

**PHYTOSOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES AT HINIDUMKANDA (HAYCOCK)  
AND ITS ENDEMIC TREE FLORA**

**I. A. U. N. Gunatilleke, M. D. Dassanayake, C. V. S. Gunatilleke**  
(*Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya*)

**S. Wijesundara**  
(*Botanic Gardens, Hakgala*)

and

**A. A. L. Amarasinghe**  
(*Research Station, Maha Illuppallama*)

Hinidumkanda or Haycock, an isolated hill (648 m) in the South-western part of the low country wet zone (annual rainfall over 5,000 mm) of Sri Lanka is the home of many plant endemics, some of which are hitherto known only from this locality and therefore, of special interest to botanists. According to Willis (1908) *Diospyros oppositifolia* (Ebenaceae), *Goniothalamus thomsonii* (Annonaceae), *Semecarpus parvifolia* (Anacardiaceae) and *Hypolytrum longirostre* (Cyperaceae) are very rare endemics confined to Hinidumkanda.

## SECTION D

Tree and woody lianas over 30 cm gbh were sampled in 5 hectares at Hinidumkanda using twenty, 0.25 ha plots located from the base to its summit on the South-Eastern and South-Western slopes. A total of 3,716 individuals was enumerated and identified, of which, 83% were found to be endemic indicating a very high endemic biomass so characteristic of the low-country wet zone forests of the island. The vegetation sampled represents 40 families, 90 genera and 139 species while 72% of the species were represented by only 10 individuals or less indicating their paucity.

The most common species in different strata of this forest were *Dipterocarpus zeylanicus* (Dipterocarpaceae), *Anisophyllea cinnamomoides* (Rhizophoraceae) and *Vitex pinnata* (Verbenaceae) in the emergent and canopy layers, *Coelocarpus castanocarpus* (Euphorbiaceae), *Myristica dactyloides* (Myristicaceae) and *Cullenia rosayroana* (Bombacaceae) in the sub-canopy and *Garcinia hermonii* (Clusiaceae) and *Gyathocaly zeylanicus* (Annonaceae) in the understory.

In the light of these findings protection of this valuable MAB forest reserve from illicit logging which prevails there, is strongly recommended.