

## SOIL CHARACTERISTICS OF MANGROVE AREAS IN PARTS OF NORTHERN KERALA COAST, INDIA

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### Abstract

Mangrove ecosystem is a most productive ecosystem, playing an important role in the environmental system. The physico-chemical analysis of soils from a mangrove ecosystem can define its characteristics and current status. The present study has been conducted in the northern part of Kerala State by collecting 18 soil samples covering parts of mangrove areas in Kasaragod and Kannur Districts. Physico-chemical parameters such as pH, EC, Organic Carbon, P, K, S, Ca, Mg, B, Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Na, particle density and bulk density were analyzed by using different methods. The results have indicated that the sediment quality at some of the sites is favorable for mangrove growth. Whereas, the remaining places are having poor nutritional conditions. The analytical results highlight the importance of preserving the belts of mangrove areas for a better coastal environmental condition.

*Keywords:* Mangrove, physico-chemical parameters, ecosystem