

**Diversity of Endemic and Threatened Angiosperms of Athirapilly Grama Panchayath,
Kerala, India**

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The Athirapilly Grama Panchayath has a vast area of biodiversity-rich land within an evergreen bioclimate. These forest areas with high biodiversity value come within the Anamali landscape unit of Southern Western Ghats, one of the three hottest hot spots of the Western Ghats. The major forest types in the location include Wet Evergreen Forests, Low Elevation Evergreen Forests, Semi-Evergreen Forests, and Moist Deciduous Forests. The present study revealed 1164 species of flowering (angiosperm) plants belonging to a total of 692 genera and 142 families of which 269 species are endemic. Endemic species include *Andrographis atropurpurea*, *Zingiber cernuum*, *Bulbophyllum aureum*, *Dysoxylum beddomei*, *Ficus dalhousiae*, etc. The family Acanthaceae shows the most endemism with 20 species, followed by Rubiaceae and Euphorbiaceae with 16 and 14 species respectively. 103 species were endemic to the Western Ghats, 100 endemic to the Southern Western Ghats, 43 endemic to Peninsular India, 1 endemic to southwest India, 4 endemic to India, 4 endemic to Peninsular India and Sri Lanka, 7 endemic to South India, 2 endemic to Kerala, 2 endemic to South India and Sri Lanka, 1 endemic to Asian Sub-Continent, Indonesia, India Africa, and Sri Lanka.

Out of the 1164 plants listed, 70 (6%) of them come under the IUCN conservation Status. 7 of them are Critically Endangered including *Allophylus concanicus* and *Inpatients auriculata*. 21 were Endangered including *Pothos crassipedunculatus*, *Humboldtia vahliana*, and *Glochidion zeylanicum*. 34 taxa come under the Vulnerable category including *Mycetia acuminata*, *Ochreinauclea missionis*, *Semecarpus travencorica*, etc. *Aglaiia lawii* and *Amomum petrocarpum* come under the least concern. 6 are in Near Threatened category. The assessment shows that the area is highly diverse, forming a homeland to many endemic and threatened flora and fauna. Hence, the area is of high conservation significance and must be protected to sustain life forms.

Keywords: Angiosperms, Athirapilly, Diversity, Endemic, Kerala, Threatened.