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# RESOURCE INVENTORY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN POINT CALIMERE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

(Project funded by the National Medicinal Plants Board)



**Principal Investigator**

**Dr. P. Balasubramanian**  
Senior Scientist  
&  
**K.J. Senthil Kumar**  
Project Fellow



**In collaboration with**

**A. D. Baruah, IFS**  
Wildlife Warden  
Point Calimere Wildlife  
Sanctuary



**Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History**  
Anaikatty, Coimbatore – 641 108

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## Summary

A study was conducted in Point Calimere to make an inventory of medicinal plants. Distribution, abundance and density of medicinal plants were assessed by quadrat sampling method. Sixty quadrats (10x10m) for trees, 120 (3x3m) for shrubs and 300 (1x1m) for herbs were laid in various habitats of Point Calimere to quantify the medicinal plants. All individuals of climbers/stragglers occurring within the 10x10 m quadrats were counted. Plants used in traditional medicinal systems such as Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy and other miscellaneous systems were considered as medicinal plants. In addition to interviewing the local medicinal practitioners, relevant literatures were referred to determine the medicinal plants.

A total of 267 medicinal plant species were identified as medicinal plants in Point Calimere. While 84% of medicinal plants are found to be used in Ayurvedic system, 45% in Siddha. Majority of the medicinal plants belong to herbs (40%) followed by trees (24%). Fabaceae (n=22 species) followed by Euphorbiaceae (n=21) and Rubiaceae (n=12) formed the predominant medicinal plant families in Point Calimere.

A total of 122 medicinal plant species recorded in the quadrats. The most abundant medicinal trees are *Atalantia monophylla*, *Manilkara hexandra*, *Randia dumetorum* and *Ixora pavetta*. *Phoenix pusilla*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Clerodendrum inerme*, *Pavetta indica* and *Maytenus emarginata* are the well abundant medicinal shrubs. Among the herbs, *Vernonia cinerea*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Eclipta alba*, *Cyanotis arcotensis* and *Ipomoea dissecta* showed higher relative density values. Among the climbers/stragglers *Jasminum angustifolium*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Asparagus racemosus*, and *Ipomoea obscura* represented higher density values.

Unsustainable harvesting practices were employed by the people in the case of certain species. For example, roots/rhizomes of *Hemidismus indicus* and *Gloriosa superba* were collected by uprooting. Hence, sustainable utilization of these resources is suggested.