Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation

A non profit organisation with a difference

Our Vision

Fostering harmony between humanity and the natural world for generations to come.

Our mission

Protecting wildlife and ecosystems through research, awareness, and community engagement.

Who We Are

Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation (KNF) was established by dedicated nature lovers in Nagercoil to safeguard the rich ecological heritage of the world.

- Registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (Not-for-profit).
- Founded by nature conservation enthusiasts Vinod Sadhasivan & Paulmathi Sekar Ramasubramanaian
- Close working relationships with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department , local institutions, Colleges, Schools and other organisations like WWF India etc.
- An unwavering commitment to community linked wildlife conservation.

- **Community conservation leadership award by the forest department**
- **District green champion award for 2 years by the Tamil Nadu government**

About the founders

Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation (KNF) was founded by Mr. Vinod Sadhasivan and Paulmathi Sekar Ramasubramanian, who are passionate about wildlife conservation, biodiversity documentation, environmental education, and citizen science. As avid birders and butterfly watchers, they have spent several years documenting the biodiversity of southern India through field surveys, research, and public engagement.

Mr. Vinod Sadhasivan work focuses on biodiversity assessments, wildlife surveys, habitat restoration, and species documentation. He has authored and co-authored research papers on birds, butterflies, dragonflies, spiders, and other taxa, and has been involved in projects related to sea turtle conservation, invasive species management, and biodiversity monitoring.

Paulmathi Sekar Ramasubramanian specializes in plant diversity and biodiversity documentation. She is an iNaturalist Ambassador and has contributed nearly 20,000 observations representing approximately 4,000 species on the platform. She coordinates conservation programs and conducts wildlife awareness programs covering biodiversity, ecology, and citizen science. Her interests include plant identification, environmental communication, and promoting public participation in biodiversity documentation.

Together, they also create online educational content through Roaming Owls (www.roamingowls.com), where they share articles, field observations, wildlife travel experiences, and natural history from across India.

Article from Better India

Article from Vikatan

A volunteer based organisation that delivers

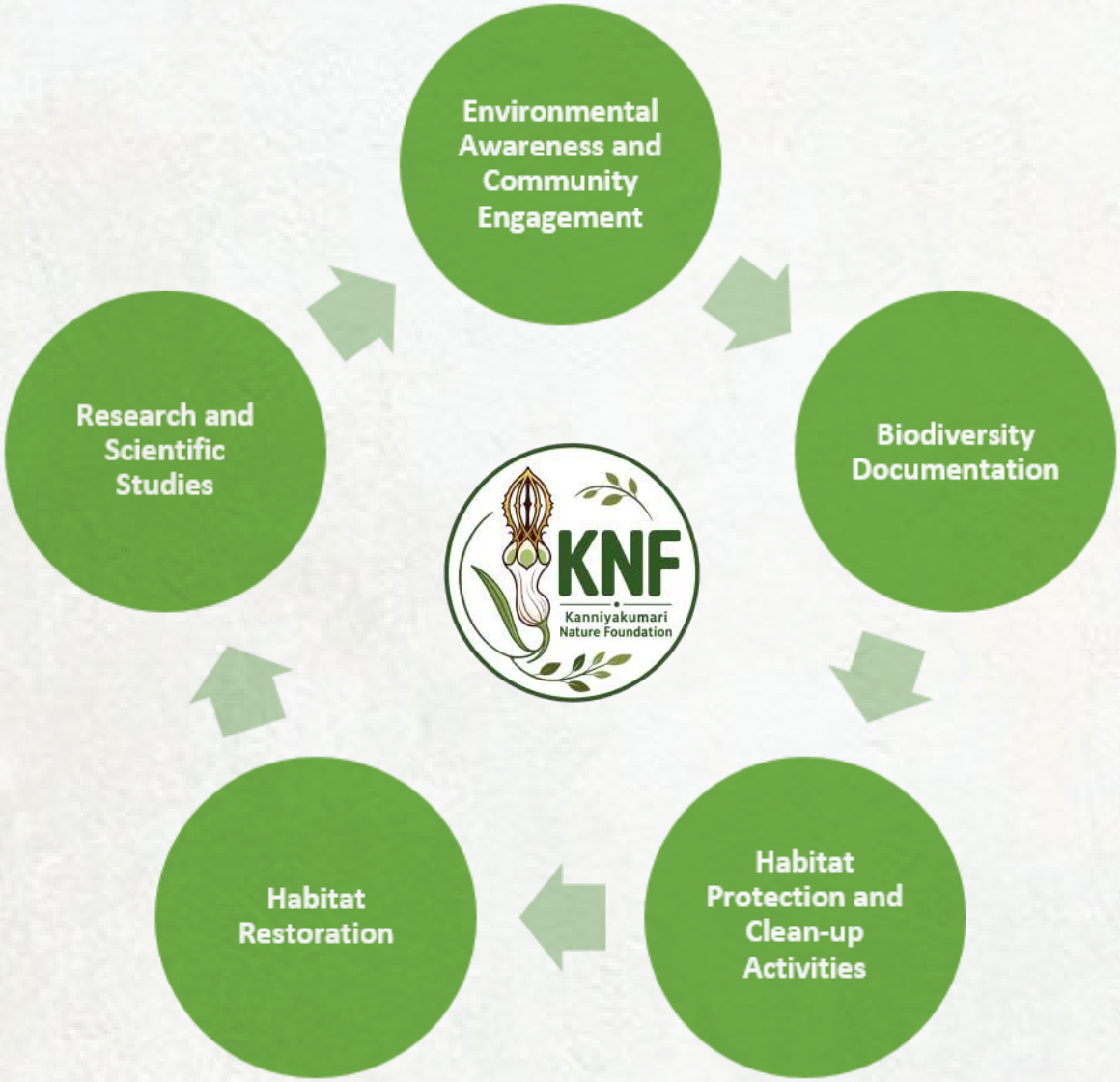
We are a proud volunteer-driven organisation. Before founding this organisation, we ourselves spent years volunteering with various environmental organisations. This first-hand experience has taught us the immense impact that a small, dedicated group of volunteers can create when united for a meaningful cause, a clear purpose, and the right motivation. We have consciously created a culture where our volunteers are more than just participants—they are part of a close-knit community. We encourage them to connect with one another through regular get-togethers, nature walks, and shared experiences, creating a strong sense of belonging and collective purpose. With the support and commitment of our volunteers, we have been able to reach thousands of people through a wide range of initiatives, including nature camps, guided nature walks, photography exhibitions, lectures, educational pamphlets and posters, and social media campaigns.

250 + events

50000 + People reached

Our core activities

Established with the vision of conserving the rich natural heritage of the world, we work across environmental awareness and community engagement, biodiversity documentation, Habitat protection and cleanup activities, Habitat restoration , and scientific research. We collaborate with government agencies, academic institutions, local communities, and volunteers to address conservation challenges through science-based approaches and public participation. By integrating research, conservation action, and awareness programs, we strive to safeguard ecosystems, inspire environmental stewardship, and contribute to the long-term conservation of critical habitats.



Environmental Awareness and Community Engagement

Building public support for conservation through experiential learning, outreach, citizen participation, and environmental communication.

Awareness programs for school students

One of our flagship initiatives is our day-long nature camp program for school students, which we have developed to provide children with meaningful, hands-on opportunities to experience and understand the natural world. The program has been conducted across Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, and Tenkasi districts. Each camp combines nature walks, interactive sessions on wildlife and biodiversity, observation activities, and nature-based games. As part of the program, every participating child receives a wildlife-themed souvenir or educational material that they can take home. To date, we have conducted more than 120 nature camps.

Owing to our experience in conservation and environmental education, we are among the preferred partners for nature camps conducted by the Forest Department in Kanniyakumari and surrounding districts.



Nature walks for public

We conduct monthly nature walks in Kanniyakumari for families, nature enthusiasts and general public. A key strength of these walks is the involvement of experts and experienced naturalists from different fields. Participants get opportunities to learn about birds, butterflies, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, plants, and other aspects of local biodiversity directly from people with field experience. This knowledge sharing approach has helped many participants move beyond casual interest and develop a genuine passion for nature and wildlife. We also organise night walks to introduce participants to the often-overlooked world of nocturnal wildlife.

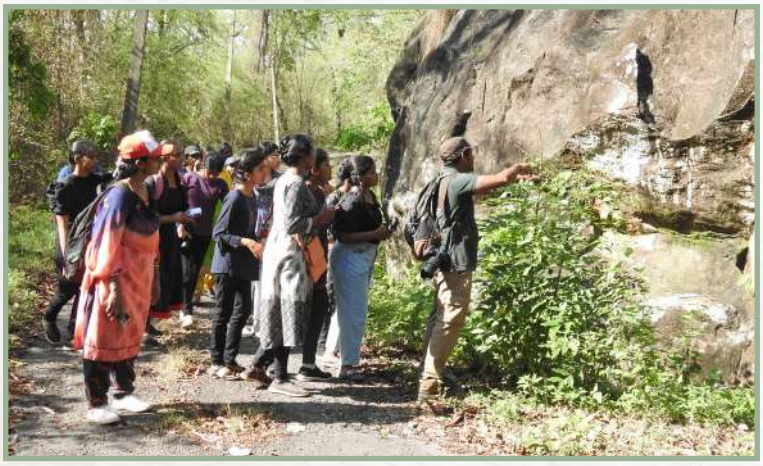
Training for officials and teachers

We believe that building the capacity of teachers and forest personnel is one of the most effective ways of creating a wider and lasting impact in conservation. Both groups are in a unique position to communicate knowledge about biodiversity to large numbers of people.

We have been regularly conducting training and awareness programs for Eco Club teachers across Kanniyakumari district. As part of the mission Iyarakai program executed in collaboration with WWF India we provided continuous biodiversity training for the government school teachers of Kanniyakumari district.

Engaging college students

We believe that engaging college students is an important part of building the next generation of conservation professionals and informed citizens. To strengthen our engagement with academic institutions, we have established MoUs with Lady Doak College, Madurai, and Holy Cross College, Nagercoil. We provide opportunities for students to gain practical, field-based exposure to biodiversity and conservation through internships, seminars, awareness programs, and field activities. We regularly conduct seminars and awareness programs on Olive Ridley sea turtles, climate change and biodiversity of kanniyakumari district.



Wildlife Photo Exhibitions

We have initiated a unique and engaging approach to wildlife awareness through wildlife photography exhibitions to connect the public with nature. We have collaborated with wildlife photographers and nature enthusiasts, collecting photographs that showcase the remarkable biodiversity of Kanniyakumari and other parts of Tamil Nadu. We have organised these exhibitions at Kanniyakumari Eco Park, Forest Department offices, the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, and other public spaces. We have also conducted wildlife photography and nature-related competitions for students, with the aim of identifying and encouraging young people who have a genuine interest in wildlife

Biodiversity Documentation

Systematic documentation of species, habitats, ecological processes, and biodiversity patterns to generate baseline information for conservation planning.

Wildlife Surveys

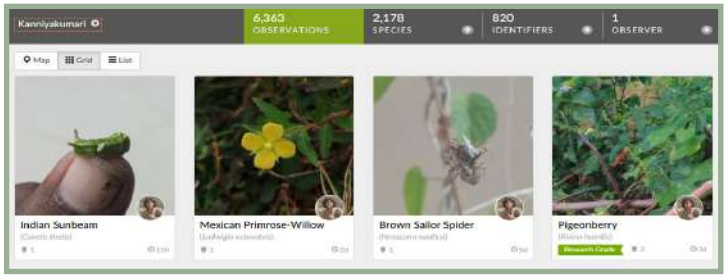
Our volunteer team has been actively involved in biodiversity surveys conducted by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, contributing both field support and organisational expertise. In Kanniyakumari district, we have taken on a key coordinating role in facilitating these surveys, bringing together trained volunteers, nature enthusiasts, and field experts to support the Forest Department's efforts. Our teams regularly participate in surveys covering a range of taxa, including elephants, birds and tigers. We are also actively involved in synchronised bird surveys, and serve as one of the state-level coordinators for these surveys in Tamil Nadu.

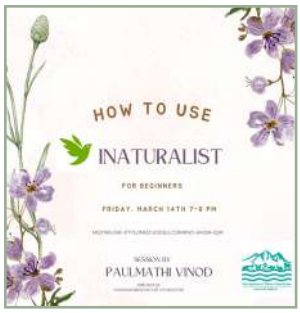
KNF
Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation

Our dedicated volunteers actively participate in wildlife monitoring programmes, including tiger and elephant population surveys.

Citizen Science

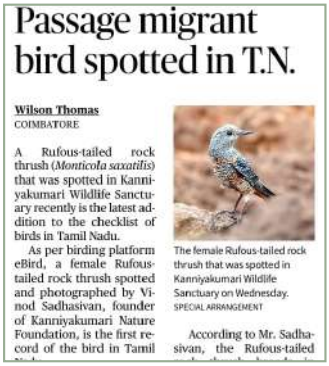
We actively promote citizen science platforms such as iNaturalist, eBird, and Myna among nature enthusiasts, students and the general public. We regularly conduct awareness and training sessions to introduce participants to these platforms, explain how to document species effectively, and encourage them to contribute their observations to publicly accessible biodiversity databases. One of our founders is a leading contributor on iNaturalist and serves as an iNaturalist Ambassador. Over the years, we have seen a steady increase in participation and biodiversity observations from Kanniyakumari district on these platforms since the establishment of our organisation.





Bird watching

When we started our organisation, there were only a handful of active birdwatchers in Kanniyakumari district. Through regular birdwatching group activities, Pongal Bird Count, and bird surveys we have steadily expanded participation across the district. From a relatively limited number of documented species, the district has now recorded more than 420 bird species, placing Kanniyakumari in second position in Tamil Nadu in terms of recorded bird species diversity. Our volunteers and local birdwatchers have documented a number of rare and vagrant species, including several records that were reported as first records for Tamil Nadu.


Passage migrant bird spotted in T.N.

Wilson Thomas
COIMBATORE

A Rufous-tailed rock thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) that was spotted in Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary recently is the latest addition to the checklist of birds in Tamil Nadu.

As per birding platform eBird, a female Rufous-tailed rock thrush spotted and photographed by Vinod Sadhasivan, founder of Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation, is the first record of the bird in Tamil

The female Rufous-tailed rock thrush that was spotted in Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary on Wednesday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Mr. Sadhasivan, the Rufous-tailed


Persian Shearwater seen in TN's Kumari for first time

M ABDUL RAHI @ Kanniyakumari

BIRD watchers spotted a Persian Shearwater bird near the Kanniyakumari coast on Tuesday. They claimed it was the first time the bird was spotted in Tamil Nadu.

Bird watchers said Kanniyakumari is home to about 400 bird species. Recent weather conditions have created opportunities for extraordinary avian sightings. Pe

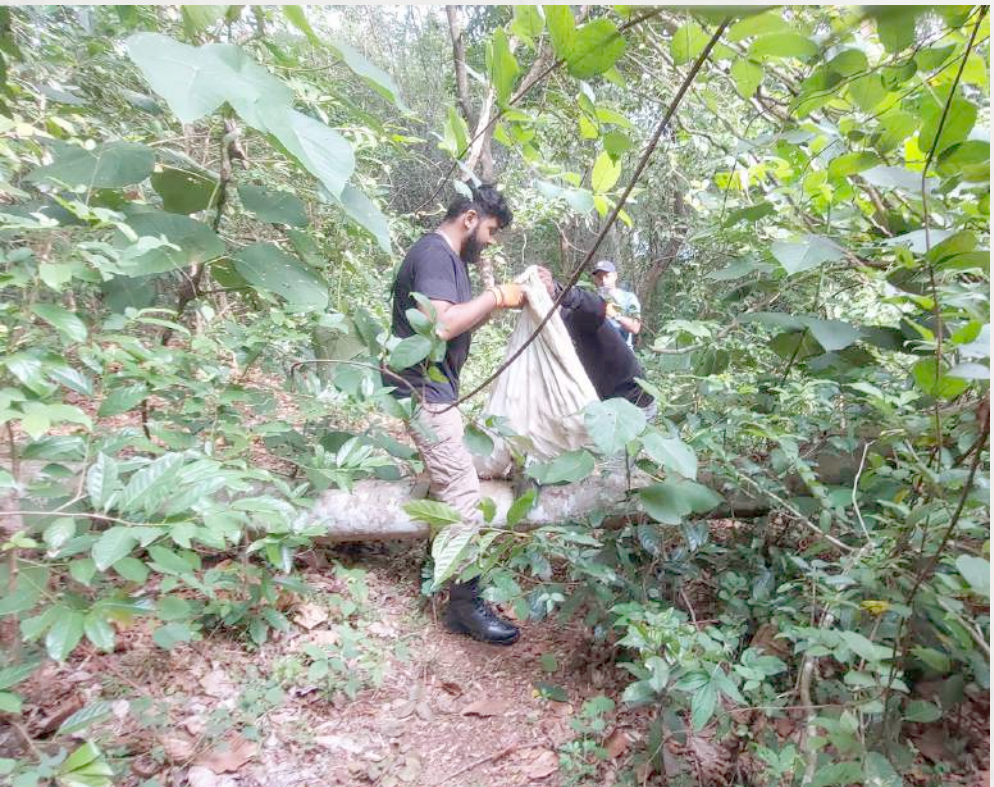
Noddy, Flesh-footed Shearwater, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Sooty Tern, Bridled Tern and Parasitic Jaeger.

Environmental Protection and Cleanup Activities

Direct action programs aimed at reducing pollution and safe-guarding natural ecosystems.

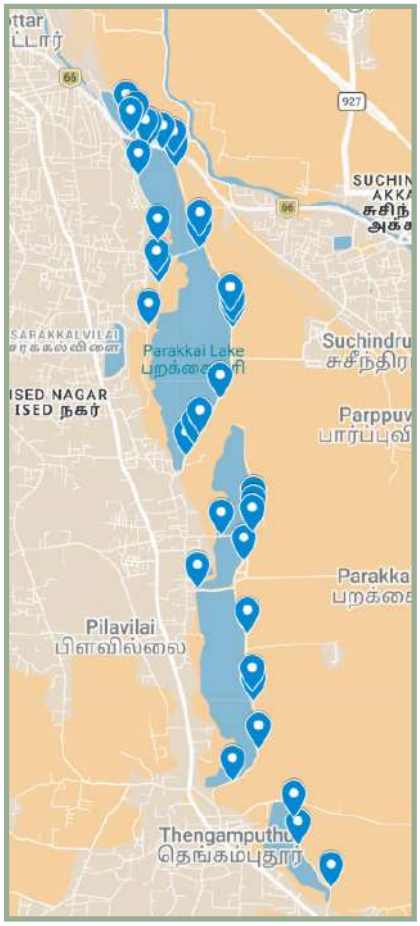
Cleanups

We have organized numerous clean-up drives across both coastal and forest ecosystems. In forest areas, our efforts have focused particularly on the removal of discarded glass bottles, which pose a serious threat to wildlife by causing injuries. Along the coastline, we conduct cleanup activities during the Olive Ridley turtle nesting season to remove fishing nets, wires, plastic wrappers, and other debris that can entangle nesting turtles and hatchlings or obstruct their movement to and from the sea. These conservation initiatives have been carried out in collaboration with college students, corporate volunteers, employees of NPCL, local communities, and the Forest Department.



Garbage Mapping

While clean-up drives are an important part of our conservation activities, we believe that long-term solutions require addressing the underlying causes of waste accumulation. As part of our efforts, we are mapping illegal garbage dumping sites across Kanniyakumari district and documenting their locations and environmental impacts. The information generated through this process is shared with the relevant authorities to facilitate effective coordination, prioritisation, and removal of accumulated waste, while also helping authorities identify recurring dumping locations that require longer-term intervention.



Awareness

We believe that lasting solutions to the problem of waste can only be achieved when people change their attitudes towards the environment. With this understanding, we place strong emphasis on educating school and college students about the impacts of garbage on ecosystems, with particular focus on its effects on wildlife. Environmental awareness forms an integral part of our outreach efforts. During nature walks, field visits, and other outdoor programs, we consistently use these opportunities to highlight the consequences of littering and improper waste disposal, encouraging participants to adopt responsible and sustainable practices in their daily lives.

Habitat Restoration and Species Conservation

On-ground conservation interventions focused on restoring degraded habitats and improving conditions for wildlife.

Mucuna removal and habitat restoration

We are undertaking a community-based restoration of a critical elephant corridor by removing invasive plant species Mucuna bracteata in Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. The KKWLS (Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary) faces a significant threat from an invasive plant, namely Mucuna bracteata, a fast-growing creeper that displaces native biodiversity by covering large areas. Mucuna was initially introduced as ground cover within rubber plantations by Arasu Rubber Corporation, a Tamil Nadu government enterprise.

Under the shade of the rubber tree canopy, the plant's growth remained restrained and did not spread uncontrollably. However, as the rubber trees reached the end of their life cycle, they were cut down and removed, allowing ample sunlight to reach the area. This led to rapid, unchecked growth of the creeper, which soon overtook the entire region. Its coverage is so dense that even grass struggles to grow through it, forming a thick carpet in some areas that can be several feet deep. The plant known as Kota Chikli, Thotta Payaru, or East Himalayan Mucuna is inedible to herbivores, leaving large mammals like the Indian elephant and Indian gaur, which frequently traverse this region, without a food source.

Mucuna is resistant to fire and drought and has prolific seeding. It is also capable of re-establishing itself rapidly by sprouting from buried nodes. Without consistent follow-up, it quickly reclaims

The restoration site selected for the intervention lies within a critical elephant corridor, an area frequently used by elephants for movement between habitats.

Mucuna removal and habitat restoration

any cleared land, spreading over and ultimately smothering the entire plantation area.

We engaged local tribal communities to manually remove Mucuna from a sample plot located within an elephant corridor. Alongside invasive species removal, we planted native species and retained naturally regenerating vegetation. Continuous efforts over a year resulted in a visible reduction in Mucuna spread and improved growth of native trees, demonstrating the potential for community-led restoration in critical wildlife habitats.

Research and Scientific Studies

Scientific investigations that contribute to ecological knowledge, species conservation, and management decisions.

https://doi.org/10.33307/entomon.v50i4.1585
Entomon 50(4): 465-468
Short communication No. ent. 50411

First report of the brown widow spider, *Latrodectus geometricus* Koch, 1841 (Araneae, Theridiidae) from southern India

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ABSTRACT: *Latrodectus geometricus* (Koch, 1841) is a widow spider native to Africa and introduced in to several countries from both the Americas to Japan. Three adult female *L. geometricus* with three egg-sacs were observed in Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari district, Tamil Nadu. The present record extends its known distributional range to further south being the southernmost occurrence of the species in India.

KEY WORDS: Spider, egg-sac, Tamil Nadu, occurrence, distributional range

Zootaxa 5433 (1): 133–143
https://www.mapress.com/zt/
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Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5433.1.6
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:3079BC4F-4BA7-4264-ADE9-DFB7458DED7E2

First records of *Medmassa* Simon, 1887 from India, with the description of two new species (Araneae: Corinnidae)

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Abstract

Medmassa Simon, 1887 is recorded for the first time from India, including the description of two new species: *M. sagar* Tripathi, Kadam & Sankaran **sp. nov.** (♂ ♀) and *M. jessica* Kadam, Tripathi & Sankaran **sp. nov.** (♀). The discovery of *Medmassa* increases the number of known corinnid genera in India to eight. Detailed descriptions and illustrations of the copulatory organs of both species are provided, their natural history is briefly discussed, and a map of the currently known distribution of both species is presented.

Key words: Kerala, natural history, spider, Tamil Nadu, taxonomy

Introduction

Simon (1877) erected the dark sac spider genus *Megaxya* based on a subadult female specimen collected from the Philippines. Karsch (1880) proposed the name *Medmassa* as a replacement name for *Megaxya*, which was preoccupied in Diptera by Robineau-Desvoidy (1830). *Medmassa* currently consists of 11 nominal species distributed in Africa, Australia, Southeast and East Asia (World Spider Catalog 2024). The most diagnostic feature of *Medmassa* is that both sexes bear an unusually high number of ventrodistal tibial spines on the anterior legs, a feature shared with many lioctenid genera as well as corinnine corinnids, while there are no more than three pairs in typical castianeirines, except the Southeast Asian genus *Pranburia* Deeleman-Reinhold, 1992, which can easily be distinguished from *Medmassa* by the presence of large femoral brushes on leg I in both sexes (Deeleman-Reinhold 2001; Haddad & Bosselaers 2010). In addition, the male palp with an oval-elongate tear-shaped tegulum with the subtegulum exposed prolaterally, and with a well-developed retrolateral tibial apophysis, and female genitalia with anteriorly placed copulatory openings, short copulatory ducts or copulatory ducts apparently absent, and simple oval spermathecae lacking two distinct lumena are other features that clearly separate *Medmassa* from other corinnid genera (Deeleman-Reinhold 2001; Haddad & Bosselaers 2010).

Deeleman-Reinhold (2001) reviewed the species of *Medmassa* from Southeast Asia and synonymised *Astrutea* Thorell, 1890 with it, and Haddad & Bosselaers (2010) revised the genus in the Afrotropical region. Raven (2015) and Jin *et al.* (2019) recorded *Medmassa* for the first time from Australia and China, respectively. *Medmassa* can be separated from the South Asian *Allomedmassa* Dankittipakul & Singtripop, 2014 by the flat and subcircular carapace, normal male palpal tibia with a simple retrolateral tibial apophysis, U-shaped sperm duct, circular, pit-like copulatory openings, and the distinctly enlarged spermathecae (Dankittipakul & Singtripop 2014). It can be separated from the South Asian *Paramedmassa* Jin, H. Zhang & F. Zhang, 2019 by the flat and subcircular carapace, procurved anterior eye row in frontal view, U-shaped sperm duct, small copulatory openings, simple copulatory ducts, and enlarged spermathecae (Jin *et al.* 2019).

Accepted by C. Haddad: 29 Feb. 2024; published: 4 Jun. 2024 133

Toxin Reviews

ISSN: 1556-9543 (Print) 1556-9551 (Online) Journal homepage: www.tandfonline.com/journals/itxr20

Unmasking the silent nocturnal killer: a comprehensive review of common krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*) venom, neurotoxicity, and challenges in antivenom therapy in India

P. K. Praseetha , G. Sakthivel , Sakthidhasan Periasamy , Stanley Raja Vethamonickam & Rajkapoor Balasubramanian

To cite this article: P. K. Praseetha , G. Sakthivel , Sakthidhasan Periasamy , Stanley Raja Vethamonickam & Rajkapoor Balasubramanian (07 Feb 2026): Unmasking the silent nocturnal killer: a comprehensive review of common krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*) venom, neurotoxicity, and challenges in antivenom therapy in India, Toxin Reviews, DOI: 10.1080/15569543.2026.2625228

To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/15569543.2026.2625228

LARGE CONGREGATION OF GREAT HORNBILL *BUCEROS BICORNIS* AT A FRUITING FIG TREE (*FICUS*: MORACEAE) IN KANYAKUMARI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, SOUTHERN WESTERN GHATS, INDIA[1]

Anand Shibu[2,4], Vinod Sadhasivan[2,5], Patrick David[3,6,*] and Muthukrishnan[3,7]

[1]Accepted August 27, 2024
First published: ??, 2025 | doi:
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The Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* is one of the most ely distributed hornbill species in the world. It occurs in at a large fruiting fig tree. Located deep within the forest, tl tree had a wide canopy approximately 15 m in diameter ar

Research papers

Over the years, we have authored and co-authored several scientific publications. We recognize the critical role that scientific evidence plays in forming conservation policies and long-term biodiversity protection. We have contributed to a wide range of research areas, from first records and distributional studies of species to specialized investigations and other ecological studies. The data generated through these efforts have not remained confined to academic publications; they have also served as valuable evidence in advocating for the protection and conservation of important wildlife habitats and species across the region.

sciendo

Ornis Hungarica 2024. 32(2): 264–277.
DOI: 10.2478/orhu-2024-0034

Far from the Palaearctic realm: First breeding record of the Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* in Peninsular India with notes on its breeding ecology

Rathinavel Kishore[1]*, Shibu Anand[2], Sadhasivan Vinod[2] & Yesudhas Ajil[2]

Received: July 20, 2024 – Revised: September 23. 2024 – Accepted: September 25, 2024

Kishore, R., Anand, S., Vinod, S. & Ajil, Y. 2024. Far from the Palaearctic realm: First breeding record of the Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* in Peninsular India with notes on its breeding ecology. – Ornis Hungarica 32(2): 264–277. DOI: 10.2478/orhu-2024-0034

Abstract The first breeding site of Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *(Merops persicus)* in Peninsular India was observed in the Andivillai saltpans of Kanniyakumari district, Tamil Nadu. We found a total of 28 breeding burrows distributed into three subsets in the stretch of 30 m. Among 28 nests, 16 were active and 12 were inactive/unused. The active nest-tunnels have a mean tunnel length of 1.53±0.53 m and nest-mouth diameter of 9.93±1.48 cm. While the females excavated tunnels and started brooding males were guarding the colony. The male very often fed the female brooding inside the nest till the hatchlings appeared, and later both parents were observed feeding their chicks during the day. The chicks were first observed peeping out of the tunnels on 22 August 2023. At the end of September few juvenile birds were seen flying along with the adults foraging in the open sky. The Blue-cheeked Bee-eater is considered a passage migrant and winter visitor to the north-western part of India and vagrant in Southern India, but this study confirmed its breeding in Southern India. Additionally, the study provides baseline information on the breeding ecology of the species in India.

Keywords: Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, *Merops persicus*, Meropidae, Peninsular India, breeding ecology

Összefoglalás A zöld gyurgyalag *(Merops persicus)* fészkelését először dokumentáltuk az indiai szubkontinensen az Andivillai sólepárló tavaknál a Kanniyakumari járásban, Tamil Nadu tartományban. Összesen 3 kisebb csoportba rendezett 28 fészket találtunk egy 30 méteres partfal szakaszon. A 28 fészekből 16 bizonyult használtnak, 12 lakatlan volt. A fészeküreghez vezető alagutak átlagos hossza 1,53±0,53 méter, a bejárati nyílás átmérője 9,93±1,48 cm. Míg a tojók a fészkelő üregeket mélyítették és költeni kezdtek, a hímek a kolóniát és a párjukat őrizték. A kotlótojókat gyakran a hímek etették a fiókák kikelésig. Ezután mindkét szülő etette a fiókákat. A fiókákat először 2023 augusztus 22-én figyeltük meg a fészkek bejáratánál. Szeptember végén pár fióka már a szüleivel repült, és a levegőben repülő rovarokat kaptak el. A zöld gyurgyalagot eddig vonuló, illetve telelő madárfajként tartották számon India északnyugati részén, és ritka kóborlóként India déli részén. Azonban tanulmányunk bizonyítja a faj költését Dél-Indiában. Emellett cikkünk ismerteti a faj költésbiológiájának alapelemeit.

Kulcsszavak: zöld gyurgyalag, *Merops persicus*, Meropidae, Indiai szubkontinens, fészkelés biológia

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SPECIES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

Species

23(72), 2022

To Cite:
Sadhasivan V, Vinod P, Krishnakumar BM. Preliminary checklist of butterflies (Insecta: Lepidoptera) from the Khandige estate in Sirumalai, Tamil Nadu, India, with three new reports for the Eastern Ghats. *Species*, 2022, 23(72), 402-418

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Peer-Review History
Received: 02 July 2022
Reviewed & Revised: 05/July/2022 to 08/August/2022
Accepted: 09 August 2022
Published: 11 August 2022

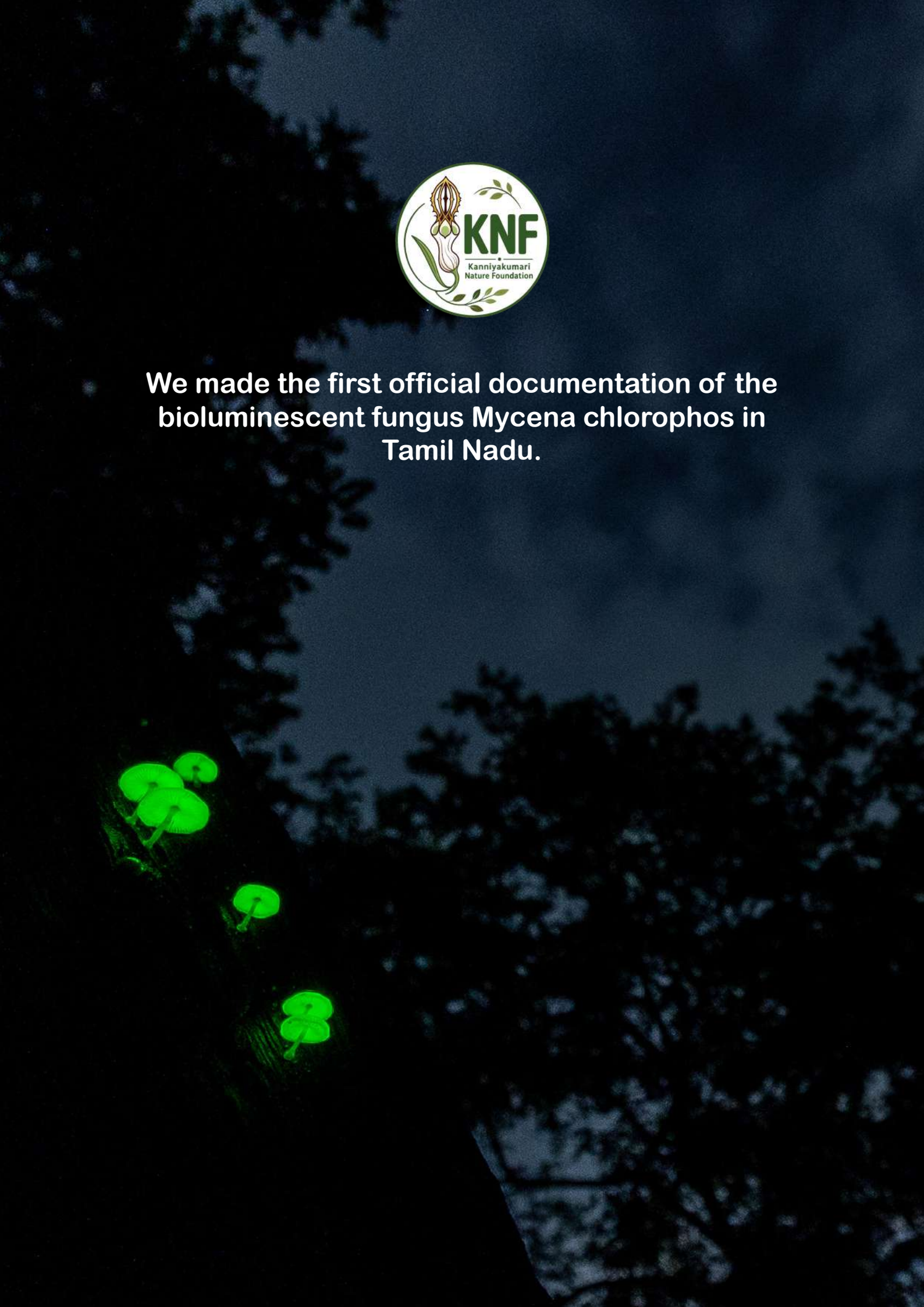
Peer-Review Model
External peer-review was done through double-blind method.

Preliminary checklist of butterflies (Insecta: Lepidoptera) from the Khandige estate in Sirumalai, Tamil Nadu, India, with three new reports for the Eastern Ghats

Vinod Sadhasivan[1], Paulmathi Vinod[2], Bawa Mothilal Krishnakumar[3*]

ABSTRACT

Lack of baseline data on any taxon would make it difficult to conduct in-depth ecological research necessary to devise conservation strategies. Therefore, we prepared a preliminary checklist of butterflies from Khandige Wildlife Preservation Estate, Sirumalai Hill, Tamil Nadu. Butterflies were sampled



We made the first official documentation of the bioluminescent fungus Mycena chlorophos in Tamil Nadu.

Coastal research activities

Kanniyakumari district's nearly 70 km coastline supports a rich diversity of marine and coastal ecosystems, including important nesting habitats for the Olive Ridley turtle. Our research and conservation initiatives have focused on dolphin population assessments, identification and monitoring of turtle nesting sites, habitat suitability studies, nest temperature monitoring, and other aspects of marine ecology. Regular pelagic bird surveys help improve our understanding of seabird distribution and seasonal movements along the southern coast. We also work to document the biodiversity of beaches, estuaries, mangroves, and nearshore habitats.



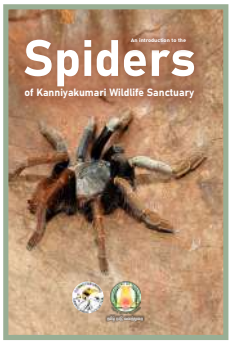


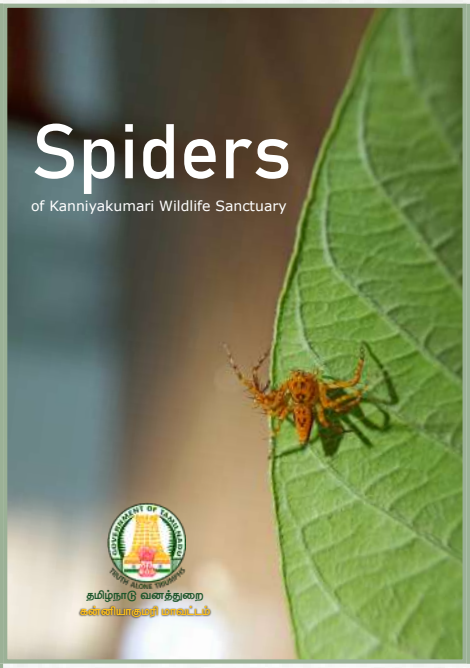

Forest research activities

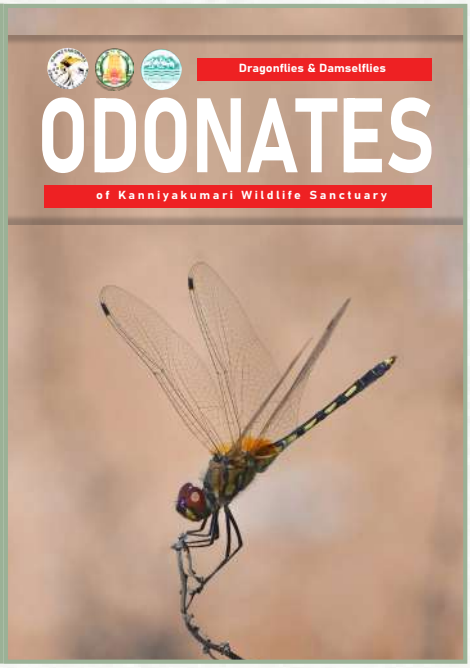
Kanniyakumari district has nearly 70% green cover, with about one-third of its area protected under forest reserves. We work closely with the Forest Department to facilitate biodiversity research, including arachnid and odonate surveys, as well as long-term studies such as a two-year moth survey conducted across all five ranges of the Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. To ensure that scientific knowledge reaches a wider audience, we actively publish and disseminate research findings through books, posters, and other educational materials, promoting awareness and conservation of the district's rich biodiversity.

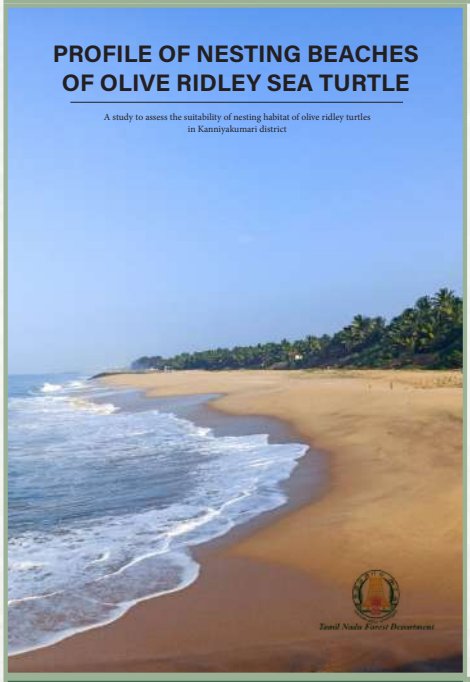




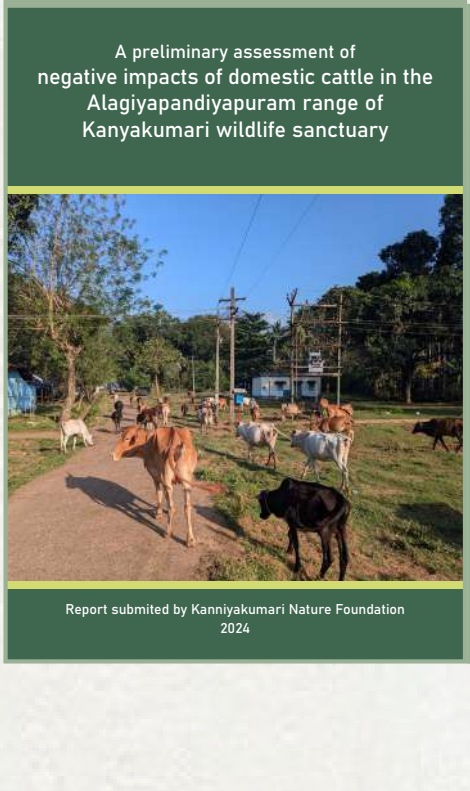


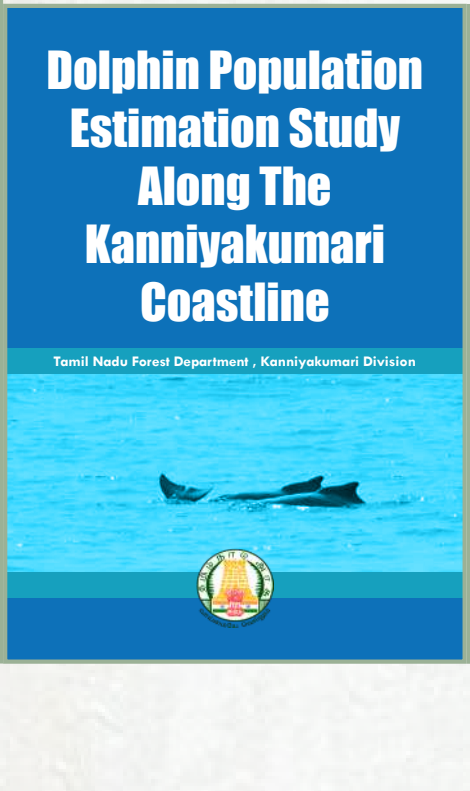


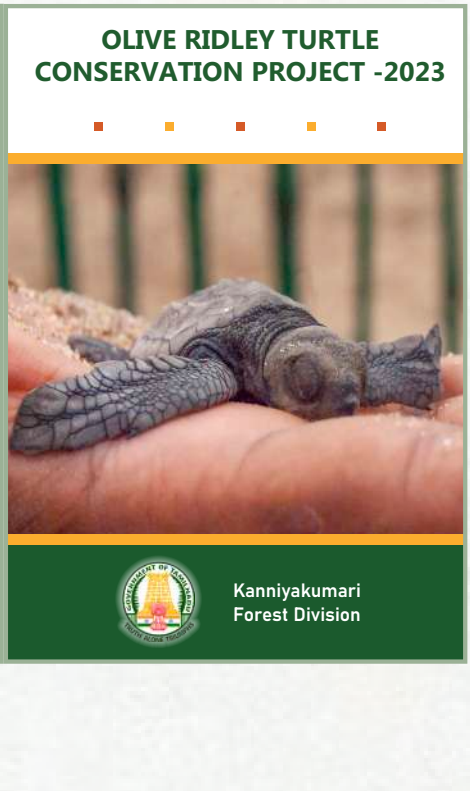


Reports

We have prepared several scientific and technical reports in collaboration with the Kanniyakumari Forest Department, based on our research and field studies. These include reports on spiders, odonates, dolphins, and Olive Ridley turtles, which contribute valuable information for conservation planning and management. In addition, we conducted a comprehensive biodiversity assessment of the TVS Farm at Eruvadi and produced a detailed report documenting its ecological significance and biodiversity values.







Grizzled squirrel research project

We were awarded the Conservation Catalyst Program (CCP) Award from WWF for our work on the conservation of the Grizzled Giant Squirrel in Sirumalai. As part of this initiative, we work closely with local communities and undertake activities such as camera-trap monitoring, population assessments, and habitat surveys to improve understanding and conservation of this endangered species. We have also co-founded the Khandige Environmental Research Foundation (KERF) and work closely with Khandige Estates on conservation initiatives, including the development of a tree sanctuary, biodiversity research, habitat restoration efforts, and environmental workshops in Sirumalai

Butterfly survey in KKWLS and KMTR

In collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Butterfly Society (TNBS), we conducted a butterfly survey in the Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary with the participation of experts from across Tamil Nadu. We were also part of an intensive six-month butterfly study in the Kalakad–Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) with a dedicated team of volunteers.

The extensive fieldwork resulted in a comprehensive report, which was submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Tamil Nadu, contributing valuable information for butterfly conservation and biodiversity management.

Media outreach

We have effectively leveraged both mass media and social media platforms to amplify our conservation message and reach a wider audience.

'பேச்சிப்பாறை வனப்பகுதியில் 500 கிலோ காலி மதுபாட்டில்'

பேச்சிப்பாறை அணையை ஒட்டிய வனப்பகுதிகளில் வீசப்பட்டிருந்த காலி மதுபாட்டில்களை சேகரித்த இயற்கை ஆர்வலர்கள்.

திற்பரப்பு, ஆக. 10- பேச்சிப்பாறை அணையை ஒட்டிய வனப் பகுதிகளில் சுற்றுலாப் பயணிகள் மற்றும் பொதுமக்கள் அதிகமாக வந்து செல்வது வழக்கம். இவ்வாறு வருபவர்கள் பிளாஸ்டிக் கழிவுகள் மற்றும் காலி மதுபாட்டில்களை வனப் பகுதிமீலை விட்டு செல்கின்றனர். இந்நிலையில், இயற்கைக்கு தீங்கு விளைவிக்கும் காலி பாட்டில்களை சிறப்பு முகாம் நடத்தி இயற்கை ஆர்வலர்கள் அகற்றினர்.

மாவட்ட வன அலுவலர் இளையராஜா வழிகாட்டுதல் படி நடந்த முகாமில், கன்னியாகுமரி இயற்கை அறக்கட்டளை மற்றும் கூட்டங்களம் அணியின் நிலைய ஊழியர்கள் கலந்து கொண்டனர். குலசேகரம் வனச்சரக அலுவலர் விஜயகுமார் தலைமை வகித்தார். வன உயிரின சரணாலயப் பகுதியான பேச்சிப்பாறை அணையின் கரைகள் மற்றும் தேக்கு காடு பகுதியில் வீசப்பட்டிருந்த சுமார் 500 கிலோ காலி மதுபாட்டில்களை சேகரிக்க ஈடுபட்டனர்.

பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு கோடை இயற்கை பாதுகாப்பு

Mushrooms light up Kumari wildlife sanctuary

Gang of greens on a mission to restore a broken ecosystem

Butterfly walk conducted at Kalikesam in Kanniyakumari district

Over 40 butterfly species sighted at Kalikesam park

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kanniyakumari

OVER 40 butterfly species, including Common Mime Butterfly and the Yam Fly were sighted during the butterfly walk in Kalikesam.

Attracting nearly 70 participants, including nature enthusiasts, a butterfly walk, amid the picturesque landscape of Kalikesam, within the Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, was organised last Saturday by the Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation (KNF), with support from the Kanniyakumari forest division.

The walk was held to celebrate biodiversity and mark World Earth Day.

Armed with binoculars and cameras, the participants set out to uncover the hidden treasures of this biodiverse ecosystem.

Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation (KNF) founder Vinod Sadhasivan said that the highlight of the day, undoubtedly, was the sighting of over 40 butterfly species, each fluttering gracefully amidst the foliage. Young participants also got an opportunity to observe the delicate eggs and caterpillars of the Common Emigrant Butterfly, gaining insight into the fascinating life cycle of these winged creatures.

Yam fly spotted during butterfly walk at Kalikesam

Participants were also treated to sightings of an array of avian marvels, including the Indian Cuckoo, the Malabar Trogon and the regal Woolly-necked Stork.

Forest dept spots Amur Falcon in Kanniyakumari

Migratory birds, butterflies rain on Thovalai Hills

அழிந்து வரும் நகர்புற பறவைகள்

★ இயற்கை ஆர்வலர் வேதனை

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RARE OCCURRENCE

Forest dept spots Amur Falcon in Kanniyakumari

MABDUL RABI @Kanniyakumari

BRINGING joy to nature lovers and bird watchers, Amur Falcons, migratory birds travelling from Russia and Mongolia to Africa, have been spotted in Periyakulam tank, said district forest officer M Ilayaraja on Sunday.

Tanks in Kanniyakumari are known for welcoming migratory birds every year. Ilayaraja said, a total of 10,094 birds of 163 species were spotted in the synchronised bird census held recently by 20 teams of bird experts. Among them, seven were Amur Falcons seen at a tank near Rajakkamangalam area.

A bird watcher said that Amur Falcon has the longest migration route of any raptor in the world, easily travelling thousands of kilometres. The small bird of prey weighs just 170g and makes pit stops along their way to Africa via India. During these stops, they feed on pests like locusts from farmlands, thus providing a service to farmers. Once they are refreshed, the journey continues.

The DFO said that the department is taking efforts for the conservation of birds in the tanks in Ramsar sites of Vembanur, Theroor and Suchindram wetland complexes.

Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation director Vinod Sadhasivan said that, normally the birds travel through Central India while migrating. "Their arrival here is a rare happening and we are glad about it," he added. Vinod added that Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Greater Flamingos and Garganey & Eurasian Wigeon were also seen in the tanks and Puthalam Salt Pans in

Amur Falcon Bird, migratory birds travelling from Russia and Mongolia to Africa, spotted at Periyakulam Tank on Sunday | EXPRESS

The arrival of the bird is a rare happening and we are glad about it. Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Greater Flamingos were also seen

The path forward

KNF aims to build on its work in research, biodiversity documentation, habitat restoration, community participation, and conservation awareness. Going forward, our focus will be on strengthening long-term scientific monitoring, expanding collaboration with researchers and government agencies, and using evidence-based findings to support conservation policy and habitat protection.

We also seek to increase community participation, particularly among local and tribal communities, students, volunteers, and institutions, while developing practical conservation models that can be replicated across important landscapes.


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I ♥ Wildlife

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