CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 1

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE 6
   2.1. Endemism and its importance 6
   2.2. Concepts on endemism 9
   2.3. Relevance of endemism in conservation 12
   2.4. Endemism in global biodiversity centers 13
   2.5. Endemic wealth of Indian subcontinent 14
   2.6. Kerala's (political area) endemic flora 20
   2.7. Ethnobotany of endemic angiosperms of Kerala 22
       2.7.1 Significance of ethno-ecology and ethnobotany 23
       2.7.2 Tribes of Kerala 24
       2.7.3 Tribal taxonomy 27

3. STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY 28
   3.1 Study area 28
      3.1.1 Topography 28
      3.1.2 Geology and Soil 29
      3.1.3 Climate 30
      3.1.4 Vegetation 30
   3.2 Methodology 33
      3.2.1. Herbarium study 34
      3.2.2 Field study 35
      3.2.3. Plan of presentation of data 37

4. OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION 39
   4.1. Endemic profile of districts 39
      4.1.1. Thiruvananthapuram 39
      4.1.2. Kollam 44
      4.1.3. Pathanamthitta 47
4.1.4. Alappuzha 49
4.1.5. Kottayam 50
4.1.6. Idukki 51
4.1.7. Emakulam 54
4.1.8. Thrissur 56
4.1.9. Palakkad 57
4.1.10. Malappuram 60
4.1.11. Kozhikode 62
4.1.12. Wayanad 64
4.1.13. Kannur 66
4.1.14. Kasaragod 68

4.2. Ethnobotanical information of the use of endemic species 69
4.2.1. Endemic medicinal plants 69
4.1.2. Plants for other traditional uses 69

5. SYSTEMATIC TREATMENT 76
5.1. Key to the exclusive endemic angiosperms of kerala 76
5.1.1. Key to Angiospermae 76
5.1.2. Key to Dicotyledones 76
5.1.3. Key to Dichlamydeae 76
5.1.4. Key to the families of Polypetalae 76
5.1.5. Key to the families of Gamopetalae 77
5.1.6. Key to the families of Monochlamydeae 78
5.1.7. Key to the families of Monocotyledones 79

5. 2. FAMILY TREATMENT 79

6. ANALYSIS 329
6.1. Endemic regions 329
6.1.1. Micro-hotspots 329
6.1.2. Endemic belts of Kerala 331
6.1.3. Coastal endemic belts of Kerala 335
6. 2. Endemism in Kerala 337
6.2.1. District wise distribution of exclusive endemic taxa of the state 337
6.2.2. Dominant families showing high percentage of endemism 337
6.2.3. Physiognomic distribution of exclusive endemic plants of the state 344
6.2.4. Rare and threatened exclusive endemic Plants 344
6.2.5. Exclusive endemic genetic resources of the State 348
6.2.6. Analysis on ethnobotanical information of the use of endemic species 350
6. 3. Conclusion

7. SUMMARY

8. REFERENCES

INDEX

APPEDDIX I : Exclusive endemics of Kerala State
APPENDIX II : District wise distribution of exclusive endemic taxa of Kerala
APPENDIX III : List of publications