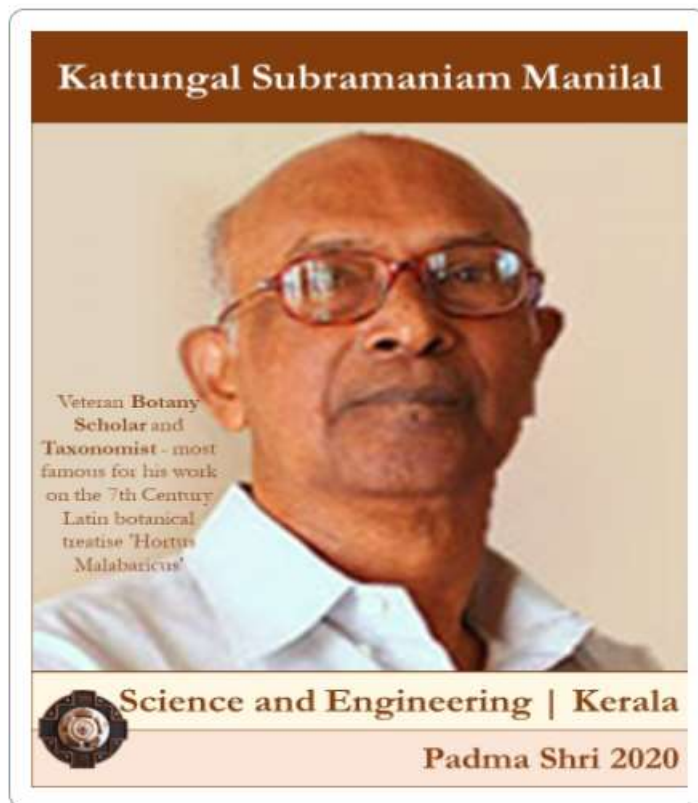




DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT

PROFESSOR KATTUNGAL SUBRAMANIAM MANILAL, PADMASRI AWARD WINNER OF 2020



Professor K S Manilal, Professor, Department of Botany won Padmasri Award from the Government of India for his significant academic contribution in Botanical research. The Government of India announced Padma Shri to Prof Kattungal Subramaniam Manilal under Science and Engineering discipline in 2020.

Prof K. S. Manilal is a botanist and taxonomist, best known for his research, translation, and annotation of Hendrik van Rheede's 17th century Latin botanical treatise, *Hortus Malabaricus*. The document extensively details the biodiversity and medicinal properties of over 700 indigenous plants in the Malabar region of Kerala.

Before Manilal's translation of this enormous 12 volume document into English and Malayalam, most of the information in this Latin treatise had largely remained inaccessible to the world. Professor Manilal also authored 198 published research papers and 15 books on taxonomy and botany, of which a significant proportion was devoted to discussing the medico-botanical aspects, or the historical, socio-political and linguistic significance of *Hortus Malabaricus*.

Along with his students, Dr. Manilal has discovered around 14 species of flowering plants and recorded the existence of nearly 1,000 flowering plant species, including some like the Malabar Daffodil, which was previously thought to be extinct. Currently, he was an Emeritus Professor of

Botany at Calicut University, Kerala. He is also credited for establishing the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy.

Earlier, Prof K S Manilal was featured under *Ek Pradarshini* - The Best of Indian Science exhibits during the Nobel Prize Series - India 2018 held at Goa. The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) at Bengaluru had also held an exhibition of *Hortus Malabaricus* in 2008.

