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Ten Sacred Angiosperm Treasures of Kerala (Dashapushpam)

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Abstract: ***The state Kerala is on India's Malabar coast. State is known for traditions and medicinal plant wealth, especially Ayurveda. This particular paper highlights the traditional, religious and medicinal importance or uses of ten flowering herbs (Angiosperms). The ten herbs belong to different Angiosperm families. These ten sacred plants are commonly known as "Dashapushpam" in Kerala. These herbs form a part of tradition and religious activities in people of Kerala.***

Keywords: Ayurveda, Sacred plants, Dashapushpam, Angiosperm families, Tradiotional and Religious activities

1. Introduction

Since the beginning of human civilization plants have provided the man with all needs in terms of shelter, clothing, food, flavour, fragrances and not the least, Medicines. Beyond all these plants form a part of religious activities of people. Kerala is one such state where the usage of plants is seen in their tradition and also in Medicines (Ayurveda). There are such ten herbs which are considered as sacred by the people of Kerala and the ten sacred plants are referred as "Dashapushpam".

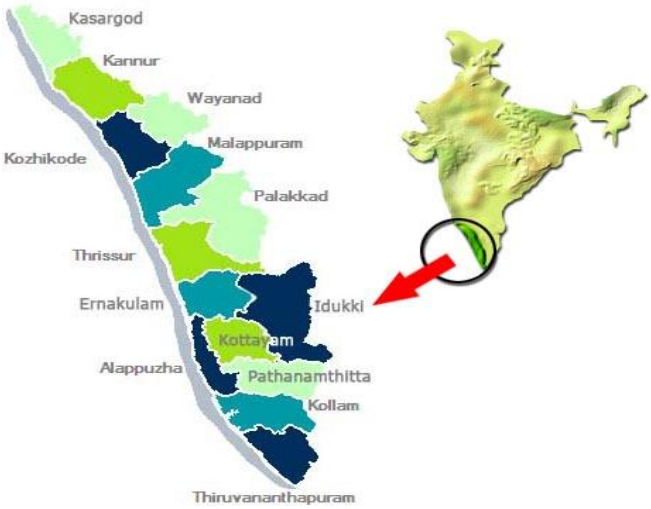
Dashapushpam literally means "ten flowers" ("Dasha" refers to "ten" and "pushpam" refers to "flowers"). In total Dshapushpam is "ten species of flowering plants" belonging to different plant families and are known to have traditional, cultural and medicinal importance in the people of Kerala. The plants which are called as "Dashapushpam" are listed in the following table.

Table 1: Botanical names of ten "Dashapushpam" with their Sanskrit and Malayalam names

Sl. no	Botanical Name	Sanskrit name	Malayalam name
1.	*Aerva lanata* (L.) Juss.	Bhadra	Cherula
2.	*Biophytum sensitivum* (L.) DC.	Panktipatra	Mukkutti
3.	*Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.	Indravalli	Uzhinja
4.	*Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn.	Talamuli	Nilappana
5.	*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.	Dhruva	Karuka
6.	*Cyanthillium cinereum* (L.) H. Rob.	Sahadevi	Poovankurunila
7.	*Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L.	Kesharaja	Kayyunni
8.	*Emilia sonchifolia* (L.) DC. ex Wight	Sasasruthi	Muyalcheviyan
9.	*Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L.	Vishnugandhi	Vishnukranthi
10.	*Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker Gawler	Vachagandha	Thiruthali

2. Materials and Methods

Study area:



Map 1: Map showing the state Kerala with its Districts labelled.

Kerala is an Southwestern end of Indian subcontinent. Kerala lies between the Arabian Sea in the West and Western Ghats (Sahyadris) in the East with an area of 38863 sq km. The neighbouring states of Kerala are Tamilnadu and Karnataka. The state Kerala most popularly known by the name "Gods Own Country". Kerala geographically located between Northern latitude $8^0.27'.30''$ N and $12^0.47'.40''$ N and East longitudes $74^0.27'.47''$ E and $77^0.37'.12''$ E. Kerala has a tropical climate. There are three types of seasons in Kerala, June-September South-West monsoon (Edavapathy), October-December North-East monsoon (Thula varsham) and March-May summer season. The total population of Kerala is 17, 455, 506 (as per 2011 Census). The mother tongue of nearly ninety per cent of who live in Kerala is Malayalam. The main crops grown in Kerala are paddy, coconut, pepper, cashew, cassava and the plantation crops like rubber. Much of the forest cover of Kerala is spread over the Western Ghats. The state is known for brackish logons, Ayurveda, Wildlife sanctuaries, Sprawling tea gardens, hill stations, palm trees, lined beaches, colorful dance forms, culture and traditions. "Onam" and "Vishu"

are the most important traditional festivals of Kerala. Vegetation in the state can be broadly divided into five major types or categories; Tropical wet evergreen forest (3.489 lakh ha.), Moist deciduous forest (4.100 lakh ha.), Dry deciduous forest (0.094 lakh ha.), Sub tropical mountain (0.188 lakh ha) and the plantations (1.538 lakh ha.). The floristic study done and documented (Gamble 1967, Thomas 2012).

3. Methodology

The Ayurvedic medicinal uses of these ten sacred flowers (Dashapushpam) was gathered or collected from ayurvedic doctors from the locality and also from the elders. The traditional and cultural values of these flowers were gathered from the some of the well-known chief Tantri of temples in Kerala and some Sanskrit scholars, who had the knowledge of traditional and religious use of these plants. The work or study was conducted from January 2020 to July 2020. Data were collected from prior-informed interviews and discussions.

Botanical description of ten sacred flowering plants (Dashapushpam):

1. *Aerva lanata* (L.) Juss.: Family: Amaranthaceae

Annual herb, diffuse, erect or ascending herbs, 15-50 cm tall, somewhat thickened and woody at base; stem simple or branched glandular, hairy, striate; Leaves Broadly ovate, elliptic or obovate, acute or subacute at apex, tapering at base appressedly hairy on both surfaces, entire along the margins; petioles 0.3-1.6 cm long, pubescent. Spike inflorescence, flowers small, whitish or greenish-white, in axillary spikes on 2-4, 0.5-3.0 cm long culminating into interrupted panicles at the end of the branches due to suppression of upper leaves; Staminodes 5; filaments pale - yellow; Stigmas 2; Fruits Utricle minute, broadly ovoid, subacute, smooth, shining, 1 - seeded, seeds black, shining, smooth, acute at one end, with margins outside.

2. *Biophytum sensitivum* (L.) DC.: Family: Oxalidaceae

Annual herb 10-40 cm. in height with a simple slender to rather stout stem with a single rosette of leaves at the apex; Leaves 3-13 cm. long; leaflets up to 21-jugate, 3-8 × 2·5-5 mm., subsessile, opaque, usually square to oblong, slightly oblique, appressed-pilose or-pubescent, apex rounded, base truncate, with rather inconspicuous lateral nerves making an acute angle with the midrib; rhachis pilose; Flowers white, pink, lilac or yellow, with pubescent pedicels up to 6 mm. long, in 3-10-flowered pseudumbels; peduncle up to 13 cm. long, pubescent, Sepals 4-5 × 1-1·5 mm., narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, acute, 3-5-nerved, pubescent. Petals 7-8 mm. long, spathulate, glabrous.; Stamens with 5 longer ones 3 mm. long and 5 shorter ones 1·5 mm. long; Ovary deeply 5-lobed; styles 1-3 mm. long (said to be trimorphic), pubescent; Capsule 3 × 2 mm., obovate-ellipsoid; Seeds 0·5 × 0·3 mm., flattened-ellipsoid, minutely tuberculate, brown.

3. *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.: Family: Sapindaceae

Annual and perennial herb, slender and beautifully delicate climber-with flower-peduncle tendrils; leaves twice ternate, segments lanceolate, serrate, acute. Umbellate cyme inflorescence; flowers White in few flowered umbellate cyme, peduncles slender, stiff, axillary provided beneath the cyme with 2, opposite, circinate tendrils.; Sepals 4, imbricate, outer smaller, inner larger; Petals 4, rounded at apex; Stamens 8, excentric, filaments unequal; Ovary 3-celled, style very short, trifid; fruit-capsule membranous, trigonous, 3-celled, stalked truncate at top, winged at angles, bladdery, veined; seeds-rounded, smooth, black, with a small, white, heart-shaped aril.

4. *Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn.: Family: Hypoxidaceae

A small rhizomatic herb, upto 15cm long, oblong, perennial; Leaves 10-15 x 2 cm, lanceolate, plicate, base sheathing, pilose, subsessile. Perianth yellow, 1.5 cm across; tube 3 cm long, narrow, sparsely pilose; stamens 6, filaments erect; ovary 3-celled, ovules many, villous. Fruit baccate; seeds subglobose.

5. *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.: Family: Poaceae

A perennial creeping herb; Stem-slender, prostrate, widely creeping, forming matted tufts, with slender erect or ascending flowering branches 7.5-30 cm high; Leaves-10 cm x 1.2-3 mm, narrowly linear or lanceolate, finely acute to pungent, more or less glaucous, soft, smooth, usually conspicuously distichous in the barren shoots and at the base of the stems; sheaths tight, glabrous or hairy, sometimes bearded at the mouth; ligule a very fine ciliate rim; Spikes 2-6, radiating from the top of a slender peduncle, 2.5-5 cm long, green or purplish; rachis slender, compressed or angled, scaberulous; Spikelets1.7-2.5 mm long; rachilla produced, very slender, equaling half the length of the spikelet. Involucral glumes lanceolate, acute to subulate-mucronulate, the lower 1-1.6 mm long, the upper slightly longer; floral glume obliquely oblong to semiovate, about 2 mm long; Anthers long, 1 mm long. Seeds 1 mm long.

6. *Cyanthillium cinereum* (L.) H. Rob.: Family: Asteraceae

A small annual herb with hairy stem; leaves simple, alternate, ovate-elliptic or lanceolate obtuse or acute, mucronate, irregularly dentate or crenate-serrate, hairy; flowers pinkish-violet, in small heads forming divaricate terminal corymbs, bract 1, small, linear below each head, and small bracts in the forks of the peduncles. Involucral bracts linear-lanceolate, awned, silky below. Pappus hairy, white; Corolla equal, regular, tubular, lobes 5, Stamens 5, Ovary inferior, style bifid, hairy; fruit cypsela square, oblong, narrow at base, hairy.

7. *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L.: Family: Asteraceae

An annual herb, erect, suberect or prostrate, often rooting at the nodes; when growing in water the stem may become swollen and rather soft; stems and branches strigose; leaves sessile, usually oblong lanceolate, subentire, more or less hairy on both sides. Heads in axillary peduncles. Flowers-White, ray florets ligulate, but ligules small and inconspicuous; disc florets tubular. Involucral bracts green in colour, about 8 in number, strigose. Achenes cuneate, winged, warted. Pappus 0.

8. *Emilia sonchifolia* (L.) DC. ex Wight: Family: Asteraceae

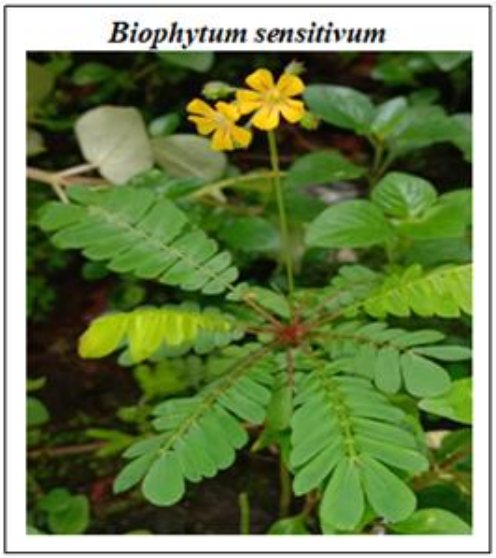
Annual herb, erect or at base prostrate, 10-150 cm tall, often branched from the very base, usually purplish-green, deeply rooting; Stem slender, striate, 2-3 mm in diameter, glabrous or nearly so, solid and not laticiferous; Leaves 4-16 cm × 1-8 cm, alternate, sessile, above dark green, beneath lighter green or tinged with purple, glabrous or nearly so, irregularly more or less coarsely dentate; lower leaves more or less deeply pinnatifid or lyrate, with an orbicular-ovate or subtriangular terminal lobe, lower part often narrowly alate, in juvenile plants often with patent white hairs; upper leaves linear or sagittate, semi-amplexicaul; Inflorescence a terminal head, few together in slender corymbs or rarely solitary; head 20-45-flowered, subcylindrical, 8-17 mm × 4-5 mm; peduncle filiform, 1-5 cm long; involucral bracts 7-10, narrowly oblong-ovoid, usually slightly shorter than the flowers, at first erect and cohering up to near the tips, later free and reflexed, green with narrow transparent margins; hypanthium at anthesis cupular, gradually turning convex; ray flowers absent; disk flowers bisexual; corolla tubular, 5-lobed, 8-12 mm long, light red, rarely green or white; ovary short-hairy with 2 style arms; stamens connate, anthers 2-2.5 mm long with a small apical valve; Fruit an achene, linear-oblongoid, 2.5-3 mm long, ribbed, pilose, brownish; pappus hairs numerous, 6-9 mm long, white.

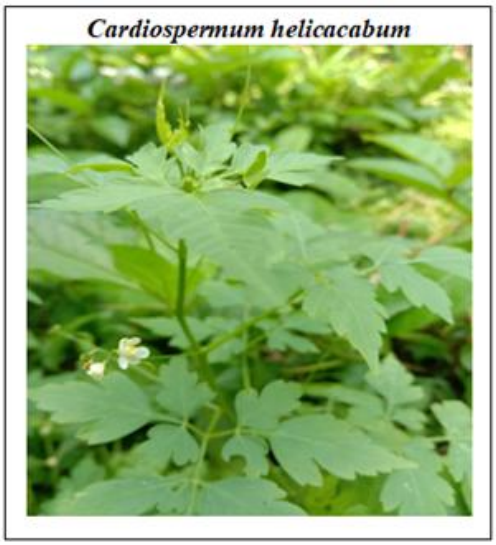
9. *Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L.: Family: Convolvulaceae

A perennial, prostrate herb with stems appressedly hairy or at times nearly glabrous; Leaves hairy on both sides, oblong, elliptic or orbicular, reture, or mucronulate at the tip; solitary axillary inflorescence, peduncles filiform; Flowersbracteate, bracts lanceolate, pedicellate, pedicels filiform; Calyx densely silky, lobes lanceolate; Corolla rotate, blue; Stamens equal, styles two, each divided into two clavate stigmas; fruit Globose, seeds 4, black, glabrous.

10. *Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker Gawler: Family: Convolvulaceae

An annual slender twiner with purple slender, glabrous stem; Leaves Large, ovate acuminate at the apex, entire on the margins, petiolate, glabrous or sparsely hairy; Inflorescence Solitary or in 2-3 flowered cymes, peduncles filiform; flowers Small, bracteates, bracts linear-lanceolate, white with yellow plaits and a small purple eye; Sepals glabrous, subequal, oblong, shortly apiculate, Corolla funnel-shaped; stamens 5, villous at base; Ovary c.1.5 mm long, conical; stigma capitates; Capsule 6-8 mm across, subglobose, apically beaked. Seeds c.5 mm long, ovoid, black, thinly pubescent, seeds 4.





Curculigo orchioides

Eclipta prostrata

Cynodon dactylon

Emilia sonchifolia

Cyanthillium cinereum

Evolvulus alsinoides

4. Result and Discussion

Table 2: List of ten sacred plants (Dashapuspham) with its medicinal and traditional use

Sl. No	Plant name	Medicinal use	Part used	Traditional and religious use
1.	*Aerva lanata (*L.) Juss.	Plant which has alkaloids, Triterpenes, steroids, polysaccharides, tannins, and saponins etc., which contribute its diverse uses in folklore medicine. Several phytoconstituents including 6 alkaloids have been reported earlier. Canthin-6-one, 10-methoxycanthin-6-one (methylaervin), 10-hydroxycanthin-6-one (aervin), 10-β-Dglucopyranosyl-oxycanthin-6-one (aervoside), β-carboline-1-propionic acid and 6-methoxy β-carboline-1-propionic acid (aervolanin) are some of the phytoconstituents isolated from the herb. The plant also contains palmitic acid, βsitosterol and alpha-amyrin. It also has anthelmintic action. The roots of plants are used in the treatment of headache. It is also used as demulcent & useful in strangury (Ayurveda). It is used in traditional medicine as antidiarrheal, diuretic, and in lithiasis. It is valued for cough, as a vermifuge for children, in the treatment of headache, and in arsenic poisoning. The herb is also used in malaria and skin diseases. The plant is reported as anti-inflammatory, diuretic in lithiasis, antimicrobial, anti-diabetic, antitumor.	whole plant	One among the 'Dasapushpam' the ten sacred flowers of Kerala. The entire plants are placed in temples.
2.	*Biophytum sensitivum (*L.) DC.	The main constituent present is insulin. The other constituents are two biflavones, cupressuflavone and amentoflavone, three flavonoids, luteolin-7-methyl ether, isoorientin and 3-methoxyluteolin 7-O-glucoside as well as two acids, 4-caffeoylquinic acid were isolated from the aerial parts. In Ayurveda, this is a tonic, stimulant and in the treatment of stomach ache, diabetes and asthma. It is also used in insomnia, convulsions, cramps, chest-complaints, inflammations, tumors, chronic skin diseases. Decoction is given in asthma and phthisis. Roots decoction is given in lithiasis. The plant is bitter, expectorant, stimulant and tonic. The leaves are diuretic, relieve strangury.	Whole plant	It is one among the 'Dasapushpam', the ten sacred flowers of Kerala. The entire plants or its flowers are placed in temples.

		The seeds are powdered and applied to wounds. The root in decoction is given in gonorrhea and lithiasis. The crushed whole plant is used in chronic skin troubles. It is eaten to induce sterility in man.		
3.	*Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.	It is known to contain saponin, quebrachitol, apigenin, proanthocyanidin and stigmasterol. The seeds shows the presence of luteolin-7-o-glucuronide, β-sitosterol-β-Dgalactoside. The leaves contain (+)-pinitol, apigenin and its 7-O-glucuronides, chrysoeriol and luteolin. The roots contain β-sitosterol. The leaves contain an alkaloid, oxalic acid and amino acids. The root is considered diaphoretic, diuretic, and aperient. The fried leaves are considered emmenagogue. The leaves and stem are used against common cold and angina. The leaf paste is applied on domestic animals to kill lice and other insects. It is used in the treatment of rheumatism, lumbago, skeletal fractures, nervous diseases, amenorrhoea, haemorrhoids, and erysipelas, emetic, laxative, rubefacient and stomachic. The herb is used in hair oils for treating dandruff, alopecia and for darkening hair. The plant extract showed significant analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity and sedative effect on CNS. The drug also showed (transient) Vaso depressant activity. Seeds have positive anabolic activity and increase body weight by inducing a positive nitrogen balance. The seeds also have antibacterial activity.	Shoot and leaves	It is one among the 'Dasapushpam', the ten sacred flowers of Kerala. The entire plants or its flowers are placed in temples. It used during the Thiruvathira at Dhanu month in Malayalam calendar.
4.	*Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn.	A new orcino; glucoside, orcinol-1-beta D-apiofuranosyl betaD glucopyranoside was isolated. Orcinol glucoside, curculigoside, curculigoside B & C, Syringic acid, 2, 6 dimethoxyl benzoic acid. The rhizome contains saponins (curculigosaponin C and F) sapogenins; phenolic glycosides, a triterpene alcohol; a pentacyclic triterpene, an aliphatic compound, hentriacontanol, sitosterol, stigmasterol, cycloartenol and sucrose. A peptide, Curculin C, containing amino acids, has been isolated from the fruit. It is present in several drug formulations used in the treatment of menorrhagia and other gynecological problems. Since generations, it is in used as folk medicine. The root is bitter, appetizer, nervine, apoptogenic, sedative, anticonvulsive, androgenic and anti-inflammatory. It is also used in Jaundice, urinary disorders and skin diseases, useful in piles, fatigue, diseases of the blood. The rhizome is used for asthma, diarrhea, and gonorrhea, demulcent and diuretic, tonifying kidney and for strengthening muscles and bones. According to Ayurveda, root is heating, aphrodisiac, appetizer, useful in the treatment of piles, fatigue, blood related disorders. According to Unani system of medicine, root is carminative, tonic, aphrodisiac, antipyretic and useful in bronchitis, ophthalmic, indigestion,	Tuber	It is one among the 'Dasapushpam', the ten sacred flowers of Kerala. The entire plants or its flowers are placed in temples.

		vomiting.		
5.	*Cynodon dactylon (*L.) Pers.	The grass is a remedy in epitaxies, hematuria, inflamed tumors, whitlows fleshy excrescences, cuts, cystitis, nephritis and in scabies and other skin diseases. Herb is possessing astringent, ant catarrhal, styptic properties. It is also reported to be antiseptic, demulcent, diuretic, and emollient. A decoction of the root is used to stop bleeding from piles. Internally it is used in the treatment of chronic diarrhoea and dysentery. The leaf juice has also been used in the treatment of hysteria, epilepsy and insanity. The plant is a folk remedy for headache, hemorrhage, hypertension, measles, snake bite, uro-genital disorders warts and wounds.	Leaves	One among the Dasapushpam, the ten sacred flowers of Kerala. It is used on the occasion of holy functions, festivals and marriages etc. Plant is also used at the time of child birth to convey the message to the parent of married woman. It also associated with Lord Ganesh.
6.	*Cyanthillium cinereum* (L.) H. Rob.	Aerial parts gave luteolin-mono beta-D-glucopyranoside. Whole plant gave triterpene compounds beta-amyrin acetate, lupeol acetate, betaamyrin and lupeol; sterols-beta-sitosterol, stigmasterol and alpha-spinasterol; phenolic resin and potassium chloride. Parts that were used include the flower (treatment of conjunctivitis), seeds (used as anthelmintic), root (dropsy), and juice (piles). The whole plant is also considered to promote perspiration in febrile condition. The plant is anthelmintic, antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, diuretic, and stomachic. The roots are useful in diarrhea, cough, inflammations, skin diseases, leprosy, renal and vesical calculi. The leaves are useful in humid herpes, eczema, ring worm, Guinea worms, and elephantiasis. The flowers are used in conjunctivitis, vitiated condition of fever. The seeds are useful in roundworms, threadworms, cough, flatulence, leukoderma, psoriasis, chronic skin disease; the plant is used as anticancer, febrifuge, diaphoretic (infusion of herb, combined with quinine, is used against malaria). Used as a specific herb for leucorrhea, dysuria, spasm of bladder, strangury and for hematological disorders, as a blood purifier and styptic, also used in asthma.	Whole plant	Plant is used for some Pooja purposes. One among the 'Dasapushpam' the ten sacred flowers of Kerala.
7.	*Eclipta prostrata (*L.) L.	In Ayurvedic medicine, the leaf extract is considered to be powerful liver tonic, rejuvenative and especially good for the hair. A black dye obtained from *Eclipta alba* is also for dyeing hair and tattooing. It also has traditional external uses, like eczema and dermatitis, on the scalp to treat hair loss and the leaves have been used in the treatment of scorpion stings. It is reported to improve hair growth and color. Saponin compounds like eclalbosaponins I-IV and other common sterols and triterpenoids. The flavonoids glycoside eg: luteolin-7 O glucoside and long chain alcohols such as hentriacontanol, 14-heptacosanol have also been reported along with certain alkaloids and polypeptides. The whole plant contains ecliptine, nicotine and	Shoots and leaves	One among the 'Dasapushpam' the ten sacred flowers of Kerala. It is used during the Thiruvathira at Dhanu month in Malayalam calendar.

		stigmasterol. The entire plant contains triterpenes: ecalbatin, echinocystic acid, oleanic acid, ursolic acid, flavone. It is a potential hepatoprotective agent, in jaundice and in conditions of liver and spleen enlargement, Hypotensive and myocardial depressant activity, anti-inflammatory, abortion and miscarriage, piles, insect bites, swellings and other skin diseases. Dried aerial parts are used as a purgative, emetic, cholagogue, antiasthmatic. Leaves are used to treat epilepsy in India. Roots are used for insanity. The entire plant is used for tuberculosis and as hemostatic. Oil soluble extracts helps in promotion of growth and colour of hairs. Wedelolactone possesses a wide range of biological activities and is used for the treatment of hepatitis and cirrhosis, as an antibacterial, anti-haemorrhagic, as an antidote for snake venom.		
8.	*Emilia sonchifolia (*L.) DC. ex Wight.	The aerial part of the plant has been reported to contain alkaloids, flavonoids, and terpenes. The aerial parts contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids, senkirkine and doronine. Presence of simiaral, β-sitosterol, palmitic and triacontannic acids is also reported in the plant. The plant is sudorific, antiseptic, astringent, depurative, diaphoretic, diuretic, expectorant, febrifuge, and ophthalmic. A tea made from the leaves is used in the treatment of dysentery. The juice of the leaves is used in treating eye inflammations, night blindness, cuts and wounds and sore ears. It is used in infantile tympanitis and bowel complaints. Root used as antidiarrhoeal. Leaf used for otitis media under medical supervision. Fresh juice and methanoic extract of *E. sonchilfolia*leaves report to possess anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities. The water extract of this plant showed antimicrobial activity.	Shoots and leaves	One among the 'Dasapushpam' the ten sacred flowers of Kerala. It is used during the Thiruvathira at Dhanu month in Malayalam calendar.
9.	*Evolvulus alsinoides (*L.) L.	The plant contains beta-sitosterol, stearic, oleic, linoleic acids, pentatriacontane and triacontane. Betane, sterols, tannins, carbohydrates, proteins and alkaloid namely evoline are present in the whole plant. The whole plant is used for various ailments. The plant is bitter, acrid, febrifuge, aphrodisiac, anthelmintic, expectorant and useful in bronchitis, brain tonic, an aid in conception, astringent, antidysenteric and asthma. It is also useful in epilepsy, forgetfulness, falling and greying of hair, intermittent fevers and general debility. It is also one of the ingredients of the polyherbal formulation, Bramhi Grita. Used in nervine affections (epilepsy, insanity, spermatorrhoea), and duodenal ulcers, also for uterine affections uterine bleeding and internal haemorrhages. A decoction of the herb is given as a blood purifier. It is reported to show powerful stimulant activity on respiration and blood pressure (possibly analeptic). Aqueous extract of the petal shows antifungal property.	Whole plant	It used during the Thiruvathira at Dhanu month in Malayalam calendar.

10.	*Ipomoea obscura (*L.) Ker Gawler.	Ipomoea resin, the seeds contain non-ergoline type indole alkaloids, ipobscurine A & B, and a serotonin alkaloid Ipobscurines C. Juice of the plant is used as deobstruent, diuretic, hypotensive, uterine tonic, antidote to arsenic poisoning. Seeds used as cardiac depressant, hypotensive, spasmolytic. Plant is also used in the treatment of sterility in women, urinary retention, constipation, gynaecological disorders. The plant is reported to show aphidicidal activity and appeared to be useful as pesticides	Whole plant	Plant is used for some Pooja purposes. One among the 'Dasapushpam' the ten sacred flowers of Kerala.

5. Conclusion

The medicinal potential and traditional use of these ten sacred plants (Dashapushpam) are unlimited and not explored properly. Any research and development must be encouraged to know more about these plants and need to conserve such treasures of our region. Introducing these plants to the common people should be very much encouraged. The gradual belief system and traditional culture of human leads to degradation or eradication of such treasures. Major threats faced by these plants are due to developmental activities. So all the efforts must be put forward to protect and conserve these plants.

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