

Significance of ‘Kavu’ – A Note on the Sacred Groves of Kerala in Eco-cultural Context

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ABSTRACT Sacred groves are locally called as ‘Kavu’ were the fundamental aspects of Kerala’s religious and ritualistic traditions. In ecological terms a sacred grove means the cross- section of an evergreen forest which contain innumerable types of plant species including medicinal ones. Some of the rare plant species are identified from the sacred groves of Kerala by Botanists. It also contain rare animal species and butterflies. It can play a major role in the maintenance of ecological equilibrium, water supply and also gives raw materials for artistic and industrial purposes. They are also culturally significant.