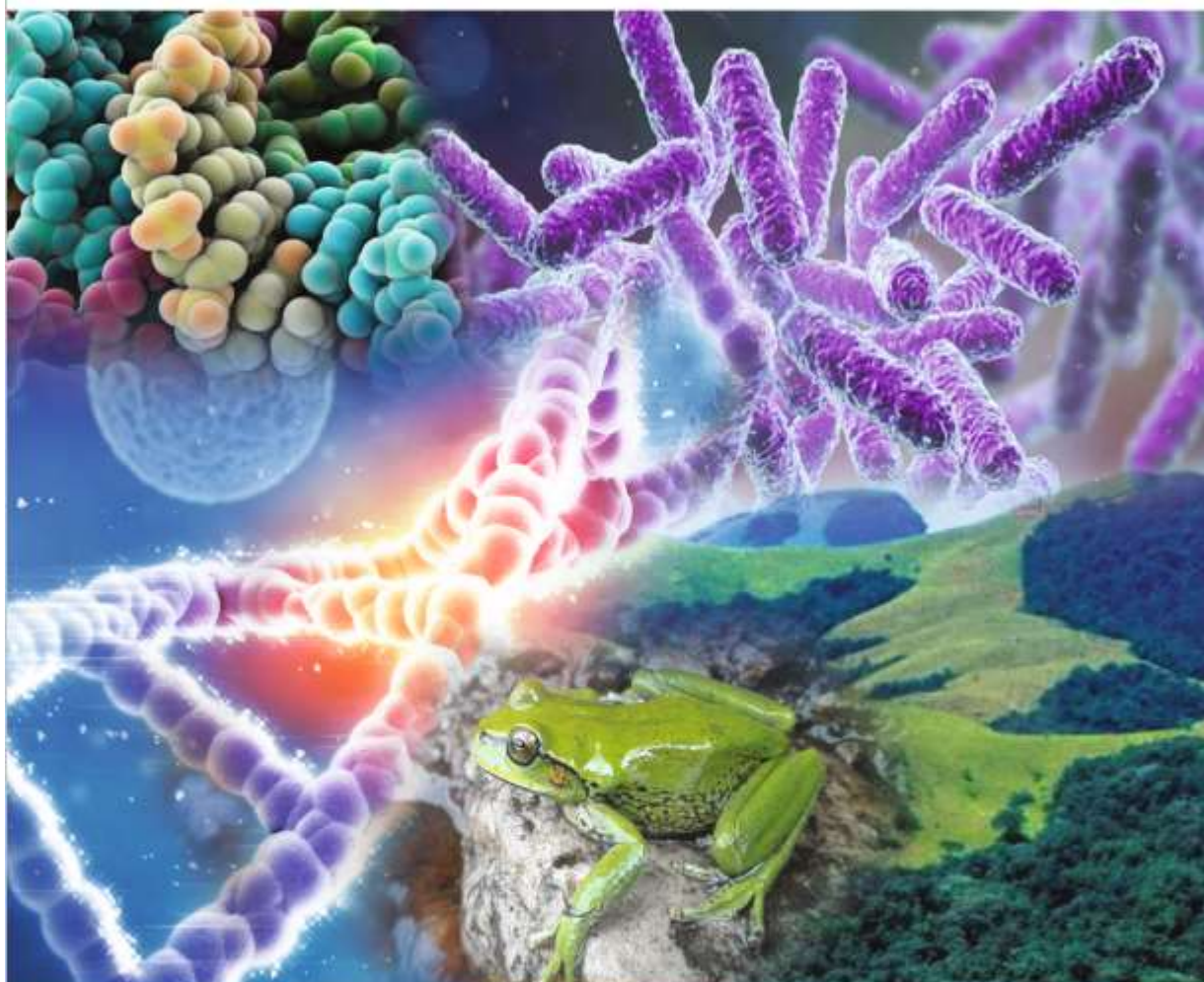


# TRENDS IN ADVANCED BIOLOGY



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**Prof. Suhara Beevy S**  
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# **Status and distribution of medicinal plants in the Malamel rock exposure of Edamulakkal Panchayat, Kollam District**

Anila George<sup>1</sup>, Morvin Mathew Kizhakekara<sup>1</sup>, Nilja Arjun<sup>1</sup>  
PG Department of Environmental Sciences, St. John's College Anchal  
[anila.george44@gmail.com](mailto:anila.george44@gmail.com)

## **Abstract**

Biodiversity is declining worldwide due to human intervention and one of the main factors for declining biodiversity is habitat destruction and fragmentation. The expanding human population and growing developmental initiatives have led to the increasing demand for natural resources. One such example of habitat change is due to the quarrying industry. The consequent expansion of mining and quarrying activities in urban and rural areas ends up in the degradation of ecologically sensitive and biodiversity-rich landscapes. The present investigation is centered on the landscape of Malamel para (rock exposure) and its adjoining areas of Malamel of the Edamulakkal Panchayat of the Kollam district. Malamel is a place noted for its enormous beauty, high rising rocks, and pleasant climatic conditions. It is a region rich in plant diversity, with different species of medicinal plants. The modifications and disturbances in the study area and the rock extractions may have the worst effect on the floral diversity. Therefore, an attempt has been made to identify the floral diversity of the rock exposure, Malamel Para in the Edamulakkal Panchayat. Quadrat methods were adopted to quantitatively analyze medicinal plants in the study area. It was