

Table 2 Occurrence and distribution of mangroves species in 56 estuaries of Tamil Nadu during 2012–2014

| No.                    | Species                                      | West Coast (3) | Gulf of Mannar (10) | Palk Bay (13) | South Coromandel Coast (13) | North Coromandel Coast (17) | Total (56) |
|------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Family: Avicenniaceae  |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 1                      | <i>Avicennia alba</i> Blume                  | -              | +                   | -             | -                           | -                           | 1          |
| 2                      | <i>Avicennia marina</i> (Forsk.) Vierh.      | +              | ++                  | ++            | ++                          | ++++                        | 5          |
| 3                      | <i>Avicennia officinalis</i> L.              | -              | +                   | +             | +                           | +                           | 4          |
| Family: Sterculiaceae  |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 4                      | <i>Heritiera littoralis</i> Drynd            | -              | -                   | -             | -                           | +                           | 1          |
| Family: Rhizophoraceae |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 5                      | <i>Rhizophora apiculata</i> Blume            | +              | +                   | -             | +                           | ++                          | 4          |
| 6                      | <i>Rhizophora annamalayana</i> Kathir.       | -              | -                   | -             | -                           | +                           | 1          |
| 7                      | <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> Poir.            | +              | +                   | -             | +                           | ++                          | 4          |
| 8                      | <i>Bruguiera cylindrica</i> (L.) Blume.      | +              | -                   | -             | -                           | +                           | 2          |
| 9                      | <i>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza</i> (L.) Savigny    | -              | -                   | -             | -                           | +                           | 1          |
| 10                     | <i>Ceriops decandra</i> (Griff.) Ding Hou    | -              | -                   | -             | -                           | +                           | 1          |
| Family: Myrsinaceae    |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 11                     | <i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i> (L.) Blanco    | -              | -                   | -             | -                           | +                           | 1          |
| Family: Euphorbiaceae  |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 12                     | <i>Excoecaria agallocha</i> L.               | -              | +                   | -             | +                           | ++                          | 3          |
| Family: Meliaceae      |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 13                     | <i>Xylocarpus mekongensis</i> (Prain) Pierre | -              | -                   | -             | -                           | +                           | 1          |
| Family: Combretaceae   |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 14                     | <i>Lumnitzera racemosa</i> Willd.            | -              | -                   | -             | -                           | +                           | 1          |
| Family: Acanthaceae    |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 15                     | <i>Acanthus ilicifolius</i> L.               | -              | -                   | -             | +                           | ++                          | 2          |
| Family: Pteridaceae    |  |                |                     |               |                             |                             |            |
| 16                     | <i>Acrostichum aureum</i> L.                 | +              | -                   | -             | -                           | -                           | 1          |
| Total                  |  | 5              | 6                   | 2             | 6                           | 14                          |            |

Note: - Not recorded; +: present (1–3 sites); ++: Co abundant (4–6 sites); +++: Abundant (7–9 sites); ++++: Dominant (above 9 sites)