

FLORAL DIVERSITY IN ROSEMALA, ARYANKAVU, KERALA, INDIA

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Abstract

Plants are one of the major group of living organisms that are essential for the function of biosphere. They include green algae, mosses, ferns, vines, grasses, bushes, herbs, flowering plants and tree, Floristic investigations and taxonomic studies provide reliable information about the nomenclature, distribution, ecology and utility of various plant species with special reference to ecologically sensitive areas. The present work deals with the floral studies of Rosemala, Aryankavu, Kollam district. The study was conducted for a period of 3 months from January 2020 to March 2020. The study result in the documentation of 36 plants in different families. The area is filled with wide variety of medicinal plants such as Cloves (*Syzygium aromaticum*), Asparagus (*A. recemosus*), Trichopus (*T. zeylanicus*), *Terminalia chebula*, *Justica gendarrusa*, *Coscinum fenestratum*, *Justicia adhatoda*, *mangifera indica* etc... A few plants are used as food and fodder. Some are used for another purposes such as basket making, thatching, bamboo huts, production of mat etc.. another noticeable thing is that rubber tree is cultivated in the hill region of Rose mala. The study may provide valuable information for the sustainable management of this fragile ecosystem.

Keywords: Rosemala, Floral Diversity, Aryankavu, Medicinal plants, Sustainable management

Introduction

Floral diversity refers to the diversity of plants occurring in a specific region during particular era. Some of the plant species growing in a particular area are used in one way or the other by the communities living around. Rosemala, a short distance away from the sleepy village of Aryankavu in Kollam is a notable eco-tourism spot. Rosemala is named after the peculiar shape of its closely resembles the blooming of a rose flower. Rosemala is one of the less explored eco-tourism spots in Kerala. The present floral study was conducted Rosemala, Aryankavu.

Materials and methods

The study was conducted for a period of 3 months from January 2020 to March 2020. Field trip was conducted to Rosemala for the collection of plants with the help of people in Rosemala. Herbarium specimens and raw materials were collected from Rosemala. Identification of plants were done by using various floras includ-

ing flora of Thiruvanthapuram, Flora of Pathanamthitta etc. Few plants which were not mentioned in the floras were identified with the help of taxonomic experts

Results

The study result in the documentation of 36 plants in different families. The area is filled with wide variety of medicinal plants such as Cloves (*Syzygium aromaticum*), Asparagus (*A. recemosus*), Trichopus (*T. zeylanicus*), *Terminalia chebula*, *Justica gendarrusa*, *Coscinum fenestratum*, *Justicia adhatoda*, *mangifera indica* etc. A few plants are used as food and fodder. Some are used for another purposes such as basket making, thatching, bamboo huts, production of mat etc.. another noticeable thing is that rubber tree is cultivated in the hill region of Rose mala. Villagers cultivate lesser ginger which give them economical benefits. Clove plants are cultivated as orchard tree in almost all houses.

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Table 1. List of Plants

1.	<i>Santalum album</i>
2	<i>Trichopus zeylanicus</i>
3	<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i>
4	<i>Asparagus recemosus</i>
5	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>
6	<i>Cinnamomum malabratrum</i>
7	<i>Clerodendrum infortunatum</i>
8	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>
9	<i>Crotalaria retusa</i>
10	<i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i>
11	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>
12	<i>Smilax zeylanica</i>
13	<i>Solanum torvum</i>
14	<i>Baccaurea courtallensis</i>
15	<i>Salacia reticulate</i>
16	<i>Ampelocissus latifolia</i>
17	<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>
18	<i>Ochlandra travancorica</i>
19	<i>Carallia brachiata</i>
20	<i>Terminalia paniculata</i>
21	<i>Calycopteris floribunda</i>
22	<i>Acer negundo</i>
23	<i>Cosciniium fenestratum</i>
24	<i>Quassia indica</i>
25	<i>Hiptage benghalensis</i>
26	<i>Mangifera indica</i>
27	<i>Baliospermum montanum</i>
28	<i>Calamus rotang</i>
29	<i>Pandanus fascicularis</i>
30	<i>Cheilocostus speciosus</i>

31	<i>Bridelia scandens</i>
32	<i>Spondias pinnata</i>
33	<i>Macandamia ternifolia</i>
34	<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i>
35	<i>Justica gendarussa</i>
36	<i>Canthium coromandelicum</i>

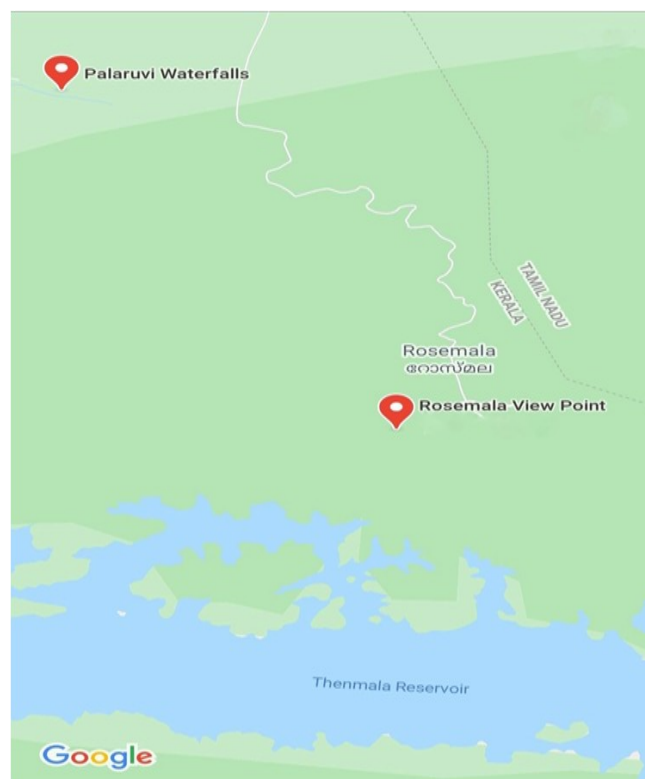
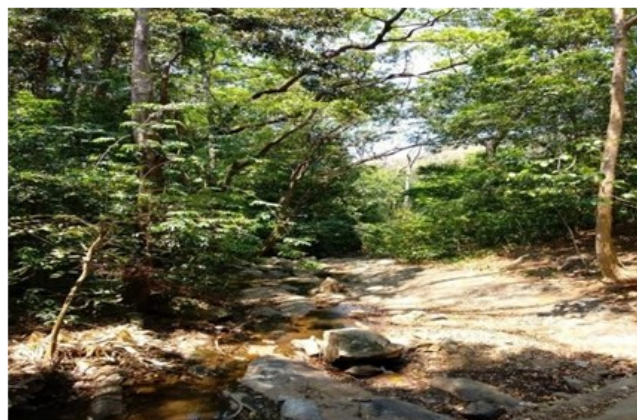
**Figure 1.** Map showing Rosemala**Figure 2.** View of forest area from view point



Figure 3. Rosemala local area

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Summary & conclusion

Floristic investigations and taxonomic studies provide reliable information about the nomenclature, distribution, ecology and utility of various plant species with special reference to ecologically sensitive areas. The present work reports 36 species of plants, most of them are widely used as medicinal. It is expected that intensive floristic studies giving correct identity, distribution, present status and extent of threat if any, endemism and the dynamism have tremendous significance to safeguard biodiversity of this fragile area. The present work on the documentation of flowering plants of Rosemala, Aryankavu was undertaken in this context

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