

International Seminar on
Plant Systematics:
Present Status and Future Prospects

ISPS 2024

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Department of Botany
University of Calicut

Calicut University P.O., Malappuram District,
Kerala – 673635, India



TO2-04

Ethno floristic knowledge of Kadar and Malasar ethnic communities in the Anamalai parts of the Western Ghats, India

Gouthami V.^{1*} and K.H. Amitha Bachan²

¹PG & Research Department of Botany, SNGS College (affiliated to University of Calicut), Pattambi, Palakkad District, Kerala – 679 306, India

²PG & Research Department of Botany, M.E.S. Asmabi College, (affiliated to University of Calicut), Kodungallur, Thrissur, Kerala – 679 335, India

*Email: gouthamimanjeri@gmail.com

The vernacular names of plant species play a significant role in communication, hence act as a key resource in indigenous knowledge and knowledge transfer. *Kadar* and *Malasar* are ancient ethnic communities endemic to Anamalai part of the Western Ghats. A comprehensive and systematic ethnofloristic study conducted among *Kadar* and *Malasar* revealed the knowledge and usage have direct relationship with their ethnicity. The study using ethnographic methods revealed 443 taxa of plants known to *Kadars* with indigenous nomenclature and are classified according to their own traditional classification system. Among the 443 plant names, 253 names are unique to their own and not available in regional languages such as Malayalam and Tamil. These floristic names unique to *Kadars* include 227 flowering plants, one gymnosperm, 13 fungi, 10 pteridophytes, and two algae. They have 27 unique nomenclatures for different genera and eight for different families. The *Malasar* community identified 191 species of flora which includes 181 angiosperms, one gymnosperm, eight fungi and one pteridophyte and elucidated two unique ethnofloristic nomenclature for families, six for the different the genera, and 70 for the species. The study contributes to the ethnofloristic knowledge of these indigenous communities and added more local names to the regional languages in which they had no local names.