

Biodiversity of Our Mother Earth

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**A Survey on Floral Biodiversity in
Avinashilingam Institute for Home
Science and Higher Education for
Woman (Campus I), Coimbatore,
Tamil Nadu**

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ABSTRACT

The study deals with the status and distribution of flora present in Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (Campus I), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India during the survey taken on December 2017- March 2018. The main purpose of this survey is to collect the details of plants present in Campus I and their traditional uses. The extensive study showed a total of 1233 plants out of which 5 % herbs, 17.7 % shrubs, 77 % trees and 0.3 % climbers belonging to 78 families. Verbenaceae (410 plants) was found to be more among the 78 families accounting to 1229 plants.

Keywords: Floral biodiversity, Survey, Avinashilingam University, Campus I, Coimbatore

INTRODUCTION

Coimbatore district, called as Manchester of South India is the third largest city of Tamil Nadu with the total geographical area of 642.12 km², comprising ten Taluks with Latitudes N 11°0' and 16.4016' and Longitudes E 76° 57' and 41.8752'. The average annual rainfall of North East Monsoon is 328.9 mm and South West Monsoon is 189.8 mm (Lavanya *et al.*, 2018).

Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women was established by the great patriot and educationist Dr. T.S. Avinashilingam in 1957. It has two campuses and Campus I is located at latitude of sprawling over 14.416 acres. Among various buildings it consists of palms, climbers, herbs, shrubs and trees which gives shelter and food for many faunas along with clean air and shade. A survey was done in the campus I to find the total number of angiosperms and gymnosperms present during 2017-18.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ground survey was done extensively from December 2017- March 2018 in Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science of Higher Education for Women Campus (I), Coimbatore. The plant species were identified with the help of keys provided in 'The Flora of Presidency of Madras' (Gamble and Fischer, 1935) and literature available in college library. Digital photographs were taken for some of the flora.

RESULTS

A total number of 1233 plants were recorded in the entire campus I which includes many trees, shrubs and climbers. Among the 84 taxa identified a total of 73 species representing 65 genera belonging to 78 families have been recorded in the present survey. The details of the plants along with their family and their general uses were given (table 1). Among the 84 plants 81 belong to angiosperms (5 % herbs, 17.7 % shrubs, 77 % trees and 0.3 % climbers) while 3 recorded as gymnosperms and dicotyledons and monocotyledons plants were found to be 79 and 5 respectively.

Most of the families (61) were represented by single species (Monospecific family). Among the surveyed list Fabaceae floral biodiversity was represented by the highest number of species (8 species), followed by Apocynaceae (7 species), Caesalpineaceae (5 species), Aceraceae, Bignoniaceae and Rutaceae (4 species each), Annonaceae, Asparagaceae a, Lamiaceae, Malvaceae nd