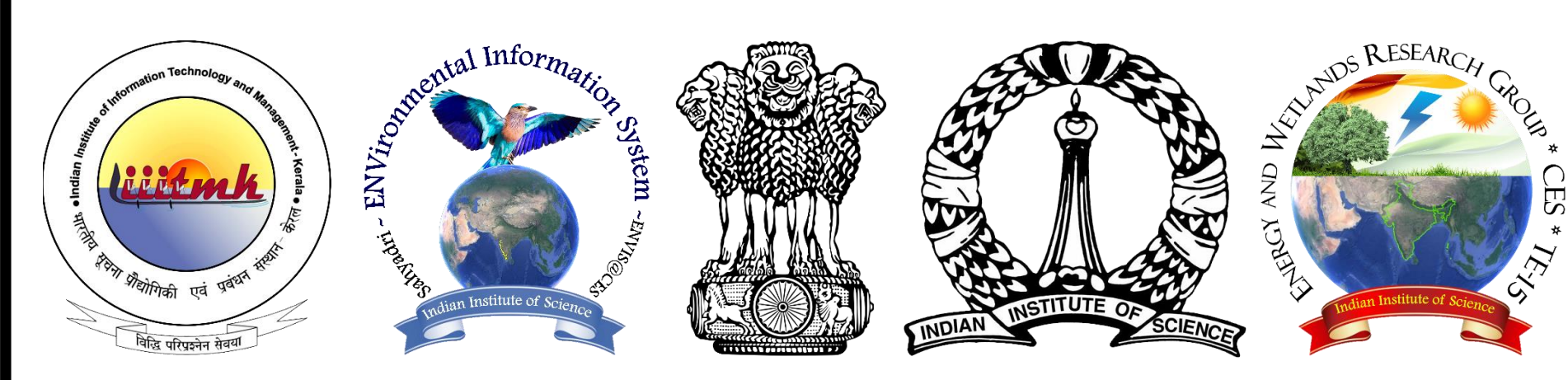


SILENT VALLEY: ONE OF THE HIGHLY POPULATED NATIONAL PARK IN WESTERN GHATS REGION IN KERALA



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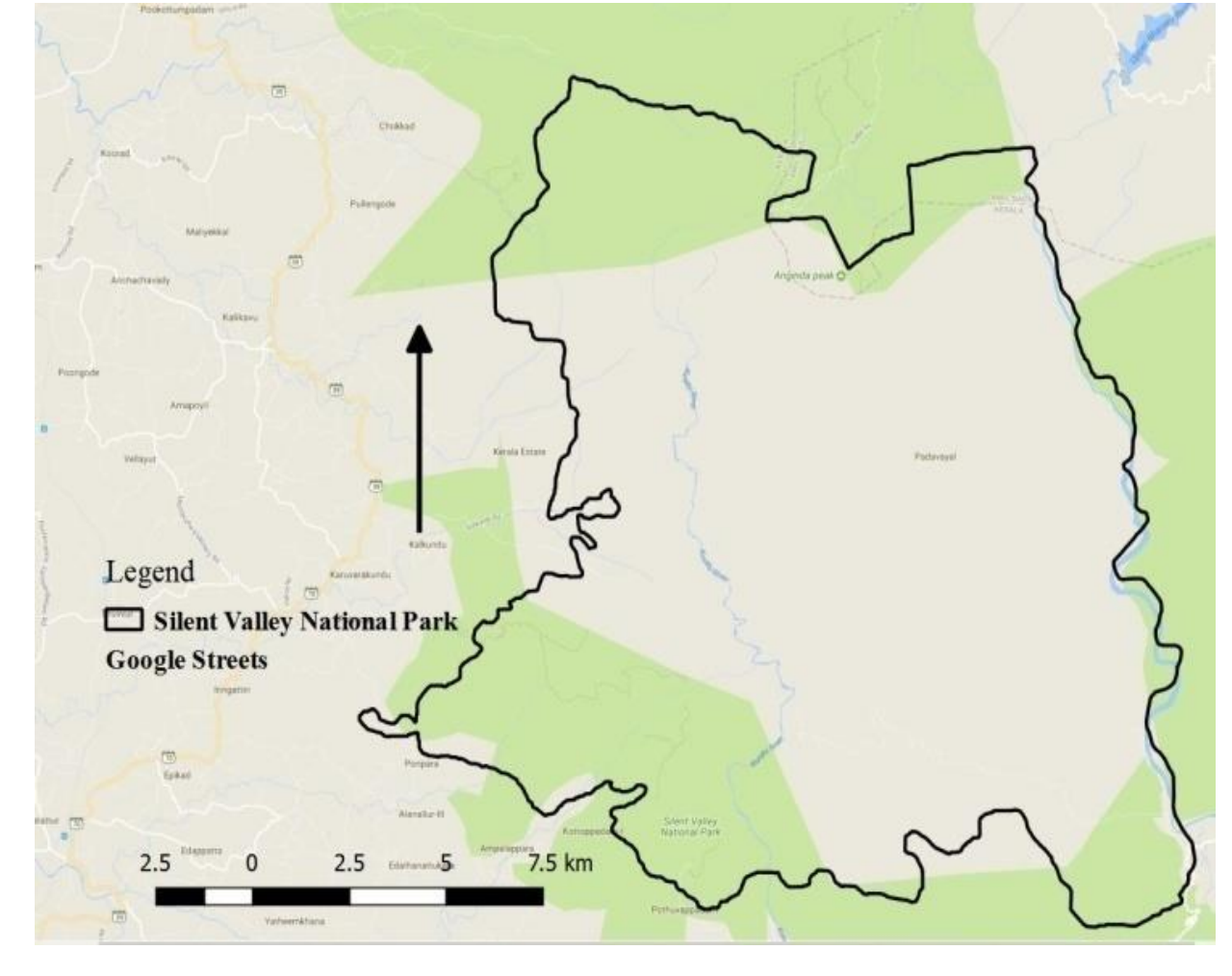
WESTERN GHATS & SILENT VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Western Ghats covers 5% of India's land area and constitutes one among the top eight biodiversity hotspot in World. Western Ghats contain more than 4000 (27%) of plant species in India and most of the vertebrates of peninsular India are found here. Western Ghats also exhibits high endemism, about 1500 endemic plant species or two-third of India's endemic plants are found here. Western Ghats have 68 protected areas, including 15 National Parks, 47 Wildlife Sanctuaries, & 6 Conservation Reserves. Western Ghats also embraced with 2 Biosphere Reserve, Nilgiri and Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.

The Silent Valley National Park is one of the largest national parks in Kerala is located in Nilgiri Hills in Palakkad district, Kerala. The name Silent Valley came due to the absence of Cicadas insect which is abundant in a tropical forest. It is also known as Sairandhrivanam. In 1914 Silent Valley area declared as reserved forest but due to the presence of large population of the endangered species *Macaca silenus*, Lion-tailed Macaque the forest was established as National Park in the year 1984. It covers an area of 237.52 sq. km of natural rainforest and comes under Project Elephant area. 89.47 km² is core zone and 148 km² is a buffer zone. SVNP has two ranges, Silent Valley National Park Range covering 89.52 sq.km core area & 54 sq.km buffer area and Bhavani Range covering 94 sq. km of buffer area. SVNP is mainly covered with thick woody vegetation of about 75-80% and about 20% grassland with a mosaic of rocky patches and water bodies.

STUDY AREA

- ❖ Latitude: 11° 2' - 11° 13' N
- ❖ Longitude: 76° 24' E - 76° 32' E
- ❖ Area: 237.52 sq. km
- ❖ Altitude: ranges from 900 m to 2300 m
- ❖ Average minimum tem: 8°C to 14°C
- ❖ Average maximum temp: 23 °C to 29 °C



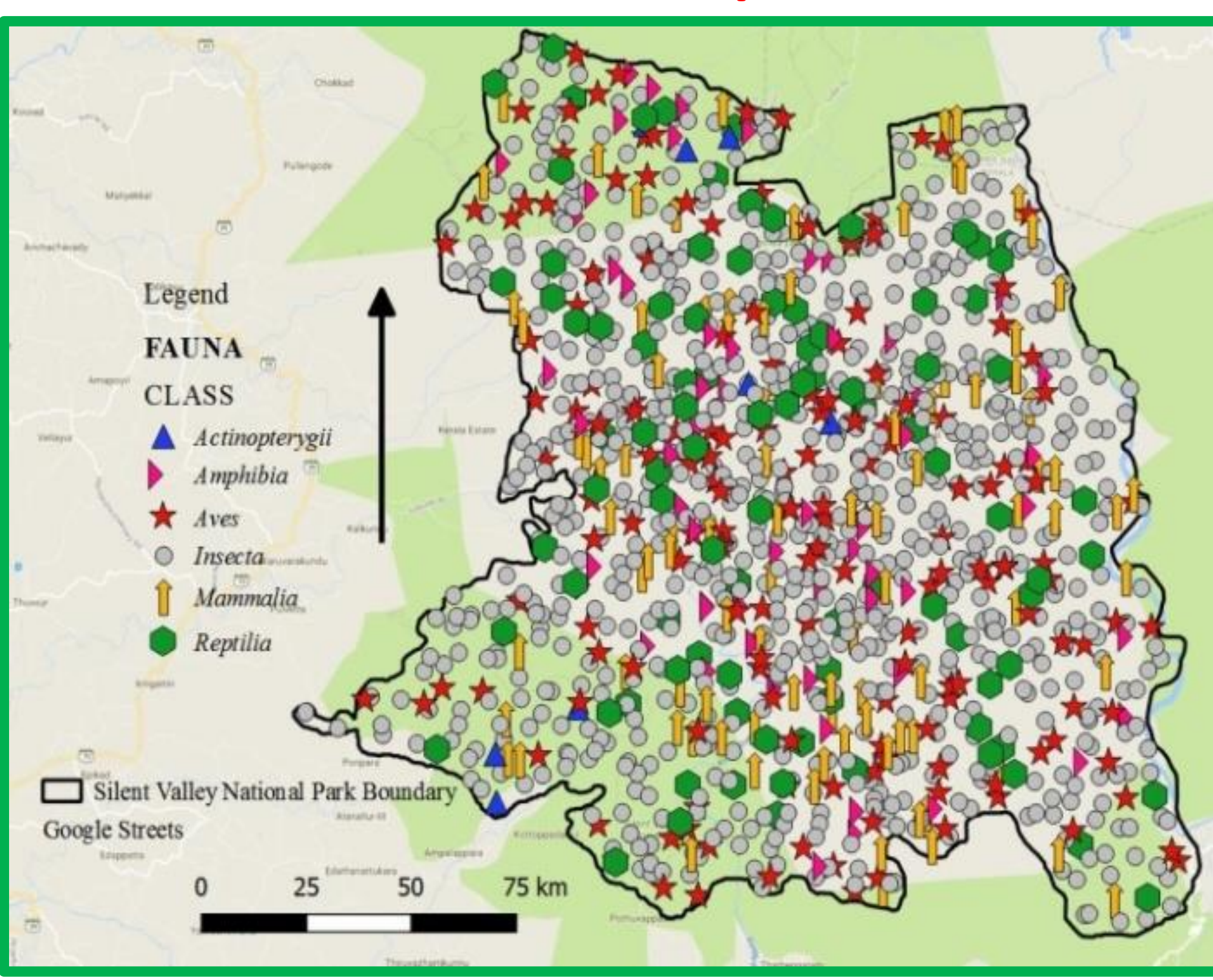
SPECIES DIVERSITY IN SILENT VALLEY

There are about 558 faunal species were reported from the silent valley national park. It includes 41 mammals, 42 reptiles, 8 fish species, 43 amphibians, 97 birds, and 326 insects. *Panthera tigris*, *Panthera pardus*, *Felis viverrina*, *Felis chaus*, *Prionailurus bengalensis*, *Viverricula indica*, *Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*, *Paradoxurus jerdoni*, *Herpestes smithii*, *Herpestes vitticollis* etc were the major carnivore mammals present in this region. *Anguilla bengalensis*, *Barilius gatensis*, *Garra mullya*, *Garra menoni*, *Nemacheilus guentheri*, *Nemacheilus triangularis*, *Lepidocephalus thermalis*, *Channa gachua* were the fish species reported. More than 300 insects are found on which most of them are butterflies. In flora, Orchidaceae (50), and Poaceae (36), showed diverse species followed by Rubiaceae, Fabaceae and on. 50 species of family and 36 species of poaceae were located.

ENDEMISM IN SILENT VALLEY

Silent Valley shows the maximum number of species diversity and endemism. From Silent Valley National Park, 558 faunal species were collected of which 413 (74%) were endemic. Similarly, in the case of flora, out of 652 floral species reported 151 (23%) were endemic species. Many threatened species were also found in the Silent Valley National Park, 43 threatened fauna & 23 threatened floras.

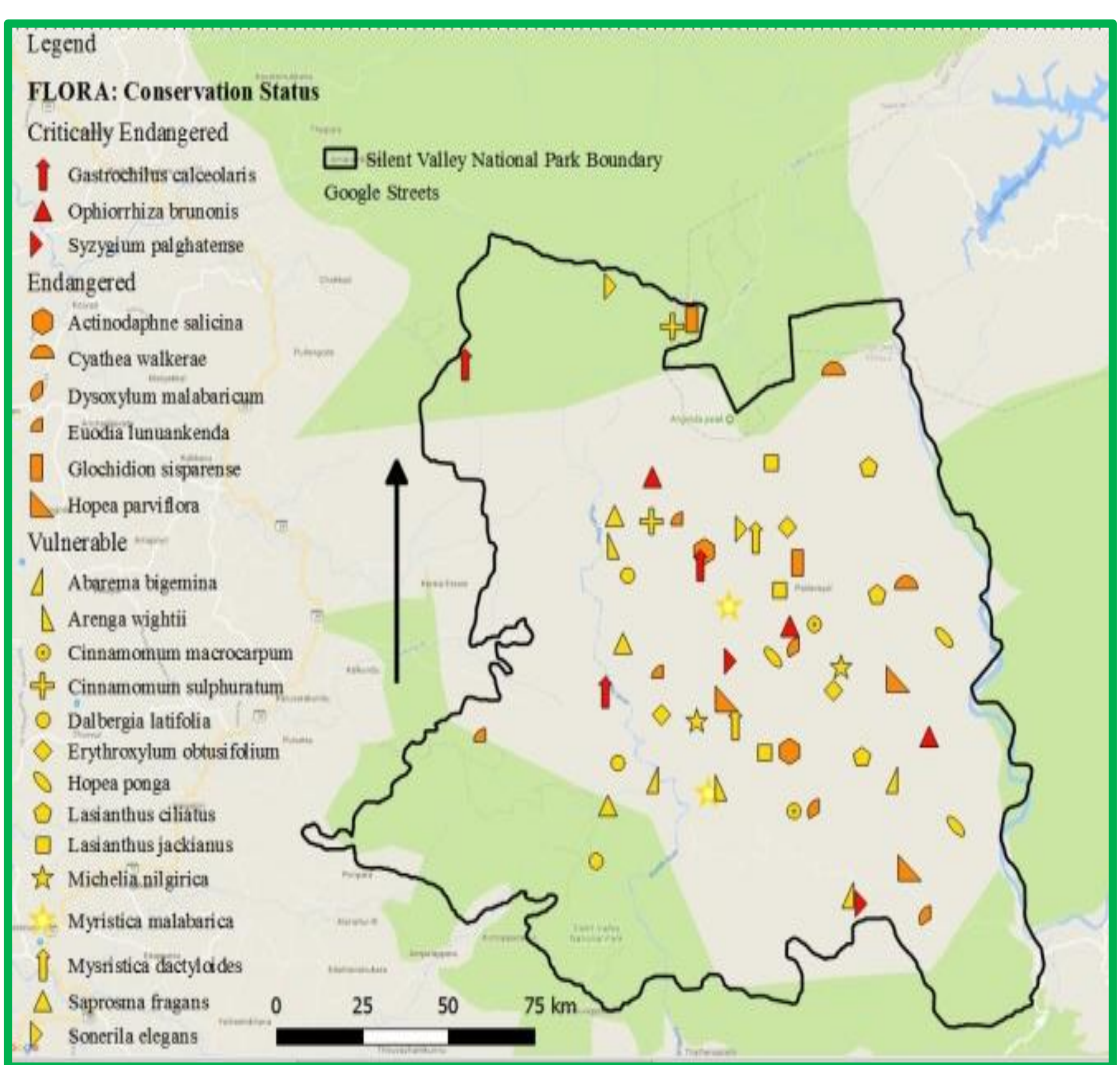
Distribution of Faunal species in SVNP



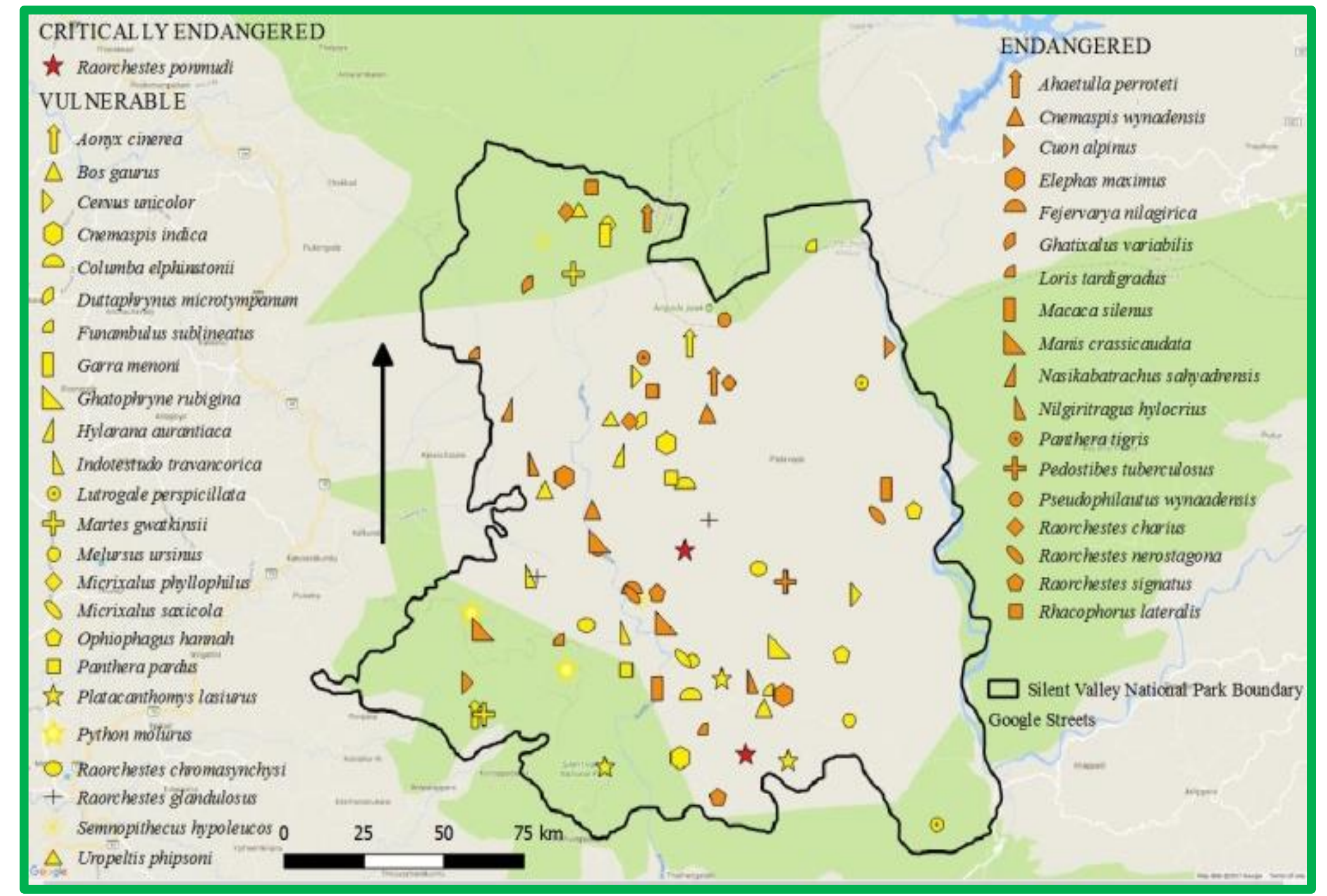
TRIBAL SETTLEMENTS IN SVNP

SVNP has 11 tribal settlements within the buffer zone. Kattunayakans, Kurumbas, Irulas, and Mudugas are the tribal groups settled here. Kattunayakans (Kattu Naiken) are settled in the vested forest reserve of SVNP ranges and Kurumbas, Irulas and Mudugas are in Bhavani Ranges. They are mainly engaged in common crop cultivation like ragi, mustard, dal maize etc, also a collection of non-timber forest products (NTFP) such as honey, medicinal plants etc from buffer area. Collections of NTFPs are prohibited in core areas.

Floral Distribution Based on Conservation Status



Faunal Distribution based on Conservation Status



Silent Valley National Park	
State	Kerala
Fauna	610
Endemic Fauna	413
Threatened Fauna	43
Flora	652
Endemic Fauna	151
Threatened Flora	23

REFERENCE
Manju, C.N., Rajilesh, V.K., Prajitha, B., Prakashkumar, R. and Rajesh, K.P., 2015. Contribution to the Bryophyte flora of India: Silent valley National park in the Western Ghats, India. *Acta Biologica Plantarum Agriensis*, 3, pp.73-98.

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