

## MUNNAR AND KARNATAKA

We – seven of us – went to Munnar, in October 2018, to see Neela Kurunji *Strobilanthes kunthianus* (= *Phlebophyllum kunthianum*) flowering *en masse* after twelve years. Though we were late in reaching Munnar (Eravikulam National Park) there were still some flowers for us to see. Incidentally, we saw four Nilgiri Tahr *Nilgiritragus hylocrius*. We also went to Kulukkumalai where, we were given to understand, abundant Neela Kurunji would be seen. In fact, there were gregarious flowering but since we were late the flowering was over by then. After negotiating the nightmarish path, by jeep, when we reached the point where flowers were likely to be seen, we were hugely disappointed because there was hardly any Neela Kurunji to be seen. The only consolation was visiting the tea estate which claims to be the highest tea plantation in the world. They gave us tea which we liked and bought some packets of Flowery Orange Pekoe tea they were selling.

After spending five days in Munnar, the party split; five of our friends decided to go down south and we proceeded to Mangalore *en route* Bhagwati Nature Camp of Kundremukh National Park. (Trekker's paradise Kudremukh is 6214ft above sea level in Karnataka's beautiful Malnad region.) The camp is about three hours' ride by public bus from Mangalore. The place is very scenic though the birdlife is rather poor but the butterfly population was good. They were difficult to identify because of continual flying. This could be due to little pastures available for them where they would settle to forage. You can see the shola forest in the distance. You walk down to the edge of river Bhadra which flows at one end of the place. The river is full of Mahaseer or Mahasol as well as Tiger Fish which looked like fish for the aquarium.

After having spent three days at Bhagwati Nature Camp we went to Hassan to see the temples at Belur and Halebeedu as well as Shravanabelagola where you are required to climb 650+ steps to reach the statue of Bahubali Gommateshwara.

During the trip we saw the following birds at (1)Munnar, (2)Kulukkumalai, (3)Eravikulam, (4)Bhagawati Nature Camp (Kudremukh National Park):

Common name	Scientific name	1	2	3	4
Grey francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>				+
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>				+
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	+			
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	+	+	+	+
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			+	
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>				+
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>				+
Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>				+
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nabularia</i>	+			
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	+			
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>				+
Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	+			
Malabar Parakeet	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>				+
Southern Coucal (call)	<i>Centropus parroti</i>				+
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>				+
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	+			
Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>				+
Malabar Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyeros griseus</i>				+
Brown-headed Barbet (call)	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>				+

White-cheeked Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>				+
White-bellied Woodpecker (call)	<i>Dryopopus javanensis</i>				+
Lesser Goldenback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>				+
Greater Goldenback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>				+
Malabar Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis sylvicola</i>				+
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>				+
Orange Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>				+
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	+			
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>				+
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>				+
Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>				+
White-browed Fantail (call)	<i>Rhipidura aureol</i>				+
Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>	+			+
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		+		
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jacosus</i>	+	+	+	+
Yellow-browed Bulbul	<i>Acritillas indica</i>				+
Square-tailed Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i>				+
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>				+
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>				+
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>				+
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>				+
Western Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>				+
Tytlar's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tytleri</i>				+
Kerala Laughing Thrush	<i>Garrulax fairbanki</i>			+	
Browed Cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>				+
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>				+
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	+		+	
Malabar Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus horsfieldii</i>				+
Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>			+	
Blue-capped Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>				+
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>				+
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				+
Black-and-Orange Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula nigrorufa</i>		+		
Nilgiri Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias albicaudatus</i>			+	
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>				+
Asian Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>				+
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchus</i>				+
Crimson-backed Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma minima</i>				+
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	+			
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	+			+
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>		+		+

\*List courtesy Dr Suchitra Ghosh

## SOME FLORA OF ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK

1 = Common name 2 = Botanical name 3 = Family 4 = Plant form 5 = Use

1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Dicranopteris linearis</i> (Burm.) Underwood	Gleicheniaceae	Fern	
	<i>Hedyotis leschenaultiana</i>	Rubiaceae	Shrub	
	<i>Hypericum mysorense</i> Heyne	Hypericaceae	Shrub	
	<i>Leucas visita</i>	Labiatae	Herb	
Kattuvizhal	<i>Maesa indica</i> Wall.	Myrsinaceae	Shrub	
	<i>Mahonia leschenaultii</i>	Berberidaceae	Tree	
Kattukadali	<i>Osbeckia reticulata</i>	Melastomataceae	Shrub	
	<i>Pityrogramma austroamericana</i>	Polypodiaceae	Fern	
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> Kuhn	Polypodiaceae	Fern	
Kattumunthiri	<i>Rubus ellipticus</i> Sm.	Rosaceae	Shrub	
	<i>Rubus indicus</i>	Rosaceae	Shrub	
	<i>Strobilanthes pulneyensis</i>	Acanthaceae	Shrub	
	<i>Themeda cymbaria</i>	Poaceae	Grass	

## SOME FLORA OF BHAGWATI NATURE CAMP

1 = Common name – 2 = Botanical name – 3 = Family – 4 = Plant form – 5 = Use

1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Acacia auriculaeformis</i> A. Cunn.	Mimosaceae	Tree	
	<i>Canthium dicoccum</i> (Gaertn.) Merrill	Rubiaceae		
	<i>Carallia brachiata</i> (Lour.) Merrill	Rhizophoraceae		
	<i>Careya arborea</i> Roxb.	Lecythidaceae	Tree	
	<i>Cinnamomum riparium</i>	Lauraceae	Tree	
	<i>Elaeocarpus tuberculatus</i> Roxb.	Elaeocarpaceae	Tree	
	<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn.	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	
	<i>Garcinia indica</i> Choisy	Guttiferae	Tree	
	<i>Gordonia obtusa</i> Wall.	Theaceae		
	<i>Hopea parviflora</i> Bedd.	Dipterocarpaceae	Tree	
	<i>Litsea floribunda</i>	Lauraceae	Tree	
	<i>Litsea mysorensis</i>	Lauraceae	Tree	
	<i>Michilus macrantha</i> Nees.	Lauraceae	Tree	
	<i>Mappia foetida</i> Miers	Icacinaceae	Tree	
	<i>Myristica dactyloides</i>	Myristicaceae	Tree	
	<i>Poeciloneuron indicum</i> Bedd.	Guttiferae	Tree	
	<i>Psidium guajava</i> Linn.	Myrtaceae	Tree	
	<i>Psychotria truncata</i>	Rubiaceae		
	<i>Symplocos macrocarpa</i> var. <i>kanarana</i>	Symplocaceae		
	<i>Syzygium fruticosum</i>	Myrtaceae	Tree	
	<i>Syzygium travancoricum</i>	Myrtaceae	Tree	
	<i>Vateria indica</i> Linn.	Dipterocarpaceae	Tree	