach pain during mensuration (internal).

Specimen examined : MNR – 093.

Botanical Name : Aristolochia tagala Cham.
Family : Aristolochiaceae
Local Name : Nallayiswari
Description : Robust twiner with large lanceolate, ovate-lanceolate leaves, finely acuminate at the apex. Flowers in racemes, purple. Capsules subglobose.
Parts used : Whole plant, Root and Leaf.
Preparation and administration : Whole plant used in bone fracture. Root in toothache. Leaf is used in stomach ache, fits, rheumatism and as antidote to snake bite.

Specimen examined : MNR – 167.

Botanical Name : Asparagus racemosus Willd.
Family : Liliaceae
Local Name : Sathaveli
Description : A climbing, spiny undershrub. Leaves minute; cladodes 1.5 cm long. Flowers white, in axillary racemes; pedicels jointed, stout. Berries globose.
Parts used : Root.
Preparation and administration : Root decoction is used in diarrhoea and dysentery. Roots with sugar and milk are used as galactagogue. Dried root powder is used as tonic. A traditional drink is prepared by mixing powdered root and boiled rice. Dried root powder is taken with honey or milk to treat lactation problems.

Specimen examined : MNR – 122.

Botanical Name : Atalantia malabarica Tanaka
Family : Rutaceae
Local Name : Kattu elumichai
Description: Large shrubs or small tree. Leaves gland-dotted. Flowers white. Berries globose.

Parts used: Leaf, Fruit and Seed.

Preparation and administration: Fruits are used in rheumatism. Leaf, fruit and seed used in pain, abdominal disorders, fever, cough, skin eruptions, vomiting, and indigestion.

Specimen examined: MNR - 027.

Botanical Name: Atalantia racemosa Wight & Arn.
Family: Rutaceae
Local Name: Kattukozhingi
Description: Large shrub or tree. Flowers fragrant. Berries large and globose.
Parts used: Fruit.
Preparation and administration: Fruit oil is used in chronic rheumatism and paralysis.
Specimen examined: MNR - 016.

Botanical Name: Atylosia scarabaeoides (L.) Benth.
Family: Fabaceae
Local Name: Nil
Description: Slender copiously branched, greyish pubescent climbers. Leaflets elliptic or obovate-oblong. Flowers yellow or reddish, calyx silky tomentose. Pods linear-oblong, depressed between the seeds.
Parts used: Root.
Preparation and administration: Root is used for urinary problems and crushed seed for worms in stomach.
Specimen examined: MNR -033.

Botanical Name: Azadirachta indica A Juss.
Family: Meliaceae
Local Name: Veappamaram
Description: A large tree. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets ovate-lanceolate, asymmetrical, serrate. Flowers white, in axillary racemose panicles. Drupes ovoid-oblong, 1-seeded.
Parts used : Flower, fruit, leaves, stem bark and timber.

Preparation and administration: Warm leaves are applied on hypogastria to relieve painful menstruation. Root bark is crushed and the filtrate administered for malarial fever. A spoonful of roasted flowers is given internally for jaundice. Stem bark from old tree is pounded and the juice is given for leucorrhoea. Paste made with the cotyledons of neem and flowers of castor is used for abortion. Old bark is used against Psoriasis.

Specimen examined : MNR -135.

Botanical Name : Azima tetracantha Lam.
Family : Salvadoraceae
Local Name : Mulsangu
Description : Bushy shrubs with axillary spines. Leaves simple, opposite, ovate-elliptic, mucronate at apex. Flowers white, in axillary fascicles. Berries globose.
Parts used : Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Leaf Juice to relieve gas problem.

Specimen examined : MNR -138.

Botanical Name : Bacopa monnieri (L.) Pennell
Family : Scrophulariaceae
Local Name : Nirpirami
Description : A creeping herb, rooting at nodes. Leaves decussate. Flowers blue or white purple. Fruit septicidal capsule.
Parts used : Whole plant and Leaf

Preparation and administration: Whole plant is used as brain tonic. Leaf juice is taken twice a day to cure fever. Plant boiled in water is used for bathing epilepsy patients. Plant extract is taken to treat gonorrhoea

Specimen examined : MNR – 083.

Botanical Name : Basella alba L.
Family : Basellaceae
Local Name : Pasalai
Description : Perennial, much-branched, twining herb; stem fleshy but hard, contains mucilage; leaves alternate, simple, fleshy; spikes, simple or branched; flowers bracteate; fruits pea-sized; seed subglobose, erect.
Parts used : Whole plant and leaf.
Preparation and administration: Plant decoction is given for diarrhoea and leaf juice for tumours.

Specimen examined: MNR - 267.

Botanical Name: Bauhinia variegata L.
Family: Caesalpiniaceae
Local Name: Cigappu manjari
Description: Tree; leaves alternate, simple, 2-cleft; coryms lateral, few flowered; pure white or variegated with yellow, 3.7 - 5.0 cm; pods 15-30 cm long, flat, hard, 10-15 seeded.
Parts used: Stem bark.
Preparation and administration: Stem bark decoction is given in menorrhagia.
Specimen examined: MNR – 119.

Botanical Name: Benkara malabarica Lam.
Family: Rubiaceae
Local Name: Sirukarai
Description: Armed shrub. Leaves decussate, obovate. Flowers white. Fruits globose.
Parts used: Whole plant, Root and Fruits.
Preparation and administration: Plant decoction for diarrhoea. Fruit in dysentery and for treating boils, cholera and diarrhoea. Root is used for pimples and sores.
Specimen examined: MNR – 128.

Botanical Name: Biophytum sensitivum (L.) DC.
Family: Oxalidaceae
Local Name: Nil.
Description: A slender erect annual; leaves abruptly pinnate, sensitive; leaflets opposite, 6-12 pairs; flowers yellow, dimorphic; fruits ellipsoid capsules; seeds prominently ridged, transversely striate.
Parts used: Whole plant and Root.
Preparation and administration: Plant extract is used in curing leprosy, eye problems and convulsions. Root increases sexual vigour given for children to enhance sleep.
Specimen examined: MNR -075.
Botanical Name: Bischofia javanica Blume
Family: Bischofiaceae
Local Name: Malai poovarasu
Description: Spreading up to 30 meters tall with abundant clear latex when bruised. Leaves alternate, trifoliate. Flowers minute, unisexual, cream to yellowish, borne in many axillary panicles. Fruit with flesh surrounding 3-6 seeds.
Parts used: Stem, leaf and bark.
Preparation and administration: Diarrhoea and Stomach ulcers.
Specimen examined: MNR -198.

Botanical Name: Boerhavia diffusa L.
Family: Nyctaginaceae
Local Name: Mukkurattai (or) Thatharali
Description: A diffuse herb with stout rootstock. Leaves simple, opposite, ovate. Flowers pink, in axillary umbels. Achenes 5-ribbed, glandular-hairy.
Parts used: Root, bark and Leaf.
Preparation and administration: Root decoction is given in jaundice. Leaf paste is prepared by mixing a pinch of salt and turmeric and is applied for Cuts and wounds. Root bark paste used for eczema.
Specimen examined: MNR – 054.

Botanical Name: Boswellia serrata Roxb. ex Colebr.
Family: Burseraceae
Local Name: Kungiliyam
Description: Balsamiferous tree, nearly 7 m high; leaves alternate or nearly opposite, imparipinnate deciduous; racemes axillary or terminal; flowers small, white; drupes trigonous, containing three 1-seeded pyrenes; seeds pendulous.
Parts used: Stem, bark and resin.
Preparation and administration: Stem bark paste used in the treatment of Leucoderma and resin to cure diabetes.
Specimen examined: MNR – 257.

Botanical Name: Buchanania lanzan Spreng.
Family: Anacardiaceae
Local Name: Moreidha
Description: A tree; bark tessellated in prominent squares. Leaves simple, broadly oblong, obtuse. Flowers greenish-white, in terminal and axillary paniculate racemes. Drupes ovoid-oblong, black.

Parts used: Leaf, Root and Bark.

Preparation and administration: Root is used in venereal diseases, bronchitis and dry cough. Bark is used in burns, cuts, inflammation of gum, cholera, dysuria, snake bite and other insects. It is also used in skin diseases. Leaf is used for healing wounds.

Specimen examined: MNR – 137.

Botanical Name: Butea monosperma (Lam.) Taub.

Family: Fabaceae

Local Name: Purasu

Description: A deciduous tree; young parts tomentose. Leaves 3-foliolate; leaflets coriaceous, entire, obtuse. Flowers large, orange-scarlet, in racemes. Calyx long, dark olive-green. Corolla clothed outside with silky silvery hairs; standard lanceolate; wings falcate, keels beaked, semi circular. Pods stalked, thickened at the sutures.

Parts used: Leaf, Stem bark and Seed.

Preparation and administration: Boiled leaf vapour for cough and cold; stem bark ash mixed with lime is applied to relieve pain for scorpion bite. Seed ash is mixed with equal quantity of asafoetida and is given with milk for abortion.

Specimen examined: MNR – 038.

Botanical Name: Byttneria herbacea Roxb.

Family: Sterculiaceae

Local Name: Nil.

Description: Branched herb with perennial woody root-stock. Leaves distant, ovate-lanceolate. Flower in axillary cymes, purplish with 2-fid appendages of the petals.

Parts used: Root.

Preparation and administration: Root paste is given for muscular pain and root powder with honey for tuberculosis.

Specimen examined: MNR -022.
Botanical Name : Cadaba fruticosa (L.) Druce.
Family : Capparaceae
Local Name : Vizhivi
Description : A large, rambling shrub; bark brown. Leaves simple, ovate-elliptic or obovate, entire. Flowers greenish-yellow, in terminal racemes.
Parts used : Leaf.
Preparation and administration : Leaf paste mixed with castor oil is applied for bone fracture in human being and livestock.
Specimen examined : MNR – 190.

Botanical Name : Caesalpinia bonduc Roxb.
Family : Caesalpiniaceae
Local Name : Kalarchikkai
Description : A large, straggling, prickly shrub. Leaves bipinnate; leaflets elliptic-oblong. Flowers yellow, in terminal and supra-axillary spicate racemes. Pods broadly oblong, densely clothed with sharp prickles.
Parts used : Seed.
Preparation and administration : Seed powder is given to women suffering from puerperal fever.
Specimen examined : MNR – 171.

Botanical Name : Cajanus cajan (L.) Mill.
Family : Fabaceae
Local Name : Thuvarai.
Description : Shrubs with trifoliolate leaves. Leaflets with indistinct resinous dots beneath. Flowers yellow. Pod glandular-pubescent. Cultivated.
Parts used : Leaf and Seed.
Preparation and administration : Leaf and Seed are used in swellings, dental disorders and stomatitis.
Specimen examined : MNR – 002.

Botanical Name : Calotropis gigantea (L.) R. Br.
Family : Asclepiadaceae
Local Name : Erukku
**Description**: An erect, bushy shrub. Leaves simple, opposite-decussate, obovate. Flowers purplish-white, in umbellate cymes. Follicles ovoid; seeds ovate, flat, comose at apex.

**Parts used**: Latex.

**Preparation and administration**: Milky latex is applied on the wounds on the legs of livestock.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 095.

**Botanical Name**: Calotropis procera (Aiton) R.Br.

**Family**: Asclepiadaceae

**Local Name**: Velleerukku

**Description**: Shrub; leaves oblong, cordate; flowers having erect lobes, white with purple blotch on the upper half, coronal process with a purple tinge; follicles recurved; seeds ovate, smooth with long comas.

**Parts used**: Leaf

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf paste used for cuts and wounds, latex for tooth ache and fresh latex as piscicide.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 021.

**Botanical Name**: Cansjera rheedii J. Gmelin

**Family**: Opiliaceae

**Local Name**: Kallimannakeerai

**Description**: Armed climbing shrub. Leaves ovate. Flowers yellow, hairy. Drupe globose

**Parts used**: Whole plant

**Preparation and administration**: Whole plant extract is used as spasmodic.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 046.

**Botanical Name**: Canthium dicoccum (Gaertn.) Teijsm. & Binn

**Family**: Rubiaceae

**Local Name**: Naluvai

**Description**: A thorny shrub. Leave simple. Flowers cream in axillary fasicled cymes. Drupes yellow when ripe.

**Parts used**: Root bark.

**Preparation and administration**: Root bark decoction given to infants for dysentery.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 240.
Botanical Name : **Capparis sepiaria** L.
Family : **Capparaceae**
Local Name : Sengaththari
Description : Erect or climbing shrubs. Flowers in umbels, white. Fruit globose, smooth, black when ripe.
Parts used : Whole plant.
Preparation and administration : Plant is used in skin troubles.
Specimen examined : MNR – 221.

Botanical Name : **Capparis zeylanica** L.
Family : **Capparaceae**
Local Name : Suduthratti
Description : Straggler, 4-8 m; leaves ovate, elliptic or lanceolate, rarely obovate; flowers in serial clusters on fresh shoots, 4 cm across; berry globose, 3-5 cm; seeds many.
Parts used : Root and Fruit.
Preparation and administration : Snake bite is treated by fruit and root. Tribals prescribe pounded root bark for the treatment of small pox.
Specimen examined : MNR -220.

Botanical Name : **Capsicum annuum** L.
Family : **Solanaceae**
Local Name : Milagayai
Description : Commonly cultivated undershrub. Fruits oblong, red.
Parts used : Fruits.
Preparation and administration : Fruits used in culinary purposes and home remedies.
Specimen examined : MNR – 269.

Botanical Name : **Cardiospermum halicacabum** L.
Family : **Sapindaceae**
Local Name : Mudukkottan
Description : A herbaceous climber; stems wiry. Leaves bipinnate; leaflets ovate-lanceate, acuminate. Flowers white, in axillary umbellate cymes. Capsules loculicidal, trigonous with 3 bladder-like wings.
**Parts used**: Whole plant and Leaf.

**Preparation and administration**: Dried plant powder mixed with coconut oil is applied to cure sores and wounds. Plant decoction is used to treat rheumatism. Leaf paste mixed with ghee taken to relieve gas trouble. Leaf extract is taken to relieve menstrual disorder and irritable uterus.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 252.

**Botanical Name**: Careya arborea Roxb.

**Family**: Lecythidaceae

**Local Name**: Peithaandri

**Description**: Medium sized tree with large ovate, ovate-oblong leaves clustered at the end of the branchlets, old leaves often red/purple; flowers large, white and pink, in dense spikes; fruits large, globose, green, crowded; with calyx tube deciduous.

**Parts used**: Root and stem.

**Preparation and administration**: Stem and bark paste for leucoderma. Fresh root paste with seed oil of Azadirachta indica is used for the treatment of leucoderma.

**Specimen examined**: MNR -243.

**Botanical Name**: Carica papaya L.

**Family**: Caricaceae

**Local Name**: Pappai

**Description**: Trees with pinnatifid leaves. Fruit ellipsoid, pulpy. Cultivated.

**Parts used**: Fruit, Seed and Latex.

**Preparation and administration**: Fruit, seed and latex are used for worm infestation, gastritis and indigestion.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 143.

**Botanical Name**: Carissa carandas L. Mant.

**Family**: Apocynaceae

**Local Name**: Kilakkai

**Description**: An evergreen, diffuse and spiny shrub with rigid, dichotomous branches and pairs of varicate very strong thorns; leaves broadly elliptic-oblong or very obtuse; flowers in cymes; berry ellipsoid, 4 or more seeded.

**Parts used**: Root, Stem bark and Fruit.
Preparation and administration: Root, bark-paste taken along with cooked goat meat to cure cancer. Fruit is wrapped by the leaves and is smoked to get relief from tooth ache.

Specimen examined: MNR – 130.

Botanical Name: *Casearia elliptica* Willd.
Family: Flacourtiaceae
Local Name: Naai Alangi
Description: A small, deciduous tree; bark light grey. Leaves simple, oblong, acuminate, tomentose. Flowers greenish-white, in axillary fascicles. Capsules yellow.
Parts used: Fruit and Seeds.
Preparation and administration: Oil extracted from the seeds is used for culinary purposes. Fruit pulp edible and is used as fish-poison.
Specimen examined: MNR – 214.

Botanical Name: *Cassia fistula* L.
Family: Caesalpiniaceae
Local Name: Kondrai
Description: A small tree. Leaves pinnate; leaflets glabrous, ovate, acute. Flowers yellow, in axillary racemes. Pods long, cylindrical, terete.
Parts used: Stem, Bark and Leaves.
Preparation and administration: Stem bark extract mixed with the seed oil of *Schleicheria oleosa* and administered for chest pain. Stem bark pieces tied together and worn as necklace for fever. Tender leaves ground with turmeric and the paste applied for skin diseases.
Specimen examined: MNR – 249.

Botanical Name: *Cassia javanica* L.
Family: Caesalpiniaceae
Local Name: Kondari
Description: Tree. Leaves compound. Flowers yellow. Pods compressed.
Parts used: Leaves.
Preparation and administration: Young leaves are munched to stop bad smell of the mouth.
Specimen examined: MNR – 215.
**Botanical Name:** Cassia obtusa (Roxb.) Wight & Arn.  
**Family:** Caesalpiniaceae  
**Local Name:** Nilavakai  
**Description:** Subshrub. Leaflet ovate. Racemes yellow. Stamens ten. Pods curved, compressed.  
**Parts used:** Leaves and Pods.  
**Preparation and administration:** Dried leaves and pods are used as a laxative.  
**Specimen examined:** MNR – 261.

**Botanical Name:** Cassia occidentalis L.  
**Family:** Caesalpiniaceae  
**Local Name:** Ponnavirai (or) Kattuvuri  
**Description:** An annual undershrub. Leaves pinnate; leaflets ovate-lanceolate, acuminate. Flowers yellow, in axillary racemes. Pods flat.  
**Parts used:** Leaf.  
**Preparation and administration:** Paste of fresh leaflets warmed in groundnut oil is applied on cuts and wounds. Leaf salad for cooling effect and stomach upset.  
**Specimen examined:** MNR – 251.

**Botanical Name:** Casuarina equisetifolia L.  
**Family:** Casurinaceae  
**Local Name:** Savukku  
**Description:** Tall trees with cylindric or angled branchlets Leaves scaly. Cultivated.  
**Parts used:** Bark and Leaf.  
**Preparation and administration:** Bark is used in diarrhoea and dysentery. Decoction of leaves used in colic.  
**Specimen examined:** MNR – 186.

**Botanical Name:** Cayratia pedata (Wall.) Gagnep.  
**Family:** Vitaceae  
**Local Name:** pannikodi
Description: A large, climbing shrub. Leaves pedately 7-9-foliolate; leaflets oblong-lanceate, acuminate, puberulous. Flowers white, in axillary divaricate corymbose cymes. Berries subglobose, white.

Parts used: Stem, Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Stem paste is applied for healing bone fracture. Lukewarm leaf juice (1 ml) is taken twice daily as ear drop to cure fungal infection.

Specimen examined: MNR – 127.

Botanical Name: Celastrus paniculatus Willd.
Family: Celastraceae
Local Name: Valluluval

Description: Large climbing shrub or unarmed straggler/liane up to 12m; leaves alternate, ovate to orbicular; panicles terminal; flowers polygamous, greenish white; seeds 6, ellipsoid to ovoid.

Parts used: Root and seed.

Preparation and administration: Root bark paste is given for abortion. Seed oil is rubbed to reduce leucoderma and for inflammation on any part of the body. Root paste given for epilepsy and headache.

Specimen examined: MNR -045.

Botanical Name: Centella asiatica (L.) Urban
Family: Apiaceae
Local Name: Vallarai


Parts used: Leaf and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Leaf juice taken for liver pain; leaves tied on the chest to relieve chest pain. Plant powder is given as brain tonic. Leaves of Centella, seeds of Butea monosperma and fruits Pepper are taken in equal quantities and powdered and is given for constipation due to indigestion. Leaves of Centella, Lawsonia inermis and castor are taken in equal quantities and ground into paste by mixing with jaggery and rice husk and is given for jaundice.

Specimen examined: MNR – 219.
**Botanical Name**: Ceropogia juncea Roxb.

**Family**: Asclepiadaceae

**Local Name**: Pulichakodi, Somakodi

**Description**: Erect herbs with poorly developed leaves or sometimes completely absent. Flowers with purple spots, in 2- to 5 flowered cymes.

**Parts used**: Tubers.

**Preparation and administration**: Tubers are used in diarrhoea and dysentery

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 176.

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**Botanical Name**: Chloroxylon swietenia DC.

**Family**: Rutaceae

**Local Name**: Purush


**Parts used**: Leaf

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf paste is applied on the forehead to cure headache. About 2-3 spoons of leaf juice is given to get relief from inflammations and pains. Fresh leaves burnt as mosquito repellents.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 004.

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**Botanical Name**: Cicer arietinum L.

**Family**: Fabaceae

**Local Name**: Chundakadalai

**Description**: A small herb, up to 30 cm tall. Leaves imparipinate; leaflets sessile, elliptic, serrate. Flowers solitary, axillary, purple. Pods elliptic-oblong, pubescent; seeds brownish-black. Cultivated.

**Parts used**: Fruit.

**Preparation and administration**: Germinated gram used as a prophylactic against deficiency diseases, scurvy in particular.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 012.

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**Botanical Name**: Cinnamomum zeylanicum Bl.

**Family**: Lauraceae

**Local Name**: Elavangam
Description: Trees. Leaves leathery, shining, aromatic. Cultivated.

Parts used: Root bark.

Preparation and administration: Essential oil from root bark used in rheumatism.

Specimen examined: MNR – 079.

Botanical Name: Cipadessa baccifera (Roth) Miq.
Family: Meliaceae
Local Name: Ananthalai

Description: A much-branched shrub. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets elliptic-lanceolate, coarsely serrate. Flowers greenish-white, in axillary corymbose panicles. Berries globose, red.

Parts used: Leaf

Preparation and administration: Leaf juice administered in the eyes of livestock to remove madness.

Specimen examined: MNR – 202.

Botanical Name: Cissampelos pareira L.
Family: Menispermaceae
Local Name: Appatta, Urikkakodi

Description: A twining shrub, tomentose. Leaves simple, ovate-orbicular. Male flowers pale green, in axillary cymose clusters; female flowers pale yellow, in racemes. Drupes scarlet.

Parts used: Root, Rhizome.

Preparation and administration: Root paste with long pepper (10 gm) is prescribed once daily for 5 days as an antidote to snake bite. Crushed rhizome (10 gm) is given twice daily in chest pain.

Specimen examined: MNR – 170.

Botanical Name: Cissus quadrangularis L.
Family: Vitaceae
Local Name: Pirantai

Description: A fleshy, tendrillar climber; stems 4-angled. Leaves simple, entire or lobed, ovate or reniform. Flowers pale brown, in short peduncled umbellate cymes. Berries red.

Parts used: Stem, Leaf.
Preparation and administration: Stem and leaf juice mixed with honey is used to cure menstrual disorders. Stem juice is used to cure ear ache and swellings. Young tops cooked and eaten to remove worms in the stomach; leaf paste applied to relieve joint pain.

Specimen examined: MNR – 154.

Botanical Name: Citrullus colocynthis L.
Family: Cucurbitaceae
Local Name: Peikumatti
Description: Perennial trailing herb. Leaves simple, deeply lobed. Tendril simple. Flowers yellow. Fruits globose, striped green and white when young, yellow when ripe.
Parts used: Root
Preparation and administration: Root paste made with cow milk is applied on hypogastrum for easy delivery.

Specimen examined: MNR – 201.

Botanical Name: Cleistanthus collinus (Roxb.) Benth.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Oduvan
Parts used: Stem bark.
Preparation and administration: Stem bark paste is applied on wounds as antiseptic and also on hoof sores of cattle.

Specimen examined: MNR – 275.

Botanical Name: Cleome gynandra L.
Family: Capparraceae
Local Name: Thaivelai
Description: A tall, pubescent, erect herb. Leaves digitately 3-7-foliolate; leaflets obovate, acute. Flowers white, in corymbose racemes. Capsules glandular.
Parts used: Leaf
Preparation and administration: Leaf juice for ear pain.

Specimen examined: MNR – 114.
Botanical Name: **Cleome viscosa L.**
Family: **Capparidaceae**
Local Name: Naikkaduku

**Description**: Annual, sticky herb; leaves 3-5 foliate; flowers yellow in lax racemes; fruits capsules; seeds brownish black on ripening.

**Parts used**: Leaf and Seed.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf juice is used as a vermifuge, to relieve ear ache and to cure boils. Seed paste is useful in worm infestations.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 222.

Botanical Name: **Clerodendrum infortunatum L.**
Family: **Verbenaceae**
Local Name: Nil.


**Parts used**: Root.

**Preparation and administration**: Root decoction is mixed with pepper and salt and given for asthma and bronchitis.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 193.

Botanical Name: **Clerodendrum phlomides L.f.**
Family: **Verbenaceae**
Local Name: Kuthuvathamadakki

**Description**: Foetid shrub with deltoid-ovate leaves. Flowers cream in panicles. Plants grow along fences.

**Parts used**: Leaves and roots.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf paste is applied to increase lactation. Root decoction is given in leucorrhoea. Leaf juice is used as an alternative, and a decoction of root which is slightly aromatic and astringent is used as a demulcent in diarrhoea. It is also given to children during convalescence from measles.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 270.

Botanical Name: **Clitoria ternatea L.**
Family: **Fabaceae**
Local Name: Sankupoo, Karkakartan
Description: Slender twiners. Flowers bluish-white. Pod hairy. Seed subglobose.

Parts used: Root bark, Seed.

Preparation and administration: As diuretic, crushed fresh root bark is taken with a cup of warm milk twice a day for two weeks. As purgative, 50 gm of crushed seed is taken with a cup of water once a day for three days.

Specimen examined: MNR – 164.

Botanical Name: Coccinia grandis (L.) Voight. Hort.

Family: Cucurbitaceae

Local Name: Kovai

Description: A climbing shrub; tendrils simple. Leaves simple, lobed, palmate. Flowers white; male flowers fascicled; female solitary. Berries oblong, red when ripe.

Parts used: Fruit.

Preparation and administration: Ripe fruit eaten raw for cooling effect.

Specimen examined: MNR – 205.

Botanical Name: Cocculus hirsutus (L.) Diels

Family: Menispermaceae

Local Name: Kattukodi

Description: A slender, villous, climbing shrub. Leaves simple, ovate-oblong, obtuse, rarely lobed, softly tomentose. Flowers pale yellow, in axillary, panicles. Drupes dark purple.

Parts used: Leaves and Roots.

Preparation and administration: Leaves are used for stimulating saliva secretion. Roots are used to treat rheumatism, reduce bile and burning sensation.

Specimen examined: MNR – 264.

Botanical Name: Coleus aromaticus Benth.

Family: Lamiaceae

Local Name: Omavalli

Description: An aromatic, succulent herb. Leaves broadly ovate. Flowers pale purplish, many. Fruiting calyx suberect.

Parts used: Leaves
Preparation and administration: Leaves are used as a vermifuge. Leaf juice is used for treating asthma, cough, bronchitis and abdominal pain. Leaf paste is applied on forehead to relieve headache.

Specimen examined: MNR - 152.

Botanical Name: *Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schoot
Family: Araceae
Local Name: Seppankizhangu

Description: An erect herb; underground stem tuberous. Leaves peltate-ovate. Peduncle shorter than the petiole. Spathe pale yellow, spadix free, shorter than the spathe. Berries oblong. Cultivated.

Parts used: Petiole, Leaf and Corm.

Preparation and administration: Juice of the petiole used as an astringent and styptic. Corm and tender leaves are used for treating piles.

Specimen examined: MNR - 121.

Botanical Name: *Commelina benghalensis* L.
Family: Commelinaceae
Local Name: Kanavalai

Description: A prostrate to creeping herb, sparsely pilose. Leaves ovate, obtuse. Flowers blue, in axillary cymes. Capsules ovoid.

Parts used: Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Plant is useful in treating bed sores, breast sores and pimples.

Specimen examined: MNR - 125.

Botanical Name: *Commelina clavata* C.B. Clarke
Family: Commelinaceae
Local Name: Thanneervittan

Description: Procumbent herbs with cleistogamous flowers. Leaves ovate. Flowers pale blue.

Parts used: Whole plant and Roots.

Preparation and administration: Water accumulated at the base of the bracts collected and administered for eye pain. Roots laxative.

Specimen examined: MNR - 262.
Botanical Name: Commiphora caudata (Wight & Arn.) Engl.
Family: Burseraceae
Local Name: Kiluvai
Description: A deciduous, unarmed tree with papery bark. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets ovate-lanceolate, orbicular, acuminate. Flowers greenish-red, in long peduncled dichasical cymes. Drupes ovoid.
Parts used: Stem bark
Preparation and administration: Stem bark latex applied for cracks on the foot (piththavedippu).
Specimen examined: MNR – 089.

Botanical Name: Commiphora wightii (Arn.) Bhandari
Family: Burseraceae
Local Name: Pachaikiluvai
Description: Deciduous tree with papery bark and greenish soft wood. Leaves alternate, leaflets opposite. Flowers in fascicles. Drupes globose and fleshy.
Parts used: Root and Leaf.
Preparation and administration: Root is used as diuretic and in diabetes also in fever. Leaf is used in rheumatism.
Specimen examined: MNR – 107.

Botanical Name: Convolvulus microphyllus Sieb. ex Spreng.
Family: Convolvulaceae
Local Name: Nil
Description: Trailing herbs. Leaves hastate or auriculate at base. Flowers pink or white. Capsule globose, reddish-brown.
Parts used: Whole plant.
Preparation and administration: Whole plant paste with equal amount of misri and milk is taken as tonic.
Specimen examined: MNR – 100.

Botanical Name: Corallocarpus epigaeus (Rottler) C.B.Clarke
Family: Cucurbitaceae
Local Name: Akashagaruden, Kollankovai
Description: A climbing herb; tendrils simple. Leaves simple, rounded-cordate, 3-5-lobed, palmate. Flowers yellow, in peduncled racemes. Berries scarlet.

Parts used: Roots.

Preparation and administration: Roots used in dysentery and rheumatism.

Specimen examined: MNR – 115.

Botanical Name: Corchorus olitorius L.
Family: Tiliaceae
Local Name: Karunchatachi

Description: Much branched herbs. Leaves elliptic-oblong with serratures prolonged into a filiform appendage. Flowers pale yellow. Capsules linear, 5-valved.

Parts used: Leaf

Preparation and administration: Leaf juice of leaf paste applied for boils.

Specimen examined: MNR – 192.

Botanical Name: Coriandrum sativum L.
Family: Apiaceae
Local Name: Kothamalli.

Description: Herb with lower dissected and upper entire leaves. Flowers white or purple, in umbels. Fruit globular, ribbed. Cultivated.

Parts used: Whole plant

Preparation and administration: Whole plant is used in cardiac diseases, eye diseases and diarrhoea.

Specimen examined: MNR – 174.

Botanical Name: Crataeva adansonii DC.
Family: Capparaceae
Local Name: Mavalingam

Description: A small tree; branchlets glabrescent. Leaves 3-foliolate; leaflets ovate-lanceolate, base oblique, obtuse. Flowers white, in terminal corymbs. Berries globose, smooth, red.

Parts used: Stem bark.

Preparation and administration: Stem bark paste applied for joint pain.

Specimen examined: MNR – 200.
**Botanical Name** : Crinum asiaticum L.

**Family** : Amaryllidaceae

**Local Name** : Vishamungil

**Description** : A stout herb, with large tunicated bulb. Leaves fleshy, linear-lanceolate. Flowers white, in umbels. Fruits obovoid-subglobose.

**Parts used** : Leaves, Roots and Bulbs.

**Preparation and administration** : Leaves are useful in wound healing, body swellings and backache. Leaves are also used in a preparation to treat permanent retraction of the testis. A root preparation is given to aid childbirth and for postpartum haemorrhage. Bulbs are used as an emetic and as poison antidote.

**Specimen examined** : MNR – 229.

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**Botanical Name** : Crotalaria prostrata Roxb.

**Family** : Fabaceae

**Local Name** : Nil


**Parts used** : Leaves and Roots.

**Preparation and administration** : Leaf used in scabies. Roots are used as purgative.

**Specimen examined** : MNR – 189.

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**Botanical Name** : Cucumis melo L.

**Family** : Cucurbitaceae

**Local Name** : Thumattikai

**Description** : A scabrid, climbing herb. Leaves simple, orbicular, lobed, dentate-serrate. Flowers yellow, on short peduncles. Berries ovoid.

**Parts used** : Seeds and Fruits

**Preparation and administration** : Seeds diuretic; pulp is used in eczema.

**Specimen examined** : MNR – 013.

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**Botanical Name** : Cuminum cyminum

**Family** : Apiaceae

**Local Name** : Shiragam
Description: Slender herbs with pinnately dissected leaves. Flowers white or rose coloured, in compound umbels. Fruits greyish, laterally compressed, papillose on the ridges. Cultivated.

Parts used: Seed.

Preparation and administration: Seeds are used in diarrhoea, leucorrhoea, indigestion, piles, cardiac diseases and urinary calculi.

Specimen examined: MNR – 077.

Botanical Name: Curculigo orchioides Gaertn.
Family: Amaryllidaceae
Local Name: Nilapanai
Description: An erect, small herb; rootstock tuberous. Leaves linear-lanceolate, plicate, sparsely softly hairy. Flowers yellow, in axillary simple raceme. Seeds black.

Parts used: Roots.

Preparation and administration: Tuberous roots are used in skin troubles, diarrhoea, piles, jaundice and asthma. Roots are also used in diabetes and leucoderma.

Specimen examined: MNR – 068.

Botanical Name: Curcuma longa L.
Family: Zingiberaceae
Local Name: Manjal
Description: Rhizomatous plant 30-100 cm high. Rhizome of deep orange colour within. Leaves elliptic, oblong or oblong. Spikes short with peduncle just excerting from the leaf sheaths with 1-2 large barren bracts below. Flowers few, yellow. Cultivated.

Parts used: Rhizome, Leaf

Preparation and administration: Rhizome for body pain, cough, headache, insect stings and leprosy. It is used a religious symbol and in social rites. Leaf for cold, fever, pneumonia. Rhizome is also used for various veterinary diseases.

Specimen examined: MNR – 065.

Botanical Name: Cyclea petata Hook. f. & Thomson
Family: Menispermaceae
Local Name: Pattakkilangu

Parts used : Leaf

Preparation and administration: Leaf decoction of the plant and Urena lobata Lam. is given just after delivery for taking care of postnatal problems, pain and abdominal swellings.

Specimen examined : MNR - 224.

Botanical Name : Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.
Family : Poaceae
Local Name : Arukampillu

Description : Creeping herbs with wiry slender culms. Spikes 4-digitate

Parts used : Whole plant

Preparation and administration: Plant paste mixed with cow or goat milk is given to stop bleeding from piles. Plant paste is also taken as a tonic and laxative. Plant decoction with Punica granatum L. leaves is given in menstrual disorders. Plant paste mixed with turmeric is applied to cure scabies and other skin infections.

Specimen examined : MNR - 134.

Botanical Name : Cyperus pangorei Rottb.
Family : Cyperaceae
Local Name : Nil

Description : Perennials up to 1 m high. Leaves reduced to bladeless sheaths, sometimes upper ones with blades up to 20 cm long. Spikelets linear. Nuts narrowly obovoid-oblong, capsule, blackish brown.

Parts used : Stem, Rhizome

Preparation and administration: Urinary infection / blood in urine is treated with rhizome. Stem used to make mats.

Specimen examined : MNR -052.

Botanical Name : Dalbergia sisoo Roxb.
Family : Papilionaceae
Local Name : Sisu-itti

Description : Medium-sized trees with alternate leaves and zig-zag rachis. Flowers pale yellow in axillary spicate panicles. Pod narrowed at base into a long stalk, strap shaped.
Parts used: Tender leaves.

Preparation and administration: Tender leaves made into paste and are taken with milk for leucorrhoea.

Specimen examined: MNR – 085.

Botanical Name: Datura metel L.
Family: Solanaceae
Local Name: Vellaiyummathai (or) Karuoomathai
Description: An erect shrub; branches spreading. Leaves simple, broadly ovate, shallowly lobed, glabrous. Flowers purple, solitary. Capsules covered with short spines.

Parts used: Fruits, Petals and Leaves.

Preparation and administration: Fruits are smoked for toothache. Powdered seed mixed with warm coconut oil is used in ear ache. Petals are shade dried broken into pieces and an instant beedi is prepared and smoked for asthma; leaf juice and coconut oil mixture in the ratio of 2:1 respectively applied for wound healing.

Specimen examined: MNR – 082.

Botanical Name: Deccania pubescens (Roth) Tirvengadum var. candoUeana (Wight & Arn.) Trivengadum
Family: Rubiaceae
Local Name: Periakarai

Parts used: Bark

Preparation and administration: Bark is used in bone fracture.

Specimen examined: MNR – 259.

Botanical Name: Delonix regia Raf.
Family: Caesalpiniaceae
Local Name: Mayil kondrai
Description: Medium sized tree with crimson-red to scarlet-orange flowers. Cultivated in gardens and along avenues

Parts used: Leaves.

Preparation and administration: Leaves are used for constipation and arthritis.

Specimen examined: MNR – 232.
Botanical Name: **Dendrophthoe falcata** (L.f.) Etting.

Family: **Loranthaceae**

Local Name: Arasupulluruvi

Description: A large, semiparasitic shrub. Leaves simple, ovate-lanceate or oblong. Flowers orange-red, in axillary racemes.

Parts used: Leaves.

Preparation and administration: Leaves ground in cow urine and given to pregnant ladies for abortion; 50 ml of leaf juice three times a day arrests white discharge in ladies.

Specimen examined: MNR - 028.

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Botanical Name: **Derris indica** L.

Family: **Fabaceae**

Local Name: Karanj

Description: A large woody shrub. Leaves imparipinnate. Flowers pinkish-white in axillary racemes. Pods elliptic, acute at both ends.

Parts used: Leaf oil and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Warm leaf oil is applied on affected parts, thrice a day for 2 weeks, for curing skin diseases. In case of toothache, plant twig is used as toothbrush, twice a day for one month. Leaf oil is applied before hair wash once a week for two months for long or black hair. During chest pain, warm oil is massaged on the chest twice a day for 2 weeks.

Specimen examined: MNR - 005.

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Botanical Name: **Desmodium gangeticum** (L.) DC.

Family: **Fabaceae**

Local Name: Sirupulladi

Description: Very variable, undershrub; leaves 1-foliolate, membranous, ovate-oblong; flowers in racemes, white or violet; pods covered with minute hairs; seeds reniform, pale yellow.

Parts used: Root and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Asthma and bronchitis. Roots are used as ferbrifuge. Whole plant is used for Digestive disorders.

Specimen examined: MNR -278.
Botanical Name: *Digera muricata* (L.) Mart.

Family: *Amaranthaceae*

Local Name: Thuralikeerai

Description: An erect herb; stems terete, ribbed. Leaves simple, ovate, truncate or oblique at base, entire, obtuse or apiculate. Flowers pink or purplish, in lax spikes. Utricles minute, subglobose.

Parts used: Leaves, Flowers and Seed.

Preparation and administration: Leaves as salad taken to eliminate worms in the stomach. Flowers and seeds used in urinary discharges.

Specimen examined: MNR - 161.

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Botanical Name: *Dioscorea oppositifolia* L.

Family: *Dioscoreaceae*

Local Name: Malayan Kilangu kodi

Description: Large unarmed climber; leaves mostly opposite; male spikes stout, densely flowered, flowers globose, variable in size; capsules 2-lobed; seeds 1.6-3.0 cm in diameter, wing very broad.

Parts used: Tuber and fruit.

Preparation and administration: Hydrocele; body-ache is treated with tuber and fruit is used to treat wounds.

Specimen examined: MNR - 246.

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Botanical Name: *Diospyros montana* Roxb.

Family: *Ebenaceae*

Local Name: karunthuvalisu

Description: Tree, often spinous; leaves alternate, leaf blade ovate or oblong; flowers in short cymes, female flowers solitary, ovary 8-celled; fruits globose, supported by foliaceous lobed calyx.

Parts used: Bark, leaf and fruit.

Preparation and administration: Leaf paste is prescribed for fever; bark-paste in delirium, cracks in feet / sole and fruit is also used for the same.

Specimen examined: MNR - 076.
Botanical Name: *Diplocyclos palmatus* (L.) C. Jeffrey
Family: Cucurbitaceae
Local Name: lyvirali
Description: Climbing herb; tendrils extra-axillary, bifid; leaves simple, alternate, lamina deeply or shallowly palmately five-lobed; flowers yellowish, unisexual; berries spherical, nearly 1.8 cm in diameter, reddish with white vertical stripes.
Parts used: Leaves and Whole plant.
Preparation and administration: Leaf decoction is used for stomach pain. Leaves used as fodder. Whole plant is for constipation
Specimen examined: MNR -124.

Botanical Name: *Dodonaea angustifolia* L.F.
Family: Sapindaceae
Local Name: Virali
Parts used: Leaf
Preparation and administration: Leaf paste applied for cut wounds
Specimen examined: MNR -063.

Botanical Name: *Dolichandrone falcata* Seem.
Family: Bignoniaceae
Local Name: Vilpadri
Description: Medium sized tree with pinnate leaves; leaflets unequal at base. Flowers large. Capsule cylindric, long.
Parts used: Seed.
Preparation and administration: Seeds are used in spasmodic affections.
Specimen examined: MNR – 059.

Botanical Name: *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) Mant.
Family: Asteraceae
Local Name: Karichalankanni
**Description**: An erect or prostrate herb. Leaves simple, oblong-lanceolate, strigose. Flowers white or pale blue, in heterogamous heads; pappus absent. Achenes compressed, black.

**Parts used**: Leaves.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaves boiled in coconut oil and applied to relieve dandruff and for blackening grey hair.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 258.

**Botanical Name**: Elephantopus scaber L.

**Family**: Asteraceae

**Local Name**: Yanaiccuvati

**Description**: A stiff, perennial herb. Leaves simple, obovate-oblong, serrate-dentate. Flowers purple, in homogamous heads. Achenes ribbed.

**Parts used**: Root and Leaf.

**Preparation and administration**: Roots are used in abortion, menstrual disorders and to relieve toothache. Root paste with black pepper (3:1) is given for 5 days as antidysmenorrheic. Leaf paste is administered to cattle in diarrhoea.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 250.

**Botanical Name**: Embelia ribes Burm.f.

**Family**: Myrsinaceae

**Local Name**: Vayuvilanga

**Description**: Scandent shrubs with tubercles on stem. Leaves gland-dotted, with characteristic pit on the sides of the midrib. Flowers white in panicles. Drupes globose.

**Parts used**: Fruit.

**Preparation and administration**: Fruits used against tapeworms. Decoction used in chest and skin troubles. Fruits are also used in snake-bite and rat-bite poisonings, worm infestation and digestive disorders.

**Specimen examined**: MNR –149.

**Botanical Name**: Enicostemma axillare (Lam.) A. Raynal

**Family**: Gentianaceae

**Local Name**: Vellarugu

**Description**: Herbs with stout rootstock. Leaves linear or linear-oblong. Flowers white in axillary clusters. Capsule ellipsoid.
Parts used : Leaf and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Plant paste is locally applied in snake bite. Plant powder is applied to cure rheumatism. Leaf juice taken to arrest semen discharge in male during sleep.

Specimen examined : MNR – 206.

Botanical Name : Ervatamia heyneana Cooke
Family : Apocynaceae
Local Name : Kararali
Description : Shrub. Flowers white. Generally cultivated
Parts used : Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Root, Stem and Leaf extract against leukemia
Specimen examined : MNR – 015.

Botanical Name : Erythroxylum monogynum Roxb.
Family : Erythroxylaceae
Local Name : Chempulichan.
Description : Shrubs with obovate leaves. Stipules semi-amplexicaul, interpetiolar. Flowers white, solitary or fascicled. Drupe cylindric.
Parts used : Wood and Bark.

Preparation and administration: Infusion of wood and bark stomachic, and useful in dyspepsia and fever.
Specimen examined : MNR – 216.

Botanical Name : Eulophia epidendraea Fischer
Family : Orchidaceae
Local Name : Nil
Description : Herbs with fleshy tubers or rhizome. Flowers pale yellow.
Parts used : Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Whole plant used as tonic. Tubers are edible.
Specimen examined : MNR – 254.
Botanical Name: Euphorbia cyathophora Murr.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Milakai Nangai
Parts used: Latex
Preparation and administration: Milky latex is applied for scorpion bite to relieve pain (external).
Specimen examined: MNR – 276.

Botanical Name: Euphorbia fusiformis Ham. ex G.Don
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Nil
Description: Tuberous succulents. Leaves fleshy, in rosetts. Flowers unisexual.
Parts used: Roots
Preparation and administration: Root extract is medicinal.
Specimen examined: MNR – 094.

Botanical Name: Euphorbia hirta L.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Amampatchaiarisi
Description: A prostrate or erect, hirsute herb. Leaves simple, ovate, elliptic or lanceolate, serrate, acute. Cyathia greenish, in axillary cymes. Seeds 4-angled.
Parts used: Leaves and Flowers.
Preparation and administration: Leaves and flowers mixed with milk are given for increasing lactation. Latex is applied on vitiligo, pimples, corn and warts. Leaf paste mixed with goat milk and consumed for stomach upset and dysentery.
Specimen examined: MNR – 096.

Botanical Name: Euphorbia nivulia Ham.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Nagakalli.
Description: An armed, deciduous tree. Leaves simple, subsucculent, oblanceolate, apex broadly obtuse. Cyathia pale yellow, in subterminal cymes. Capsules 4-angular.

Parts used: Leaf, latex and root.

Preparation and administration: Leaf latex and root used in skin disorders and ear disorders and also in worm infestation and purgative.

Specimen examined: MNR – 166.

Botanical Name: Ficus benghalensis L.
Family: Moraceae
Local Name: Aalamaram

Description: A large tree; branches spreading; prop roots copious. Leaves simple, broadly ovate, obtuse. Syconia in axillary pairs, globose, red when ripe.

Parts used: Bark, Leaf, Flower fruit and latex.

Preparation and administration: Bark, leaf, flower, fruit and latex are used in polyuria, diarrhoea, leucorrhoea, dental and gum disordes, poisoning and ulcers.

Specimen examined: MNR – 039.

Botanical Name: Ficus glomerata Roxb.
Family: Moraceae
Local Name: Atthi

Description: Tree. Leaves opposite, ovate, galls present.

Parts used: Fruit

Preparation and administration: Fruit powder is taken with mishri to treat gonorrhea.

Specimen examined: MNR – 103.

Botanical Name: Ficus religiosa L.
Family: Moraceae
Local Name: Aarasamaram

Description: A large tree. Leaves simple, ovate, caudate at apex. Syconia in axillary pairs, globose, pink when ripe.

Parts used: Bark.

Preparation and administration: Bark is used in Eczema, leprosy, rheumatism and ulcers.

Specimen examined: MNR – 148.
Botanical Name: Ficus virens Aiton
Family: Moraceae
Local Name: Atthi
Description: Large tree. Leaves thick. Figs pedunculate, globose.
Parts used: Leaves
Preparation and administration: Leaves are boiled in water and water is used as a wash for women genital.
Specimen examined: MNR - 153.

Botanical Name: Firmiana colorata (Roxb.) R. Br.
Family: Sterculiaceae
Local Name: Malamparuthi
Description: Tree; leaves roundish, lobed; panicles numerous covered with orange or scarlet stellate tomentum; follicles 1 to 5, membranous; seeds ovoid.
Parts used: Flower
Preparation and administration: Sores due to mercurial poisoning treated by flower paste.
Specimen examined: MNR -237.

Botanical Name: Gardenia latifolia Aiton
Family: Rubiaceae
Local Name: Kattu marikkalam
Description: Tree; leaves opposite or ternate, deciduous; flowers solitary or binate, white, changing to light yellow, fragrant; fruits beaked, greenish, endocarp woody.
Parts used: Leaves, fruit, bark.
Preparation and administration: Snake bites are treated with bark. Latex in the treatment of ulcers in the feet.
Specimen examined: MNR -241.

Botanical Name: Gloriosa superba L.
Family: Liliaceae
Local Name: Kalappai kizhangu
Description: A perennial, slender climber; tuber forked. Leaves linear to ovate-lanceolate, apex tendrillar. Flowers red below, creamish above at anthesis, solitary, axillary. Capsules linear-oblong.

Parts used: Tubers.

Preparation and administration: Dried powdered tubers mixed with *Pongamia pinnata* Pierre oil are applied on the scalp to kill lice and remove dandruff.

Specimen examined: MNR – 034.

Botanical Name: *Glycosmis mauritiana* (Lam) Tanaka

Family: *Rutaceae*

Local Name: Panchanthalai

Description: Small trees with leaves 5 or more foliolate. Flowers white, in brown pubescent racemes. Berry ovoid, yellow, glandular, pitted.

Parts used: Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Leaf paste used for eczema and skin diseases.

Specimen examined: MNR – 169.

Botanical Name: *Gmelina asiatica* L.

Family: *Verbenaceae*

Local Name: Nilakumil

Description: A shrub; branchlets spiny. Leaves simple, ovate-ovate, glabrous. Flowers yellow, in terminal racemes. Drupes ovoid, yellow when ripe.

Parts used: Stem, Root and Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Stem, root and leaf bits soaked in water forming a glass full of slimy fluid consumed to relieve stomach ulcer.

Specimen examined: MNR – 244.

Botanical Name: *Gossypium harbaceum* L.

Family: *Malvaceae*

Local Name: Paruthi


Parts used: Root

Preparation and administration: Root bark decoction is used for abortion.

Specimen examined: MNR – 071.
**Botanical Name**: Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R.Br. ex Schult.

**Family**: Asclepiadaceae

**Local Name**: Sirukurinchan

**Description**: A climbing shrub. Leaves simple, ovate or elliptic, acute, pubescent below. Flowers yellow, in corymbose cymes. Follicles glabrous, beaked at apex.

**Parts used**: Leaves.

**Preparation and administration**: Shade-dried leaves powdered and taken for diabetes to reduce sugar in the blood.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 212.

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**Botanical Name**: Heliotropium indicum L.

**Family**: Boraginaceae

**Local Name**: Telkodukkai

**Description**: An erect herb; branches hirsute. Leaves simple, ovate-oblong, hispid above, pubescent beneath. Flowers pale violet, in extra-axillary simple or forked scorpioid spikes. Fruit of 4 nutlets.

**Parts used**: Whole plant.

**Preparation and administration**: Extract of stem and onion is drunk thrice a day to cure rabies. Plant paste is useful for ulcer, sores, wound, ringworm, skin affections and insect stings.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 263.

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**Botanical Name**: Hemidesmus indicus (L) R. Br.

**Family**: Asclepiadaceae

**Local Name**: Nannari

**Description**: A slender, climbing shrub. Leaves simple, variable, linear-lanceolate or broadly elliptic, acuminate, glabrous. Flowers purple, in axillary, clustered racemose cymes. Follicles in pairs, divaricate.

**Parts used**: Root.

**Preparation and administration**: Root powder added with hair oil is used for hair growth. Roots are used as spice or flavoring agent in syrup preparations. Root decoction relieves inflammation and ulcers of the alimentary tract. Root paste is applied an antidote for snake-bite.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 159.
**Botanical Name**: Hemionitis arifolia (Burm.f.) T. Moore

**Family**: Hemionitidaceae (Adiantaceae)

**Local Name**: Nil

**Description**: A small fern. Frond tufted, dimorphic; sterile fronds heart-shaped, ovate, deeply notched at base; fertile fronds ovate, cordate at base. Sori in rows along veins, reticulate.

**Parts used**: Fronds

**Preparation and administration**: A handful of fronds made into a paste, mixed in a glass of hot water, orally administered two times a day, for less poisonous snake bites. Twenty grams of frond-paste are applied externally on stomach once a day for a span of three days to get relief from colic symptoms.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 277.

**Botanical Name**: Hibiscus ovalifolius (Forssk.) Vahl

**Family**: Malvaceae

**Local Name**: Thengaipoondu

**Description**: Stellately tomentose undershrubs. Leaves lobed. Flowers white. Fruit globose.

**Parts used**: Leaf

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf juice mixed with rice water (Neeragaram) and consumed for the urination.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 247.

**Botanical Name**: Hibiscus rosa-sinensis L.

**Family**: Malvaceae

**Local Name**: Semparathai.

**Description**: Evergreen, woody shrub in cultivation.

**Parts used**: Leaf, Root and Flower.

**Preparation and administration**: Root-paste is given for irregular menstruation and as blood purifier with black pepper. Decoction of flower buds to cattle for the growth of foetus.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 144.
**Botanical Name**: Hiptage benghalensis (L.) Kurz  
**Family**: Malpighiaceae  
**Local Name**: Adigam  
**Description**: Large climbing shrub with brownish bark peeling off in flakes. Leaves opposite, elliptic-ovate. Flowers white with yellow or pink tinge. Fruit a samara, 1 to 3, equally winged.  
**Parts used**: Leaf.  
**Preparation and administration**: Leaves used in cutaneous diseases. Leaf juice insecticidal, used in scabies.  
**Specimen examined**: MNR – 035.

**Botanical Name**: Holoptelia integrifolia (Roxb.) Planch.  
**Family**: Ulmaceae  
**Local Name**: Ayil  
**Description**: A deciduous tree. Leaves simple, elliptic or ovate, acuminate. Flowers greenish, in axillary racemes. samara orbicular.  
**Parts used**: Leaf.  
**Preparation and administration**: Leaf juice sprayed over spider webs to eliminate spiders.  
**Specimen examined**: MNR – 187.

**Botanical Name**: Hybanthus enneaspermus (L.) F.Muell.  
**Family**: Violaceae  
**Local Name**: Orilaithamarai  
**Description**: A small herb. Leaves simple, lanceolate. Flowers pink to violet, solitary. Capsules globose.  
**Parts used**: Leaf.  
**Preparation and administration**: Decoction from shade dried, powdered leaves used in diabetes.  
**Specimen examined**: MNR – 210.

**Botanical Name**: Hyptis suaveolens Poit.  
**Family**: Lamiaceae  
**Local Name**: Thiruneeetrupacchai (or) Karunchatachi

Parts used: Whole plant and Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Plant paste is applied on skin infections. Leaf juice administered to relieve pain from insect bite.

Specimen examined: MNR – 213.

Botanical Name: Hygrophila auriculata (Schum.) Heine.
Family: Acanthaceae
Local Name: NeermuUi

Description: Armed spiny herbs. Leaves in whorls, lanceolate. Flowers blue, in axillary whors, encircled by thorns.

Parts used: Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Leaf paste applied on joints to relieve pain.

Specimen examined: MNR – 234.

Botanical Name: Ichnocarpus frutescens R.Br.
Family: Apocynaceae
Local Name: Udargodi, Palvalli


Parts used: Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Plant paste is applied on bone fracture and latex is applied on scabies.

Specimen examined: MNR – 036.

Botanical Name: Indigofera hirsuta L.
Family: Fabaceae
Local Name: Ghughru


Parts used: Whole plant.
**Preparation and administration:** During body pain, plant paste (20 gm) mixed with *Derris indica* oil is massaged twice a day for one week.

*Specimen examined:* MNR – 133.

**Botanical Name:** *Indigorera tinctoria L.*  
**Family:** Fabaceae  
**Local Name:** Aavuri  
**Description:** Woody herbs or undershrubs. Leaflets 9 to 13, oblovate-oblong. Flowers red, in racemes. Pod linear, minutely hairy, slightly curved.  
**Parts used:** Leaf.

*Preparation and administration:* Leaf juice consumed for lactation in nursing mothers.

*Specimen examined:* MNR – 132.

**Botanical Name:** *Jasminum angustifolium Vahl*  
**Family:** Oleaceae  
**Local Name:** Kattumalligai  
**Description:** Scandent shrubs with minutely pubescent branchlets. Leaves simple. Flowers white, fragrant, solitary or in cymes.  
**Parts used:** Root.

*Preparation and administration:* Root juice mixed with boiled rice water is taken orally as antidote for poison.

*Specimen examined:* MNR – 238.

**Botanical Name:** *Jatropha curcas L.*  
**Family:** Euphorbiaceae  
**Local Name:** Katalamanakku  
**Description:** A monoecious shrub. Leaves simple, broadly ovate, 3-5-lobed, cordate at base, acute. Flowers green, in branched dichasial cymes. Capsules green, subglobose; seeds black, carunculate.  
**Parts used:** Bark and Seed. Leaf and Latex.

*Preparation and administration:* The bark is chewed to cure mouth sores. Juice is used in scabies. Seed oil is used in rheumatism and paralytic affections. Latex applied over lips to heal cracks.

*Specimen examined:* MNR – 178.
Botanical Name: Jatropha gossypifolia L.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Senkattukottai

Description: A monoecious shrub; stem reddish when young. Leaves simple, 3-5-lobed, cordate at base, ciliate along margins with glandular hairs, acute. Flowers reddish-yellow, in terminal dichasial cymes.

Parts used: Latex and Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Latex is applied to relieve tooth ache. Leaf paste applied to heal cut wounds.

Specimen examined: MNR – 248.

Botanical Name: Justicia tranquebariensis L.f.
Family: Acanthaceae
Local Name: Mozhimurungai

Description: Erect herbs or low undershrubs with whitish-grey stem. Leaves obovate. Flowers white with pink spots, in short or long spikes; bracts orbicular or orbicular-cordate.

Parts used: Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Leaf juice applied for cut wounds; two drops of leaf juice poured in the eyes to cure eye infection.

Specimen examined: MNR – 091.

Botanical Name: Lannea coromandelica (Hautt.) Merr.
Family: Anacardiaceae
Local Name: Uthiyamaram

Description: A large, deciduous tree. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets ovate-oblong, entire, acuminate. Flowers pale yellow, in terminal panicled racemes. Drupes oblique.

Parts used: Stem.

Preparation and administration: Stem bark decoction given for severe fever.

Specimen examined: MNR – 043.

Botanical Name: Lantana camara L. var. aculeata (L.) Moldenke
Family: Verbenaceae
Local Name: Unnichedi
Description: Armed shrubs with prickly branches. Leaves ovate, sparsely pubescent beneath. Flowers in capitate heads. Drups globose purplish.

Parts used: Whole plant

Preparation and administration: Plant decoction is used in rheumatism, malaria and diarrhoea.

Specimen examined: MNR – 084.

Botanical Name: Lawsonia inermis L.
Family: Lythraceae
Local Name: Marudondi

Description: Spiny shrub; leaves opposite, simple, ovate-lanceolate; flowers in terminal panicles, fragrant, white; capsules with many seeds.

Parts used: Roots, leaves, flowers, seeds, stem and bark.

Preparation and administration: Root bark decoction is given for leucorrhoea.

Specimen examined: MNR – 173.

Botanical Name: Leonitis nepetiifolia (L.) R. Br.
Family: Lamiaceae
Local Name: Murandai

Description: An erect undershrub; branchlets pubescent. Leaves simple, ovate, serrate, acute. Flowers scarlet, in dense globose heads.

Parts used: Leaves and Flowers

Preparation and administration: Leaves used in skin problems and rheumatism. Ashes of flowers are applied to scalps and burns. Leaves used in rheumatism.

Specimen examined: MNR – 116.

Botanical Name: Leptadenia reticulata (Retz.) Wight & Arn.
Family: Asclepiadaceae
Local Name: Parurathalai

Description: A climbing shrub. Leaves simple, elliptic-oblong or lanceolate, apex acute. Flowers pale yellow, in umbellate cymes. Follicles paired, cylindric.

Parts used: Latex.

Preparation and administration: Milky latex applied to eliminate pimples on the face.

Specimen examined: MNR – 007.
Botanical Name : Leucas aspera (Willd.) Link
Family : Lamiaceae
Local Name : Sirutumbai (or) Thumbai
Parts used : Leaves.

Preparation and administration: Leaf decoction is massaged on forehead to relieve headache. Few drops are inhaled to cure sinusitis and put in ear for ear ache. It is taken orally in asthma and also applied on genital organs to cure venereal diseases. Leaves boiled in water and the vapour is inhaled for cough and cold; fresh salad prepared from the leaves relieves cold and fever; leaf juice also acts as anti cobra venom in livestock.

Specimen examined : MNR – 090.

Botanical Name : Lobelia nicotianifolia Roth ex R. & S.
Family : Campanulaceae
Local Name : Kattupugaiyilai
Parts used : Whole plant.

Preparation and administration : Whole plant is used as an antiseptic

Specimen examined : MNR – 086.

Botanical Name : Ludwigia adscendens (L.) H. Hara
Family : Onagraceae
Local Name : Hara
Parts used : Entire plant.

Preparation and administration : External application of poultices made of pounded fresh plant is prescribed against snake bite, burns, impetigo and diseases of the scalp.

Specimen examined : MNR – 032.
**Botanical Name**: *Maerua oblongifolia* (forsk.) A. Rich.

**Family**: Capparaceae

**Local Name**: Mulmurandai


**Parts used**: Root.

**Preparation and administration**: Root is used as tonic and stimulant.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 064.

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**Botanical Name**: *Maytenus senegalensis* Lam.

**Family**: Celastraceae

**Local Name**: Nil

**Description**: An armed shrub. Leaves simple, ovate or oblong, serrate, base obtuse, apex retuse. Flowers white, in cymes.

**Parts used**: Leaf and Stem.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf paste is applied on wounds and ulcers. Stem bark extract administered for dysentery.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 188.

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**Botanical Name**: *Melia azedarach* L.

**Family**: Meliaceae

**Local Name**: Malay vembu

**Description**: Medium-sized tree with dark grey longitudinally furrowed bark. Leaves bi or tripinnate. Flowers lilac, fragrant, in panicles. Drupe ellipsoid.

**Parts used**: Root, bark, leaf and gum

**Preparation and administration**: Root, bark, leaf and gum are useful in worm infestation, sterility in female and eczema.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 087.

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**Botanical Name**: *Merremia emarginata* (Burm.f.) Hallier f.

**Family**: Convolvulaceae

**Local Name**: Elikkatukkirai

**Parts used**: Whole plant.

**Preparation and administration**: Whole plant is crushed and applied externally to treat wounds and boils and also for diarrhoea and stomach disorders.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 044.

**Botanical Name**: *Miliusa velutina* (Dunal) Hook. f. & Thomson

**Family**: Annonaceae

**Local Name**: Chakkadamaram

**Description**: Deciduous trees. Leaves, broadly ellipsoid or ovate. Flowers in cymes. Fruiting carpel 1.0-1.5 cm, ellipsoid.

**Parts used**: Bark and fruit.

**Preparation and administration**: Bark extract is given for jaundice. Wood used for house building and agricultural implements. Fruit is edible.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 183.

**Botanical Name**: *Mimosa pudica* L.

**Family**: Mimosaceae

**Local Name**: Thottalchinungi

**Description**: A prostrate, prickly undershrub. Leaves bipinnate, sensitive; pinnae 1-2 pairs; leaflets linear-oblong. Flowers pink, in globose heads. Pods flat, jointed.

**Parts used**: Root

**Preparation and administration**: Macerated root is taken thrice a day to cure epilepsy and sexual weakness. Few drops are put in eye to cure eye troubles.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 175.

**Botanical Name**: *Mollugo cerviana* (L.) Ser.

**Family**: Molluginaceae

**Local Name**: Parpadagam


**Parts used**: Leaf

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf ground with goat milk and the mixture taken to relieve burning sensation of legs at the time of childbirth in women.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 099.
**Botanical Name**: Moringa oleifera Lam.

**Family**: Moringaceae

**Local Name**: Murungai

**Description**: A medium-sized tree. Leaves 2-3-pinnate; leaflets elliptic or obovate, rounded at apex. Flowers white, in axillary panicles. Capsules 3-valved, loculicidal; seeds winged.

**Parts used**: Whole plant.

**Preparation and administration**: Whole plant is used against unconsciousness, for eye diseases, skin diseases and fever. All parts are used in venomous bites, rheumatism and as a cardiac and circulatory stimulant. Seed oil is applied in rheumatism.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 031.

**Botanical Name**: Mucuna pruriens (L.) DC.

**Family**: Fabaceae

**Local Name**: Punaikkali

**Description**: Climbing shrubs with slender pubescent branches. Leaves 3-foliolate. Flowers purple, in pendulous racemes. Pod “S” shaped, bristly.

**Parts used**: Leaf and Root.

**Preparation and administration**: To cure leprosy, roots paste mixed with Celastrus paniculata Willd. oil is applied on affected parts as bandage for 3-4 hours once a day for 2 weeks. Root paste is also applied on swollen legs twice a day for one week. Leaf paste is used in boils, blisters and ulcers.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 069.

**Botanical Name**: Nothopegia Colebrookeana (Wight) Blume

**Family**: Anacardiaceae

**Local Name**: Pechchrumaram

**Description**: Shrubs or small trees. Leaves dense, leathery. Flowers crowded and cream. Fruits hairy.

**Parts used**: Fruits.

**Preparation and administration**: Fruits are edible.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 098.
Botanical Name : Nyctanthes arbor-tristis L.
Family : Verbenaceae
Local Name : Parrijatham.
Description : Large shrub or small tree with grey or greenish-white rough bark. Leaves opposite, ovate, scabrid. Flowers white, fragrant, in trichotomous cymes. Capsule obcordate. Cultivated.
Parts used : Leaves
Preparation and administration : 4-5 tender leaves are taken with pepper for menstruation.
Specimen examined : MNR – 239.

Botanical Name : Ocimum americanum L.
Family : Lamiaceae
Local Name : Naithulasi
Description : An erect undershrub; branchlets pubescent. Leaves simple, elliptic-lanceolate or ovate, entire or slightly serrate, aromatic. Flowers cream-white, in verticels. Fruit a collection of nutlets.
Parts used : Leaf.
Preparation and administration : Leaf juice is taken for stomach upset.
Specimen examined : MNR – 062.

Botanical Name : Ocimum basilicum L.
Family : Lamiaceae
Local Name : Thiruneetrupatchilai
Description : Large aromatic herbs or undershrub. Flowers rose or white, in whorls, distantly placed in racemes. Cultivated.
Parts used : Seed
Preparation and administration : Seeds soaked in water are taken for cooling effect.
Specimen examined : MNR – 139.

Botanical Name : Ocimum gratissimum L.
Family : Lamiaceae
Local Name : Ramathulasi
**Description**

**Parts used**
Leaf

**Preparation and administration**
Leaf paste is applied with common salt (2:1) on skin as curative to ring worm and powdered seed with mustard oil on boils for suppuration. Leaf juice is taken with gur and cow milk to relieve pain after delivery.

**Specimen examined**
MNR – 101.

**Botanical Name**
Ocimum tenuiflorum L.

**Family**
Lamiaceae

**Local Name**
Thulasi

**Description**

**Parts used**
Leaf and Seed.

**Preparation and administration**
Leaf juice for cough and cold. Leaf and seed are used for fever and digestive disorders.

**Specimen examined**
MNR – 110.

**Botanical Name**
Oldenlandia umbellata L.

**Family**
Rubiaceae

**Local Name**
Inpura

**Description**
Small herbs, moderately branched Umbels white coloured.

**Parts used**
Leaf

**Preparation and administration**
Leaf decoction of the plant and *Centella asiatica* is given to remove the phlegm from the respiratory tract.

**Specimen examined**
MNR – 010.

**Botanical Name**
Opuntia dillenii Haw.

**Family**
Cactaceae

**Local Name**
Sappathikkalli

**Description**
Erect branching shrubs; joints flat with many yellowish curved spines. Flowers bright yellow. Berry globose, glochidiate. Introduced plant.

**Parts used**
Fruit
Preparation and administration: Baked fruit juice is taken with honey to treat gonorrhoea.

Specimen examined: MNR – 003.

Botanical Name: Pachygone ovata (poiret) Hook.f & Thompson
Family: Menispermaceae
Local Name: Perunkattukodi
Description: Climbing shrubs with peltate leaves. Flowers unisexual. Drupe reniform, red when ripe.
Parts used: Fruit.
Preparation and administration: Dried fruit used as a vermicide and fish poison.
Specimen examined: MNR – 041.

Botanical Name: Passiflora foetida L.
Family: Passifloraceae
Local Name: Siruppunaikkalai
Description: A climbing shrub; branches faintly angular; tendrils axillary. Leaves simple palmately 3-lobed, rounded at base. Flowers white, solitary. Berries globose, orange.
Parts used: Leaves and Fruit.
Preparation and administration: Paste prepared from the leaves and fruits is used in coating boils for 2 or 3 days for relief of pain and absorption.
Specimen examined: MNR – 208.

Botanical Name: Pavetta tomentosa Roxb. ex Sm.
Family: Rubiaceae
Local Name: Pavattai
Description: Shrub. Leaves elliptic–oblong to elliptic–lanceolate, and pointed at both ends; flowers white, rather fragrant, in terminal panicles; fruit black when dry, somewhat rounded.
Parts used: Leaf.
Preparation and administration: Leaf is used to treat boils.
Specimen examined: MNR -047.
**Botanical Name**: Pavonia zeylanica (L.) Cav.
**Family**: Malvaceae
**Local Name**: Pazhampasi
**Description**: Woody herbs with shallowly or deeply palmately lobed leaves. Flowers pink or white. Cocci glabrous.
**Parts used**: Leaf.
**Preparation and administration**: Leaf juice given for reducing body heat and for cooling effect.
**Specimen examined**: MNR – 055.

**Botanical Name**: Pennisetum americanum (L.) Leeke
**Family**: Poaceae
**Local Name**: Kambu
**Description**: Erect herbs with slender stems. Leaves linear-lanceolate. Inflorescence a cylindrical panicle, pale brown, bristled. Cultivated.
**Parts used**: Grain.
**Preparation and administration**: Grains are used against piles
**Specimen examined**: MNR – 018.

**Botanical Name**: Pedalium murex L.
**Family**: Pedaliaceae
**Local Name**: Perunerunci (or) Anai nerunji
**Description**: Suberect, fleshy herbs. Leaves ovate, repand-dentate. Flowers yellow. Fruit tetragonal, with 4 sharp conical spines.
**Parts used**: Fruit and Whole plant.
**Preparation and administration**: Paste prepared from the leaves, ginger and common salt is given to cure tympany. Plant mucilage administered to livestock for easy delivery of young ones. Fruit powder mixed with sugar and Ghee is taken for Leucorrhoea.
**Specimen examined**: MNR – 172.

**Botanical Name**: Pergularia daemia (Forssk.) Chiov.
**Family**: Asclepiadaceae
**Local Name**: Veliparuthi
Description: A climbing shrub. Leaves simple, pubescent, ovate, cordate at base, entire, acute at apex. Flowers yellowish-green, in corymbose pedunculate cymes. Follicles paired, curved, softly echinate.

Parts used: Leaf and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Plant extract is useful in uterine and menstrual disorders and in facilitating parturition. Leaf juice taken to relieve acute stomach pain.

Specimen examined: MNR – 260.

Botanical Name: *Persicaria glabra* (Willd.) M. Gómez
Family: Polygonaceae
Local Name: Sivappu kumbakodali


Parts used: Root and leaves.

Preparation and administration: Root-paste is prescribed for snake bite and piles.

Specimen examined: MNR -253.

Botanical Name: *Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb.
Family: Arecaceae
Local Name: leechchamaram

Description: Trees. Leaflets in several fasicles lying in different planes; the lowest converted into long spines. Male flowers white, scented. Female inflorescence ultimately drooping. Drupes ca. 15 mm long, orange to reddish brown.

Parts used: Fruits, leaf.

Preparation and administration: Fruit is given for barren women and seed decoction for blood dysentery. Fruits edible; leaf used for making mats, baskets and for thatching.

Specimen examined: MNR -140.

Botanical Name: *Phyllanthus emblica* L.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Nelli

Description: Small tree cultivated. Leaves compound. Flowers small.
Parts used: Fruit pulp.

Preparation and administration: Fruit pulp mixed with Tribulus fruit powder is taken with honey. Fruits are used in heart diseases.

Specimen examined: MNR – 204.

Botanical Name: Phyllanthus reticulatus Poiret.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Karunelli
Description: A straggling shrub. Leaves simple, alternate in main stems; distichous in ultimate branchlets, ovate-elliptic, obtuse at base, entire, acute. Flowers greenish, axillary, solitary or in fascicles. Berries subglobose, bluish-black.
Parts used: Bark and Fruit.
Preparation and administration: Bark is used in rheumatism, dysentery and veneral diseases. Fruit is used in dressing wounds and also as a purgative.
Specimen examined: MNR – 042.

Botanical Name: Phyllanthus urinaria L.
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Local Name: Keelanelli
Description: An erect or decumbent herb. Leaves simple, oblong, truncate at base, entire, obtuse at apex. Flowers green, in axillary fascicles. Capsules globose.
Parts used: Leaf
Preparation and administration: Leaf paste administered for jaundice.
Specimen examined: MNR – 049.

Botanical Name: Piper nigrum L.
Family: Piperaceae
Local Name: Milagu
Description: Much branched climbing shrubs rooting at nodes. Leaves entire, cordate. Flowers minute, in spikes. Fruits ovoid or globose, bright red when ripe. Cultivated.
Parts used: Root and fruits.
**Preparation and administration:** Fruits are the source of black pepper. Root, seed and whole plant is used in fever, anaemia, cough, diarrhoea, abdominal disorders, piles, convulsion, polyuria, headache, indigestion and jaundice.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 271.

**Botanical Name**: Plectranthus amboinicus (Lour.) Spreng.

**Family**: Lamiaceae

**Local Name**: Karpooravalli (or) Omavalli

**Description**: Succulent, erect coarse herbs or undershrubs. Leaves ovate. Flowers small, pale purple. Cultivated.

**Parts used**: Leaf.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf juice used for digestion, cold and cough.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 235.

**Botanical Name**: Plumbago indica L.

**Family**: Plumbaginaceae

**Local Name**: Nil

**Description**: An undershrub. Leaves simple, ovate-oblong, acute. Flowers bright-rose coloured, in long terminal spikes. Capsules enclosed in a persistent glandular calyx.

**Parts used**: Roots

**Preparation and administration**: Roots are used as abortifacient, in leucoderma, syphilis and leprosy. Tincture of roots used in dyspepsia and other digestive troubles and in piles.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 048.

**Botanical Name**: Plumbago zeylanica L.

**Family**: Plumbaginaceae

**Local Name**: Kodivelli

**Description**: An undershrub. Leaves simple, ovate, entire. Flowers white, in terminal spikes. Capsules oblong, enclosed in persistent glandular calyx.

**Parts used**: Root

**Preparation and administration**: Root decoction is used as abortifacent, even in the later stage of pregnancy. Roots are used in diarrhoea, eczema, leprosy, piles and psoriasis.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 180.
**Botanical Name**: Polyalthia cerasoides (Roxb.) Bedd.

**Family**: Annonaceae

**Local Name**: Irumbuli

**Description**: A small tree; branchlets pubescent. Leaves simple, elliptic acuminate. Flowers green, axillary, solitary.

**Parts used**: Root and Fruit.

**Preparation and administration**: Decoction of fresh roots used as an abortifacient. Fruits are edible.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 195.

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**Botanical Name**: Polycarpaea corymbosa (L.) Lam.

**Family**: Caryophyllaceae

**Local Name**: Nilasadachchi

**Description**: Erect, diffuse pubescent herbs. Leaves opposite, linear, mucronate. Flowers with silvery-white calyx-lobes, in terminal corymbs. Capsule small, shining, brown.

**Parts used**: Leaf

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf juice when taken reduces the body heat and acts as a cooling agent. Leaf is a remedy against jaundice.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 233.

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**Botanical Name**: Polygala arvensis Willd.

**Family**: Polygalaceae

**Local Name**: Siriyannangai

**Description**: Herbs; leaves alternate, simple, variable, oblong; flowers in axillary racemes, yellow; capsules laterally compressed; seeds black, winged.

**Parts used**: Leaves and Whole plant.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf-paste is applied on ulcer and given orally for cough, cold and madness. Plant-paste is given to treat patients in delirium due to high fever. Snake bite is also treated by plant-paste. In delirious cases, the particles should not fall on the sides of the patients while applying. It is a bad omen. Patient will die.

**Specimen examined**: MNR -058.
**Botanical Name**: Pongamia pinnata (L.) Pierre.

**Family**: Fabaceae

**Local Name**: Pungum


**Parts used**: Leaves, Seeds, Roots and Bark.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaves tied around the neck to relieve whooping cough. Root juice is used for cleaning wounds and for cleaning teeth and strengthening gums. Fresh bark is given in piles. Decoction is bark is used in beri-beri. Seed oil is used in scabies, herpes, leucoderma and other cutaneous diseases.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 026.

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**Botanical Name**: Portulaca oleracea L.

**Family**: Portulacaceae

**Local Name**: Karikeerai

**Description**: A prostrate, annual herb, succulent. Leaves simple, obovate, apex acute. Flowers yellow, in clusters. Capsules ovoid, brown.

**Parts used**: Entire plant.

**Preparation and administration**: Except for the roots, entire plant is used as an antibacterial agent. Fresh plant juice diluted with water serves as an anthelmintic against oxyuriasis and ascariasis. It is administered in the morning, for 3-5 days. Leaf poultice is used to treat mastitis, boils and impetigo.

**Specimen examined**: MNR -129.

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**Botanical Name**: Priva cordifolia (L.F.) Druce

**Family**: Verbenaceae

**Local Name**: Ottuilai

**Description**: Erect herbs with quadrangular pubescent or hairy stems. Leaves ovate-elliptic, with hooked hairs. Flowers white, distant, in spicate racemes. Pyrenes reticulately pitted.

**Parts used**: Leaf

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf powder spread at the margins of the floor drive away bugs and also act as mosquito repellent, leaf paste for eczema.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 037.
**Botanical Name**: Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.

**Family**: Fabaceae

**Local Name**: Vengai

**Description**: Tree; leaves compound, imparipinnate, leaflets 5-7, or even bilobed at apex; flowers yellow in terminal panicles; pods nearly circular, flat winged, seeds, 1-2.

**Parts used**: Leaves and bark.

**Preparation and administration**: Bark extract for epilepsy. Wood and gum are commercially important.

**Specimen examined**: MNR -223.

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**Botanical Name**: Pterocarpus santalinus L.f.

**Family**: Fabaceae

**Local Name**: Sivappu chandanam


**Parts used**: Wood and Fruit.

**Preparation and administration**: Wood paste is applied to inflammations and to forehead in headache. Fruit decoction used in dysentery

**Specimen examined**: MNR - 145

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**Botanical Name**: Pterospermum acerifolium Willd.

**Family**: Sterculiaceae

**Local Name**: Vennangu

**Description**: Large trees with ash coloured smooth bark. Leaves variable in size and shape, cordate sometimes peltate, whitish-tomentose beneath. Flowers white, axillary, solitary or in pairs. Capsule oblong, 5 -angled, dark brown, woody.

**Parts used**: Flowers.

**Preparation and administration**: Infusion of petals (100 ml) with sugar (3:1) is given once daily for 5 days against indigestion, dehydration and in haematuria.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 184.
Botanical Name: *Pupalia lappacea* (L.) Juss. var. *lappacea*

Family: *Amaranthaceae*

Local Name: Adai-otti

Description: Herbs or undershrubs with diffuse, sparsely pilose 4-angled branches. Leaves obovate or ovate-elliptic, densely hairy beneath. Perfect flowers clustered in terminal, simple or branched spikes. Imperfect flowers modified into hooked bristles. Capsules globose.

Parts used: Fruit.

Preparation and administration: Fruit is used in enema preparations; mixed with palm oil applied on boils; soup used in cough and fever.

Specimen examined: MNR – 104.

Botanical Name: *Randia dumetorum* (Retz.) Poir.

Family: *Rubiaceae*

Local Name: Madhukkarai

Description: Armed shrub; leaves simple, usually fascicled on the suppressed branches, obovate; flowers at first white, later turning yellow, fragrant, solitary or 2-3 together at the ends of short leaf-bearing branchless; berries globose or broadly ovoid, smooth or obscurely longitudinally ribbed, yellow, crowned with calyx limb; seeds embedded in the pulp.

Parts used: Bark.

Preparation and administration: Epilepsy is treated with bark-paste decoction.

Specimen examined: MNR – 273.

Botanical Name: *Rhinacanthus nasutus* (L.) Kurz

Family: *Acanthaceae*

Local Name: Nagamalli

Description: Erect, much branched, pubescent undershrubs. Leaves elliptic-lanceolate. Flowers white, sessile or shortly pedicelled, solitary or 2 to 3 together, in terminal compound panicles.

Parts used: Roots and Leaves.

Preparation and administration: Fresh roots and leaves bruised and mixed with lime, used externally in eczema, ringworm and dhobi’s itch. Roots boiled in milk and used as an aphrodisiac.

Specimen examined: MNR – 070.
**Botanical Name**: Ricinus communis L.

**Family**: Euphorbiaceae

**Local Name**: Amanakku

**Description**: A shrub. Leaves palmatifid, 6-10-lobed, peltate, margin serrate, apex acuminate. Flowers pale yellow, in terminal paniculate racemes. Capsules 3-lobed, softly echinate. Cultivated.

**Parts used**: Seed, Root and Leaves.

**Preparation and administration**: Seed oil is given to relieve constipation during pregnancy. Decoction of roots given in lumbago. Poultice of leaves applied for boils and sores.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 014.

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**Botanical Name**: Rubia cordifolia L.

**Family**: Rubiaceae

**Local Name**: Manjiti

**Description**: A climbing shrub, rugose. Leaves simple, whorled, ovate to obovate, entire, acute at apex. Flowers white, in dichasical cymes. Drupes globose, fleshy.

**Parts used**: Roots, Stems and Leaves.

**Preparation and administration**: Roots are antidysenteric. Leaf decoction and stem used as a vermifuge.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 123.

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**Botanical Name**: Salacia chinensis L.

**Family**: Celastraceae

**Local Name**: Ponkorandi, Karkuvai

**Description**: Climbing shrubs or stragglers. Leaves elliptic-oblong, crenate-serrate. Flowers greenish-yellow, 2 to 3 fascicled or on axillary tubercles. Berry globose, red when ripe.

**Parts used**: Root.

**Preparation and administration**: Roots used in diabetes; also as an abortifcent; decoction given in amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea and venereal diseases.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 009.
Botanical Name : *Salvadora persica* L.

*Family* : *Salvadoraceae*

*Local Name* : Kodumaavali

*Description* : Large shrubs or small trees with whitish-yellow wood. Leaves succulent, elliptic-lanceolate or ovate. Flowers greenish-yellow, in axillary and terminal compound panicles. Drupe globose, smooth, red when ripe.

*Parts used* : Root, Stem, Leaf and Seeds.

*Preparation and administration*: Fresh root bark used as a vesicant. Decoction as a tonic. Stem bark used in gastric troubles and worm infestation. Leaf decoction in asthma and cough. Fruit in rheumatism. Seed purgative.

*Specimen examined* : MNR – 105.

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Botanical Name : *Santalum album* L.

*Family* : *Santalaceae*

*Local Name* : Sandanam

*Description* : Semi-parasitic medium-sized tree; bark reddish or dark grey or black, rough, with deep vertical cracks. Leaves elliptic-ovate. Flowers greenish-yellow, in axillary and terminal panicles. Drupe globose, purplish-black.

*Parts used* : Wood

*Preparation and administration*: Wood oil is used in thirst, venereal diseases, fever, skin eruptions, herpes, dysentery and piles.

*Specimen examined* : MNR – 268.

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Botanical Name : *Senna italica* L.

*Family* : *Caesalpiniaceae*

*Local Name* :

*Description* : Prostrate or decumbent herb / shrub. Leaves compound. Flowers pale yellow.

*Parts used* : Leaves.

*Preparation and administration*: Powder / paste of dry of green leaves are fed to animal against constipation.

*Specimen examined* : MNR – 118.
Botanical Name : **Senna auriculata L.**
Family : **Caesalpiniaceae**
Local Name : Aavaram
Description : An undershrub or shrub. Leaves pinnate; stipules auriculate; leaflets elliptic oblong. Flowers yellow, in terminal or axillary corymbose racemes. Pods flat.
Parts used : Anther, Leaf
Preparation and administration : Paste of anthers applied on the head before taking bath for cooling effect. Leaf juice is poured into eyes for ophthalmic infections.
Specimen examined : MNR – 066.

Botanical Name : **Senna tora (L.) Roxb.**
Family : **Caesalpiniaceae**
Local Name : Tagarai
Description : Foetid smelling herbs. Leaves with a conical gland between each of the two lowest pairs of leaflets. Leaflets in 3 pairs, opposite. Flowers in axillary pairs. Pod subtetragonal, apiculate; seeds rhomboidal.
Parts used : Leaves and Seeds.
Preparation and administration : Leaf extract is applied on ringworm and itch. Seed paste is used in skin diseases. Seeds are given to the animals for inducing fat. Leaf decoction for dysentery.
Specimen examined : MNR – 255.

Botanical Name : **Sesamum indicum Linn.**
Family : **Pedialaceae**
Local Name : Yellu
Description : An erect herb; branchlets puberulous. Leaves simple, elliptic or lanceolate, lobed or serrate. Flowers pinkish-white, axillary, solitary or in racemes. Capsules oblong, beaked.
Parts used : Seeds
Preparation and administration : Half grounded seeds mixed with ghee and sugar are taken with hot milk for abortion. Mixture of half grounded seeds **sugar** and **Ghee** is taken with milk to relieve amenorrhea.
Specimen examined : MNR – 226.
Botanical Name : **Sesbania grandiflora** (L.) Poiret.

Family : **Fabaceae**

Local Name : Agaththi

Description : Medium-sized tree. Leaves pinnate; leaflets linear-oblong, glabrous. Flowers white, pink or crimson, in 2 to 4 flowered racemes. Pods pendulous, septate. Cultivated.

Parts used : Leaf.

Preparation and administration : Leaf decoction to eliminate worms and cure ulcer in the stomach.

Specimen examined : MNR – 211.

Botanical Name : **Sesbania sesban** (L.) Merr.

Family : **Fabaceae**

Local Name : Chittakatti

Description : Tall shrubs. Leaves paripinnate; leaflets linear-oblong, entire, mucronate to acuminate. Flowers yellow with purple streaks, in axillary racemes. Pod slender, cylindrical. Cultivated and also found wild.

Parts used : Seed and Root.

Preparation and administration : Seed paste (15 gm) placed in cotton swab inserted into vagina causes abortion. Fresh root decoction is given twice a day for 3-4 days after menstrual phase is over as an antifertility agent.

Specimen examined : MNR – 030.

Botanical Name : **Sida acuta** Burm.f.

Family : **Malvaceae**

Local Name : Aruvammookukeerai

Description : An erect undershrub. Leaves simple, ovate-elliptic, cordate at base, serrate, acuminate at apex. Flowers yellow, solitary, axillary.

Parts used : Leaf

Preparation and administration: Leaf juice administered to arrest diarrhoea in livestock.

Specimen examined : MNR – 227.
**Botanical Name** : *Sida cordifolia* L.

**Family** : Malvaceae

**Local Name** : Palampasi

**Description** : Slender trailing herbs with sparsely pubescent or slightly viscid branchlets. Leaves ovate, cordate at base, dentate. Flowers yellow, solitary or 3 to 4 in racemes. Mericarps 5 hairy at apex.

**Parts used** : Seed.

**Preparation and administration** : Seed decoction is given for gonorrhoea.

**Specimen examined** : MNR – 061.

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**Botanical Name** : *Solanum nigrum* L.

**Family** : Solanaceae

**Local Name** : Manatakkali

**Description** : Unarmed herbs. Leaves ovate, distinctly toothed. Flowers white, few, in umbellate cymes. Berry globose.

**Parts used** : Fruit and whole plant

**Preparation and administration** : Fruit and whole plant is used in leprosy, piles, fever, oedema, polyuria, hiccup, cardiac diseases, vomiting, and as rejuvenator.

**Specimen examined** : MNR – 231.

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**Botanical Name** : *Solanum surattense* Burm.f.

**Family** : Solanaceae

**Local Name** : Kandangattiri


**Parts used** : Leaves, Roots, Fruits and Seeds.

**Preparation and administration** : Root used in cough, asthma and chest pain. Leaf juice mixed with pepper and rheumatism. Fruit juice used in sore-throat. Seeds useful in asthma and cough.

**Specimen examined** : MNR – 020.

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**Botanical Name** : *Solanum trilobatum* L.

**Family** : Solanaceae

**Local Name** : Thuthuvalai

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**Description**: Much branched spiny scandent shrubs. Leaves deltoid or triangular, irregularly lobed. Flowers purplish-blue, in cymes. Berry globose, red or scarlet.

**Parts used**: Leaf, Fruit, Flower and Whole plant.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf juice, fruits and flowers for cough and cold. Whole plant useful for bronchitis.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 097.

**Botanical Name**: Soymida febrifuga (Roxb.) A. Juss.

**Family**: Meliaceae

**Local Name**: Semmaram

**Description**: Large trees with rough bark exfoliating in large plates or scales. Leaves crowded at the ends of branches, paripinnate; leaflets 3 to 6, elliptic or oblong, entire. Flowers greenish-white, in large, terminal panicles. Capsule black, woody; seeds winged.

**Parts used**: Bark.

**Preparation and administration**: Bark is used in diarrhoea, dysentery and fever. Decoction is used in gargles, vaginal infections, rheumatic swellings and as enemata.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 056.

**Botanical Name**: Spermacoce hispida L.

**Family**: Rubiaceae

**Local Name**: Naththaichuri

**Description**: Hispid diffuse herbs. Leaves subsessile, elliptic-ovate. Flowers pinkish-white, in axillary fascicles. Capsule subglobose.

**Parts used**: Leaf.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaf juice to eliminate worms in the stomach; leaves when taken increase lactation in livestock.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 191.

**Botanical Name**: Sphaeranthus indicus L.

**Family**: Asteraceae

**Local Name**: Sivakaranthai (or) Kottakaranthai
Description: A diffuse, aromatic herb, glandular hairy; stems winged. Leaves simple, elliptic-ovate, serrate or toothed, narrowed at base, amplexicaul. Flowers pinkish-purple, in globose heads. Achenes compressed; pappus absent.

Parts used: Leaf.

Preparation and administration: Leaf decoction for severe fever.

Specimen examined: MNR – 147.

Botanical Name: Spilanthes calva DC.
Family: Asteraceae
Local Name: Palvalipoondu

Description: Erect herbs. Leaves broadly ovate, subentire, sparsely pubescent beneath. Heads conical, in terminal and axillary panicles. Florets pale yellow to white. Achenes obovate to trigonous, ciliate.

Parts used: Flowers.

Preparation and administration: Yellow head inflorescence chewed and kept by the side of the teeth to relieve severe toothache.

Specimen examined: MNR – 001.

Botanical Name: Spondias pinnata (L.f.) Kurz
Family: Anacardiaceae
Local Name: Kattuma, Mambulich, Akkarapattai.

Description: Aromatic deciduous tree; leaves compound; flowers many, in terminal spreading panicles; drupes fleshy with woody and fibrous endocarp.

Parts used: Roots, bark and leaves.

Preparation and administration: Root bark-paste is prescribed for rickets, muscular pain and stomach problems. Tribals give root-paste with tuber-paste of Sapla (Nymphaea nouchali) and leaf-paste of Bel (Aegle marmelos) 3:2:1 to women for the treatment of irregular menstruation.

Specimen examined: MNR -008.

Botanical Name: Stephania japonica (Thunb.) Miers.
Family: Menispermaceae
Local Name: Pathavalli


Parts used: Roots.
**Preparation and administration:** Roots used in fevers, diarrhoea, dyspepsia and urinary diseases.

*Specimen examined:* MNR – 080.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Strychnos nux-vomica L.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
<td>Loganiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Name</strong></td>
<td>Etti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parts used</strong></td>
<td>Seeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation and administration:</strong></td>
<td>Seeds crushed and soaked in castor oil and the mixture is applied for rheumatism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Specimen examined:* MNR – 196.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Swertia corymbosa (Griseb.) Wight ex C.B.Clarke</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
<td>Gentianaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Name</strong></td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Erect herbs with 4-angled long branches. Leaves ovate or obovate, sessile or subsessile, mucronate. Flowers pale blue, in dense, terminal corymbose panicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parts used</strong></td>
<td>Whole plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation and administration:</strong></td>
<td>Whole plant is used against fever.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Specimen examined:* MNR – 108.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Tamarindus indica L.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
<td>Caesalpiniaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Name</strong></td>
<td>Puli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>A large tree. Leaves paripinnate; leaflets narrowly oblong, obtuse at base and apex. Flowers pale yellow, in lax racemes. Pods turgid, falcate. Cultivated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parts used</strong></td>
<td>Fruit and Seed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation and administration:</strong></td>
<td>Diluted fruit pulp mixed with jaggery and taken to reduce body heat. The seed after rubbing on stone kept over the spot of scorpion bite to relieve pain.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Specimen examined:* MNR – 213.
Botanical Name: *Tamilnadia uliginosa* (Retz.) Tirvengadum & Sastre
Family: Rubiaceae
Local Name: Nil
Description: A small, armed tree. Leaves simple, obovate or obovate-oblong, obtuse at apex. Flowers white, solitary. Berries ovoid, yellow when ripe.
Parts used: Fruit.
Preparation and administration: Sliced tender fruits boiled and water filtered out cooked as vegetables.
Specimen examined: MNR - 023.

Botanical Name: *Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pers.
Family: Fabaceae
Local Name: Adasgi
Description: An erect undershrub. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets obovate, obtuse-retuse at apex. Flowers pink, in extra-axillary racemes. Pods flat.
Parts used: Whole plant, and Root.
Preparation and administration: In case of diabetes, decoction of whole plant is taken early morning for one month. During dysentery, 50 gm of fresh crushed roots are taken with a cup of water twice a day for two days. During fever, root decoction is taken thrice a day for two days. Two pills, made from leaf powder, rhizomes of Ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Rosc.) and Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* Linn.) are taken twice a day for two weeks for imparting strength and vigour to women after childbirth.
Specimen examined: MNR - 120.

Botanical Name: *Terminelia arjuna* (Roxb.) Wight & Arn.
Family: Combretaceae
Local Name: Vellmarudhu
Description: A large, deciduous tree; bark grey, smooth. Leaves simple, oblong or obovate-oblanccolate, obtuse or subcordate at base, obtuse at apex. Flowers pale yellow, in panicled spikes. Drupes 5-angled, woody.
Parts used: Stem bark.
Preparation and administration: Stem bark powder is taken with water for Leucorrhoea.
Specimen examined: MNR - 113.
Botanical Name: *Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb.

Family: Combretaceae

Local Name: Tani

Description: Deciduous buttressed tree; leaves simple, alternate, broadly elliptic; flowers pale greenish yellow with an offensive odour, in axillary spikes; drupes ovoid, obscurely 5 angled, narrowed into a very short stalk.

Parts used: Seeds and fruits.

Preparation and administration: Seed is used in treating dysentery. Fruit powder an ingredient of Ayurvedic preparation of ‘Triphala’ used for respiratory and gastric disorder (Fruit powder of *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Terminalia bellirica* and *T. chebula* (4:2:1).

Specimen examined: MNR -073.

Botanical Name: *Terminalia chebula* Retz.

Family: Combretaceae

Local Name: Kadukkai

Description: A large tree; bark dark-brown. Leaves simple, ovate or elliptic-obovate, subacute-obtuse at apex. Flowers greenish-yellow, in panicled spikes. Drupes obovoid, ribbed, greenish-yellow.

Parts used: Bark and Fruit.

Preparation and administration: Bark is diuretic. Fruit is laxative. It is a constituent of Triphala.

Specimen examined: MNR – 011.

Botanical Name: *Thespesia populnea* (L.) Soland ex. Corrêa

Family: Malvaceae

Local Name: Poovarasu

Description: Large shrubs or small trees; bark grey – brown, fissured, often scaly. Leaves cordate-ovate, dark green. Flowers yellow, with purple base, solitary. Capsule brown, globose or oblong.

Parts used: Root, Bark, Fruit, Leaves and Flowers.

Preparation and administration: Paste of the young fruit applied for joint pain. Bark, leaves, flowers and fruits used in cutaneous affections. Seed oil used in skin troubles. Bark, roots and fruits and astringent, used in dysentery and haemorrhoids. Seeds purgative.

Specimen examined: MNR – 207.
Botanical Name: Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Miers ex. Hook.f. & Thomson

Family: Menispermaceae

Local Name: Amirthavalli (or) Cheenthil

Description: A climbing shrub, with succulent stem. Leaves simple, ovate, cordate at base, acuminate at apex. Flowers pale yellow, in drooping racemes. Drupes ovoid, red.

Parts used: Leaves

Preparation and administration: Warmed leaves are wrapped round fracture and painful joints. Leaf paste applied for joint pain.

Specimen examined: MNR - 199.

Botanical Name: Tragia involucrata L.

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Local Name: Chenthatti

Description: Climbing hispid herb with stinging hairs; leaves simple, alternate; flowers, in terminal axillary and leaf-opposed racemens, male flowers many in the upper part, female flowers few at the base; capsules 3-lobed; seeds globose, smooth.

Parts used: Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Plant-paste used in inflammation of finger. Root decoction prescribed for bronchitis.

Specimen examined: MNR - 236.

Botanical Name: Tribulus terrestris L.

Family: Zygophyllaceae

Local Name: Nerunci

Description: Procumbent herbs with slender, cylindrical, light brown, aromatic roots. Leaves paripinnate; leaflets oblong, mucronate. Flowers bright yellow, axillary, solitary. Fruit globose, of 5 to 12 woody cocci, each coccus with a pair of hard unequal spines.

Parts used: Leaf, Root and Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Decoction of leaf and root is used to cure kidney stone. Plant ash is applied externally for rheumatism. Leaf paste is applied on wounds. Leaf juice is used for jaundice.

Specimen examined: MNR – 266.
Botanical Name: **Trichodesma indicum** (L.) R. Br.

Family: **Boraginaceae**

Local Name: Kavilthumbai

Description: Hispid, erect or diffuse herbs. Leaves variable in shape. Flowers pale blue turning pink or white, solitary, drooping. Fruits pyramidal, 4-ribbed, enclosed in accrescent calyx.

Parts used: Leaf and Root.

Preparation and administration: Fresh leaf salad useful for stomach upset. Root is used in dysentery; pounded and applied to swellings of joints.

Specimen examined: MNR - 024.

Botanical Name: **Trichosanthes tricuspidata** Lour. var. *tricuspidata*

Family: **Cucurbitaceae**

Local Name: Shavaripalam

Description: Woody climbing shrubs. Leaves ovate, palmately 3-lobed, cordate. Male flowers few, in racemes. Female flowers solitary, axillary. Berry red at maturity.

Parts used: Root and Fruit.

Preparation and administration: Root is used to treat carbuncles. Fruits pounded in coconut oil and applied to sores.

Specimen examined: MNR - 230.

Botanical Name: **Tridax procumbens** L.

Family: **Asteraceae**

Local Name: Murianpacchilai (or) Kalipoondu

Description: A hispid, procumbent herb. Leaves simple, lanceolate to ovate, acute at base, margin coarsely serrate, acute at apex. Flowers yellow in terminal heads. Achenes hairy; pappus white.

Parts used: Whole plant.

Preparation and administration: Plant juice is applied to cure wounds and boils. Leaf juice is applied on the head after shaving for better growth of hairs. Leaf juice applied for cut wounds; juice also applied to wounds caused during cock fight.

Specimen examined: MNR - 151.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Trigonella foenum-graecum L.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Name</td>
<td>Vendayam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Aromatic herbs. Leaves pinnate, 3-foliolate; leaflets oblanceolate, obscurely dentate. Flowers white or yellowish-white, axillary. Pod 10-20 seeded; Seeds greenish-brown. Cultivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parts used</strong></td>
<td>Seeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation and administration:</strong></td>
<td>Seeds are used as tonic and galactagogue, antidysenteric, Antidiabetic and refrigerant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specimen examined</strong></td>
<td>MNR – 111.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Tylophora indica (Burm.f.) Merr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Asclepiadaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Name</td>
<td>Nayppalai or Nangilaippirattai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Much branched twining or prostrate undershrubs. Leaves ovat-oblong to elliptic-oblong, pubescent beneath, rounded or subcordate at base. Flowers with purple blotches, in lateral umbellate cymes. Follicle paired, divaricate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parts used</strong></td>
<td>Leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation and administration:</strong></td>
<td>Leaf extract of the plant and Tinospora cordifolia with goat milk is given orally in insect bite. Leaves taken raw or cooked to relieve asthma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specimen examined</strong></td>
<td>MNR – 067.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Urginea indica (Roxb.) Kunth.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Liliaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Name</td>
<td>Narivengayam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Bulbose scapigerous herbs. Leaves linear-lorate. Flowers greenish-purple, on slender scapes. Capsule ellipsoid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parts used</strong></td>
<td>Leaf, Bulb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation and administration:</strong></td>
<td>Leaf paste used for bone fracture. Bulb is used for snake-bite poisoing and cardiac diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specimen examined</strong></td>
<td>MNR – 078.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Botanical Name : Vanda tessellata (Roxb.) Hook.f. ex G. Don
Family : Orchidaceae
Local Name : Naguli
Description : A small epiphytic herb. Roots white, shiny, silvery grey coloured. The plant develops two kinds of roots, the clinging roots and aerial roots. Leaves coriaceous in two rows oblique at apex; flowers axillary racemose or solitary.
Parts used : Root and leaf.
Preparation and administration: Snake bites are treated by root. Warm leaf-juice is applied in the ear for ear-ache.
Specimen examined : MNR -057.

Botanical Name : Ventilago madraspatana Gaertn.
Family : Rhamnaceae
Local Name : Vempadam, Pappili.
Description : Woody climber; leaves simple, alternate, oblong - lanceolate or elliptic - ovate; flowers greenish with an offensive odour in terminal panicles; nuts supported by the persistent calyx, winged, rounded at the apex.
Parts used : Bark, Seed and Root.
Preparation and administration: Unconsciousness and stomach ulcer are treated with stem-bark decoction. Seed oil with paste of turmeric (5:2) on head to promote hair growth. Root decoction for general weakness and renal problems.
Specimen examined : MNR -142

Botanical Name : Vicoa indica (L.) DC.
Family : Asteraceae
Local Name : Jimikkipoo
Description : An erect herb. Leaves simple, lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, serrulate, amplexicaul and auriculate at base, acute at apex. Flowers yellow, in heads. Achenes obovate, obtuse at apex.
Parts used : Leaf, Root and Whole plant.
Preparation and administration: Leaf decoction for stomach upset and dysentery. Whole plant shows antifertility activity. Roots used in scorpion sting.
Specimen examined : MNR – 181.
**Botanical Name**: Vigna mungo (L.) Hepper  
**Family**: Fabaceae  
**Local Name**: Ulundu  
**Description**: Erect hairy herbs. Leaves 3-foliolate; leaflets entire, rhomboid-ovate. Flowers yellow, on short peduncles. Pod cylindric, erect or spreading, hairy, with a short hooked beak. Cultivated.  
**Parts used**: Fruit.  
**Preparation and administration**: Fruit used in rheumatism, nervous disorders and hepatic diseases.  
**Specimen examined**: MNR – 265.

**Botanical Name**: Vitex altissima L.f.  
**Family**: Verbenaceae  
**Local Name**: Mayilaadi  
**Description**: A medium-sized tree; leaves 3-foliolate, petiole winged towards the apex. Panicles axillary and terminal, corolla whitish-purple to violet. Fruit subglobose, 5-8 mm in diameter, bluish-black when mature.  
**Parts used**: Bark.  
**Preparation and administration**: Malaria is treated by the bark. Externally applied for rheumatic swelling.  
**Specimen examined**: MNR -029.

**Botanical Name**: Vitex negundo L.  
**Family**: Verbenaceae  
**Local Name**: Nochchi  
**Description**: A large shrub. Leaves 3-5-foliolate; leaflets lanceolate, acuminate. Flowers bluish-white, in pedunculate cymes. Drupes globose, black.  
**Parts used**: Leaves.  
**Preparation and administration**: Sun dried powdered leaves (3gm) after overnight soaking in water is prescribed once in the morning for one month to cure rheumatism. Leaves boiled and the vapour is inhaled to relieve cough and cold, body pain and headache.  
**Specimen examined**: MNR – 146.
**Botanical Name**: Waltheria indica L.

**Family**: Sterculiaceae

**Local Name**: Sembudu

**Description**: Erect or procumbent, pubescent herbs or undershrubs. Leaves ovate-elliptic, cordate or rounded at base, serrate. Flowers yellow, in axillary fascicles. Capsule 2-valved, enclosed in the calyx.

**Parts used**: Whole plant and Root.

**Preparation and administration**: Whole plant is purgative. Roots chewed to control internal haemorrhages; Root decoction is used for inducing fecundity in women.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 158.

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**Botanical Name**: Wattakaka volubilis (L.f.) Stapf

**Family**: Asclepiadaceae

**Local Name**: Kurincha, Kodippalai, Perunkurincha.

**Description**: Large climbing shrubs with lenticellate branchlets. Leaves ovate, truncate or shallowly cordate. Flowers greenish, in axillary umbellate cymes. Follicles 2, lanceolate, mealy, ferruginous-tomentose, turgid

**Parts used**: Roots and Leaves.

**Preparation and administration**: Roots and tender stalks emetic and purgative. Leaves used in boils and abscesses.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 050.

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**Botanical Name**: Wedelia chinensis (Osbeck) Merr.

**Family**: Asteraceae

**Local Name**: Manajal karisalai.

**Description**: Procumbent hairy herbs rooting at nodes. Leaves opposite, subsessile, lanceolate-oblong, entire or irregularly crenate-serrate. Head solitary, bright yellow, on long axillary peduncles. Achenes acute, pubescent.

**Parts used**: Whole plant.

**Preparation and administration**: Decoction of the whole plant used in menorrhagia and uterine haemorrhages. Whole plant is used in jaundice and skin diseases.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 136.
Botanical Name: Withania somnifera (L.) Dunal
Family: Solanaceae
Local Name: Amukkira
Description: Erect much branched tomentose undershrubs with stout, fleshy, whitish-brown roots. Leaves ovate, simple. Flowers small, greenish or yellow, in axillary umbellate fascicles. Berry small, globose, red, enclosed in calyx.
Parts used: Root and Stem.
Preparation and administration: Root paste is used in rheumatism and painful swellings. Stem bark powder is taken to regulate menstrual disorder.
Specimen examined: MNR – 019.

Botanical Name: Wrightia tinctoria (Roxb.) R.Br.
Family: Apocynaceae
Local Name: Vetpalai
Parts used: Leaf, Bark and Seeds.
Preparation and administration: Leaf soaked in coconut oil for few hours and applied for eczema, psoriasis and other skin diseases. Bark and Seeds used in flatulence.
Specimen examined: MNR – 185.

Botanical Name: Zea mays (L.) Sweet
Family: Gramineae
Local Name: Machacholam
Description: Erect herb; culms 2-3 m high. Leaves flat, lanceolate, base sheathed, apex acute or acuminate. Male flowers pale yellow, in terminal spiciform racemes. Female flowers yellow, in axillary spikes. Grains oblong, yellow. Cultivated.
Parts used: Grains
Preparation and administration: Half ripe grains are prescribed to increase lactation.
Specimen examined: MNR – 165.
**Botanical Name**: Zizyphus nummularia (Burm.f.) Wight & Arn.

**Family**: Rhamnaceae

**Local Name**: Korgodi

**Description**: Thorny shrubs with spreading branches. Leaves ovate or orbicular, dentate, tomentose beneath; stipular thorns in paris. Flowers pale yellow, in axillary cymes. Drupe globose, red, glabrous.

**Parts used**: Leaves.

**Preparation and administration**: Leaves used in scabies and cutaneous diseases. Dried leaves are burnt and smoke inhaled to relieve cough and cold.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 163.

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**Botanical Name**: Zizyphus oenoplia (L.) Mill.

**Family**: Rhamnaceae

**Local Name**: Suraimullu

**Description**: Thorny straggling shrub; leaves, alternate, distichous, ovate to ovate – lanceolate, often oblique; flowers green in subsessile pubescent axillary cymes; drupes globose or obovoid, shining; seeds woody or horny.

**Parts used**: Stem bark and root.

**Preparation and administration**: Dysentery. Tribals prescribe root decoction with paste of long peppers (3:1) to women for hastening child birth. Stem bark for inflammation of mucous membrane of uterus.

**Specimen examined**: MNR - 156.

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**Botanical Name**: Ziziphus xylopyrus (Retz.) Willd.

**Family**: Rhamnaceae

**Local Name**: Kottei

**Description**: A large, straggling shrub; young shoots rusty tomentose. Leaves simple, ovate-elliptic. Flowers pale yellow, in axillary and extra-axillary cymes. Drupes 3-loculed, ovoid, grey tomentose.

**Parts used**: Root, Bark and Fruit.

**Preparation and administration**: Root bark and Fruit are used for bronchial asthma, diarrhoea, and gastric problems.

**Specimen examined**: MNR – 182.
4.3 Conclusion

The traditional knowledge system in India is fast eroding. There is an urgent need to record all ethnobotanical information among the diverse ethnic communities before the traditional culture is completely lost. Often, tribals are exploited by the modern societies and they are forbidden to use the forest resources with which their lives are strongly interwoven. As a result of present study the ethnomedicinal use of approximately 279 plant species belonging to 90 families 248 genera have been reported from the Kalrayan hills.

Some important medicinal plants which occur in the region are *Abrus precatorius, Urginea indica, Aristolochia bracteolata, Ficus benghalensis, Solanum nigrum, Asparagus racemosus, Helicteres isora, Celastrus paniculatus, Chrozophora rotteri, Pedalium murex and Withania somnifera*. From among 279 plant species several diseases such as digestive system and related ailments, skin diseases, respiratory related ailments, blood and liver related diseases, urinary systems related problems, sex related disorders, animal bites and parasitic nature of maladies, rheumatis, sprains and swellings, ear, eye, teeth and hair related ailments, weakness and debility, skin diseases and related ailments find remedies About 14 species are useful for digestive disorders. Hence the role of ethnomedicinal surveys and field work are of crucial importance as some miraculous medicines for uncurable diseases are known to the tribes and aboriginals and such acquired knowledge through the ages is usually passed on from generation to generation as a guarded secret of certain families. Therefore it is necessary to popularise the identity and utility of these medicinal plants.
The observations emanating from the present survey need to be substantiated with pharmaco-chemical studies in order to evaluate their effectiveness. However, for some species, there is evidence in the literature that the mode of application being practised by the local people is likely to be effective. For example several alkaloids have been isolated from the extract of whole plant of *Argemone mexicana* (Chang *et al.*, 2003) in the traditional medicine of Southern Rajasthan. The seed powder of *Abrus precatorius* is used as abortifacient (Singh and Pandey, 1998) which coincides by the pharmacological validation (Sethji *et al* 1990). Similarly the anthelmintic properties of *Tribulus terrestris* in traditional medicins is reported by Asha *et al.*, (2001) Prashanth *et al.*, (2001); Deepak *et al.*, (2002); which is due to spirostanol type saponin, tribulosin and β-sitosterol-D glucoside. The application of fruit extract of *Helicteres isora* in gastrospasm is in accordance with the fact that it contains cucurbitacine (Bean *et al.*, 1985), flavonoids (Romesh and Yuvarajan, 1995), neolignans (Tezuka *et al.*, 1999) and rosmarinic acid (Satake *et al.*, 1999).