To Vertical

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



Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History Anaikatty, Coimbatore – 641 108 May 2006

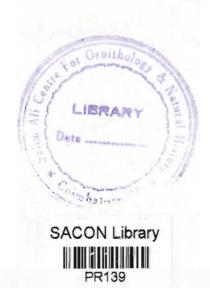


Contents

Page No.

Introduction	1
Objectives	2
Review of literature	2
Study area	5
Methodology	9
Results	12
Conclusion	24
Summary	
References	

Asims.



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 with in 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 *Hemidsmus indicus* and *Gloriosa superba* were collected by uprooting. Hence, sustainable utilization of these resources is suggested.