

## ENDEMIC PLANTS IN KUNTHOOR EXTENSION RESERVE FOREST, HOSMATA, IN DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE

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A total of 28 species of endemic plants, including two rare and threatened, were recorded in Kunthoor extension reserve forest, which also include a monotypic endemic genera *Moullava spicata*.

**Keywords:** Endemic; Threatened; Western Ghats.

The word endemic is ascribed to any taxonomic unit or taxon which occurs in a restricted area usually isolated by geographical or temporal barriers. Endemic floristic elements of a country or geographical region throw light on the biogeography of the area, centres of speciation, areas of extension vicariase and adaptive evolution of the flora occurring in the area.

The Western Ghats called so because of the position they occupy in Peninsular India lie between 8° 20' - 20° 40' N and 73° 77' E<sup>1</sup> and covers a distance of about 1600 km from Tapti valley in Gujarat to Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu. About 2100 endemic flowering plants in Peninsular India have been estimated which represent about 32% of its flora<sup>2</sup>. Agumbe, Bababudan hills, Coorg, Shimoga, North Kanara and South Kanara are areas of high endemic content in the Western Ghats. Kunthoor extension reserve forest in Western Ghats has an area of 900 hectares and lies between 75° 24' to 75° 27' longitude and 12° 44' to 12° 46' latitudes in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state. Kunthoor reserve forest is evergreen type composed of large

evergreen trees, lianas, shrubs, herbs, orchids and ferns sustained by Gundya river at the western side and Kumaradhara on the eastern side (Fig. 1). During the investigations for the litter fungi, authors surveyed the whole area and recorded 28 endemic species (Table 1) including two rare and threatened as classified by Ahmadullah & Nayar<sup>3</sup>.

Fertile specimens of the plant species were taken for identification and confirmation with the specimens available in the Herbarium of Applied Botany Department, Mangalore University.

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HOSMATA IN DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE

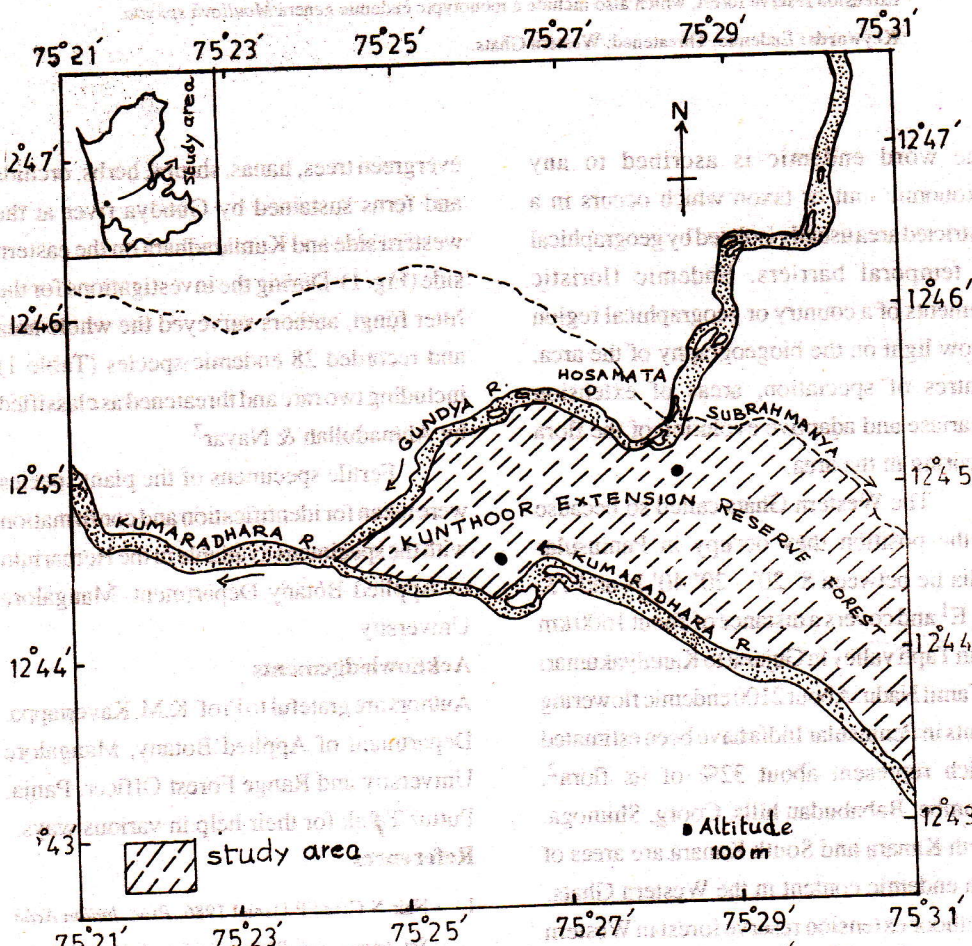


Fig.1. MAP OF KUNTHOOR EXTENSION RESERVE FOREST IN

WESTERN GHATS.

**Table 1.** Endemic plants found in Kunthoor extension reserve forest, Hosmata.

S.No.	Botanical name	Family	Status/Distribution
	Trees		
1.	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam	Moraceae	Endemic to W. Ghats. Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests
2.	<i>Artocarpus hirsutus</i> Lam.	Moraceae	Endemic to W. Ghats. W. coast up to 1100 m. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests
3.	<i>Calophyllum apetalum</i> Willd	Guttiferae	Endemic to W. Ghats, up to 330 m. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests.
4.	<i>Cinnamomum malabatum</i> (Burm. f.) Blume	Lauraceae	Endemic to W. Ghats, 900-1000m. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu in Evergreen forests.
5.	<i>Garcinia gummi-gutta</i> (L.) Robs	Guttiferae	Endemic to W. Ghats
6.	<i>Garcinia indica</i> Choisy	Guttiferae	Endemic to W. Ghats up to 900 m. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests.
7.	<i>Gymnacranthera farquhariana</i> (Hook. f. & Thomson) Warb.	Myristaceae	Endemic to W. Ghats up to 350 m. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests.
8.	<i>Flacourtia montana</i> Graham	Flacourtiaceae	Endemic to W. Ghats in evergreen forests.
9.	<i>Holigarna ferruginea</i> Marchand	Anacardiaceae	Endemic to W. Ghats, Karnataka, Kerala (Travancore) Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests.
10.	<i>Holigarna arnottiana</i> Hook. f.	Anacardiaceae	Endemic to W. Ghats Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests.
11.	<i>Hopea parviflora</i> Beddome	Dipterocarpaceae	Endemic to W. Ghats up to 1200 m. Karnataka (Kanara) Kerala, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests
12.	<i>Hopea Ponga</i> (Dennst.) Mabblerly	Dipterocarpaceae	Endemic to W. Ghats up to 1150 m. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests.
13.	<i>Ixora brachiata</i> Roxb.	Rubiaceae	Endemic to W. Ghats, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests.
14.	<i>Lagerstroemia microcarpa</i> Wight	Lythraceae	Endemic to W. Ghat. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu in evergreen forests.

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|-----|---|------------------|--|
| 15. | <i>Ochreinauclea missionis</i><br>(Wight & Arb.) Ridsdale | Rubiaceae        | Endemic to W. Ghats<br>up to 450 m.<br>Monotypic genera of<br>Peninsular India               |
| 16. | <i>Myristica malabarica</i> Lam.                          | Myristicaceae    | Endemic to W. Ghats<br>up to 300 m. Rare and<br>threatened                                   |
| 17. | <i>Pterospermum reticulatum</i><br>Wight & Arb.           | Sterculiaceae    | Endemic to W. Ghats<br>Rare and threatened   |
| 18. | <i>Trewia polycarpa</i> Benth.                            | Euphorbiaceae    | Endemic to W. Ghats<br>in evergreen forests  |
| 19. | <i>Vateria indica</i> L.                                  | Dipterocarpaceae | Endemic to W. Ghats<br>up to 800 m Karnataka,<br>Kerala, Tamil Nadu in<br>evergreen forests. |

## Shrubs/Herbs/Climbers

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|----|---|-----------------|--|
| 1. | <i>Impatiens kleinii</i><br>Wight & Arn.    | Balsaminaceae   | Endemic to W. Ghats,<br>Konkan, Southwards to<br>Nilgiri from sea level<br>to 1800 m.                              |
| 2. | <i>Ixora polyantha</i> Wight                | Rubiaceae       | A large shrub. W.<br>Ghats, W. coast,<br>Konkan, Kanara,<br>Malabar, Travancore                                    |
| 3. | <i>Memecylon malabaricum</i>                | Melastomataceae | Endemic to W. Ghats<br>Karnataka, Kerala,<br>Tamil Nadu in<br>evergreen forests.                                   |
| 4. | <i>Memecylon talbotianum</i><br>Brandis     | Melastomataceae | Endemic to W. Ghats  |
| 5. | <i>Moullava spicata</i> (Dalz.)<br>Nicolson | Caesalpineaceae | Endemic to W. Ghats,<br>S. Kanara of Karnataka,<br>Malabar up to 900<br>m. Monotypic genera of<br>peninsular India |
| 6. | <i>Mussaenda laxa</i> Hutch.                | Rubiaceae       | Endemic to W. Ghats.<br>Konkan, Kanara to<br>Karnataka, Tirunelveli<br>& Nilgiri hills 1000 m                      |
| 7. | <i>Ophiorrhiza hirsutula</i><br>Wight       | Rubiaceae       | Endemic to W. Ghats.<br>S. Kanara, Coorg hills<br>of Karnataka to Nilgiri<br>& Travancore hills.<br>1000 m.        |
| 8. | <i>Psychotria dalzelli</i> Hook. f.         | Rubiaceae       | Endemic to W. Ghats<br>Karnataka, Kerala,<br>Tamil Nadu in<br>evergreen forests.                                   |
| 9. | <i>Psychotria flavida</i> Talbot.           | Rubiaceae       | Endemic to W. Ghats<br>Karnataka, Kerala,<br>Tamil Nadu in<br>evergreen forests.                                   |