

Diversity of climber in the Southern Western Ghats of Coimbatore district Tamil nadu, India

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The present study focuses on diversity of Climber in The Southern Western Ghats of Coimbatore District Tamil Nadu, India. A total number of 202 species belonging to 36 families with 103 genera were identified. Maximum number of 36 species were recorded for family Convolvulaceae closely followed by Fabaceae (32), Asclepiadaceae (25), Cucurbitaceae (14), Oleaceae (11), Vitaceae (10), Menispermaceae (7), Passifloraceae, Capparaceae and Liliaceae 4 species each, Aristolochiaceae (3), followed by the rest of families one or two species are present. The ascending plants (incl. lianes) are segregated into six types based on their climbing modes largely after and with some modifications contemplated in the present study. Out of 98 (50%) species twined around the host plants, 9 (5%) plants used hooks, 43 (17%) plants used tendrils, 49 (24%) plants used woody stems, 10(4%) plants used Prostrate climbing the host plants and only 5 (1%) straggling climber. Out of 202, 145 species have been used ethnobotanical. In the study areas, of which 75-species are being used by as medicine by the tribes and rural people of Coimbatore district to address their daily healthcare needs. Some of the plant such *Abrus precatorius L.*, *Aganosma cymosa G. Don.*, *Bauhinia vahlii Wight & Arn.*, *Capparis sepiaria L.*, *Capparis zeylanica L.*, *Cardiospermum canescens Wallich*, *Corallocarpus epigaeus Clarke.*, are note worthy mentioned. 38 Ornamental purpose, 25 Edible and 7 for multiple purposes. Further, few endemic species *Argyreia pomacea* (Roxb.) *Ceropegia intermedia Wight*, *Argyreia nellygherrya Choisy*, *Passiflora leschenaultia DC.*, *Rubus racemosus Roxb.*, have also recorded from the Southern Western Ghats. It is clear that climbers are an important resource for local communities, particularly for medicinal reasons.

KEY WORDS:

Diversity of climber, Southern Western Ghats, Tamilnadu, India.