



Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College

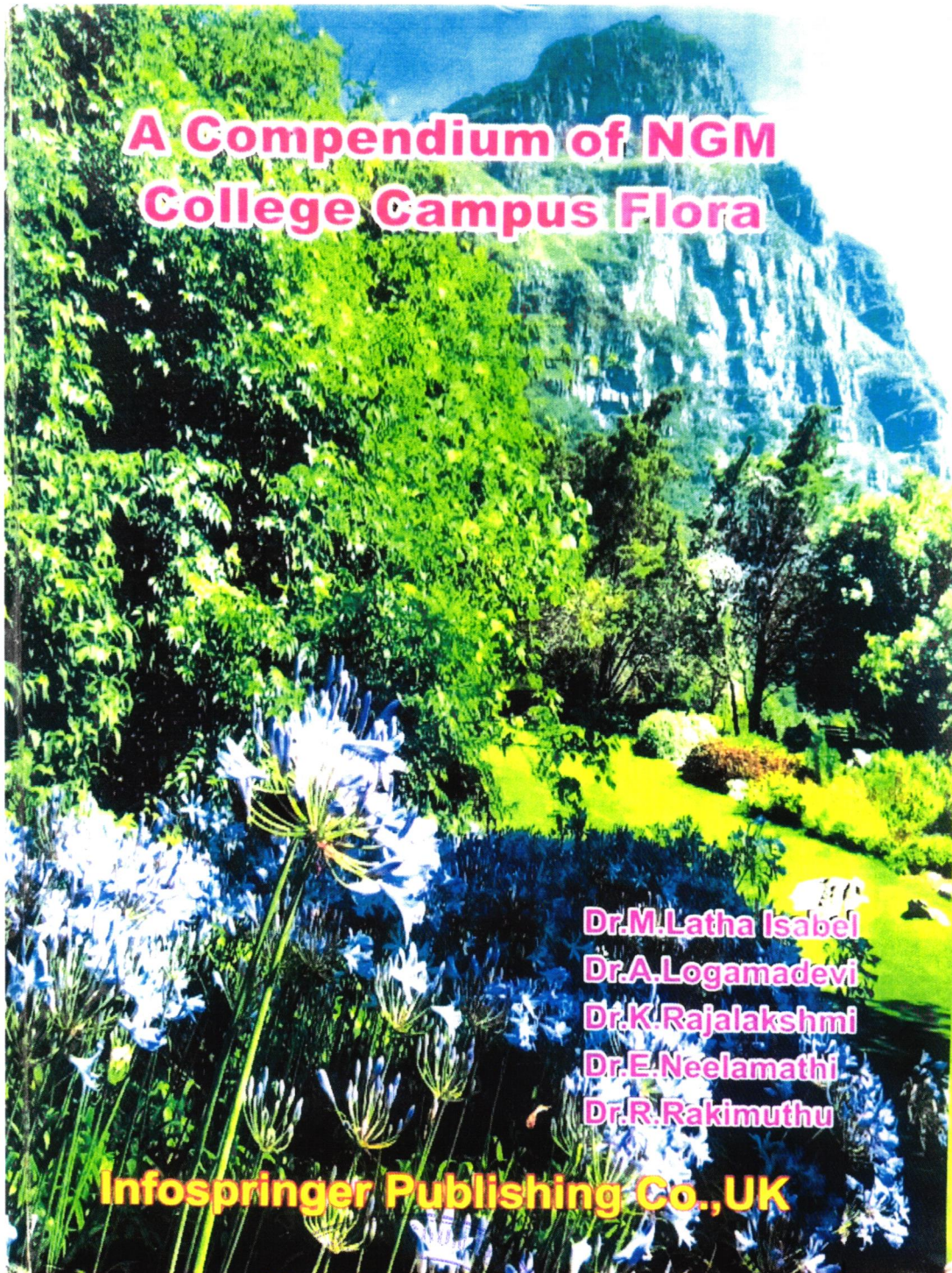
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7.1.5 A Compendium of NGM College Campus Flora



Dr.M.Latha Isabel

Dr.A.Logamadevi

Dr.K.Rajalakshmi

Dr.E.Neelamathi

Dr.R.Rakimuthu

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A Compendium of NGM College Campus Flora

Dr. M. Latha Isabel
Dr. A. Logamadevi
Dr. K. Rajalakshmi
Dr. E. Neelamathi
Dr. R. Rakimuthu
Department of Botany
NGM College, Pollachi
Coimbatore, INDIA

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www.infospringer.co.uk

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Preface

The flora of NGMC campus is an aid to know the plants of the region. Due to wide range of climate, topology and environments the campus is flourished with ample collection of plants. This flora presents comprehensive information on 214 species belonging to 55 families. The detailed descriptions of the species presented in this book are the light of current research on taxonomy and nomenclature. The salient features of this book are to facilitate identification of plants, picture of plants with their characters, synonyms, vernacular names, botanical features and medicinal properties are presented. Since ancient times, use of plants as a source of medicines has been the inherent part of life.

Having plants in an academic institution is a wonderful way to use the campus as a classroom, reconnect students with the natural world and the true source of their food and teach them valuable gardening and agriculture concepts and skills that integrate with several subjects such as science, art, social studies, health and physical education, as well as several educational goals, including personal and social responsibility. Academic environments with lots of greenery can foster science literacy and social skills, while enhancing an awareness of the link between plants in the landscape and our food, clothing, shelter and well-being. We hope this book will be of use to foresters, environmentalists, ecologists, taxonomists, and the general public who are interested in the flora of Tamil Nadu. The plants are grouped together in alphabetical order would make the book easier to us. A publication like this can only be a beginning to conserve plant diversity at all geographical level global, national and local.

The present compilation is intended as a reference work for teachers, research scholars and students. Suggestions for the improvement of the book are always welcome.




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Introduction

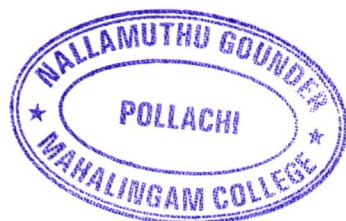
“Flora” comes from the Latin name of Flora, the goddess of plants, flowers, and fertility in Roman mythology. Plants are grouped into floras based on region (floristic region), period, special environment or climate. Regions can be geographically distinct habitats (mountain vs. flatland). Floras can mean plant life of a historic era as in fossil flora.


Floras may be subdivided by special environments: Native flora. The native and indigenous flora of an area. Agricultural and horticultural flora (garden flora). The plants that are deliberately grown by humans. Weed flora. Traditionally this classification was applied to plants regarded as undesirable, and studied in efforts to control or eradicate them.

Today the designation is less often used as a classification of plant life, since it includes three different types of plants: weedy species, invasive species (that may or may not be weeds) and native and introduced non-weedy species that are agriculturally undesirable. Many native plants previously considered weeds have been shown to be beneficial or even necessary to various ecosystems.

NGM college is located at palghat road, Pollachi. The college was started during the year 1957. The Department of botany was established during 1973. The college campus comprises 25 acres of land. The climate of the area is semi-arid as it is located in the rain shadow part of the western Ghats. Soil type is generally red loamy and some patches of gravel. The campus is greenish and harbours 214 species of plants belonging to 55 families. The largest family is Fabaceae.

In conclusion, apart from the crucial points of comprehensive field work, a balance between taxonomy and updated nomenclature, this flora gives vernacular names, description, images of individual species and comprehensive medicinal properties are in the light of recent research.




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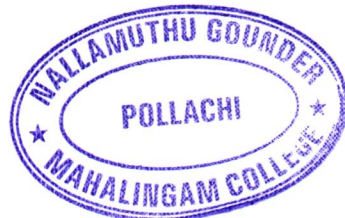
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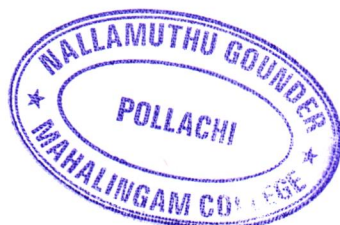
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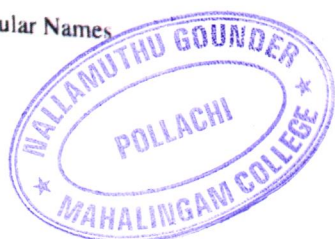
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1. *Abrus precatorious* Linn



Family: Fabaceae

Synonyms: *Abrus minor* Desv. *Glycine abrus* L.

Vernacular names: Kunttimani, Indian liquorice, Jequirity, Rosary pea.

Botanical Description: Wiry climber with slender branches; leaves pinnately compound with many pairs of leaflets; flowers pink, small, in dense racemes on axillary peduncles or short branches; bracts small; calyx 2, deciduous, calyx tube campanulate. Corolla much exerted; standard broadly ovate, narrowed in to short claw, slightly adherent to the staminal tube; wings narrow oblong-falcate; keel curved. Stamens 9 in a sheath, the vexillary one absent, anthers uniform. Ovary sessile many-ovuled; style short, incurved; stigma capitate. Pod oblong or linear, compressed, 2.5-3.7 by 1.0-1.25 cm; seeds bright scarlet with a black end.

Parts used: Seeds, leaves and roots.

Traditional uses

- A tea is made from the leaves and used for fevers, coughs and colds.
- Seeds are poisonous and therefore are used after mitigation.
- The plant is also used to promote hair growth and used as an ingredient in Indian hair products.
- Dental caries can also be relieved with the use of a paste made of this plant.
- The issue of excessive dandruff can be relieved by using the mixture of whole plant powder and oil.



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2. *Abutilon indicum* L. Sweet.



Family: Malvaceae

Synonyms: *Abutilon frutescens* Medik., *Abutilon asiaticum* L.

Vernacular names: Thuthi, Country mallow.

Botanical Description: Erect woody tomentose herb. Leaves alternate, cordate and acute; flowers yellowish, solitary on axillary peduncles which are jointed near the top; calyx 5, valvate, sepals united below in to a short tube; corolla 5, imbricate petals, adnate below to the stamina tube; stamens numerous above; carpels many; styles as many as the carpels; stigma small, capitate; fruits with 15-20 chambers, arranged spirally; seed blackish brown.

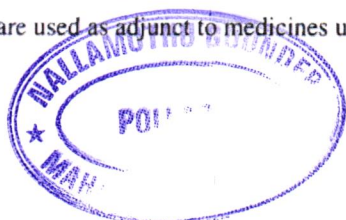
Parts used: Seeds, Leaves, Bark and Root.

Additional uses

Various parts of the plant are used as a demulcent, aphrodisiac, laxative, diuretic, sedative, astringent, expectorant, tonic, anti-inflammatory, anthelmintic, and analgesic and to treat leprosy, ulcers, headaches, gonorrhoea, and bladder infection.

The whole plant is uprooted, dried and is powdered. In ancient days, maidens were made to consume a spoonful of this powder with a spoonful of honey, once in a day, for 6 months until the day of marriage, for safe and quick pregnancy.

The leaves are used as adjunct to medicines used for pile complaints.



2

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3. *Acacia mearnsii* De Wild.



Family: Fabaceae

Sub family: Mimosoideae

Synonyms: *Acacia mollissima* sensu auct., *Albizia mearnsii* De Wild.

Vernacular name: Black Wattle tree.

Botanical Description: Moderate sized tree, bark is dark either brownish or greyish with longitudinal cleavages; branches are simple; leaves 10 to 12 pair of leaflets of 1/8 to 1/4 inch long, uppermost and lowermost leaflets have small glands at the base; inflorescences in terminal or axillary racemes or panicles; peduncles mostly 3–17 mm long, hairy or glabrous; heads globose, 5–14-flowered, 7–12 mm diam., cream-coloured; flowers have five relatively inconspicuous petals and sepals and numerous conspicuous stamens; fruit legume, 8 to 12 seeds in the flat legume constricted in between seeds.

Plant parts used: Root, Bark of branches, Resin.

Traditional uses

- Antiseptic, consolidating, tightening.
- The finely chopped bark of young roots is mixed with hot water and left to brew for several days until the infusion is dark red or black. This preparation is used externally for burns and can also take internally for ulcer, stomach and intestinal complaints.
- Long strips of the root soaked in water can be applied to fractures and used to dress injuries.



3

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(An Autonomous Institution, Affiliated to Bharathiar University)

90, Palghat Road, Pollachi - 642001, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

95th Rank in NIRF - 2023 among Colleges in India.



4. *Acalypha chamaedrifolia* (Lam.) Mull. Arg.



Family: Euphorbiaceae

Synonyms: *Acalypha pendula* C. Wright ex Griseb., *Acalypha reptans* Sw.

Vernacular name: Dwarf cat tail.

Botanical Description: Beautiful evergreen ground cover that produces bright pinky-red woolly flowers up to 10 cm long; leaves alternate, dentate or crenate, undivided, petiolate, stipulate; inflorescence terminal, androgynous inflorescences usually with female flowers at proximal nodes and male flowers at distal nodes; flowers unisexual, apetalous, disc absent; male flowers very small, shortly pedicel globose in bud; calyx parted into 4 small valvate sepals; stamens 4-8 on a slightly raised receptacle; filaments free or basally connate; anthers with divaricate or pendulous thecae, unilocular; female flowers sessile; calyx small, sepals imbricate, connate at base; ovary 3 carpels, papillose; ovules solitary in cell, styles reddish, connate; fruits capsular, small, 3-lobed. Seeds small, ovoid or ellipsoid.

Parts used: Root, bark, stem, leaf, flowers.

Traditional uses

- A root and flower decoction is used for hemoptysis. Leaf poultice used for leprosy.
- Decoction of leaves and flowers taken internally as laxative and diuretic for gonorrhoea.
- Bark used as expectorant and for asthma. Flowers used for treating diarrhoea.
- Bark root used for pulmonary problems; and flower for kidney ailments and as diuretic.
- Leaves and stems soaked and boiled in water, used for skin rashes.





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5. *Acalypha indica* Linn.



Family: Euphorbiaceae

Synonyms: *Acalypha spicata* Forssk., *Cupamenis indica* (L.) Raf.

Vernacular names: Poonamayakki, Kuppaimeni, Indian nettle

Botanical Description: Erect annual herb, up to c. 1.2 m tall; stems longitudinally ribbed and pubescent; leaves alternate, rhombic-ovate, up to 7 × 5 cm, 5-veined from the base, hairless to finely velvety on both surfaces; margin toothed except near the base; flowers in axillary spikes, unisexual on the same inflorescence; female flowers below, held in shallowly cup-shaped bracts with toothed margins; male flowers above, very small, yellowish-green; stamens 8 on a convex receptacle; filament short, free; ovary 3-celled; ovule solitary in each cell; fruit small capsule, 1.5 × 2 mm, 3-lobed, tuberculate, pubescent..


Parts used: Whole plant.

Traditional uses

- Plants are emetic, expectorant, laxative and diuretic; useful in bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma and pulmonary tuberculosis.
- Leaf paste with lime juice prescribed for ringworm. Leaf juice is emetic for children. A decoction of the leaves is given in earache.
- Powder of the dry leaves is given to children to expell worms; also given in the form of decoction with little garlic.
- In homeopathy, the plant is used in severe cough associated with bleeding from lungs.



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PRINCIPAL
N G M COLLEGE, POLLACHI