DATABASE AND CONSERVATION

A database with all relevant updated informations of all *Musa* cultivars in South India was prepared for easy identification of different taxa. The home page include Introduction, Acknowledgements, Add data, Edit data, Delete data, Search and close options on the menu bar as well as on the main window of the software. A click on any of these options will lead to the respective pages. Add data button is used for incorporating all data including photographs. If any data is to be edited, go to the edit page and necessary changes like additions or modifications can be made. There is a general search option in the main window. A click on the search button will give the options for searching cultivar name, genomic group, synonyms, habit, local names, endemic status and altitude. For searching the details of a particular cultivar, click on the button, and then the details such as cultivar name, citations, description, habit, distribution, local names, endemic status, altitude and photographs will appear on the window. Desired photographs can be seen in an enlarged view by clicking on the photograph. Each taxon can also be searched by valid name, synonyms and common names. The close button should be used for closing a window. The database was developed by using the software Visual FoxPro (Version 6) with the help of a computer programmer (Fig. 40).

All taxa under study were conserved at Calicut University Botanical Garden Germplasm Conservatory for cultivated bananas (*Musa* garden) for further studies (Fig. 41). The traditional banana cultivation practices were followed for the conservation and all are growing well in the garden. It includes 72 accessios and are labelled using standard metallic ‘T’ labels (15 × 5 cm) indicating the details such as collection number, name of cultivar and collection locality.