**List of Glossary and Symbols/Notations used and their Description**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha diversity</td>
<td>A single within-habitat measure of species diversity regardless of internal pattern, generally over an area of 0.1 to 1,000 hectares (Whittaker 1960, 1977).</td>
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<td>Assemblages</td>
<td>A group of ecologically interrelated plant and animal species.</td>
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<td>Beta diversity</td>
<td>The change in species diversity among different natural communities of a landscape; an index of between-habitat diversity (Whittaker 1960, 1977).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>The variety of life and its interrelated processes same as biological diversity.</td>
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<td>Community</td>
<td>A group of interacting plants and animals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecosystem</td>
<td>A biological community (ranging in scale from a small area to millions of hectares), its physical environment, and the processes through which matter and energy are transferred among the components.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floristic</td>
<td>The plant species that make up the vegetation of a given area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>The physical structure, vegetation composition, and physiognomy of an area, the characteristics of which determine its suitability for particular animal or plant species.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phenology</td>
<td>The study of periodic biological phenomena, such as flowering, breeding, and migration, especially as related to climate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiognomy</td>
<td>Physical features of the plant community.</td>
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<td>Species richness</td>
<td>The number of species of a particular interest group found in a given area</td>
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<td>Ecological amplitude</td>
<td>The limits of environmental conditions within which an organism can live and function.</td>
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<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Place where an organism or a biological population normally lives or occurs.</td>
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<td>Patchiness</td>
<td>Distributional pattern of the plant organism where individuals/populations are aggregated on some spatial scale.</td>
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</table>
Sample : A frame quadrat that is representative of the whole area.

Area : Represents an ecosystem. Three ecosystems chosen are RP, OP and Forest areas.

Open areas (OP area) : Areas found adjacent to rubber plantations on its outskirts where no farming is done. There is no human interference in these areas except for occasionally disturbance due to animal or human movement.

Rubber Plantation (RP area) : Areas within the plantation having a full canopy. The age of the plantations ranged from 7 to 20 years. It may be noted that two areas of rubber plantation chosen for our study viz. Puthupally and Neezhoor have not been weeded for seven years.

Forest areas : Areas within the Tropical evergreen forest adjacent to the rubber plantation. These forests are reserved forest with no disturbance by human habitation or animal grazing.

Sub samples/Subsets : Individual rubber plantations, Open areas and Forest areas sampled in the three districts of Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Kollam viz. Neezhoor, Pampadi, Puthupally, Mundakaym, Chetheckal and Thenmala.

Deep Forested species : Species found well within the forest.

S- observed (S_{obs}) : The number of species estimated by the species accumulation curve.

S-maximum (S_{max}) : The number of species estimated by the parametric and non-parametric species richness estimator.

S-true (S_{true}) : The number of species actually observed in the qualitative floristic assessment of the area.

RP : Rubber plantation

OP : Open area

RDI : Relative diversity index

RA plot : Rank on abundance plot

DI : Diversity index

ADI : Alpha diversity index

EI : Eveness index

RTS diversity profile : Right tailed sum diversity profile