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continued on the back inside cover

Cover: Oil painting of Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*. © R. Mahesh.

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COMMUNICATION

Documentation of dicotyledonous angiosperm diversity of Kanakamala, Kerala, India

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Abstract: The present study deals with identification and documentation of dicotyledonous angiosperm plants in Kanakamala, Kannur District, Kerala. The survey was conducted during March 2024 to March 2025 and documented 182 dicotyledonous angiosperms belonging to 152 genera under 57 families. Out of the reported plants, 17 species are endemic, one is 'Vulnerable', and one is 'Endangered'. Names of plants and status are also provided.

Keywords: Angiosperm plants, endangered, endemic, herbarium, flora, Kannur District, lateritic plateau, tropical moist deciduous, vulnerable.

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Author contribution: The present work was carried out as part of the M.Sc. project of the first author under the supervision and guidance of the second author. Field exploration and specimen collection were conducted by the first author, while identification and all other aspects of the study were completed jointly by both the student and the supervisor.

Acknowledgments: We would like to express my sincere gratitude to the principal, The Zamorin's Guruvayurappan College for providing the resources and academic environment necessary to carry out this research. We are especially thankful to Dr. P. Indulekha, head of the department, Dr. Rajesh K.P. and Dr. Sanoj E., faculty members of the Department of Botany, for their continuous encouragement, guidance, and support throughout this study. Their insights and feedback were invaluable in shaping the direction and quality of this work.

INTRODUCTION

India is well-known for its rich biodiversity and vast landscapes. Globally, it accounts for only 2.3% of the total land area. One of the major contributors to India's biodiversity is the Western Ghats, which harbors numerous habitats due to its high range of variation in latitude, altitude, and climate. It also exhibits a high level of endemism, which is attributed to the long period of isolation from similar habitats in the Indian subcontinent (ATREE & CEPF 2013). Lateritic plateau is an important area that has rich species contribution. This plateau thus possesses different endemic and habitat specific species due to special environmental conditions (Drisya et al. 2023). However, these plateaus have received less conservation awareness compared to forests of Western Ghats (Pramod & Pradeep 2021). Present work is an attempt to document the diversity of dicotyledonous angiosperms in Kanakamala, Chokli of Kannur District of Kerala, southern India. It is more over a lateritic plateau and so this work is crucial for understanding the importance of lateritic plateau in biodiversity and conservation.

STUDY AREA

The study was conducted on the Kanakamala, located in Panoor Municipality in Kannur District of Kerala, India (Image 1). It is a lateritic hill spread around 0.4 km^2. It is geographically located between 11.719° N and 75.581° E with an average elevation of 118 m. It is a part of Western Ghats and located appropriately 6 km away from Chokli town, 10 km away from Mahe, and 12 km away from Thalassery Town.

Vegetation

The vegetation of Kanakamala, Kannur represents a tropical moist deciduous to secondary scrub landscape influenced by monsoonal climate and anthropogenic disturbances. The floristic composition, based on the recorded dicotyledonous species, shows dominance of Fabaceae, Rubiaceae, Lamiaceae, Asteraceae, and Malvaceae, indicating a well-developed herb and shrub layer. Tree species such as *Terminalia paniculata*, *Syzygium caryophyllatum*, *Holigarna arnottiana*, *Memecylon umbellatum*, *Bridelia retusa*, and *Ficus* spp. reflect remnants of forest vegetation, while shrubs and herbs like *Clerodendrum infortunatum*, *Lantana camara*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, and *Euphorbia hirta* characterize secondary growth and disturbed habitats. Climbers including *Cyclea peltata*, *Gymnema sylvestre*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, and *Ipomoea* spp. contribute to structural complexity along forest margins. The presence of Western Ghats endemic and conservation-significant species highlights the ecological importance of the area, and overall, the vegetation can be described as secondary moist deciduous vegetation with scrub and weed elements.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An extensive and repeated field survey was carried out from March 2024 to March 2025. Frequent explorations helped document the diverse flora across different seasons. Frequent collection trips were conducted in every weekend to ensure maximum collection. Plant samples were collected for laboratory studies and herbarium preparation. Simultaneously, photographs of the plants were taken against a black cloth with a scale placed beside them. The photographs were captured using mobile phone cameras (Vivo V20 and Oppo A10). The herbarium specimens were prepared using the dry method (Jain & Rao 1977) and were mounted on standard-sized herbarium sheets and deposited in the Zamorin's Guruvayurappan College Herbarium (ZGC). Identification of plants was carried out using Gamble (1925) and Pramod & Pradeep (2020), along with online resources (eFlora of Kerala https://www.eflorakerala.com; Indian Biodiversity Portal https://indiabiodiversity.org; IPNI https://www.ipni.org). Maximum efforts were taken to use the latest nomenclature and were treated according to the latest APG systems of classification. The threat category was gathered from IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (https://www.iucnredlist.org/).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study was undertaken to document the diversity of dicotyledonous angiosperms in Kanakamala, Chockli, Kannur. A total of 182 plant species, belonging to 152 genera under 57 families were collected, identified, and documented (Table 1). Among these, 85 species (46.70%) are herbs, 43 (23.63%) are shrubs, 28 (15.38%) are trees, and 26 (14.29) are climbers (Figure 1a). The dominant family is Fabaceae (Leguminosae) comprising 23 genera and 26 species. It is followed by Rubiaceae with 14 species, Malvaceae, and Lamiaceae with 13 species, Asteraceae and Acanthaceae with nine species each, Apocynaceae and Phyllanthaceae with seven species each, and Convolvulaceae and Amaranthaceae with six species each, among others.

Image 1. The study area - Kanakamala, Kannur, Kerala: a–c—Lateritic plateau and vegetation | d & e—Google images of the study area. a–c © Umaiba.

Table 1. Dicot angiosperms of Kanakamala, Kannur, Kerala.

	Binomial name	Family	Distribution	Endemism	Red List status
1.	*Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth	Piperaceae	E		
2.	*Uvaria narum* (Dunal) Wall. ex Hook.f. & Thomson	Annonaceae	N		
3.	*Cassytha filiformis* L.	Lauraceae	N		
4.	*Cyclea peltata* (Burm.f.) Hook.f. & Thomson	Menispermaceae	N		
5.	*Alysicarpus bupleurifolius* (L.) DC.	Fabaceae	N		LC
6.	*Alysicarpus vaginalis* (L.) DC.	Fabaceae	N		
7.	*Centrosema molle* Mart. ex Benth.	Fabaceae	E		
8.	*Crotalaria pallida* Aiton	Fabaceae	N		
9.	*Dalbergia horrida* (Dennst.) Mabb.	Fabaceae	N		LC
10.	*Desmodium scorpiurus* (Sw.) Desv.	Fabaceae	E		
11.	*Geissaspis tenella* Benth.	Fabaceae	N	SI	LC
12.	*Gliricidia sepium* (Jacq.) Kunth ex Walp.	Fabaceae	E		
13.	*Grona heterocarpa* (L.) H.Ohashi & K.Ohashi var. *heterocarpa*	Fabaceae	N		
14.	*Grona triflora* (L.) H.Ohashi & K.Ohashi	Fabaceae	N		LC
15.	*Indigofera prostrata* Willd.	Fabaceae	N		
16.	*Stylosanthes hamata* (L.) Taub.	Fabaceae	E		
17.	*Tadehagi triquetrum* (L.) H.Ohashi	Fabaceae	N		LC
18.	*Tephrosia pulcherrima* (Wight ex Baker) Gamble	Fabaceae	N	SI	LC
19.	*Vigna trilobata* (L.) Verdc.	Fabaceae	N		
20.	*Zornia gibbosa* Span.	Fabaceae	N		
21.	*Bauhinia acuminata* L.	Fabaceae	E		
22.	*Bauhinia purpurea* L.	Fabaceae	E		
23.	*Chamaecrista kleinii* (Wight & Arn.) V.Singh	Fabaceae	N		
24.	*Hultholia mimosoides* (Lam.) Gagnon & G.P.Lewis	Fabaceae	N		LC
25.	*Libidibia coriaria* (Jacq.) Schltdl.	Fabaceae	E		
26.	*Peltophorum pterocarpum* (DC.) Backer ex K.Heyne	Fabaceae	E		
27.	*Tamarindus indica* L.	Fabaceae	E		
28.	*Acacia auriculiformis* A.Cunn. ex Benth.	Fabaceae	E		
29.	*Adenanthera pavonina* L.	Fabaceae	E		
30.	*Mimosa pudica* L.	Fabaceae	E		
31.	*Polygala glaucoides* L.	Polygalaceae	N		
32.	*Casuarina equisetifolia* L.	Casuarinaceae	E		
33.	*Ziziphus nummularia* (Burm.f.) Wight & Arn.	Rhamnaceae	N		LC
34.	*Ziziphus oenopolia* (L.) Mill.	Rhamnaceae	N		LC
35.	*Ziziphus rugosa* Lam.	Rhamnaceae	N		LC
36.	*Ficus benghalensis* L.	Moraceae	N		
37.	*Ficus hispida* L.f.	Moraceae	N		LC
38.	*Pilea microphylla* (L.) Liebm.	Urticaceae	E		
39.	*Pouzolzia zeylanica* (L.) Bennett	Urticaceae	N		
40.	*Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt	Cucurbitaceae	N		
41.	*Cucumis maderaspatanus* L.	Cucurbitaceae	N		
42.	*Connarus paniculatus* Roxb	Connaraceae	N		LC
43.	*Rourea minor* (Gaertn.) Alston	Connaraceae	N		
44.	*Biophytum sensitivum* (L.) DC.	Oxalidaceae	N		
45.	*Carallia brachiata* (Lour.) Merr.	Rhizophoraceae	N		LC

	Binomial name	Family	Distribution	Endemism	Red List status
46.	*Euphorbia hirta* L.	Euphorbiaceae	E		
47.	*Euphorbia thymifolia* L.	Euphorbiaceae	E		
48.	*Macaranga peltata* Müll.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	N		
49.	*Microstachys chamaelea* (L.) Müll.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	N		
50.	*Campylospermum serratum* (Gaertn.) Bittrich & M.C.E.Amaral	Ochnaceae	N		LC
51.	*Breynia vitis-idaea* (Burm.f.) C.E.C.Fisch.	Phyllanthaceae	N		LC
52.	*Bridelia retusa* (L.) A.Juss.	Phyllanthaceae	N		LC
53.	*Bridelia stipularis* (L.) Blume	Phyllanthaceae	N		LC
54.	*Flueggea leucopyrus* Willd.	Phyllanthaceae	N		LC
55.	*Phyllanthus amarus* Schumach. & Thonn.	Phyllanthaceae	E		
56.	*Phyllanthus urinaria* L.	Phyllanthaceae	N		
57.	*Phyllanthus virgatus* G.Forst. var. *virgatus*	Phyllanthaceae	N		
58.	*Passiflora foetida* L.	Passifloraceae	E		
59.	*Flacourtia indica* (Burm.f.) Merr.	Salicaceae	N		LC
60.	*Pigea enneasperma* (L.) P.I.Forst.	Violaceae	N		
61.	*Hugonia mystax* L.	Linaceae	N		
62.	*Getonia floribunda* Roxb.	Combretaceae	N		
63.	*Terminalia paniculata* Roth	Combretaceae	N	PI	LC
64.	*Rotala malampuzhensis* R.V.Nair ex C.D.K.Cook	Lythraceae	N	WG	LC
65.	*Ludwigia hyssopifolia* (G.Don) Exell	Onagraceae	E		
66.	*Syzygium caryophyllatum* (L.) Alston var. *caryophyllatum*	Myrtaceae	N		VU
67.	*Melastoma malabathricum* L.	Melastomataceae	N		
68.	*Memecylon randerianum* S.M.Almeida & M.R.Almeida	Melastomataceae	N	SWG	
69.	*Memecylon umbellatum* Burm.f.	Melastomataceae	N		LC
70.	*Osbeckia muralis* Naudin	Melastomataceae	N		
71.	*Anacardium occidentale* L.	Anacardiaceae	E		
72.	*Holigarna arnottiana* Hook.f.	Anacardiaceae	N	SWG	LC
73.	*Mangifera indica* L.	Anacardiaceae	E		
74.	*Glycosmis pentaphylla* (Retz.) DC.	Rutaceae	N		LC
75.	*Azadirachta indica* A.Juss.	Meliaceae	E		
76.	*Naregamia alata* Wight & Arn.	Meliaceae	N	PI	
77.	*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L.	Malvaceae	E		
78.	*Hibiscus surattensis* L.	Malvaceae	N		
79.	*Sida acuta* Burm.f.	Malvaceae	N		
80.	*Sida cordata* (Burm.f.) Borss.Waalk.	Malvaceae	N		
81.	*Sida cordifolia* L.	Malvaceae	N		
82.	*Sida rhombifolia* L. ssp. *alnifolia* (L.) Ugbor.	Malvaceae	E		
83.	*Urena lobata* L. ssp. *lobata* Mast.	Malvaceae	N		LC
84.	*Urena lobata* L. ssp. *sinuata* (L.) Borss.Waalk.	Malvaceae	N		
85.	*Melochia corchorifolia* L.	Malvaceae	N		LC
86.	*Sterculia guttata* Roxb. ex DC.	Malvaceae	N		LC
87.	*Waltheria indica* L.	Malvaceae	E		
88.	*Microcos paniculata* L.	Malvaceae	N		LC
89.	*Triumfetta rhomboidea* Jacq.	Malvaceae	N		
90.	*Cleome rutidosperma* DC. var. burmanni (Wight & Arn.) Siddiqui & S.N.Dixit	Cleomaceae	N		
91.	*Cleome viscosa* L.	Cleomaceae	N		

	Binomial name	Family	Distribution	Endemism	Red List status
92.	*Santalum album* L.	Santalaceae	E		
93.	*Dendrophthoe falcata* (L.f.) Etting.	Loranthaceae	N		
94.	*Drosera indica* L.	Droseraceae	N		LC
95.	*Polycarpaea aurea* Wight & Arn.	Caryophyllaceae	N	SI	
96.	*Rivina humilis* L.	Petiveriaceae	E		
97.	*Achyranthes aspera* L. var. *aspera*	Amaranthaceae	N		
98.	*Aerva lanata* (Linn.) Juss.	Amaranthaceae	N		
99.	*Alternanthera bettzickiana* (Regel) G.Nicholson	Amaranthaceae	E		
100.	*Alternanthera brasiliana* (L.) Kuntze	Amaranthaceae	E		
101.	*Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R.Br. ex. DC.	Amaranthaceae	N		LC
102.	*Cyathula prostrata* (L.) Blume	Amaranthaceae	N		
103.	*Boerhavia diffusa* L.	Nyctaginaceae	N		
104.	*Trigastrotheca pentaphylla* (L.) Thulin	Molluginaceae	N		
105.	*Impatiens minor* (DC.) Bennet	Balsaminaceae	N	WG	
106.	*Chrysophyllum oliviforme* L.	Sapotaceae	E		
107.	*Mimusops elengi* L.	Sapotaceae	N		LC
108.	*Benkara malabarica* (Lam.) Tirveng.	Rubiaceae	N		
109.	*Canthium coromandelicum* (Burm.f.) Alston	Rubiaceae	N		
110.	*Chassalia curviflora* (Wall. ex Kurz) Thwaites	Rubiaceae	N		
111.	*Exallage auricularia* (L.) Bremek.	Rubiaceae	N		
112.	*Ixora coccinea* L.	Rubiaceae	N		
113.	*Mitracarpus hirtus* (L.) DC.	Rubiaceae	E		
114.	*Mussaenda frondosa* L.	Rubiaceae	N		LC
115.	*Neanotis subtilis* (Miq.) Govaerts ex Punekar & Lakshmin.	Rubiaceae	N		
116.	*Oldenlandia corymbosa* L.	Rubiaceae	N		
117.	*Oldenlandia herbacea* (L.) Roxb.	Rubiaceae	N		
118.	*Spermacoce articularis* L.	Rubiaceae	N		
119.	*Spermacoce latifolia* Aubl.	Rubiaceae	E		
120.	*Spermacoce ocymoides* Burm.f.	Rubiaceae	N		
121.	*Spermacoce pusilla* Wall.	Rubiaceae	N		
122.	*Canscora diffusa* (Vahl) R.Br. ex Roem. & Schult.	Gentianaceae	N		
123.	*Canscora perfoliata* Lam.	Gentianaceae	N	WG	
124.	*Strychnos nux-vomica* L.	Loganiaceae	N		LC
125.	*Catharanthus pusillus* (Murr.) G.Don	Apocynaceae	N		
126.	*Ichnocarpus frutescens* (L.) W.T.Aiton	Apocynaceae	N		
127.	*Tabernaemontana alternifolia* L.	Apocynaceae	N	SWG	
128.	*Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.) R.Br. ex Sm.	Apocynaceae	N		
129.	*Hemidesmus indicus* (L.) R.Br.	Apocynaceae	N		
130.	*Stephanotis volubilis* (L.f.) S.Reuss	Apocynaceae	N		
131.	*Vincetoxicum indicum* (Burm.f.) Mabb.	Apocynaceae	N		
132.	*Euploca marifolia* (J. Koenig ex Retz.) Ancy & P.Javad	Boraginaceae	N		
133.	*Camonea vitifolia* (Burm.f.) A.R.SimÃµes & Staples	Convolvulaceae	E		
134.	*Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L., var. *alsinoides*	Convolvulaceae	N		
135.	*Hewittia malabarica* (L.) Suresh	Convolvulaceae	N		
136.	*Ipomoea quamoclit* L.	Convolvulaceae	E		
137.	*Ipomoea triloba* L.	Convolvulaceae	E		
138.	*Xenostegia tridentata* (L.) D.F.Austin & Staples	Convolvulaceae	N		

	Binomial name	Family	Distribution	Endemism	Red List status
139.	*Jasminum malabaricum* Wight	Oleaceae	N	WG	
140.	*Tetrapilus dioicus* (Roxb.) L.A.S.Johnson	Oleaceae	N		
141.	*Mecardonia procumbens* (Mill.) Small	Plantaginaceae	E		
142.	*Scoparia dulcis* L.	Plantaginaceae	E		
143.	*Bonnaya ciliata* (Colsm.) Spreng.	Linderniaceae	N		LC
144.	*Torenia bicolor* Dalzell	Linderniaceae	N	WG	LC
145.	*Torenia crustacea* (L.) Cham. & Schltdl.	Linderniaceae	N		LC
146.	*Clerodendrum infortunatum* L.	Lamiaceae	N		LC
147.	*Clerodendrum paniculatum* L.	Lamiaceae	N		
148.	*Gmelina arborea* Roxb.	Lamiaceae	N		LC
149.	*Holmskioldia sanguinea* Retz.	Lamiaceae	E		
150.	*Holmskioldia sanguinea* Retz. forma *sanguinea*	Lamiaceae	E		
151.	*Premna serratifolia* L.	Lamiaceae	N		
152.	*Rotheca serrata* (L.) Steane & Mabb.	Lamiaceae	N		
153.	*Leucas aspera* (Willd.) Link	Lamiaceae	N		
154.	*Mesosphaerum suaveolens* (L.) Kuntze	Lamiaceae	E		
155.	*Ocimum tenuiflorum* L.	Lamiaceae	N		
156.	*Platostoma hispidum* (L.) A.J.Paton	Lamiaceae	N		
157.	*Pogostemon purpurascens* Dalzell	Lamiaceae	N	WG	
158.	*Pogostemon quadrifolius* (Benth.) F.Muell.	Lamiaceae	N		DD
159.	*Parasopubia hofmannii* var. *albiflora* Pradeep & Pramod	Orobanchaceae	N	SI	
160.	*Striga angustifolia* (D.Don) Saldanha	Orobanchaceae	N		
161.	*Utricularia cecilii* P.Taylor	Lentibulariaceae	N	WG	EN
162.	*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Wall. ex Nees	Acanthaceae	N		
163.	*Asystasia dalzelliana* Sant.	Acanthaceae	N		
164.	*Asystasia gangetica* (L.) T.Anderson	Acanthaceae	N		
165.	*Phaulopsis dorsiflora* (Retz.) Sant.	Acanthaceae	N		
166.	*Rostellularia procumbens* (L.) Nees	Acanthaceae	N		
167.	*Ruellia prostrata* Poir.	Acanthaceae	N		
168.	*Rungia pectinata* (L.) Nees	Acanthaceae	N		
169.	*Staurogyne zeylanica* (Nees) Kuntze	Acanthaceae	N		
170.	*Thunbergia erecta* (Benth.) T.Anderson	Acanthaceae	E		
171.	*Tecoma stans* (L.) Juss.	Bignoniaceae	E		
172.	*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (L.) Vahl	Verbenaceae	E		
173.	*Lantana camara* L.	Verbenaceae	E		
174.	*Ageratum conyzoides* L.	Asteraceae	E		
175.	*Blumea laevis* (Lour.) Merr.	Asteraceae	N		
176.	*Centratherum punctatum* Cass.	Asteraceae	E		
177.	*Chromolaena odorata* (L.) R.M.King & H.Rob.	Asteraceae	E		
178.	*Cyanthillium cinereum* (DC.) H.Rob.	Asteraceae	N		
179.	*Emilia sonchifolia* (L.) DC.	Asteraceae	N		
180.	*Mikania micrantha* Kunth	Asteraceae	E		
181.	*Synedrella nodiflora* (L.) Gaertn.	Asteraceae	E		
182.	*Tricholepis amplexicaulis* C.B.Clarke	Asteraceae	N	WG	

N—Native | E—Exotic | PI—Peninsular India | SI—Southern India | WG—Western Ghats | SWG—Southern Western Ghats | LC—Least Concern | DD—Data Deficient | EN—Endangered | VU—Vulnerable | Blank—Not Evaluated.

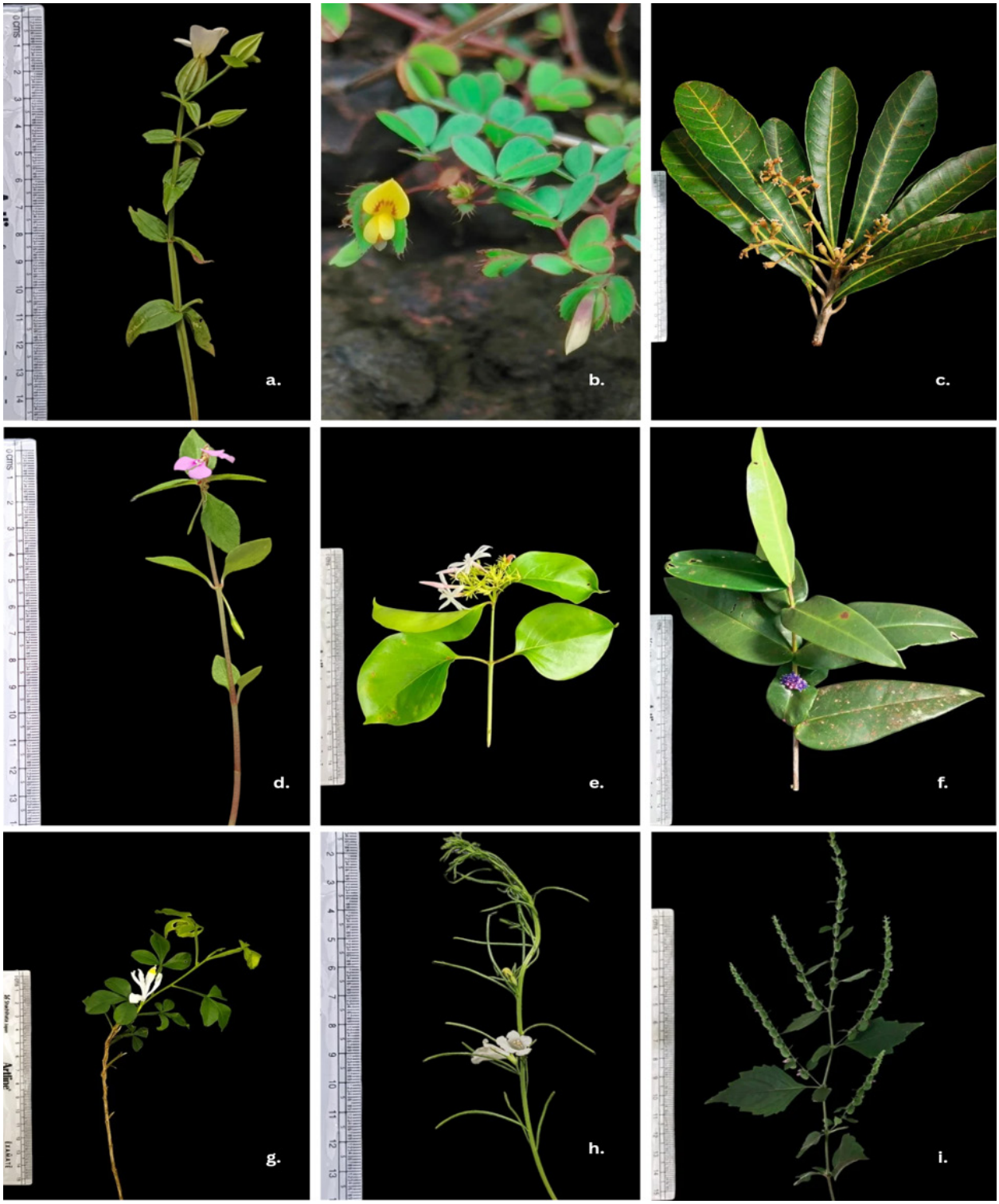

Image 2. Endemic species at Kanakamala: a—*Canscora perfoliata* | b—*Geissaspis tenella* | c—*Holigarna arnottiana* | d—*Impatiens minor* | e—*Jasminum malabaricum* | f—*Memecylon randerianum* | g—*Naregamia alata* | h—*Parasopubia hofmannii* var. *albiflora* | i—*Pogostemon purpurascens*. © Umaiba.

Sida and *Spermacoce* are the most abundant genera, with four species each. They are followed by *Phyllanthus* and *Alternanthera* with three species each. Furthermore, *Cleome*, *Hibiscus*, *Urena*, *Alysicarpus*, *Grona*, *Bauhinia*, *Memecylon*, *Oldenladia*, *Canscora*, *Ipomoea*, *Torenia*, *Asystasia*, *Clerodendron*, *Holmskioldia*, *Pogostemon*,

Image 3. Endemic species at Kanakamala: a—*Polycarpaea aurea* | b—*Rotala malampuzhensis* | c—*Tabernaemontana alternifolia* | d—*Tephrosia pulcherrima* | e—*Terminalia paniculata* | f—*Torenia bicolor* | g—*Tricholepis amplexicaulis* | h—*Utricularia cecilii*. © Umaiba.

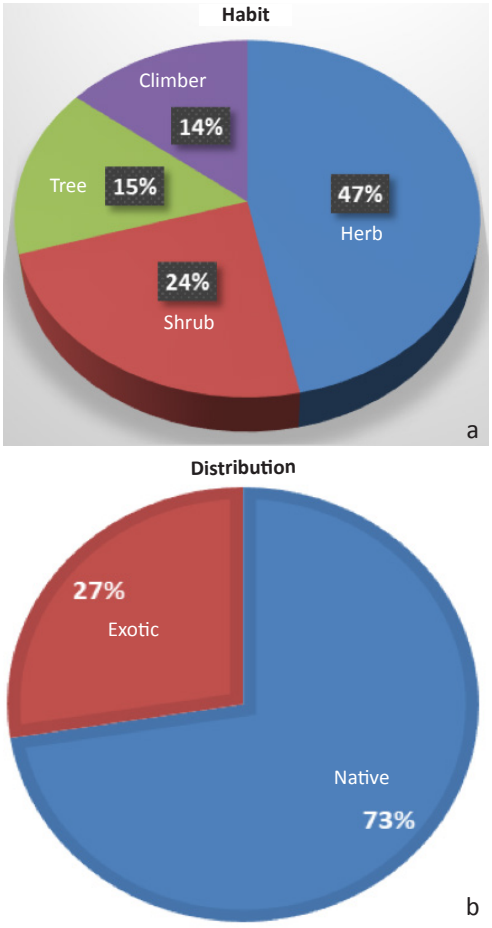

Figure 1. a—Habit distribution | b—Percentage distribution of native/ exotic plants.

Bridelia, Euphorbia and *Ficus* contribute two species each. Additionally, this study also identifies nine monotypic genera including *Naregamia*, *Rivina*, *Hewittia*, *Hemidesmus*, *Ichnocarpus*, *Synedrella*, *Centratherum*, *Getonia*, and *Hultholia*.

The identified plants include 132 native and 50 exotic taxa as per the latest records in Plants of the World Online (https://powo.science.kew.org) (Figure 1b). According to the IUCN Red List Version 2025-1, a total of 62 plant species has been classified into various categories. Among these, two species are categorized as 'Data Deficient', another two fall under different threat categories. These include one 'Vulnerable' species, *Syzygium caryophyllatum* and one 'Endangered' species, *Utricularia cecilii*.

Among the plants obtained, 17 species are endemic (Table 1, Image 2 & 3). Out of which eight species are endemic to Western Ghats, four are endemic to southern India, three are endemic to southern Western Ghats and two are endemic to peninsular India. This plateau shows a relatively high rate of endemism.

CONCLUSION

Kanakamala exhibited a diverse range of angiosperms, especially dicots, and it can be considered a repository of endemic and rare plant taxa. A preliminary analysis revealed the presence of 182 dicot plants, of which 17 are endemic and three are threatened. That represents 9.3 percent of the total dicot flora (Table 1). Notably, many of the plant species collected from the area possess medicinal properties and are commonly used for various ailments (Jamsheena & Abdussalam 2018; Sukhadev et al. 2022). Although the area is frequently visited for birdwatching and other recreational activities, systematic documentation of plant diversity has been limited. The present floristic inventory highlights the need for further studies, particularly those incorporating rapid threat assessment and habitat-level evaluations, to better understand conservation priorities of the laterite plateau. Such focused assessments would complement floristic surveys and support informed management and conservation planning for the area.

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