



KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

EKAA

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Workshop On TK

Biodiversity Study

KSBB Activities

Workshop on Nattarivu/Traditional Knowledge (TK)

Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala State Biodiversity Board conducted a one-day brainstorming workshop about “Traditional Knowledge” on July 7th, at Kerala State Medicinal Plant Board in Thiruvananthapuram. The workshop aimed at developing comprehensive guidelines to strengthen biodiversity management committees of the State in the collection, sustainable utilization, access and benefit sharing of traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity conservation. This project, helps to implement innovative projects at the Grama panchayats, based on traditional knowledge in collaboration with other research institutions. KSBB will conduct five write-shops on traditional knowledge in those selected Grama panchayats, ensuring the participation of traditional knowledge holders and experts. Suggestions and ideas gleaned from the workshop will be utilized to prepare the guidelines. It is expected that the same can empower local self-governing institutions, as it is their duty to protect the natural resources, and associated traditional knowledge. In the guideline, there will be suggestions on how to use Kerala’s traditional knowledge in a better way for the socio-economic upliftment of the local people, which will also be a unique model.



KSBB Board Members Sri. K.V. Govidan, Dr. T.S. Swapna, Dr. K. Satheshkumar, Dr. K.T. Chandramohanam, KSBB officials and subject experts from other departments during the “traditional knowledge” workshop.

Jaiva Vaividhya Special GramaSabha

Perumanna Grama Panchayath in Kozhikode, along with the panchayath Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) organised a Jaiva Vaividhya special Gramasabha named “Prakruthikoppam” on July 8th. The programme emphasized the relevance of biodiversity conservation after the Kerala floods and the severe pandemic scenario. Kerala State Biodiversity Board Chairman Dr. C. George Thomas inaugurated the function at Payyadimeethal Chirakkal Balakrishnan Memorial hall. Dr. K. Kishore Kumar, Head of the Botany department at Farook College, gave the Keynote address on the topic “Biodiversity and agricultural sector, and the role of BMCs in biodiversity conservation”. The BMC member P.P Vijayakumar spoke on “Naadan pashuvum, naatukrishiyyum-Naadin Nanmaykku”. Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Kozhikode district co-ordinator K.P. Manju delivered a speech on the role of BMC members in local biodiversity conservation and management. BMC convenor Mallisery Mohanan, Panchayath President Shaji Puthalath, other panchayath members and block members participated in the event. Around 150 participants comprising native farmers, dairy farmers, kudumbashree CDS members, Harithakarma sena members, representatives from sacred groves with forts, School PTA



KSBB Chairman Dr.C.George Thomas inaugurating the Jaiva Vaividhya Gramasabha

presidents, Representatives from Mampuzha protection committee, representatives from Shashtra Sahithya Parishad, Panchayath Planning board members, politicians, social servants, MATs from Thozhilurappu padhathi and the BMC members attended the event.



BMC Member Mr. P.P Vijayakumar delivering a talk on “Naadan pashuvum, naatukrishiyyum-Naadin Nanmaykku”

Biodiversity study

Preliminary diversity study of Odonates on a waterlogged landscape

Odonates has been recognised as bio-indicators that have implications for the state of the environment as a whole. They serve as a crucial instrument for many types of evaluations and monitoring, including the measurement of biodiversity, the health and integrity of wetlands or biological effects of climate change. The purpose of the current study was to examine the diversity of odonates that can be found living in urban areas.

The investigation was conducted in the centre of Thampanoor city in an abandoned, water-logged landscape (8°29'32”N 76°56'57” E). It has a large range

Paragomphus lineatus



of shrub species and only a few tree species, covering an area of roughly 60 to 70 cents. Passiflora species, Calotropis species and Moringa oleifera were a few prominent floras.



Investigation location at Thampanoor city

The current investigation was conducted in September 2021. All of the field trips were conducted in the forenoon when odonate activity was at its peak. Odonates were identified using Visual Encounter Survey (VES) and photographed using a Nikon D5600 DSLR camera with a 70-300mm lens. Species identification was confirmed using taxonomic monographs of Fraser (1933,1934,1936) and field guides (Subramanian 2009; Nair 2011; Kiran & Raju 2013).



Pantala flavescens

short-term study period has encompassed 22 species of odonates spread across 6 families and two suborders. The highest number of odonates recorded belonged to the family Libellulidae (13 species) followed by Coenagrionidae (4 species), Chlorocyphidae (2 species), Aeshnidae, Gomphidae and Lestidae (one species each).



Crocothemis servilia

The most dominant species was *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius, 1798) which belongs to Libellulidae family. This could be due to the mass emergence of the species after the monsoon and their yearly aggregation before migration to Eastern Africa (Anderson 2009). Some of the other notable odonates which we found out were *Lestes elatus*, *Ischnura senegalensis*, *Pseudagrion rubriceps* and *Paragomphus lineatus*. All of the reported odonate species are staged under the IUCN Red List's Least Concern category, with the exception of *Gynacantha dravida* Lieftinck, 1960, which is categorised as Data Deficient.



Lestes elatus

Only 12% of Kerala's total odonate species are represented in the current list of odonates due

to the search's restricted geographic scope. The study nevertheless emphasises the significance of regional biodiversity documentation. Due to their amphibious life history, relatively short generation time, high trophic position and diversity, order Odonata are considered an important component of freshwater ecosystems as well as good indicators of ecosystem health. This reiterates the fact that more systematic exploration of biodiversity should be carried out in urban landscapes, especially in light of increasing anthropogenic influences and habitat transformations. Major changes in the degradation of the quality of available

habitats of the urban regions could result in the loss of regional odonate diversity. These changes could also have a cascading effect on terrestrial biodiversity. As with the current study, frequent surveys are needed to further understand this connection, and citizen science initiatives should be encouraged.

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Extension Education Awareness Activities

International Mangrove Day Celebration

At Kasaragode, Biodiversity Club of Holy Family School, Kumbla observed International Mangrove Day on July 26th. Club members visited the Mangrove Reserve Forest at Kanchikatte near Kumbla. Local expert and retired Gramen Bank Divisional Manager Raj Ram Kamath discussed and shared his views on the Mangrove forest. He explained how this ever-green forest helps the ecosystem and expressed concern about waste dumping in the region hindering conservation measures. Students observed birds like Lesser



Biodiversity club members visiting Mangrove Reserve Forest at Kanchikatte



whistling ducks, Stork Billed King Fisher, Little Cormorants, and White-cheeked barbets. Many butterflies and Odonates were also noticed in the morning field trip. Biodiversity club coordinator Raju Kidoor was lead the field trip.

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- An article in Keralakarshakan e-journal, pages 22-27, July 2022 - Biodiversity cools Earth's ambience - Dr Yamuna.S (Principal Scientific Officer)

https://www.keralabiodiversity.org/images/2022/newsletter/KKE_JULY_2022.pdf