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Identification of locally available medicinal trees in Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu, India

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Abstract
The aim of present study is to investigate medicinal trees and document their medicinal uses. The study area was made around the Virudhunagar District mainly Virudhunagar, Arupukottai and Elayarampannai. From this study 14 species of medicinal trees belonging to 12 families were recorded and their medicinal values were collected from the people of particular areas. This study focuses to create awareness among the people about medicinal trees and their medicinal values and also create awareness among the youth to practice and do more work in ethnobotany which has dramatically increased in recent years.

Keywords: medicinal trees, awareness, medicinal values, ethnobotany

Introduction
When we think of medicinal herbs, most people's minds go right to small weeds and flowers growing at the edge of your lawn or on a roadside. We don't usually think of trees as a source of medicine, but medicinal trees are all around us, hiding in plain sight. Medicinal trees are a major resource base for traditional medicine and herbal medicine. It provides health security to a large segment of Indian population. Indian is a country filled with big trees that hold significance in Ayurvedic medicine. Ancient medicinal depend on medicinal trees to various health issues. Our ancestors asked to sit under the tree when our mental ability is unstable and they also ask to brush our teeth with neem bark in early morning. Reason is neem bark has antibacterial properties which helps in maintaining the oral hygiene and if we sit under tree absorb CO2 and gives out fresh O2 to environment. By intake of this O2 it helps to reduce our mental stress and keep healthy.
History of growing trees and its use in the prevention and cure of disease can also be traced back to the remote past. According to World Health organization (WHO) as many as 80% of the world's people depend as traditional medicine for their primary healthcare need [1]. The tree has a very important role in our culture and heritage. Local inhabitants have high dependence on these multipurpose trees not only for providing fuel wood,fodder,fruit,small timber but also for the treatment of the many health problems [2]. Ethnobotanical studies are very important to reveal the past and present culture about trees in the world. The survey of medicinal trees in a particular area is important to conserve the traditionally important trees of that particular landscape [3]. During the last few decades there has been an increasing interest in the study of medicinal trees and their traditional use in different parts of India .In the recent years number of reports on the use of trees in traditional healing by either tribal people or indegenous communities of is increasing [4]. All the tribal tract are the store houses of information and knowledge on the multiple uses of plants and trees [5]. The tradition of using trees for medicinal purposes is still alive in the local community but recently this tradition is gradually declining in new generation [6]. The study revealed that medicinal the knowledge of ethnomedicinal studies to young generation is affected by modernization [7].
Considering the paucity of information on the exploration of ethnomedicinal value of tree species,present study was conducted with objective to enlist ethno medicinally important tree species growing in the area and to document indegenous health practices followed by local community in relation to locally available tree species and also create awareness among youth.

Materials and Methods
For the survey and documentation of medicinal trees, the field trip was conducted in Virudhunagar district, Tamilnadu, India. Virudhunagar municipalities covers an area of 6.39km^2. It is located at the state capital Chennai .The medicinal trees were collected by photography both on flowering and fruiting condition .The collected trees were tagged by GPS Map stamp camera which helps us in note the date, time, climate and place where the tree is located with address. Collected photography of medicinal trees were gathered. Their vernacular name in tamil and common uses were gathered by area people.


Virudhunagar District
Kariapatti
Srivilliputhur
Virudhunagar
Thiruchuli
Aruppukkottai
Rajapalayam
Sivakasi
Sattur
TAMIL NADU
District Map
ANDHRA PRADESH
KARNATAKA
KERALA
TIRUVALLUR
Tiruvallur
CHENNAI
VELLORE
Vellore
Kanchipuram
KANCHIPURAM
TIRUVANNAMALAI
DHARMAPURI
Dharmapuri
Tiruvannamalai
Villupuram
PUDUCHERI
VILLUPPURAM
Cuddalore
SALEM
Salem
BAY
OF
BENGAL
NILGIRIS
Udagamandalam (Ooty)
ERODE
Erode
NAMAKKAL
Namakkal
PERAMBALUR
Perambalur
ARIYALUR
Ariyalur
NAGAPPATTINAM
KARAIKAL (PUDUCHERI)
Nagappattinam
CUDDALORE
Karur
KARUR
Tiruchirappalli
THANJAVUR
Thanjavur
Tiruvalur
TIRUVALUR
COIMBATORE
DINDIGUL
Dindigul
PUDUKKOTTAI
Pudukkottai
Madurai
Sivaganga
MADURAI
SIVAGANGA
Palk Strait
Virudunagar
VIRUDUNAGAR
Ramanathapuram
RAMANATHAPURAM
TUTICORIN
Tuticorin
Tirunelveli
TIRUNELVELI
Gulf of Mannar
SRI LANKA
KANNIYAKUMARI
Nagercoil
INDIAN OCEAN
LEGEND
State Boundary
District Boundary
State Capital
District Headquarter
Map not to Scale

Fig 1

Result

In the present study,there were 14 medicinal trees collected belonging to 12 families namely,Arecaceae(1), Cariaceae(1), Caesalpiniaceae(1), Fabaceae(1), Musaceae(1), Moraceae(2), Meliaceae(1), Moringaceae(1), Myrtaceae(1), Rubiaceae(1), Rutaceae(2), Sapotaceae(1).The documented details of medicinal trees are given below the tabular columns based on scientific name in alphabetical order along with their family name, local name, common name, habit and uses (Table-1).

Table 1: The documented details of medicinal trees are given below

S.No	Scientific name	Family	Common name	Local name	Habit	Uses
1.	*Aegle marmelos(L) Correa*	Rutaceae	Indian bael	Vilvam	Tree	Fever,Respiratory problems,tuberculosis,cure gastric ulcer.
2.	*Azadirachta indica A Juss*	Meliaceae	Neem tree	Veppa maram	Tree	Cure poison,Cancer,Malaria,Fungal disease,Cardiac care,chicken pox.
3.	*Bauhinia racemosa Lam*	Fabaceae	Yellow bauhinia	Thiruvachi	Tree	Skin problems.cure wounds,sore throat,swelling of liver.
4.	*Carica papaya {L}*	Caricaceae	Paw paw	Papaya tree	Tree	Cure disease ,gastrointestinal tract disorder,cure colorectal cancers,cure low sugar level ,stomach intestinal problems.
5.	*Cocos nucifera {L}*	Arecaceae	Coconut tree	Thennai maram	Tree	Treatment of urinary infection,moisturize skin and hair ,build strong bones,skin aging problems.
6.	*Ficus benghalensis(L)*	Moraceae	Indian banyan	Aalamaram	Tree	Cures ear problems ,nasal bleeding ,treatment of gonorrhea,Tooth problems.
7.	*Ficus religiosa {L}* Forssk	Moraceae	Peepal tree	Arasa maram	Tree	Change for conceiving a child ,cure asthma ,good for oral health,cure jaundice ,treat breast problems.
8.	*Manilkara zapota {L.}P.Royen*	Sapotaceae	Chiko tree	Sapota	Tree	Immunity power,prevent colon cancer,stopping the loss of blood,development of the fetus during pregnancy.
9	*Morinda citrifolia Roxb*	Rubiaceae	Indian mulberry	Manjanathi	Tree	Reduce heat of our body,cure external wounds,treat throat ulcer,keep their blood level normal
10.	*Musa paradisiaca{ L} Colla*	Musaceae	Desert plantain	Valai maram	Large herb	Proper functioning of heart,treat dysentery,bronchitis,cure ,fever and leprosy.
11.	*Murraya koenigii {L} Sprenge*	Rutaceae	Curry tree	Karuveppilai	Tree	Treat constipation,colic and diarrhea,improve appetite and digestion,weight loss.
12.	*Moringa oleifera Lam*	Moringaceae	Drumstick tree	Murunga tree	Tree	Protection of our skin and hair,treatment of oedema,protect the liver,treating mood disorders like depression,anxiety and fatigue.
13.	*Psidium guajava {L}*	Myrtaceae	Guava tree	Guava tree	Tree	Treat low blood sugar,reduce stomach pains,reduce menstrual cramps, knee pain,cancer disease.
14.	*Sesbania grandiflora {L.}Poiret*	Fabaceae	Vegetable hummingbird	Agathi	Tree	Repair for damaged cells of pancreas,control blood sugar,hinder growth of tumor cells.

Discussion

The investigated study carried on Virudhunagar, Aruppukottai, Palavanatham, Elayirampannai. In the following collected medicinal details of identified trees with recorded alphabetical order, followed by Botanical name, family, common name, local name, habit, and uses. The study area collected totally 14 species of trees belonging to 12 families. The current investigation determines that the collected medicinal tree use to cure all type of diseases such as blood sugar, menstruation problems ,digestive disorders, leprosy, Asthma, jaundice etc. The result recorded in this study represents a useful and long lasp information about medicinal trees which can contribute to preserve the indegenous knowledge on the uses of medicinal trees and also attracted the youngsters towards the traditional healing practices. In the current investigation study area peoples have good quality of

information .Male traditional healers are involved professionally in the field of traditional medicine system [8, 9, 10]. The enormous scope for tribal medicines based on plant products which are yet to be studied, analyzed and documented.

Conclusion

The survey of medicinal trees was done at Virudhunagar district, Tamilnadu, India and 14 medicinal trees and 12 families were observed and listed in this studies. The trees were reported with its scientific name, common name, local name, habit, family and its uses. These collected medicinal trees are used for the treatment of blood sugar, menstruation problems, digestive disorder, leprosy, asthma, jaundice and various disease.

There is a promising future of medicinal trees which helps in the treatment of present and future studies. In the development of the human era, the medicinal trees have played an important role in human's lifes. As we are moving in the techno world, we are moving away from nature. It is our duty to preserve trees and promote medicinal science with herbal medicinal trees and also create awareness among youngster to follow traditional healing method.

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