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AN ETHNO-BOTANICAL SURVEY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN MOOLAIKARAIPATTI, TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

An Ethno-botanical survey was carried out to record information on medicinal plants from native healers and public from Moolaikaraipatti. This study was field visit and identified existent medicinal plants used for treating diseases in various ways. Main informers are area common public and their data confirmed by traditional practitioner with direct interview conversation. This survey identified and recorded 249 plants from 27 families, used to treating diseases in Moolaikaraipatti area. The Fabaceae family plants were most represented while medicinal used collections. Most of medicinal plants are harvested from wild and bare area commonly (52.7%). A most of the number of the plants species are used for treating different diseases in Moolaikaraipatti area, Tirunelveli district. The conventional ethno medicinal plants were mostly used for fever, skin diseases, poisonous bite, wounds, and rheumatism.

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INTRODUCTION

An ethno-botanical study of medicinal plants was carried out in Moolaikaraipatti area, Tirunelveli in India 2017 December to 2018 February with the help of traditional healers. The indigenous knowledge of local traditional healers and herbal medicine collectors of the native plants used for medicinal purposes were collected through personal interviews during field trips. The investigation survey revealed that, the traditional healers used 249 species of plant used to cure skin disease, poisonous bites, cough and swelling. In this study the most dominant family was Fabaceae. This study showed that many people in the studied parts of Tirunelveli district still continue to depend on medicinal plants least for the treatment of primary health care. The traditional healers are dwindling in number and there is grave danger of traditional knowledge disappearing soon since the younger generation is not interested to carry on this tradition.

Background: Plants have been used in traditional medicine for several thousand years.

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The knowledge of medical plants has been accumulated in the course of many centuries based on different Indian medical system such as Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha. During the last decades there has been an increasing interest in the study of medical plants and their traditional use in different parts of the world. Documenting the indigenous knowledge through ethno-botanical studies is important for the conservation and utilization of biological resources. The acceptance and use of herbal medicine is on the increase globally. In country situation is not different, over 80 % of the population particularly in the developing countries depends directly on plants for their primary healthcare requirement. Plants form an important part of health care especially for the rural poor in Moolaikaraipatti. The noted increased use of herbal medicine is as a result of the confirmed therapeutic evidence of the herbal remedies. This has been enhanced by the consequences of limited access to modern health services in most developing countries including India, high cost of modern medicine compared to the indigenous herbal medicines, wide socio-cultural acceptance of traditional medicine and the belief that natural products pose no risk. The increased preference of herbal medicine has consequently propelled the search for pharmaceutical remedies against different ailments from

plants. The medicines are collected from the wild and this has negatively impacted on the plant resource due to unsustainable exploitation rates as well as the health of many people who cannot afford orthodox medicine. This makes documentation, sustainable utilization as well as conservation essential. The first step in conservation is to document material traditionally used to treat an ailment. Previous studies have identified and documented numerous medicinal plants for treatment of various diseases in Moolaikaraipatti however these have been targeting specific ailments and are not detailed in shared use. A larger number of medicinal plants and indigenous uses have not yet been documented. The rich history of African cultures and their innovative utilization of plants as a source of remedies have been passed down through generations largely by oral tradition. This knowledge is gradually being lost as the custodians die before passing on information to the younger generations. Besides the gradual loss of ethno-botanical knowledge due to lack of documentation, overharvesting of medicinal materials from their natural habitat has been one of the major threats of traditional medicine.

It will also facilitate the discovery of new sources of drugs and promote sustainable use of medicinal plant resources in Moolaikaraipatti. In addition conservation of medicinal plants will add value to the recreational environment as well as health improvement through sustained ecosystems. This study aimed at collecting data on plant species used to treat different health conditions and prevent this plant source.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area: Moolaikaraipatti is located on South East direction of Tirunelveli District. (Figures) this is the one of boarder of Tirunelveli District from Thuthukudi District. Moolaikaraipatti is 35km from Palayamkottaitown and Town and Country Plan developing area. This area fully occupied by farming and Wood cutters commonly. This rural area is filled Poor community people. In several villages as our survey we got famous traditional practitioners were they are regularly practicing aid of their knowledge on Siddha medicines and traditional knowledge with use of local plant resources

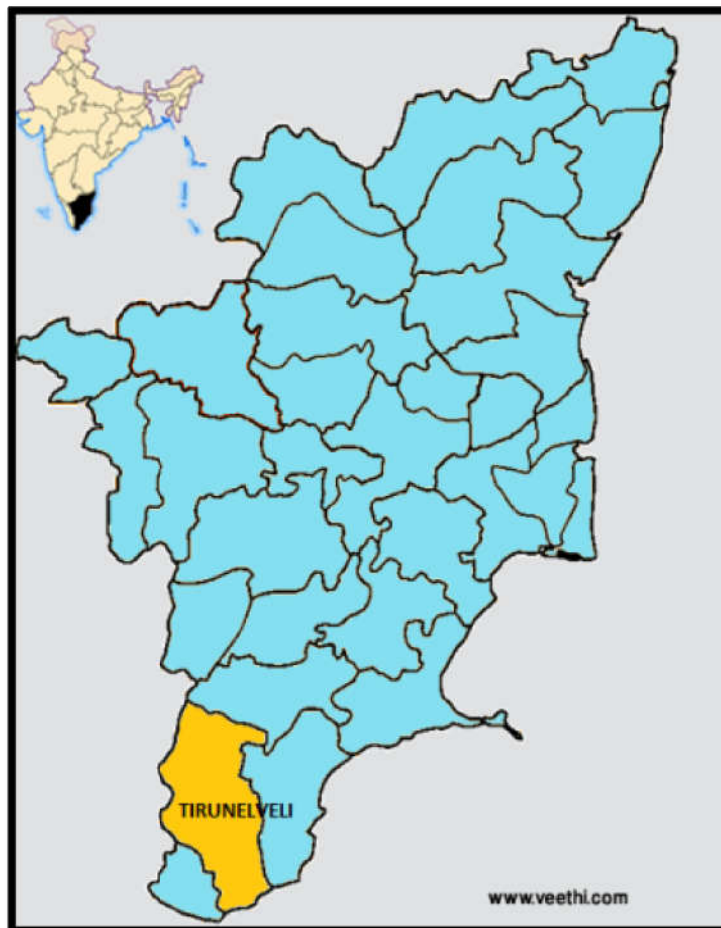


Fig. 1. Location Map of Tirunelveli map Tamil Nadu, India

In order to conserve wild plant species, there is need for reliable data on their distribution and level of use. The documentation of indigenous knowledge through ethno-botanical studies is important in conservation and utilization of biological resources. The identification of local names, scientific names and indigenous uses of plants not only preserves indigenous knowledge but also facilitates future research on safety and efficacy of medicinal plants in treatment of various ailments. This will ensure that traditional knowledge about use of these plants is conserved.

Interviewed information on the use of medicinal plants were recorded.

Data Collection

Survey: In order to assess the consumption of indigenous medicinal plants, survey was carried out during the year, 2018 in the areas of Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli district in TamilNadu, India. To get maximum information the survey was widened diagonally during the following rainy season. Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli have so many famous Traditional Medical Practitioners in twenty years ago.

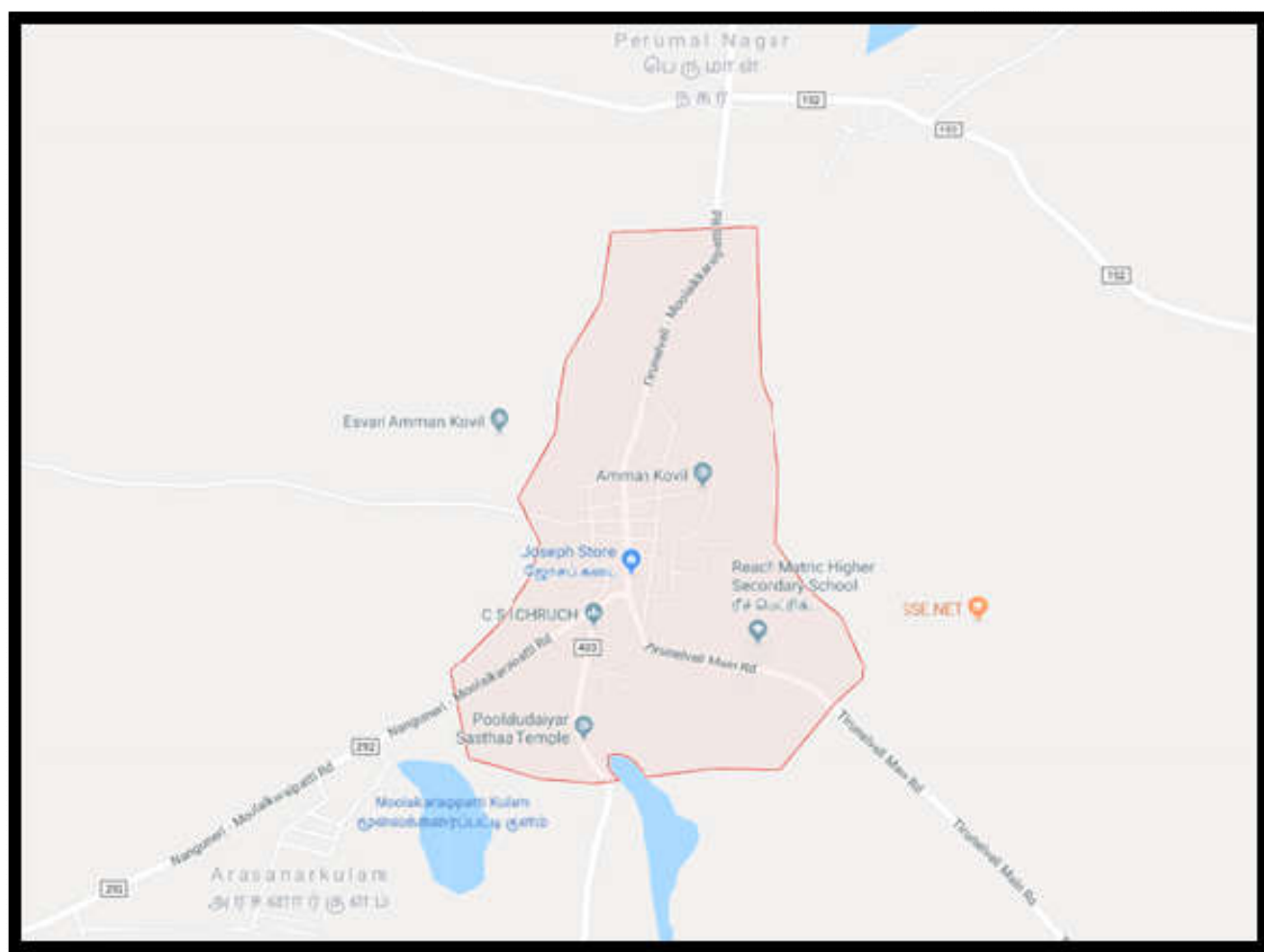


Fig. 2. Location Map of Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli District, Northern Province (India)

Their families and generations are displaced to other station for various reasons therefore Traditional Medical Practitioners (TMP's) generations were the main informants in the survey. The information on medicinal uses of the indigenous plants has been described after gathering it from local people, experienced aged rural folk, traditional herbal medicine practitioners, local herbal drug sellers and the information collected from the available literature. A total of 38 inhabitants were interviewed. Randomly people were selected of which 21 men and 17 women of age 35 and above were interviewed in their local language, that is, Tamil. In addition, direct plant observation and identification was done with the help of local healers known as 'NaatuVaidyar'. Author also as a Doctor and have enough knowledge about medicinal plants in India. Plants recorded in the results were mentioned by at least two TMP's as treating the same disease in order to confirm its use.

Views of local people

Information obtained from medicinally important plants was assessed by calculating the proportion of plants cited and utilized in relation to the total number of interviewers.

RESULTS

The recorded Information only 18 Plants Species, used commonly as remedies for various diseases are listed with their Family and Local Ecological status in the Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli District. And identified

medicinal plants countered 249 as cultivated also included (Table:2) followed by their habitat. The Plant part used, Local distribution, ecological status all are enumerated below only some plants (Table: 1)

DISCUSSION

This Study revealed a considerable medicinal plant diversity of Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli district. Data were compared with the available literature of different regions of India on medicinal plants and was found that many of these are not recorded earlier. In Indian ethnobotanical studies on medicinal plants were conducted earlier in other districts. However, in Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli district, No detailed studies on ethno medicine have been conducted. The formulation and standardization of these effective phyto-medicines should be encouraged for their sustainable uses and preservation of endangered species of this area. The data accrued is expected to be useful for the development of the herbal drug industries to improve tribal and rural economy of Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli district. The plants which are accrued are to be used single or combination with others. Some information pertaining to particular remedy from different localities or groups of informants reflects the accuracy and authenticity of the medicines on the phyto-chemistry. The Data from the Traditional practitioners will be helpful further for the Scientific assessment of these medicines on phyto-chemistry, Biological activity and clinical studies are, however necessary. This may provide a lead in the development of drugs to be used in modern system of medicine.

Table 1. Details of Medicinal plants in Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli Dist

No.	Family	No.	Scientific name	Vernacular name	Habit	Actions	Method of preparation and medicinal uses
1	Acanthaceae	1	<i>Barleria mysorensis</i> Roth.	T. Ikkiri	H	expectorant stimulant	The whole plant and leaves are used cough cure.
		2	<i>Adathoda vasica</i> Nees.	T. Adathodai	S	Antispasmodic	Decoction of leaves mix with honey and given for cough and fever.
				E. Malabar nut		Expectorant	
						Germicide	
		3	<i>Hydrophila spinosa</i> t Ander	T. Neermulli E. Long leaved baleria	H	Leaves-demulcent	A decoction of the root is a diuretic and administered for stones in the kidney.
						Diuretic	
Flower & root- Refrigerant							
Diuretic							
Demulcent							
4	<i>Justicia gendarusa</i> Burm.f.	T. Krishna adatoda/ Neernochchi E. Willow- Leaved justicia	S	Diuretic	The root of the plant is boiled in milk and given as a remedy for rheumatism, fever, jaundice and diarrhoea.		
				Diaphoretic			
5	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> Linn.	T. Semmulli E. Porcupine flower	S	Whole plant stimulant	The juice of leaves is applied to feet to prevent maceration and cracking.		
6	<i>Perstrophecalyculata</i> Nees.	T. Kattunilavemb	S	Anti pyretic	Decoction given for fever.		
2	Aizoaceae	7	<i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i> Linn.	T. Saranai	H	Root diuretic	Root decoction used to diuretic especially in hypertension patient.
				E. Horse purslanes			
8	<i>Mollugo Pentaphylla</i> Linn.	T. Kattupatpadagam E. Wild Indian chickweed	H	Stomachic Antiseptic	An infusion of the plant is given to women to promote menstrual discharge.		
3	Amaranthaceae	9	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Linn.	T. Nayuruvi	H	Astringent	Leaves paste used for some poisonous bites.
				E. Prickly cuff flower		Diuretic	
						Alterative	
		10	<i>Aerva lanata</i> (Linn.) Juss	T. Sirupeelai E. Common way side weed	H	Diuretic	A decoction of the plant is a reputed diuretic and considered of great value in lithiasis.
						Lithonriptic	
		11	<i>Alteranther aessiiis</i> Linn.	T. Ponnangani E. sessil joy weed	H	Alterative	Used for some eye disease
Cooling							
12	<i>Amaranthus spnosus</i> Linn.	T. Mullukeerai E. Prickly amaranth	H	Demulcent	Paste apply over the swelling and tumors to reduce		
				Stomachic			
13	<i>Celosia argentea</i> Linn.	T. Pannankeerai E. Silver cocks comb	H	Astringent	Powder of seeds given with milk to reduce cough.		
				Demulcent			
14	<i>Amaranthu viridis</i> Linn.	T. Mulaikeerai E. Green amarath	H	Laxative	Cooked leaves eaten for increase appetites.		
				Stomachic			
4	Anacardiaceae	15	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> Linn.	T. Kottaimunthiri	TR	Fruit- Diuretic	Fruits are Increase spermatogenesis
				E. Cashew nut		Stimulant	
						Seeds- Tonic	
		16	<i>Odinawodier</i> Roxb	T. Othi E. Woider	TR	Astringent	Decoction of barks used for wash wounds.
						Tonic	
						Disinfectant	
17	<i>Mangifera indica</i> Linn.	T. Maa E. Mango tree	TR	Styptic	Ash of leaves mix with ghee and apply over the burns.		
				Fruit- Laxative			
				Diuretic			
5	Annonaceae	18	<i>Annona squamosa</i> Linn.	T. Annamunna	TR	Vermicide insecticidal	The seeds, crushed into a paste with water, are applied to the scalp to destroy lice.
				E. Sugar apple			
				E. Riber ebony			

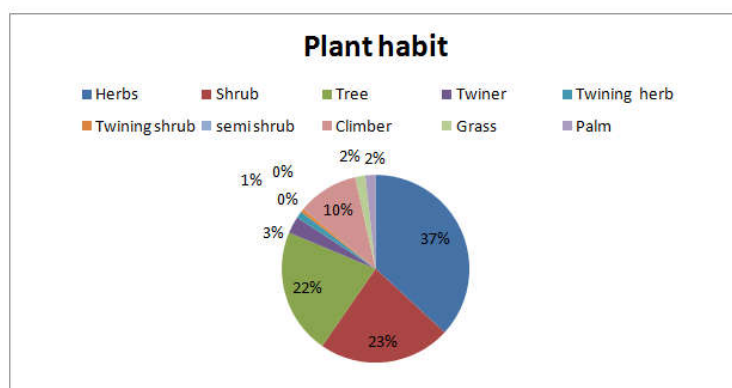


Chart 1. Plant habit

Table 2. Local status of Medicinal plants (wild& cultivated) in Moolaikaraipatti, Tirunelveli Dist

No.	Tamil Name	Botanical Name
1	Aavarai	<i>Cassia auriculata.</i>
2	Adathodai	<i>Justicia adatoda.</i>
3	Adutheenadapalai	<i>Aristolochiabracteolata.</i>
4	Agatti	<i>Sesbaniagarandiflora.</i>
5	Akasagarudan	<i>Corallocarpusepigaeus.</i>
6	Akasathamara	<i>Pistiastriatotes.</i>
7	Alamaram	<i>Ficusbenghalensis.</i>
8	Alari	<i>Neriumodorum.</i>
9	Alli	<i>Nymphaeanouchali.</i>
10	Al-vallikuzhang	<i>Manihotesculenta.</i>
11	Amanakku	<i>Ricinuscommunis.</i>
12	Ammaiyarkoondal	<i>Curcutareflexa.</i>
13	Ammanpachcharisi	<i>Euphorbia pilurifera.</i>
14	Anai – katrazhai	<i>Agave Americana.</i>
15	Anaikuntri	<i>Adenatherapavonina.</i>
16	Annasipazham	<i>Ananascomosus.</i>
17	Anthimalli	<i>Mirabilis jalapa.</i>
18	Araikirai	<i>Marsileaquadrifolia.</i>
19	Arasu	<i>Ficusreligiosa.</i>
20	Arathai	<i>Alpiniagalanga.</i>
21	Arivalmookkupatchilai	<i>Sidaacuta.</i>
22	Arugu	<i>Cynodondactylon.</i>
23	Arukirai	<i>Amarantustristis.</i>
24	Arunelli	<i>Phyllanthusacidus.</i>
25	Athondai	<i>Cappariszeylanica.</i>
26	Atti	<i>Ficusreecemosa.</i>
27	Attunetti	<i>Neptuniaoleracea.</i>
28	Attuthumatti	<i>Citrulluscolocynthis.</i>
29	Avarai	<i>Lablab purpureus.</i>
30	Avuri	<i>Indigoferatinctoria.</i>
31	Ayil	<i>Chukarasiatabularis.</i>
32	Azhavanam	<i>Lawsoniainermis.</i>
33	Azhinjil	<i>Alangiumsalvifolium.</i>
34	Charanai	<i>Trianthemadecandra</i>
35	Chavukkumaram	<i>Casuarinaequisetifolia.</i>
36	Chembai	<i>Sesbaniasesban.</i>
37	Chemparuthi	<i>Gossypium arboretum.</i>
38	Chemparuththi	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis.</i>
39	Chemparuththi	<i>Gossypium arboretum.</i>
40	Chengadugu	<i>Brassica juncea.</i>
41	Cheppu – nerunjil	<i>Indigoferaenneaphylla.</i>
42	Chirupelai	<i>Aervalanata.</i>
43	Chirupeyathi	<i>Ficushispida.</i>
44	Chitramutti	<i>Pavoniazeylanica.</i>
45	Chundai	<i>Solanumtorvum.</i>
46	Churai	<i>Lagenariasiceraria.</i>
47	Echchuramooli	<i>Aristolochiaindica.</i>
48	Eechu (Sitrechu)	<i>Phoenix sylvestris.</i>
49	Elikkadilai	<i>Merremiaemarginata.</i>
50	Eliyamankku	<i>Jatropha curcas.</i>
51	Ellu	<i>Sesamumindicum.</i>
52	Elumichai	<i>Citrus lemon.</i>
53	Elumichanthulasi	<i>Ocimumgratissimum.</i>
54	Erukku	<i>Calotropisgigantea.</i>
55	Etti	<i>Strychnosnux-vomica.</i>
56	Ezhalair	<i>Plumeriarubra.</i>
57	Ezhilapalai	<i>Alstoniascholaris.</i>
58	Gopuramargi	<i>Andrographisechiodes</i>
59	Ilandamaram	<i>Ziziphusmauritinaia.</i>
60	Ilavamaram	<i>Bombaxceiba.</i>
61	Iluppai	<i>Madhucalongifolia.</i>
62	Impural	<i>Oldenlandiaumbellata.</i>
63	Inji	<i>Zingiberofficinale.</i>
64	Iruvi	<i>Dryopterisfelizmas.</i>
65	Isangu	<i>Clerodendurminerme.</i>
66	Iththi	<i>Ficusmicrocarpa.</i>
67	Iyvirali	<i>Diplocyclospalmatus.</i>
68	Kachchalkodi	<i>Coccolushirsutus Diels.</i>
69	Kadalazhinjil	<i>Salaciareticulata.</i>
70	Kadambu	<i>Anthocephaluscadamba.</i>
71	Kadaranaraththai	<i>Citrus medica.</i>
72	Kai-vallikkodi	<i>Dioscoreaalata</i>
73	Kakkanam	<i>Clitoriaternatea</i>
74	Kakkarikay	<i>Cucumisativus.</i>
75	Kala	<i>Crissacarandar</i>
76	Kala	<i>Carissa carandas</i>
77	Kalen	<i>Agaricuscampestris</i>
78	Kalippakku	<i>Areca catechu</i>
79	Kaliyanamurukku	<i>Erythrinavariegata.</i>
80	Kaliyanapushnikay	<i>Benincasahispida.</i>
81	Kallapaikizhangu	<i>Gloriusuperba.</i>
82	Kalli	<i>Euphorbia ligularia</i>
83	Kamuku	<i>Areca catechu.</i>
84	Kanamvazhai	<i>Commelinabenghalensis</i>
85	Kanap – pundu	<i>Exacumpeunculatum.</i>
86	Kandangkattari	<i>Solanumsurattense.</i>
87	Kariabolam	<i>Aloe littoralis</i>
88	Karisalankanni	<i>Ecliptaprostrata.</i>
89	Kari-vembu	<i>Murrayakoenigi</i>
90	Karpuravalli	<i>Anisochiluscarnosus.</i>
91	Kartamarai	<i>Smilax zeylanica</i>
92	Karumbu	<i>Saccharumofficinatum.</i>
93	Karunaitandu	<i>Amarphophalluspaeonicifolis.</i>
94	Karungali	<i>Diospyrusebanum</i>
95	Kaththari	<i>Solanummelongena.</i>
96	Katrazhai	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i>
97	Kattamnakku	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>
98	Kattatti	<i>Bauhinia tomentosa</i>
99	Kattuellu	<i>Sesamumprostratum</i>
100	Kattuelumichchai	<i>Atalantiamalabarica</i>
101	Kattukadalai	<i>Osbekiasettla</i>
102	Kattukadugu	<i>Cleome viscosa</i>
103	Kattumullangi	<i>Blumealacera</i>
104	KattuPagal	<i>Momoricadioica</i>
105	Kattupeiudal	<i>Trichosantheslobata</i>
106	Kattuulunthu	<i>Cassia uniflorus</i>
107	KattuVengayam	<i>Urgineaindica</i>
108	Kattukodi	<i>Cocculusindicus</i>
109	Kavizhthumbai	<i>Trichodesmaindicum.</i>
110	Kazharchikodi	<i>Caesalpinjabonduc</i>
111	Kazhu-nir	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>
112	Kilukiluppai	<i>Crotalaria retusa</i>
113	Kiraikal	<i>Greens</i>
114	Kiraitandu	<i>Amaranthusgangeticus</i>
115	Kitchilikizhangu	<i>Curcuma zeodaria</i>
116	Kitchilipazham	<i>Citrus aurantium</i>
117	Kizhanelli	<i>Phyllanthusamarus</i>
118	Kodagasalai	<i>Rungiarepens</i>
119	Kollukkaivelai	<i>Tephrosiapurpurea</i>
120	Konrai-Sarak-Konrai	<i>Cassia fistula</i>
121	Koola	<i>Schleicheraleosa</i>
122	Korai	<i>Cyperusrotandus</i>
123	Koththavarai	<i>Cyamopsis tetragonoloba</i>
124	Kottaikeeranthalai	<i>Spaeranthusindicus.</i>
125	Kovai	<i>Cocciniagrands</i>
126	Kudiyottupoondi	<i>Argemonemexicana</i>
127	Kuntri	<i>Abrusprecatorius</i>
128	Kuppeimeni	<i>Acalyphaindica</i>
129	Kurattai	<i>Trichosanthesstricuspida</i>
130	Kurinjiam	<i>Gymnemasylvestre</i>
131	Kuthukaransammadi	<i>Indigoferaoblongifolia</i>
132	Ma	<i>Mangiferaindica.</i>
133	Magizh	<i>Mimusopselengi.</i>
134	Mallikai	<i>Jasminumgrandiflorum.</i>
135	Manalikirai	<i>Gisekiapharnaceoides</i>
136	Manathathakkali	<i>Solanumnigrum.</i>
137	Manjal	<i>Curuma longa.</i>
138	Manjalparuthi	<i>Cochospermumreligiosum</i>
139	Mantharai (red)	<i>Bauhinia purpurea.</i>
140	Marakkurai	<i>Catunaregumspinosa.</i>
141	Maruthu	<i>Terminaliaarjuna.</i>
142	Mathulai	<i>Punicagranatum.</i>
143	Mavilangu	<i>Crataeva magna.</i>
144	Methikkeerai	<i>Asystasiagangetica</i>
145	Milakaranai	<i>Todaliaasiatica.</i>
146	Mudakkattan	<i>Cadiospermumhelicacabum.</i>
147	Mudkorandi	<i>Lepidagathuspungens</i>
148	Mukkirattai	<i>Boerhaviadiffusa.</i>
149	Mungil	<i>Bambusaarundinacea.</i>
150	Munthiri	<i>Anacardiummoccidentale.</i>
151	Murungai	<i>Moringaoleifera.</i>
152	Musumusukkai	<i>Mukiamadraspatana.</i>
153	Nagananda	<i>Dicelptropiculata</i>
154	Nagathali	<i>Opuntiadillenii.</i>
155	Nancharuppan	<i>Tylophoraindica.</i>
156	Nannari	<i>Hemidesmusindicus.</i>
157	Naruvili	<i>Cordiaichotoma.</i>

158	Naththichuri	<i>Spermacocehispidia</i> .
159	Naval	<i>Syzygiumcumini</i> .
160	Nayuruvi	<i>Achyranthesaspera</i> .
161	Neichatti	<i>Vernoniacinerea</i> .
162	Nel	<i>Oryza sativa</i> .
163	Nelli	<i>Phyllanthusemblica</i> .
164	Nerunjil	<i>Tribulusterrestris</i> .
165	Nettilingam	<i>Polyalthialongifolia</i> .
166	Nilakkadambu	<i>Asarumeuropaeum</i> .
167	Nilakumizh	<i>Gmelinaasiatica</i> .
168	Nirbrahmi	<i>Bacopamonniari</i> .
169	Nirmelneruppu	<i>Ammaniabaccifera</i> .
170	Nirmulli	<i>Hygrophilaauriculata</i> .
171	Nirpola	<i>Phyllanthusmedaruspatana</i>
172	Notchi	<i>Vitexnegundo</i> .
173	Nuna	<i>Morindatinctoria</i> .
174	Odukkkan	<i>Cleistanthuscollinus</i> .
175	Oritazhthamarai	<i>Ionidiumuffruficocosum</i> .
176	Pakal	<i>Momorchicacharantia</i> .
177	Pappali	<i>Casica papaya</i> .
178	Paruththi	<i>Gossypiumherbaceum</i> .
179	Payaru	<i>Vignamungo</i> .
180	Peramanakku	<i>Ricinusinermis</i> .
181	Peramutti	<i>Pavoniaodorata</i> .
182	Perechu	<i>Phonexdactilifera</i> .
183	Perumpuladi	<i>Desmodiumgiganticum</i>
184	Peyatti	<i>Ficushispida</i> .
185	Peyavarai	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> .
186	Pirandai	<i>Cissusquadrangularis</i> .
187	Piray	<i>Streblusasper</i> .
188	Poduthalai	<i>Phytanodiflora</i> .
189	Ponnanganni	<i>Alternantherasessils</i> .
190	Pudal	<i>Trichosanthes cucumescina</i> .
191	Puli	<i>Tamarindusindicus</i> .
192	Puliyarai	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>
193	Pungu	<i>Pongamiapinnata</i> .
194	Puvarasu	<i>Thespesiapopulnea</i> .
195	Rattai - peimarutti	<i>Anosomelesmalabarica</i> .
196	Rudrajadai	<i>Ocimumbasilicum</i> .
197	Samanthipoo	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> .
198	Serupulladi	<i>Desmodiumtrifolium</i>
199	SeruPunaikalli	<i>Passiflora</i>
200	Shadhurakalli	<i>Euphorpiaantiquorum</i>
201	Sindil	<i>Tinosporacordifolia</i> .
202	Siththa	<i>Anonasquamosa</i> .
203	Sivathia	<i>Operculinaturpethum</i> .
204	Tamaraththam	<i>Avarrhoacarambola</i> .
205	Telkodukku	<i>Heliotropiumindicum</i> .
206	Tengumaram	<i>Cocosnucifera</i> .
207	Thaivelai	<i>Gynandropsisgynandra</i> .
208	Thakarai (Usithakarai)	<i>Cassia tora</i> .
209	Thamarai	<i>Nelumbonucifera</i> .
210	Thannirvittan	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> .
211	Thantri	<i>Terminaliabellirica</i> .
212	Thazhai	<i>Pandanusodoratissimus</i> .
213	Thazhuthazhai	<i>Clerodendrumphlomidis</i> .
214	Thekku	<i>Tectonagrandis</i> .
215	Thillai	<i>Excoecariaagalocha</i> .
216	Thirakshi	<i>Vitisvinifera</i> .
217	ThottarChinungi	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> .
218	Thulasi	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> .
219	Thumbai	<i>Leucasaspera</i> .
220	Thuththi	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> .
221	Thuthuvalai	<i>Solanumtrilobatum</i> .
222	Uka	<i>Salvadorapersica</i> .
223	Umaththai	<i>Datura metal</i> .
224	Uppilangodi	<i>Mimosa paniculata</i> .
225	Uthamakani	<i>Pergulariadaemia</i> .
226	Uzhundu	<i>Vignamungo</i> .
227	Vadhanarayan	<i>Delonixelata</i> .
228	Vagai	<i>Albizialebeck</i> .
229	Vandukolli	<i>Cassia alata</i> .
230	Varikatralai	<i>Sensiveriarotants</i>
231	Vasambu	<i>Acoruscalamus</i> .
232	Vazhai	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> .
233	Vel	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> .
234	Velai	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> .
235	Vellarikai	<i>Cucumisativus</i> .
236	Vellarugu	<i>Enicostemmaaxillare</i> .
237	Vembu	<i>Azadirachtaindica</i> .
238	Venvaadamalligai	<i>Gomphrenacelosioide</i>

239	Vendakai	<i>Abelmoschusculantus</i> .
240	Vengai	<i>Pterocarpusmarsupium</i> .
241	Vengayam	<i>Aliumcepa</i> .
242	Verkadalai	<i>Arachis hypogea</i> .
243	Vetchi	<i>Ixorococcia</i> .
244	Vettilai	<i>Piper betle</i> .
245	Vilamaram	<i>Limoniaacidissima</i> .
246	Vilvam	<i>Aeglemarmeoles</i> .
247	Vinnaku	<i>Pterospermumcanescens</i>
248	Vishamunkil	<i>Crinum asiaticum</i> .
249	Vishnukiranthi	<i>Evolvulusalsinoides</i> .

249 plants with 27family species were found to be the most used plants (Figure 2) followed by Shrubs, Trees, Climbers, Twining herbs, Twining shrubs, Semi shrub, Grass and Palm. The most dominant families in the study were Fabaceae documented. Under Family Labiatae, Cucurbitaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Malvaceae, Acanthaceae, Amaranthaceae, Apocynaceae, Compositae, Liliaceae, Aizoaceae, Rubiaceae, Solanaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Convolvulaceae, Rutaceae, Anacardiaceae, Capparidaceae, Aristolochiaceae, Annonaceae, Combretaceae, Dioscoreaceae, Meliaceae, Menispermaceae, Oxalidaceae, Piperaceae, Zygophyllaceae family plants available in research area.

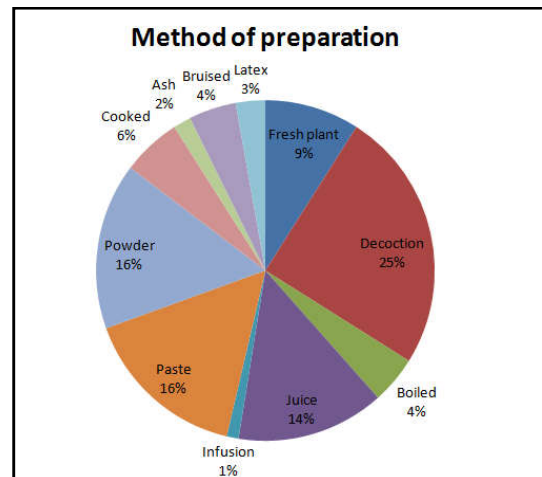


Chart 2. Method of preparation of data plants

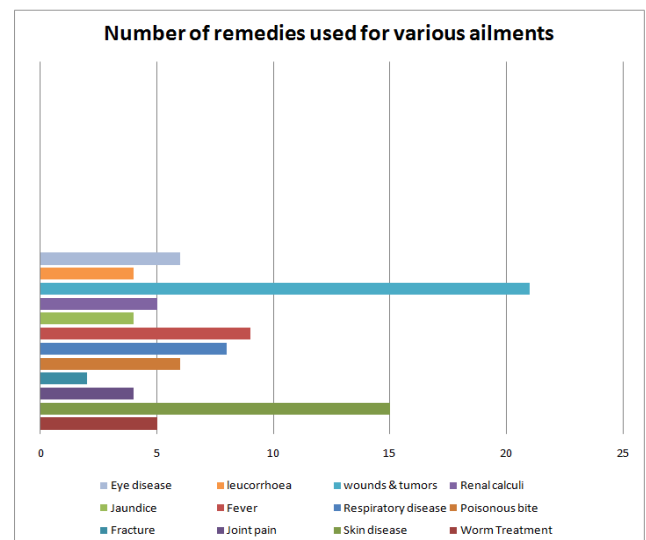


Chart 3. Total number of remedies used for various ailments

It was observed that, most of the remedies consisted of single plant part and more than one method of preparation. However, many of the remedies consisted of different parts of the same

plant species to treat single or more diseases. For example, *Cynodondactylon* - This herb soaked in water and mixed with milk and drink for head disease and eye disease. This Juice also use burning sensation of eyes. Moreover, a single plant is used for more than one disease. For example, *Leucaszeylanica* (Linn.) R.Br.- The pounded leaves are used as a poultice for wounds, sores, itches, headaches and vertigo., *Mimosa pudica* Linn. - The leaves fermentation applies for body pain. Powder of this plant is given for diabetic. Common health problem in the sites of the study area were skin problems such as wounds, cuts, burns, skin disease and Respiratory disease such as asthma and cough. Largest number of the remedies was used to treat these troubles. Several studies have enumerated the plants used for skin disease, wound healing and respiratory disease in various parts of the world.

Conclusion

The survey indicated that, the study area has plenty of medicinal plants to treat a wide spectrum of human ailments. Earlier studies on traditional medicinal plants also revealed that the economically backward local and tribal people of Moolaikaraipatti folk medicine due to low cost and sometimes it is a part of their social life and culture. It is evident from the interviews conducted in within the village; knowledge of medicinal plants is limited to traditional healers, herbalists and elderly persons who are living in Moolaikaraipatti. This study also points out that certain species of medicinal plants are being exploited by the local residents. Who are unaware of the importance of medicinal plants in the ecosystem. This study concluded that even though the accessibility of Western medicine for simple and complicated disease is available, many people in Tirunelveli district is still continue to depend on medicinal plants, at least for the treatment of some simple disease such as, cough, fever, poisonous bites, skin disease, toothache and earache. Well-knowledge healers have good interactions with patients and this would improve the quality of health care delivery system. The present day traditional healers are very old. Due to lack of interest among the younger generation as well as their tendency to migrate to cities for lucrative jobs, there is a possibility of losing this wealth of knowledge in the near future. It thus becomes necessary to acquire and preserve this traditional system of medicine by proper documentation and identification of specimens.

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APPENDIX: Medicinal plants:



Osbekiaselleta



Sopubia delphinifolia



Ludwigia polygonoides



Marremia tridentata



Tribulus terrestris



Trichodesma indica
