

## Seminar on

# BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGES AND THREATS; CURRENT SCENARIO

### Focal Themes

- Challenges of Conservation and Restoration of Biodiversity
- Conservation of Endemic/ RET Species
- Environment pollution
- Biodiversity related to Ethnic communities
- Biodiversity of flora and fauna

### ABSTRACTS OF CONTRIBUTORY PAPERS

21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> DEC. 2022



ORGANISED BY

Post Graduate and Research  
Department of Botany

In association with  
IQAC & Biodiversity Club

SREE NARAYANA COLLEGE  
Kollam-691001

(AFFILIATED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KERALA)

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A statutory and advisory body, Government of Kerala



## **Abstracts of Contributory Papers**

## **BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGES AND THREATS; CURRENT SCENARIO**

**Dec. 21-22. 2022**

**Published by**



**Sree Narayana College**  
Kollam, Kerala - 691001  
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snckollam@gmail.com  
www.snckollam.ac.in

CONTENTS	Page No
<b>Focal theme</b>	
<b>Biodiversity of flora and fauna</b>	
1. <b>Foliar Fungal Mycobionts on Medicinal plants from Sacred Groves of Aruvappulam &amp; Pramadom Panchayat of Pathanamthitta district of Kerala State</b> Soumya Prasad, Archana G. R.	1.
2. <b>Assessment of floral diversity in the herbal and spices garden at Rajagiri college of social sciences-valley campus, Kakkanad, Ernakulam District.</b> N. M. Krishnakumar, S. Antony Ceasar	2.
3. <b>Biodiversity of wild leafy greens in Meenagadi panchayath of Wayanad District, Kerala</b> Asiya P and Girigan G	3.
4. <b>Avian diversity and its conservation concerns in a Ramsar site, Ashtamudi</b> C.P. Dilraj, S. Jisha and B. Hari	4.
5. <b>Gecarcinucid freshwater crabs from paddy fields and associated canals of Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram and Wayanad Districts of Kerala.</b> Padma Asok, C.S. Sreehari, S.S. Akhila, S. Jisha and B. Hari	5.
6. <b>Diversity of genus Russula- an ectomycorrhizal macrofungi</b> Ratheesh S	6.
7. <b>Distribution of Total Heterotrophic Bacteria in bivalves of Ashtamudi Estuary, Ramsar Site -1204 in Kerala, South West Coast of India</b> Letty Titus and B.T Sulekha	7.
8. <b>Antimicrobial investigation on <i>Myxopyrum smilacifolium</i> (Wall.) Blume,</b> N. Ratheesh and Anagha SS	8.
9. <b>Diversity of algal flora in Thiruvananthapuram- Shornur (TS) Canal at Karunagapally Taluk, Kollam District, Kerala.</b> N. Ratheesh and Anju Sudhan	9.
10. <b>Anatomical and phytochemical investigation on <i>Myxopyrum smilacifolium</i> (wall.) blume.</b> N. Ratheesh and Anagha SS	10.
11. <b>Formulation of fish feeds containing mangrove leaves as feed additive and their effect on biochemical composition of <i>Etroplus suratensis</i> (bloch,1790)</b> Jisha. S, S. Usha	11.
12. <b><i>Salvia hispanica</i> L. – a promise towards food security.</b> Vijitha Vijayan and Latha Sadanandan	12.
13. <b>Microalgal diversity and water quality of Varattuchira temple pond perinadu, Kollam, Kerala</b> Parvathy Chandran and N. Ratheesh	13.

Focal theme	
Conservation of Endemic/ RET Species	
26. <b>IUCN Red List Assessment, Niche Modelling and Profiling Contributing for Niche Specific Restoration of Threatened Angiosperms in the Western Ghats</b>	26.
Devika M Anilkumar, Amitha Bachan K.H	
27. <b>Ex-situ conservation of seven endemic and endangered tree species at Sree Narayana College, Kollam - a case study.</b>	27.
Ambili Savithri, Sabu T	
28. <b>In vitro propagation for the conservation of a rare medicinal plant <i>Justicia gendarussa</i> Burm. f. by nodal explants and shoot regeneration from callus.</b>	28.
Deepamol P K, Amina S, Chithra Vijayan	
29. <b>Population structure and ecological niche modelling of <i>garcinia imbertii</i> Bourd. a critically endangered endemic tree of southern Western Ghats.</b>	29.
Anto Mathew, Angala Mathew, Ramesh Kumar K B and Anilkumar C	

Focal theme	
Challenges of Conservation and Restoration of Biodiversity	
30. <b>Loss of genetic diversity in cultivar bananas increases drought susceptibility.</b>	30.
Archana Satheshan, Ponni T.G	
31. <b>Relevance of agroecology with the respect of ex-situ conservation of <i>Trichopus zeylanicus</i> subsp. <i>Travancoricus</i></b>	31.
<u>Angala Mathew, Anto Matew, Anilkumar C</u>	

Focal theme	
Environmental Pollution	
32. <b>Biomonitoring of current status of heavy metal load in the water, sediment and <i>crassostrea madrasensis</i> of Ashtamudi lake, Kerala.</b>	32.
Parvathy.N, Sulekha .B .T.,Sheeba .S.	
33. <b>Water quality index analysis of Thiruvananthapuram- Shornur (TS) canal at Karunagapally Taluk, Kollam district, Kerala</b>	33.
N. Ratheesh and Anju Sudhan	
34. <b>Studies on the biological activities of a commercial sample of hand sanitizer.</b>	34.
Thara A T and Latha Sadanandan	
35. <b>Water quality assessment of Varattuchira temple pond perinadu, Kollam, Kerala.</b>	35.
Parvathy Chandran and N. Ratheesh	

## IUCN RED LIST ASSESSMENT, NICHE MODELLING AND PROFILING CONTRIBUTING FOR NICHE SPECIFIC RESTORATION OF THREATENED ANGIOSPERMS IN THE WESTERN GHATS.

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### ABSTRACT

Niche adaptability and niche specificity are the important reasons for the restricted distribution of paleo and neo endemic species. Their population structure and dynamism in relation to interaction with environment and other species in their habitat are crucial in defining their conservation status, future planning and ecorestoration. IUCN threatened status assessment for 25 species has been done using Species Information System (SIS) provided by IUCN, incorporating population and phytosociological data after careful scrutiny of taxonomic and distribution records. Out of submitted 25 species, nine were published in the official IUCN red list and others completed the review and awaiting publication. Maxent based niche models of 12 threatened trees having differential distribution patterns and profiles were used here for the identification of niche specific potential conservation and restoration sites. We used modified species distribution model incorporating spatial information on factors such as terrain, altitude and present land use in the QGIS platform for better prediction accuracy. The phytosociological data and field level plot maps were used to generate two and three dimensional niche profile of the representing habitat of the threatened taxa. This illustrate the spatial species composition as an explanation of Eltonian niche factors and were used successfully in preparation of ecological restoration plans. The niche-based conservation and restoration plans were integrated to forest conservation plans, biodiversity strategy action plans and plans of Biodiversity Management Committee. The successfully germinated threatened trees and associates suitable for low elevation forest, sacred grove and coastal habitat were used for multi stakeholder involved ecorestoration including MGNREGA and women.

SEMINAR ON

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