

**PHYTOSOCIOLOGY OF GANORUWA SOUTH RIDGE**

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Apart from some herbarium collections made for taxonomic studies, the vegetation of Ganoruwa Hill has received little attention in spite of its easy access and close proximity to the University and Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya. Since little ecological information is available on forests in Kandy region, this phytosociological study was undertaken as a preliminary step towards reaching this goal. All trees over 30 cm gbh were quantitatively sampled in 2.5 ha on the crest of the Southern ridge, the least disturbed area in this part of the forest. Undergrowth species in the sampled area were also identified and listed.

The vegetation at Ganoruwa depicted (a) three strata, namely, a canopy and emergent layer, sub-canopy layer and an understorey layer reaching approximately 32, 18 and 7.5 m respectively, (b) a density of 265 individuals per ha, and (c) largest girth sizes over 240 cm exemplified by 9 species.

## **SECTION D**

The total of 663 trees sampled represented 24 families, 35 genera and 38 identified and 8 yet unidentified species ; these include local species typical of the wet, intermediate and dry zones together with some exotic species. Basically three different communities, a degraded forest, abandoned cocoa and planted Mahogany were recognisable in the plots sampled. The undergrowth species represented 13 families, 20 genera and 23 species. An abundance of lianas belonging to 10 species were evident.

Although the vegetation of Ganoruwa is much disturbed by villagers in its vicinity, its conservation is much desired for education long-term research and as a representative ecosystem of this region.