Summary
In the present study, about 20 wild edible tubers / corms / rhizomes are reported to be eaten by the tribals Kanikkar and Palliyar of South-eastern slopes of Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu were collected and documented.

The chemical analysis of the various edible parts revealed that, most of them appeared to be good sources of crude protein, crude lipid, crude fibre, NFE, starch, vitamins (niacin and ascorbic acid) minerals like potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron, some of the essential amino acids and essential fatty acid like linoleic acid. The antinutritional factors such as free phenolics, tannins, hydrogen cyanide, total oxalate, amylase inhibitor and trypsin inhibitor activities were detected in all the collected samples.

The proximate composition reveals that, most of the investigated plant parts appear to be good sources of crude protein and crude lipid. Among the investigated edible parts, the starch content is found to be high in the tuber of Dioscorea esculenta. The data of mineral profiles reveals that potassium is the predominant element in the corms of Alocasia macrorrhiza, Colocasia esculenta, Xanthosoma sagittifolium and X. violaceum via a vis RDA's value of NRC / NAS (1980). All the investigated plant parts exhibited in vitro protein and in vitro starch digestibility. Rhizomes Canna indica and tuber of Dioscorea spicata showed high in vitro starch digestibility.

Based on the chemical evaluation of the wild edible plant parts used by the Kanikkars / Palliyars, tubers of Dioscorea esculenta, D. oppositifolia var. dukhumensis, D. wallichii, corms of Xanthosoma sagittifolium, X. violaceum and rhizome of Maranta arundinacea may be advocated for the popularization and large scale cultivation so that these excellent foods can be made readily available for the increasing population.
The antifertility activity of ethanol extract of *Dioscorea esculenta* tuber was assessed *in vivo* using animal model. Antidiabetic activity on the ethanol extracts of *Xanthosoma sagittifolium* corm, *Nymphaea pubescens* tuber and combined extracts of *Xanthosoma sagittifolium* and *Nymphaea pubescens* were carried out. The above said plants possess the antidiabetic activity. Antiinflammatory activity on the ethanol extract of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* var. *campanulatus* corm was also carried out.