Diversity of Ethnomedicinal Plants in Bodamalai Hills
Eastern Ghats, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract: An Ethnobotanical survey was carried out among the tribes and villagers in Bodamalai Hills, Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu. The investigation revealed that, the traditional healers used 93 species of plants distributed in 85 genera and 44 families were used to treat various diseases. The documented medicinal plants were used to cure different ailments such as skin problems, cold, fever, cough, headache, diarrhea, fertility problems, toothache, stomach ache, wounds, diabetes, rheumatism, asthma, dysentery, small pox, bone fractures, ear ache, hair loss and poison (snake, scorpion and insect) bites etc. This study showed that the tribes and villagers still continue to depend on medicinal plants; however the traditional healers are on the decline because the younger members of the tribe have no interest and knowledge of this form of medicine as they have started moving towards the towns and cities. Therefore it is necessary to document the plants to effectively conserve them.

Keywords: Diversity, Ethnomedicine, Hindu Malaiyali Tribes, Bodamalai, Eastern Ghats, India

1. Introduction

The value of medicinal plants to the mankind is very well proven. It is estimated that 70% to 80% of the people worldwide rely chiefly on the traditional health care system and largely on herbal medicines [23]. India is tenth among the plant-rich countries of the world, fourth among the Asian countries [16]. Moreover, India is also one among the 12-mega biodiversity centers of the world by having over 47,000 plant species. Its diversity is unmatched due to the presence of 16 different agro climatic zones, 10 vegetation zones and 15 biotic provinces. Among these Eastern Ghats ranges is one of the major biotic provinces that may host more than 9,000 flowering plants, 15,000 fungi, 1,800 algae, 780 lichens, 960 bryophytes and over 13 million microorganisms. Scientific investigations of medicinal plants have been initiated in many parts of our country because of their contributions to health care [30]. Traditional medicine has a long history of serving people all over the world. Medicinal plants are the local heritage with global importance. The knowledge of medicinal plants has been accumulated in the course of many centuries based on the different medicinal systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy in India [4, 15]. In recent years, the use of traditional medicine information on plant research has again received considerable interest. The potential of ethnomedicobotanical investigations has proved amazing is the search for new psychoactive plant that can be used in modern medicines more than 300 species of psychoactive plants have been used in India since ancient time [18]. According to a survey of World Health Organization, the practitioners of traditional system of medicine treat about 8% of patients in India, 85% in Burma and 90% in Bangladesh [25, 31]. It is estimated that at least 2, 65,000 species of seed plants exist on earth, only less than a half percent of these have been studied exhaustively for their chemical composition and medicinal value [6, 22]. A vast knowledge of how to use the plants against different illness may be expected to have accumulated in areas of where the use of the plant is still of great importance. The plants used in ethnomedicine contain a wide range of substances that can be used to teach chronic as well infectious diseases [11]. Ethnomedical practices are preferred largely because medicinal plants are less expensive, readily available and reliable, and they are considered to have fewer side effects than modern medicines [19]. Medicinal plants are the wealthy bio-resources of drugs of traditional medicinal systems, modern medicines, nutraceuticals, food supplements, and folk medicines, pharmaceuticals, intermediate and chemical entitled for synthetic drugs [1, 7]. Around, one third
of all Pharmaceutical medicines are of plant origin, wherein fungi and bacteria are also included. The use of traditional medicine and medicinal plants in most developing countries, as a normative basis for the maintenance of good health, has been widely observed [28]. Recently considerable attention has been paid to utilize eco-friendly and bio-friendly plant based product for the preservation and cure of different human diseases. It is documented that 80% of the world’s population have faith in traditional medicine, particularly plant drug for their primary healthcare [10, 13]. The objective of this study was to assess the diversity of ethnomedicinal plant species used by tribes and villagers in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu and to document the traditional medical practices in healing the ailments.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Area

Bodamalai hills are situated in Southern Eastern Ghats comes under Rasiapuram Taluk, Namakkal district. Bodamalai is at 1200 meters (3,937.0 ft) mountain in the Eastern Ghats of South India. It lies between 11 14’46” – 12 53’30” North latitude and between 77 32’52” – 78 53’05” East longitude and it has an elevation of 881 meters above sea level. Bodamalai is in an area with a humid subtropical climate, only Hindu Malayali tribes residing in this area.

2.2. Methods

Several field trips were carried out in Bothamalai hills from June 2012 to Jan. 2013, covering different seasons, in order to know the phenology of the plants an Intensive and extensive field survey was made in Bodamalai hills and villages in Namakkal district. The data were collected through repeated field visits and the careful interaction with the village peoples and by participating rural appraisal. The collected specimens were identified taxonomically with the help of available monographs, taxonomic revisions and floras [12, 14] and by using field keys.

The specimen was then poisoned in a saturated solution of mercuric chloride in alcohol. Further processes pressing, mounting and labeling were done following the instruction given by [15]. The voucher They specimen were deposited in the Department herbarium, the Department of Botany, Periyar University, Tamil Nadu, for future reference. The data’s were obtained from the informed constants of interviewed individuals. Interview of minimum 10 and maximum of 20 traditional healers, and village elders who have been using the medicinal plant for curing the various health problems. The collected data were confirmed and compiled by repeated visits and general talk with the patients.

3. Results

3.1. Medicinally Important Plants

The present study is an aspiring to document the indigenous knowledge of the biodiversity of Bodamalai hills of Tamil Nadu. A total of 93 species belonging to 85 genera affiliated to 44 families have been documented. They include Mimosaceae-6 species, Fabaceae and Euphorbiaceae-5 species, each; Rutaceae and Zingiberaceae-4 species, each followed by Acanthaceae, Astraecae, Cucurbitaceae-3 species, each are adequately used in the preparation of ethno medicine followed by, Asclepiadaceae, Apocynaceae, Piperaceae and Rhamanaceae each with two species and rest of the families have only one species each. Analysis of habit forms indicates 32 species were Herbs; Tree species are 19; Shrub species are 28 and 14 species are climbers (Fig.-1).

The population is largely concentrated in five species: Acacia nilotica (L.) Willd., Acacia leucophloea (Roxb.) Willd., Calotropis gigantean (L.) R.Br, Ficus bengalensis L. and Lantana camera L. The plants are tabled with correct botanical name followed by family name, local name, part(s) used and their medicinal uses (Table-1).

3.2. Diseases Cured by Medicinal Plants

The villagers used various medicinal plants to remediate a variety of diseases and ailments like diarrhea, diabetes, asthma, fever, jaundice, rheumatism, wounds, cuts, stomach pain, cough, cold, poisonous bites, body heat, body pain, bowel complaint, bronchitis, dysentery, ear-ache, eczema, eye troubles, hair growth, intestinal worms, jaundice, leprosy, menstrual trouble, piles, pimples, ulcer, tooth-ache, urinary troubles, vomit, etc., the villagers used these medicinal plants in the form of juice, paste, powder, extract, decoction, cooked or raw forms.

3.3. Parts of Medicinal Plants Used

The villagers used diverse parts of the medicinal plants based on their ability to cure disease such parts includes leaf, roots, bark, seed, fruit, flower, stem, etc.

| S. No | Botanical Name                  | Family   | Vernacular Name | Habit | Part Used | Medicinal uses                                                                 |
|-------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Abrus precatorius L.           | Fabaceae | Kundumani       | S     | Root      | Root used for poisonous Bite.                                                   |
| 2     | Abutilon indicum (L.) Sw.      | Malvaceae| Thuththi        | S     | Leaves    | Juice of leaf is applied twice a day for dental problem.                        |
| 3     | Acacia catechu (L.F.) Willd.   | Mimosaceae| Karungkaali    | T     | Leaves    | The tender leaves are made into pulp and used in diarrhea and diabetes.         |
| 4     | Acacia leucophloea (Lam) de will. | Mimosaceae| Velvelam        | T     | Leaves    | Leaf juice is given to treat fever, stomach-ache, cure cough, inflammation, wounds, skin diseases, leukoderma, diarrhoea and |
| S. No | Botanical Name               | Family           | Vernacular Name | Habit | Part Used | Medicinal uses                                                                 |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5     | *Acacia nilotica* (L.) willd. | Mimosaceae       | Karuvellam      | T     | Leaves    | The bark is used as acrid, bitter, sweet, antispasmodic, antitussive, bronchodilator and expectorant. |
| 6     | *Acalypha indica* L.        | Eupehorbiaceae   | Kuppaimeeni     | S     | Leaves    | Leaves ground with salt applied externally to cure scabites.                      |
| 7     | *Achyranthes aspera* L.     | Amaranthaceae    | Naayaruvu       | S     | Leaves    | Leaves past applied externally for dog bite and internally taken for pites.      |
| 8     | *Acorus calamus* L.         | Acoraceae        | Vasambu         | S     | Rhizomes  | The rhizome of alcoholic extract used as sedative, analgesic, blood pressure and respiration. |
| 9     | *Adhatoda vasica* (L.) Nees | Acanthaceae      | Aada thinna palli | S    | Leaves    | It is used for abortifacient, antiasthmatic, antispasmodic, antitussive, bronchodilator and expectorant. |
| 10    | *Aegle marmelos* (L.) correa ex Roxb | Rutaceae     | Vilvam          | T     | Leaves    | Leaf juice used for diarrhea.                                                   |
| 11    | *Aerva lanata* Juss. Ex Schult. | Acanthaceae  | Cerupulai       | H     | Whole plants | It is used as diuretic, demulcent, to treat gonorrhoea and anthelmintic.       |
| 12    | *Albizia lebeck* (L.) Benth. | Mimosaceae       | Vahai           | T     | Bark      | Bark used for tanning.                                                          |
| 13    | *Aloe vera* (L.) Burm. f.   | Liliaceae        | Katrachai       | S     | Whole plants | Root paste for external application and decoction orally.                          |
| 14    | *Alpinia galanga* (L.) Willd. | Zingiberaceae   | Arathai         | S     | Rhizomes  | Leaf juice 50ml mixed with cow’s milk used to malarial fever.                  |
| 15    | *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R. Br. ex. De. | Amaranthaceae | Ponnakanni      | S     | Whole plants | Cure as skin problem.                                                               |
| 16    | *Anacardium occidentale* L. | Acanthaceae      | Nilavempu       | S     | Bark      | Root paste is used for external application and decoction orally.                          |
| 17    | *Annona squamosa* L.        | Annonaceae       | Ramanseetha     | S     | Root      | Leaf juice is used for hair cleaner, lice killer, give polishes in sunlight, used as piles problem. |
| 18    | *Argemone mexicana* L.      | Papaveraceae     | Kudiyottippondu | S    | Leaves    | Rhizomes used as rheumatism and stomach disorders.                               |
| 19    | *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam. | Moraceae       | Palamaram       | T     | Leaves    | Leaf juice taken internally to cure ulcer.                                      |
| 20    | *Azadirachta indica* (L.) A. Juss | Meliaceae     | Veempu          | T     | Bark and leaves | Decoction of the bark is taken as liver tonic.                                  |
| 21    | *Bambusa arundinacea* (Retz.) Willd. | Poaceae    | Moongkil        | T     | Leaves    | Leaf bud and young shoots—used in dysmenorrhoea, externally in ulcerations.     |
| 22    | *Boerhavia diffusa* L.      | Nyctaginaceae   | Mookkiritai     | S     | Leaves    | Fresh leaf paste is used externally for skin diseases.                        |
| 23    | *Borassus flabellifer* L.   | Araceae         | Pannai          | T     | Whole plant | The young plant is said to relieve biliousness, dysentery, and gonorrhoea.       |
| 24    | *Caesalpinia bonduc* (L.) Roxb. | Caesalpinaceae | Kaiherchohi     | C     | Seed      | The seed are highly esteemed for the treatment of intermittent fevers, especially for malarial fever. |
| 25    | *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R.Br. | Asclepiadaceae | Erukku          | S     | Flower and latex | The flowers powder mixed with black pepper and pinch of common salt is given orally in snake bite. Latex is applied externally for dog bite and scorpion bite. |
| 26    | *Canavalia ensiformis* (L.) DC. | Fabaceae       | Kattuttampattan | S     | Whole plants | Used for the treatment of vomiting abdominal dropsy, kidney related lumbago, inflamnentury diseases and swelling. |
| 27    | *Cassia auriculata* (L.) Roxb. | Caesalpinaceae  | Aavaram         | T     | Root      | The bark powder with sesam oil is used to strengthen the hair and is used for cleaning inveterate ulcers in which it is mixed butter ginger. |
| 28    | *Cassia filiformis* L.      | Cassythaceae     | Erumaikkottan   | C     | Whole plants | The bark is used as acrid, bitter, sweet, antispasmodic, antitussive, bronchodilator and expectorant. |
| 29    | *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*     | Lauraceae        | Elavangam       | T     | Bark      |                                                                        |
| S. No | Botanical Name         | Family                | Vernacular Name | Habit | Part Used | Medicinal uses                                                                 |
|-------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30    | Clitoria ternatea L.   | Fabaceae              | Sankupu         | C     | Root      | acrid, bitter, emollient, refrigerant, alexipharmic, expectorant, vomiting,     |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | cardiac diseases, dysentery, fever, skin diseases, and general debility.       |
| 31    | Coccinia grandis (L.) Voigt. | Cucurbitaceae    | Kovai           | C     | Fruit     | The roots are bitter, refrigerant, ophthalmic, laxative, intellect promoting,  |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | alexertica, diuretic, anthelmintic, deparative and aphrodisiac.               |
| 32    | Cocculus hirsutus L. Diels | Menispermaceae    | Kattukodi       | C     | Leaves and root | Fruit have been used to treat leprosy, fever, asthma, bronchitis and jaundice.|
| 33    | Cocos nucifera L.      | Palmaeae             | Themmai         | T     | Root      | It's used against the poison of viper                                         |
| 34    | Croton sparsiflorus Morong. | Euphorbiaceae    | Rail poondu     | H     | Leaves    | The root used as astringent, diuretic and anthelmintic.                       |
| 35    | Cucumis trigonus Roxb. | Cucurbitaceae        | Kattukumatti    | C     | Fruit     | Leaf juice cure for fever, inflammations and hypertension.                    |
| 36    | Curcuma longa L.       | Zingiberaceae        | Manjal          | H     | Rhizomes  | Fruit used as antitusive, digestive, diuretic, emetic, expectorant, febrifuge, |
| 37    | Datura metel L.        | Solanaceae           | Oornaththai     | H     | Leaves    | stomachic and vermifuge.                                                      |
| 38    | Delonix elata (L.) Gamble | Caesalpiniaceae   | Vadanaaraayam   | T     | Leaves    | Storage old rhizomes are used as wound healing purpose with mixing of Neem plant, |
| 39    | Dichrosta chyscinerea (L.) Wt. & Arm | Mimosaceae | Vidathaari       | H     | Bark      | cures Herpes disease, used as Anti- allergic activity, as a Body coolant for    |
| 40    | Dodonea viscosa Jacq.  | Sapindaceae          | Virali          | S     | Flower    | women health.                                                                 |
| 41    | Eclipta alba (L.) Hassk. | Asteraceae           | Karisalanganni  | H     | Root      | The leaf mixe with black pepper to cure cough asthma and chronic ulcers.      |
| 42    | Emilia sonchifolia (L.) DC. | Gentianaceae      | Myalcevi        | H     | Whole plant | The leaf extracts are anti-inflammatory.                                     |
| 43    | Emlesia cardamomumum (L.) Maton | Zingiberaceae    | Elakkay         | S     | Seed      | Cure headache, toothache, dysentery and elephantiasis.                       |
| 44    | Enicostemma littorale Blume. | Gentianaceae      | Vellarukku      | H     | Whole plants | Cure toothache sore throats, wounds and skin rashes stings.                   |
| 45    | Eucalyptus tereticornis Sm. | Myrtaceae           | Thailmaram      | T     | Leaves    | Root is emetic, purgative, applied externally as antiseptic to clear and        |
| 46    | Euphorbia hirta L.     | Euphorbiaceae        | Ammanapacharis  | H     | Whole plants | wounds in cattle.                                                            |
| 47    | Feronia elephantum Correa | Rutaceae           | Vila            | T     | Fruits    | The seed are aromatic, acrid, sweet, cooling stimulant, diuretic, cardio tonic |
| 48    | Ficus benghalensis L.  | Moraceae             | Aalamaram       | T     | Fruits    | are useful in asthma and bronchitis.                                         |
| 49    | Ficus religiosa L.      | Moraceae             | Arasamaram      | T     | Fruits    | Plant whole plant is taken fresh and crushed well; juice is extracted and given|
| 50    | Foeniculum vulgare Mill. | Apiaceae            | Sombu           | S     | Fruits    | in the dose of 5 – 10 ml daily for three days to cure intestinal worms. The    |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | paste of whole plant is given in the dose of 2 – 5 grams preferably with      |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | butter milk for bleeding piles. The decoction of the whole plant is effective |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | for fever.                                                                    |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | Plant extraction used along with other for the treatment of diabetes type.    |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | It is used as antiseptic, anesthetic, antibacterial and warming properties.   |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | It cures burns, sores, ulcers, boils and wounds.                              |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | Used for hypertension, edema, diarrhea, ulcers, enteritis and asthma.          |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | It is used as a liver and cardiac tonic, as an astringent, cures diarrhea,    |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | hiccough, sore throat and diseases of the gums.                               |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | It is used to cure diarrhoea, stringent, piles, leucorrhoea, rheumatism, skin  |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | diseases, and diabetes wounds and eliminates parasitic worms.                 |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | It is used to cure diarrhoea, stringent, piles, leucorrhoea, rheumatism, skin |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | diseases, diabetes, and wounds and eliminate worms.                          |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | The fruits are refrerigerant, alexipharmic, expectorant, vomiting, cardiac    |
|       |                        |                       |                 |       |           | disease, dyuria, fever and skin diseases.                                     |
| S. No | Botanical Name | Family | Vernacular Name | Habit | Part Used | Medicinal uses |
|-------|---------------|--------|----------------|-------|-----------|----------------|
| 51    | *Gloriosa superba* L. | Liliaceae | Senganthal | C | Rhizome | The juice of the tuber mixed with cow’s milk is taken internally to cure aphrodisiac. |
| 52    | *Gynandropsis pentaphylla* (L.) DC | Cleomaceae | Nalavelai | H | Whole plants | Used as an anti-inflammatory. |
| 53    | *Heliotropium indicum* L. | Boraginaceae | Thethkoduku | S | Leaves | The root portion is making up a juice to mix with lemon and ice to give Body coolant and purify the blood. |
| 54    | *Hemidesmus indicus* (L.) R.Br. | Apocynaceae | Nannari | C | Roots | The root portion is making up a juice to mix with lemon and ice to give Body coolant and purify the blood. |
| 55    | *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L. | Malvaceae | Semparuththai | H | Flowers | It is used in cure hair loss. |
| 56    | *Hybanthus enneaspermus* (L.) F. Muell. | Violaceae | Orithalmarami | H | Root | The root is used as diuretic and urinary affections of children. |
| 57    | *Jatropha curcas* L. | Euphorbiaceae | Kattamanakku | S | Leaves | It cures skin diseases, cancer, piles, snakebite, and paralysis, drowsy. |
| 58    | *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. | Euphorbiaceae | Kattamanakku | S | Fruit | It cures cancer, paralysis piles, snakebite, and skin diseases. |
| 59    | *Justicia simplex* D.Don | Acanthaceae | Neelamulli | H | Leaves | Leaf juice used against diabetes. |
| 60    | *Lantana camara* L. | Verbenaceae | Unmichedi | S | Leaves | Leaf past is applied topically to treat wound. |
| 61    | *Ichnocarpus frutescens* (L.) R.Br. | Apocynaceae | Oodhalkodi | S | Root | The root are used refrigerate, diuretic, depurative, demulcent. They are useful in vitiated conditions of pita, fever, skin disease and leprosy. |
| 62    | *Marsilea minata* L. | Marsileaceae | Water clover | H | Leaves | Used for sedative and epilepsy. |
| 63    | *Martynia annua* L. | Martyniaceae | Tuellkotukki | H | Leaves | Leaves used to remove insects from fowl. Whole plant is taken internally to treat stomach Problems. |
| 64    | *Merremia aegyptia* (L.) Cufo. | Convolvulaceae | Eli kathuili | C | Whole plant | Whole plants used to Prevent Excess menstrual bleeding. |
| 65    | *Mimosa pudica* L. | Mimosaceae | Thottaalsunugki | H | Whole plant | Pulp of ripe fruit used to gastric- gent, chronic dysentery. Flowers, fruit and bark—astringent. Bark—given for promoting fertility in women. Seeds— purgative. |
| 66    | *Mimusops elengi* L. | Sapotaceae | Magizamaram | T | Whole plant | Leaves are used as eye problems, to cure irritate of eyes, used for ingredients for culinary preparation. |
| 67    | *Murraya koenigii* (L.) Spreng. | Rutaceae | Kariveppilai | S | Leaves | The fresh leaves boiled the decoction to relief the cough, dizziness, of boiled steams inhaled to relieve the headache. |
| 68    | *Ocimum sanctum* L. | Lamiaceae | Karuttulasi | H | Leaves | Fruit powder and block pepper taken with milk to get relief asthma. |
| 69    | *Passiflora foetida* L. | Passifloraceae | Siruppanakkai | C | Fruit | It is used as bitter, expectorant, diuretic and laxative. |
| 70    | *Pergularia daemia* (Forsk.) Choix. | Asclepiadaceae | Veliparuithi | C | Whole plant | Used to burning sensation, fever, cardiac debility, peptic ulcer and general weakness. It is used as a bitter, appetizing, tonic, diuretic and laxative. The fruit is considered to be a tonic, diuretic and purgative. |
| 71    | *Phoenix pusilla* Roxb. | Palmaceae | Icham | S | Leaves | The fruit is used for tubercular cycler’s scabies and ringworm. |
| 72    | *Physalis minima* L. | Solanaceae | Tottakkai | H | Fruit | It is used as an astringent, cooling, diuretic. The leaves and root are used as medicine for the fractures and traumatic injury. |
| 73    | *Phyllanthus maderaspatensis* L. | Euphorbiaceae | Arecooondu | H | Seed | Seeds used in bronchitis ear-ache. |
| 74    | *Phyllanthus niruri* L. | Euphorbiaceae | Keelanelli | S | Fruit | The fruit is used for tubercular cycler’s scabies and ringworm. |
| 75    | *Phyllanthus reticulatus* Poir. S. | Euphorbiaceae | Karunelli | H | Leaf and root | It is used as an astringent, cooling, diuretic. The leaves and root are used as medicine for the fractures and traumatic injury. |
| 76    | *Piper betle* L. | Piperaceae | Vetthalai | C | Leaves | Leaves are used to chewing with beetle nut. It is used in stomachache, increasing appetite and is an aphrodisiac. |
| 77    | *Piper nigrum* L. | Piperaceae | Milaku | C | Seed | The root and seeds are used medicinally as stimulant, for digestion as an antiseptic, and anti-parasitic. |
| S. No | Botanical Name                  | Family              | Vernacular Name   | Habit | Part Used | Medicinal uses                                                                 |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 79    | *Polycarpaea corymbosa* L.     | Caryophyllaceae     | Nilaicetachi      | H     | Whole plant | Used for inflammation and swelling. Used to treat diarrhea, sore throats, vomiting stomach upset and vertigo. Dried seed oil used as kills the stomach worms, and body cool of both human and cattle. |
| 80    | *Psidium guajava* L.           | Myrtaceae           | Koiah             | S     | Fruit     |                                                                                  |
| 81    | *Ricinus communis* L.          | Euphorbiaceae       | Aamanakku         | H     | Seeds      |                                                                                  |
| 82    | *Ruellia prostrata* Poir.      | Acanthaceae         | Vidikkai          | H     | Whole plant | It is used as anticancer and hypoglycemic. The powder of the root bark is emetic expectorant, diaphoretic and purgative. A decoction of the roots is given in dyspepsia, diarrhea, rheumatism, asthma and urinary disorder. |
| 83    | *Schefflera racemosa* L.       | Asclepiadaceae      | Paeimeratti       | H     | Root       |                                                                                  |
| 84    | *Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pres.| Fabaceae            | Kozhinji          | H     | Root       |                                                                                  |
| 85    | *Tephrosia villosa* (L.) Pres. | Fabaceae            | Kaattukolingi     | H     | Root       |                                                                                  |
| 86    | *Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers. | Menispermaceae | Cheenthalkodi    | C     | Leaves     |                                                                                  |
| 87    | *Toddalia asiatica* (L.) Lam. | Rutaceae            | Plilaharani       | S     | Fruit      |                                                                                  |
| 88    | *Tribulus terrestris* L.       | Zygophyllaceae      | Nerunjii          | S     | Fruit      |                                                                                  |
| 89    | *Trichosanthes bracteata* (L.) Voigt. | Cucurbitaceae   | Aanaikuratai      | C     | Fruits     |                                                                                  |
| 90    | *Wedelia chinensis* (Osbeck) Merrill. | Asteraceae     | Manjalkarisalai   | H     | Fruit      |                                                                                  |
| 91    | *Zingiber officinale* Rosc.   | Zingiberaceae       | Injii             | H     | Rhizome    |                                                                                  |
| 92    | *Zizyphus jujuba* Mill.        | Rhamnaceae          | Elanthai          | T     | Root       |                                                                                  |
| 93    | *Zizyphus oenoplia* (L.) Mill. | Rhamnaceae          | Soorai            | S     | Root       |                                                                                  |

H- Herb; S- Shrub; - Tree; C- Climber

Figure 1. Life from analysis from the study.
4. Discussion

During the last few decades there has been an increasing interest in the study of medicinal plants and their traditional use in different parts of India and there are many reports on the use of plants in traditional healing by either tribal people or indigenous communities of Namakkal district [8, 17, 20, 21 and 29]. But this is the first attempt medicinal plants record to Boothamalai Hills, Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu, India. All ethno medicinal plants documented in the presence study have continuously been used and the results also revealed that some of them are less known and some of them supplements to the available earlier data. Based on their experience and common sense, they have the capability to search for a number of uses of plants. Simultaneously they have also the talent to exploit the plants of even a new area where they have settled. The present investigation revealed that, the Hindu Malaiyali tribes of the study area possess rich knowledge of the medicinal plants and their utilization. There is a need to raise awareness and cultivation of above medicinal plants to the local people of that area to meet their own needs as well for providing them income. There is an urgent need for the scientific awareness about the importance of biodiversity and medicinal plants for the sustainable utilization of natural resources.

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