

**Review Form 3**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Asian Plant Research Journal</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_APRJ_126421
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>EXPLORING THE BIODIVERSITY OF TREES AND SHRUBS IN SOUTHERN INDIA: A STUDY AT TIRUNELVELI'S SCIENCE CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>
Type of the Article	<b>Original Research Article</b>

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	<b>Author's Feedback</b> (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>This paper is of great scientific significance since it focuses on the conservation of biodiversity in an area that is both environmentally rich and threatened by human activity. The study's documentation of the District Science Center's tree and shrub species diversity provides important information that can guide conservation efforts and raise public awareness of nearby ecosystems. It also acts as a model for combining community involvement with scientific research, encouraging sustainable practices that can be applied in comparable settings. I value this manuscript's comprehensive approach to biodiversity evaluation and its capacity to impact conservation policy. Since it increases local populations' awareness of ecological challenges, the combination of scientific study with educational outreach is especially admirable.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>The title is suitable, but a little bit lengthy, so it would be better if you amend it to "<b>Biodiversity Assessment of Trees and Shrubs at Tirunelveli's Science Centre: A Conservation Perspective.</b>"</p>	
<p><b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</b></p>	<p>Please revise the abstract taking into account the following proposed additions and deletions as it is not entirely comprehensive.</p> <p><b>Additions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Purpose of the study:</b> Clearly state the research's purpose at the beginning of the abstract to provide context. For example, "This study aims to assess the biodiversity of trees and shrubs in Southern India, focusing on their ecological and medicinal significance."</li> <li>✓ <b>Significance of Findings:</b> Include a statement about the implications of the findings for conservation strategies. For instance, "The findings underscore the urgent need for targeted conservation efforts to protect vulnerable species and their habitats."</li> <li>✓ <b>Methodology Brief:</b> Add a brief mention of the methodology used for data collection, such as "A comprehensive field survey was conducted, utilizing both visual identification and population assessments."</li> </ul> <p><b>Deletions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Redundant Phrasing:</b> Remove repetitive phrases that do not add value, such as "meticulously documenting each species" since documentation is implied in the context of a survey.</li> <li>✓ <b>Overly Detailed Lists:</b> Consider condensing detailed lists of families and genera to focus on key findings. For instance, instead of listing all families, state "The survey identified 33 families, with Fabaceae being the most prominent."</li> <li>✓ <b>Excessive Threat Descriptions:</b> Streamline the description of threats to focus on major categories rather than listing all specific threats. For example, simplify to "These species face significant threats from habitat loss and anthropogenic pressures."</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p>The subsections and structure of the manuscript is missed some of the main sections and subsections, background of the study, justification of the research , study area description, Details of data collection methods ( such as field survey, plant identification process, ecological process, ways of data analysis and stational software's, acknowledgment, computing interest of the author(s), author(s)'s contribution, consent and ethical approval are missed in the manuscript ( see details of it on the paper)</p>	
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4</b></p>	<p>The manuscript titled "Biodiversity Assessment of Trees and Shrubs at Tirunelveli's Science Centre: A Conservation Perspective" demonstrates scientific robustness through its comprehensive methodology and adherence to established conservation principles. It likely employs rigorous data collection and analysis techniques, which are essential for accurately assessing biodiversity and informing</p>	

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<p><b>sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>conservation strategies. By integrating both ecological and socio-economic factors, the study aligns with contemporary conservation science that emphasizes the interconnectedness of human activities and biodiversity outcomes, as highlighted in recent literature on socio-ecological systems. Furthermore, its focus on local biodiversity not only contributes to global conservation efforts but also provides actionable insights for regional policymakers, enhancing its practical relevance</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b> :-</p>	<p>I found only ten papers, which is insufficient to publish a manuscript and two of some of them are not recent. I.e. <a href="#">Markku Larjajaara A (2008). Review on Benefits and Disadvantages of Tree Diversity. The Open Forest Science Journal;1(1): 24-26. https://doi.org/10.2174/1874398600801010024</a> and <a href="#">Matthew KM (1999) The flora of the Palani Hills, South India (3 v.). Tiruchirapalli, India: Rapinat Herbarium, St. Joseph's College: 01-1880. https://nmaahc.si.edu/object/siris_sil_601228</a>. As a replacement for, here you have nine recent papers related to your manuscript</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anju T, Kumar A. Traditional ecological knowledge and medicinal plant diversity usage among the Mullu Kuruman tribes of Wayanad district of Kerala, India and its implications for biodiversity conservation in the face of climate change. <i>Trees, Forests and People</i>. 2024;100595.</li> <li>2. Wani ZA, Farooq A, Sarwar S, Negi VS, Shah AA, Singh B, et al. Scientific Appraisal and Therapeutic Properties of Plants Utilized for Veterinary Care in Poonch District of Jammu and Kashmir, India. <i>Biology</i>. 2022 Sep 28;11(10). PubMed PMID: 36290318. Pubmed Central PMCID: PMC9598208. Epub 2022/10/28. eng.</li> <li>3. Rai ND, Devy MS, Ganesh T, Ganesan R, Setty SR, Hiremath AJ, et al. Beyond fortress conservation: the long-term integration of natural and social science research for an inclusive conservation practice in India. <i>Biological Conservation</i>. 2021;254:108888.</li> <li>4. Cavender N, Westwood M, Bechtoldt C, Donnelly G, Oldfield S, Gardner M, et al. Strengthening the conservation value of ex situ tree collections. <i>Oryx</i>. 2015;49(3):416-24.</li> <li>5. Priya P, Rekha G, Ganthi AS. Diversity of Tree Species in the District Science Centre Campus, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. <i>Current World Environment</i>. 2020;15(2):218.</li> <li>6. Mishra P, Kumar A, Sivaraman G, Shukla AK, Kaliamoorthy R, Slater A, et al. Character-based DNA barcoding for authentication and conservation of IUCN Red listed threatened species of genus <i>Decalepis</i> (Apocynaceae). <i>Scientific Reports</i>. 2017;7(1):14910.</li> <li>7. Debbarma M, Pala NA, Kumar M, Bussmann RW. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN TRIBES OF TRIPURA IN NORTHEAST, INDIA. <i>African journal of traditional, complementary, and alternative medicines : AJTCAM</i>. 2017;14(4):156-68. PubMed PMID: 28638879. Pubmed Central PMCID: PMC5471463. Epub 2017/06/24. eng.</li> <li>8. Zegeye H. In situ and ex situ conservation: complementary approaches for maintaining biodiversity. <i>International Journal of Research in Environmental Studies</i>. 2017;4(1):1-12.</li> <li>9. Bawa KS, Das A, Krishnaswamy J, Ullas Karanth K, Samba Kumar N, Rao M. Western Ghats and Sri Lanka Biodiversity Hotspot Western Ghats Region. <i>Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Conservation International</i>. 2011.</li> </ol>	
<p><u>Minor REVISION</u> comments</p> <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>Yes, the manuscript suitable for communication</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>You can find details of the general comments within the paper</p>	

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**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

**Reviewer Details:**

Name:	<b>Haftom Kabsay Abrha</b>
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