

Flora of Manjolai division and Coffee division at Manjolai, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, Southern India.

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Manjolai Hills Located between elevations ranging from 1000 to 1500 metres, the Manjolai area is set deep within the Western Ghats within the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in the Tirunelveli District. It is located at the top of the Manimuthar Dam & the Manimuthar Water Falls. The majority of the Manjolai area comprises Tea Plantations and Small settlements around the tea plantations; The Tea Plantations and the whole of Manjolai Estates are operated by the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd. The Plantations are leased by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Robert Wight who was the first to collect plants in this region and publish a series of books including his *Prodromus. Icones* (Wight 1838- 1853) and *Illustrations* (Wight, 1840 -1850). Sebastine and Henry (1960) studied the flora of the Singampatti R. F in Tirunelveli District. Subramanyam and Henry (1970) studied on rare plants in Tirunelveli District. Nair and Daniel (1986) reviewed the floristic diversity of the Western Ghats and its conservation. Vajravelu et al., (1987) studied the flora of Kalakadu hills (a part of ABR) in the Tirunelveli District. Though the KMTR region was well explored there is no consolidated floristic record for the Manjolai Division and Coffee divisions.

Therefore efforts were taken to explore these regions to collect, identify the plant species in that area. The Manjolai division and coffee divisions have been surveyed by the authors and a number of interesting specimens were collected. On critical identification 182 taxa have been identified. Of which 10 have been identified as endemics based on IUCN Category 2001.

KEY WORDS

Flora, endemic plants, Manjolai, Tamilnadu