

Field Survey of Medicinal plants in Vembathur Village, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India.

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Abstract

Medicinal plants have long played an important role in the traditional healthcare. where indigenous knowledge passed down through generations. The present study to documented the diversity and ethnomedicinal uses of plants in Vembathur Village, Thovalai Block, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India. Systematic field surveys, direct observation and interviews with local residents and traditional healers, were collected and identified using standard floras. A total of 124 medicinal plant species belonging to 105 genera and 53 families were recorded, with herb being dominated, followed by trees, shrubs, and climbers. Fabaceae was the most represented family, while Leaves were the most frequently utilized plant part. The documented species were used in the treatment of a wide range of ailments, including dermatological, gastrointestinal, and respiratory disorders. The study also indicated a decline in certain species due to anthropogenic pressures and habitat degradation, highlighting the need for systematic documentation, conservation, and sustainable utilization of medicinal plant resources.

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity encompasses the variety of living organisms, including microorganisms, plants, and animals, and the ecosystems in which they occur. It plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance and supporting human life. Plant biodiversity is especially important because plants provide food, medicine, and raw materials. Medicinal plants are a key part of plant biodiversity due to their healing properties and cultural importance (**Kumar et al., 2024**). Medicinal plants have been used in traditional healthcare systems since ancient times and are

still important in modern medicine. In many developing regions, communities continue to depend on medicinal plants as accessible sources of primary healthcare, while their collection and utilization also contribute to household income and local livelihood (**WHO, 2002**). Globally, approximately 50,000-70,000 plant species are reported to have medicinal applications in traditional and modern system of medicine (**Schippmann et al., 2006**). Biodiversity loss reduces the availability of medicinal plants resources (**Patel and Bharti, 2025**).

India is one of the world's mega-biodiversity

countries and supports a wide range of ecosystems and medicinal plant species. Many plants from India's biodiversity are used in traditional medical systems such as Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and folk medicine (Kumar *et al.*, 2024). Rural and tribal communities depend largely on local plant resources for healthcare. However, factors such as deforestation, habitat loss, climate change, and overexploitation are causing a decline in medicinal plant biodiversity (Latif and Nawaz, 2025). A medicinal plant survey is a systematic study carried out to identify and document medicinal plant species in a specific area. Such surveys help in understanding plant biodiversity, preserving traditional knowledge, and assessing the conservation status of medicinal plants. Recent studies in India have emphasized that systematic ethnobotanical documentation is important for recording medicinal plants diversity, preserving traditional healthcare knowledge, and supporting the conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants resource (Pandey *et al.*, 2026)

The present medicinal plant survey aims to document the medicinal plant diversity of the selected study area by recording their botanical names, families, habits, parts used, and traditional medicinal uses. This study highlights the close relationship between biodiversity and medicinal plants and stresses the need to conserve plant biodiversity for sustainable healthcare and ecological balance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Table 1: Checklist of Medicinal Plants found in Vembathur Village.

S.No	Botanical Name / Family	Local Name / Habit	Part Used	Uses
1.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. (Amaranthaceae)	Naayuruvi / Herb	Root and leaf	Anthelmintic

The present study was conducted in Vembathur Village, located in Thovalai Block of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India, at approximately 8.28° N latitude and 77.43° E longitude. The study area comprises residential areas, home gardens, agricultural fields, roadsides and other semi-managed habitats that support a variety of plant species, including medicinal plants traditionally maintained and used by local communities for household and healthcare purposes. A systematic field survey was conducted from July 2025 to February 2026 to document the diversity and occurrence of medicinal plants. Plant specimens were collected from different habitats during various seasons and reproductive stages, including flowering and fruiting periods, to facilitate accurate identification. Interviews were conducted with local residents, traditional healers and elderly community members to document indigenous knowledge related to medicinal plant use (Jain, 1991). The collected specimens were identified and verified using standard published floras, including Gamble and Fischer (1956) and Nair and Henry (1983).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The total of 124 plant species belonging to 105 genera and 53 families were documented from the vembathur region based on their occurrence and reported medicinal importance. Information on the botanical name, family, local name, growth habit, used part and medicinal is presented in Table 1.

2.	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm.f. (Asphodelaceae)	Sotthukatthalai / Herb	Leaf	Wound healing
3.	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) DC. (Amaranthaceae)	Ponnonkanni / Herb	Stem, Shoot and Leaves	Skin disease
4.	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L. (Amaranthaceae)	Kuppaikeerai / Herb	Whole plant	Diarrhea
5.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L. (Annonaceae)	Sithapalam / Tree	Bark, Root and Leaf	Dandruff
6.	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam. (Moraceae)	Palamaram / Tree	Latex	Wound healing
7.	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet. (Malvaceae)	Cheepukai / Shrub	Root and Leaf	Piles
8.	<i>Acorus calamus</i> L. (Acoraceae)	Vasambu / Shrub	Root	Snake bite
9.	<i>Ananas comosus</i> (L.) Merr. (Bromeliaceae)	Anansi / Shrub	Stem, Leaves and Roots	Digestion
10.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f.) Nees. (Acanthaceae)	Nilavembu / Herb	Whole plant	Fever
11.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A.Juss. (Meliaceae)	Vembu / Tree	Leaf	Skin disease
12.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa. (Rutaceae)	Vilvam / Tree	Leaf and Fruit	Diarrhea
13.	<i>Albizia amara</i> (Roxb.) Boivin. (Fabaceae)	Arapumaram / Tree	Leaf	Skin diseases
14.	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Kollampazham / Tree	Flower	Small box
15.	<i>Amaranthus dubius</i> Mart.ex.Thell. (Amaranthaceae)	Arakkeerai / Herb	Whole plant	Boost immunity
16.	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Roxb. ex. DC.) Wall. ex Bedd. (Combretaceae)	Vekkali / Tree	Root	Diarrhea
17.	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L. (Papaveraceae)	Prammathandu / Herb	Root and Seed	Skin disease
18.	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i> L. (Nyctaginaceae)	Mukkuratai / Climber	Root, Leaf and Seed	Asthma
19.	<i>Barleria cristata</i> L. (Acanthaceae)	December Poo / Herb	Root	Cough
20.	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> L. (Acanthaceae)	Katukanakamparam / Herb	Leaf	Toothache

21.	<i>Basella alba</i> L. (Basellaceae)	Pasalikkeerai / Climber	Leaf	Constipation
22.	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L. (Arecaceae)	Panaimaram / Tree	Bark	Body cooling
23.	<i>Brassica nigra</i> (L.) W.D.J.Koch. (Brassicaceae)	Kadugu / Herb	Whole parts of plants, Seeds	Stomach pain
24.	<i>Kalanchoe pinnata</i> (Lam.) Pers. (Crassulaceae)	Miracle leaf / Herb	Leaf	Kidney problem
25.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> L. (Apocynaceae)	Erukku / Shrub	Root, Leaf and Stem	Wound healing
26.	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L. (Sapindaceae)	Mudakathan / Climber	Root and Leaf	Rheumatism
27.	<i>Citrus limon</i> (L.) Osbeck. (Rutaceae)	Elumichai / Tree	Fruit	Indigestion
28.	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L. (Arecaceae)	Thengu / Tree	Fruit	Body cooling
29.	<i>Coleus amboinicus</i> Lour. (Lamiaceae)	Karpuravalli / Herb	Stem and Leaf	Cough
30.	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L. (Commelinaceae)	Valaipachai / Herb	Leaf	Wound healing
31.	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> L. (Cucurbitaceae)	Pusanikai / Climber	Leaf and Flower	Cough and cold
32.	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L. (Zingiberaceae)	Manjal / Shrub	Rhizome	Wound healing
33.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers. (Poaceae)	Arugampul / Herb	Whole plant and Root	Body cooling
34.	<i>Carica papaya</i> L. (Caricaceae)	Pappli / Tree	Fruit and Leaf	Digestion
35.	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G.Don. (Apocynaceae)	Nithyakalyani / Shrub	Leaf	Cancer
36.	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urb. (Apiaceae)	Vallari / Herb	Whole plant	Memory power
37.	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L. (Vitaceae)	Pirandai / Herb	Stem and Leaf	Arthritis
38.	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L. (Fabaceae)	Sangupushpam / Climber	Leaf	Memory power
39.	<i>Cadaba fruticosa</i> (L.) Druce. (Capparaceae)	Vizhthi / Shrub	Leaf	Fever
40.	<i>Canna indica</i> L.	Kalvalai / Herb	Leaf and	Constipation

	(Cannaceae)		Root	
41.	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Kaantharimilagu / Herb	Fruit	Muscle pain
42.	<i>Senna auriculata</i> (L.) Roxb. (Fabaceae)	Avarampoo / Shrub	Flower	Diarrhea
43.	<i>Senna fistula</i> (L.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby. (Fabaceae)	Konnai / Tree	Leaf	Constipation
44.	<i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link. (Fabaceae)	Coffee Senna / Herb	Leaf	Fever
45.	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Matsum & Nakai. (Cucurbitaceae)	Peronkamatikai / Climber	Fruits	Body cooling
46.	<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L. (Cleomaceae)	Koduppai Keerai / Herb	Leaf	Stomach problems
47.	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> (L.) Voigt. (Cucurbitaceae)	Kovakai / Climber	Fruit	Diabetes
48.	<i>Datura metel</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Ummatham / Herb	Leaf and seed	Asthma
49.	<i>Desmodium gangeticum</i> (L.) DC. (Fabaceae)	Muvilaikurunthu / Shrub	Root	Fever
50.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> (L.) L. (Asteraceae)	Karisilanganni / Herb	Whole plant	Hair fall
51.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Amman Pacharissi / Herb	Whole plant	Respiratory problem
52.	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i> L. (Amaranthaceae)	Vadamalli / Herb	Leaf	Eye disease
53.	<i>Gossypium arboreum</i> L. (Malvaceae)	Paruthi / Shrub	Fruit	Diabetes
54.	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i> L. (Boraginaceae)	Thelkoduksu / Herb	Leaf	Wound healing
55.	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L. (Malvaceae)	Sembaruthi / Shrub	Leaf	Hair fall
56.	<i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i> (L.) F.Muell. (Violaceae)	Orithalthamarai / Herb	Whole plant	Fever
57.	<i>Ipomoea carnea</i> Jacq. (Convolvulaceae)	Neyveli Kattamanakku / Shrub	Leaf, Latex, Stem	Constipation
58.	<i>Ixora coccinea</i> L. (Rubiaceae)	Idlipoo / Shrub	Flower	Asthma
59.	<i>Jasminum angustifolium</i> (L.) Willd.	Kattumalli / Climber	Leaf	Skin disease

	(Oleaceae)			
60.	<i>Jasminum officinale</i> L. (Oleaceae)	Pichi Poo / Shrub	Flowers	Foot eruption
61.	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Kattamanakku / Shrub	Leaf	Skin disease
62.	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Amanakku / Shrub	Fruit	Skin disease
63.	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L. (Acanthaceae)	Adadodai / Shrub	Leaf	Muscle pain
64.	<i>Lablab purpureus</i> (L.) Sweet. (Fabaceae)	Avarai / Climber	Root	Diabetes
65.	<i>Lantana camara</i> L. (Verbenaceae)	Azhavanam / Tree	Leaf	Mouth disease
66.	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link. (Lamiaceae)	Thumbai / Herb	Leaf	Head ache
67.	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L. (Lythraceae)	Azhavanam / Tree	Leaf	Body Cooling
68.	<i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i> (Jacq.) P.H.Raven. (Onagraceae)	Savangathalai / Herb	Leaf	Fever
69.	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Maa / Tree	Fruit and Bark	Menstrual problem
70.	<i>Manilkara zapota</i> (L.) P.Royen. (Sapotaceae)	Sapota / Tree	Latex	Wound healing
71.	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L. (Fabaceae)	Mudangu Thamarai / Herb	Leaf	Cough and Cold
72.	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> L. (Nyctaginaceae)	Kanvalichedi / Herb	Root	Skin disease
73.	<i>Momordica charantia</i> L. (Cucurbitaceae)	Pakarkai / Climber	Fruit	Diabetes
74.	<i>Momordica dioica</i> Roxb.Ex.Willd. (Cucurbitaceae)	Kakrol / Climber	Root and Fruits	Diabetes
75.	<i>Morinda tinctoria</i> Roxb. (Rubiaceae)	Manjanathi / Tree	Leaf	Thyroid
76.	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam. (Moringaceae)	Murungai / Tree	Leaf	Boost immunity
77.	<i>Mukia maderaspatana</i> (L.) M.Roem. (Cucurbitaceae)	Musumusuki / Climber	Leaf	Diabetes
78.	<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng. (Rutaceae)	Kariveppilai / Tree	Leaf	Hair growth
79.	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> L.	Vazhai / Herb	Pseudo	Kidney stone

	(Musaceae)		stem, Fruit	
80.	<i>Nerium oleander</i> L. (Apocynaceae)	Arali / Shrub	Leaf	Body pain
81.	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	Thiruneetupachalai / Herb	Leaf	Cough
82.	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	Tulasi / Herb	Leaf	Cough
83.	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L. (Poaceae)	Arasi / Herb	Seed	Boost strength
84.	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L. (Passifloraceae)	Poonaippalam / Climber	Fruit	Insomnia
85.	<i>Pedaliium murex</i> L. (Pedaliaceae)	Yaana Nerunjil / Herb	Leaf and Root	Arthritis
86.	<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk.) Chiov. (Apocynaceae)	Vealiparuthi / Climber	Leaf	Arthritis
87.	<i>Phyllanthus niruri</i> L. (Phyllanthaceae)	Keezhanelli / Herb	Leaves, Stem and Roots	Jaundice
88.	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schumach. & Thonn. (Phyllanthaceae)	Keelanelli / Herb	Whole plant	Jaundice
89.	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L. (Phyllanthaceae)	Nelli / Tree	Fruit	Immunity
90.	<i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i> L. (Phyllanthaceae)	Ingu Chedi / Shrub	Leaf, Root	Stomach disease
91.	<i>Physalis minima</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Sudakkuthakkali / Herb	Fruit	Kidney problem
92.	<i>Piper betle</i> L. (Piperaceae)	Vettilai / Climber	Leaf	Digestion
93.	<i>Piper longum</i> L. (Piperaceae)	Thippili / Climber	Fruit	Cough
94.	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (Roxb.) Benth. (Fabaceae)	Kodukkapuli / Tree	Leaf	Wound healing
95.	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> (L.) Roxb. (Arecaceae)	Eechamaram / Tree	Fruit	Stomach disease
96.	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre. (Fabaceae)	Pungan / Tree	Root and bark	Skin disease
97.	<i>Psidium guajava</i> L. (Myrtaceae)	Koyya / Tree	Leaf	Toothache
98.	<i>Punica granatum</i> L. (Lythraceae)	Mathulai / Shrub	Fruit and seed	Stomach pain

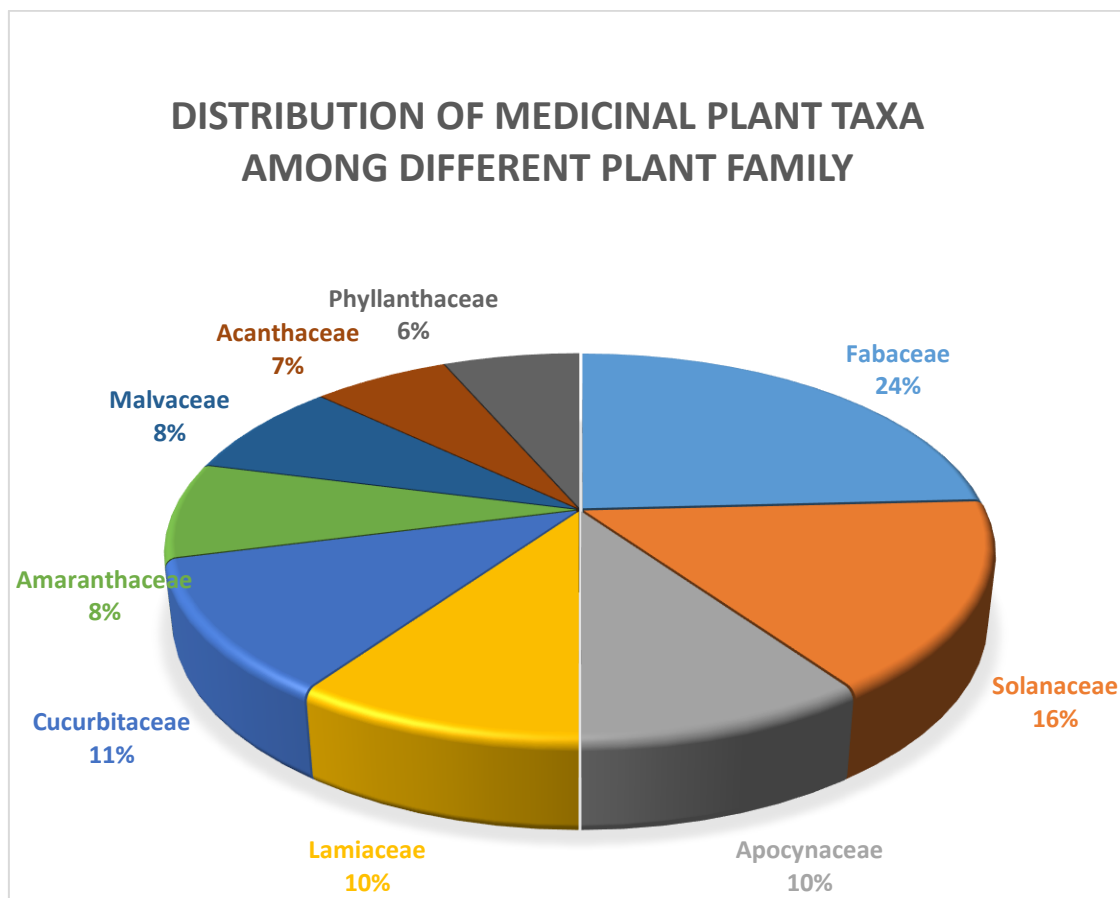
99.	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Amanakku / Shrub	Bark and seed	Constipation
100.	<i>Senna alata</i> (L.) Roxb. (Fabaceae)	Seemai Agathi / Shrub	Flower	Hair Growth
101.	<i>Senna siamea</i> (Lam.) H.S Irwin & Barneby. (Fabaceae)	Ponavaram / Tree	Leaves	Constipation
102.	<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i> (L.) Pers. (Fabaceae)	Aagathi / Tree	Root	Stomach disease
103.	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f. (Malvaceae)	Arivalmanaipoondur / Herb	Whole plant	Wound healing
104.	<i>Solanum melongena</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Kathirikkai / Herb	Fruit	Diabetes
105.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Manathakkali / Shrub	Whole plant, Fruit	Stomach disease
106.	<i>Solanum torvum</i> Sw. (Solanaceae)	Sundakkai / Shrub	Fruit, Root and Leaves	Stomach disease
107.	<i>Solanum trilobatum</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Thuthuvalai / Shrub	Fruit	Cough and cold
108.	<i>Solanum virginianum</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Kanthakkathari / Herb	Rhizome	Tooth ache
109.	<i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i> Schrad. & H. Wendl. (Solanaceae)	Kanthakkathari / Herb	Leaf	Tooth ache
110.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels. (Myrtaceae)	Naval / Tree	Bark and seed	Diabetes
111.	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> (L.) R.Br. exRoem. & Schult. (Apocynaceae)	Nanthiyavaetai / Shrub	Fruit	Eye disease
112.	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L. (Fabaceae)	Puli / Tree	Fruit, leaf and bark	Body pain
113.	<i>Tectona grandis</i> L.F. (Lamiaceae)	Thekku / Tree	Seed and flower	Skin disease
114.	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb. (Combretaceae)	Thandrikai / Tree	Bark	Ulcer
115.	<i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.) Sol. Ex. Correa. (Malvaceae)	Poovarasu / Tree	Fruit, seed, bark and root	Wound healing
116.	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.) Miers. (Menispermaceae)	Seethakkodi / Climber	Leaf and root	Immunity
117.	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Nerunji / Herb	Leaf	Kidney problem

	(Zygophyllaceae)			
118.	<i>Trichosanthes cucumerina</i> L. (Cucurbitaceae)	Snake Guard / Climber	Fruit	Diabetes
119.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L. (Asteraceae)	Thatha Poo / Herb	Leaf	Wound healing
120.	<i>Trigonella foenum- graecum</i> L. (Fabaceae)	Venthiyam / Herb	Seed	Stomach disease
121.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	Nochi / Shrub	Leaf	Arthritis
122.	<i>Sphagneticola calendulacea</i> (L.) Pruski. (Asteraceae)	Manjal Kariselankani / Herb	Leaf	Hair growth
123.	<i>Withania somnifera</i> (L.) Dunal. (Solanaceae)	Amkura / Herb	Tuber	Insomnia
124.	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> (Rorb) R.Br. (Apocynaceae)	Vetpalai / Shrub	Leaf	Skin disease

The medicinal flora of the study area comprises diverse life forms including herbs, shrubs, trees, and climbers, which occur in different ecological habitats such as cultivated fields, roadside vegetation, home gardens, and wastelands. Some species are maintained in home gardens due to their frequent medicinal utility. Analysis of growth habits revealed that herbs constituted the dominant life form (38%), followed by trees (24%), shrubs (22%), and climbers (13%). The predominance of herbaceous species in the medicinal flora may be attributed to their wide distribution, rapid growth, and ease of collection.

Family-wise analysis showed that Fabaceae was the most species-rich family, represented by 15

species, followed by Solanaceae, with 10 species, and Cucurbitaceae, with 7 species. Apocynaceae and Lamiaceae were represented by 6 species each, while Amaranthaceae and Malvaceae were represented by 5 species each. Acanthaceae, Euphorbiaceae, and Phyllanthaceae were represented by 4 species each. Rutaceae, Arecaceae, and Asteraceae were represented by 3 species each. Anacardiaceae, Combretaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Poaceae, Rubiaceae, Oleaceae, Lythraceae, Piperaceae, and Myrtaceae were represented by 2 species each. The remaining families were represented by a single species. The family-wise distribution of the documented medicinal plants is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Distribution of medicinal plant taxa among different plant family

The recorded plant species were used in the treatment of several common health conditions including Skin diseases, Dandruff, wound healing, Digestion, Tooth ache, Kidney problem, Cough, cold, Cancer, Fever, Respiratory problem, Eye diseases, Hair fall, Muscles pain, Jaundice, Constipation. Different plant parts such as leaves, whole plants, seeds, fruits, flowers, stems, rhizomes, and latex were utilized for medicinal preparations. Among these, leaves were the most frequently used plant part, followed by whole plants and seeds. However, the availability of certain medicinal plant species in the study area appears to be gradually declining due to anthropogenic activities, habitat degradation, and overgrazing.

Therefore, proper documentation and conservation of medicinal plant resources are necessary to ensure their sustainable utilization. The present survey highlights the rich medicinal plant diversity of the Vembathur region and emphasizes the importance of conserving these plant resources for future pharmacological and ethnopharmacological studies. The present study recorded considerable diversity in medicinal plants and their traditional uses among the local community. In some regions 32 medicinal plants (Suresh *et al.*, 2025); 60 plants species (Ramesh and Kumar, 2025); 54 plant species (Priya *et al.*, 2025) 47 plant species (Manikandan and Selvi, 2025); 52 plant species (Arunachalam *et al.*, 2025) are recently reported.

The family-wise distribution of medicinal plants

documented in the present study revealed that Fabaceae was the most species-rich family, followed by Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae. The predominance of Fabaceae is consistent with earlier ethnobotanical investigations in Tamil Nadu. **Prabhu *et al.* (2021)** reported Fabaceae as the dominant family, with nine medicinal species, among the 103 medicinal plants documented from the Pachamalai Hills of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, **(Rajalakshmi *et al.*, 2019)** conducted ethnobotanical survey in Thanjavur and its surrounding villages documented Fabaceae among the families with the highest representation, with five species.

In the present study, Solanaceae was the second most represented family with 10 species, which is comparable with the findings of the Paliyar ethnomedicinal survey in Theni District, Tamil Nadu, where Solanaceae was reported by **(Divya *et al.*, 2024)** as the dominant family with seven species.

Cucurbitaceae was represented by seven species in the present study, while a quantitative ethnomedicinal study from the Nelliampathy Hills of Kerala reported Cucurbitaceae as the most represented family with six species. The occurrence of these families with relatively higher species representation across different ethnobotanical studies indicates their substantial contribution to traditional medicinal plant diversity. However, differences in the dominant families among regions may reflect variations in local floristic composition, plant availability, cultural practices and traditional knowledge systems **(Vijayakumar *et al.*, 2018)**.

Conclusion

This study highlights the importance of 124 medicinal plant species used in the traditional healthcare system of the local community. It is

important to properly document this ethnomedicinal knowledge to preserve it for future generations. These traditionally used plants may also be useful sources of new bioactive compounds for medicine. However, traditional medicine practise remain insufficiently investigated through systematic scientific studies, emphasizing the need for further pharmaceutical and phytochemical research.

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