

ECOLOGY OF THE UDA WALAWE NATIONAL PARK  
II. PREFERENTIAL USE OF HABITATS BY BUFFALO AND ELEPHANT

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Four types of habitats were examined in an effort to determine how frequently each type is utilised by Elephant and Buffalo. The indirect approach of dung count<sup>1</sup> was used to determine the relative abundance of animals.

The Buffalo within the park displayed a marked pattern of habitat preference in the pooled data for habitats ( $X^2$  106.75, d.f. 3,  $p < 0.001$ ) and for individual sites too ( $X^2$  354.66 d.f. 10,  $p < 0.001$ ). They preferred the flood zone and grasslands. The elephant showed no preference according to the pooled data ( $X^2$  0.5896, d.f. 3 n.s.) but showed preference in individual sites ( $X^2$  24, 27, d.f. 10,  $p < 0.001 > 0.01$ ). Thus site characteristics play a major role in their habitat preference.

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Reference

1. Corsie, C. (1979) Buffalo. Aberdeen University, Colombo University, Ecological Expedition in Sri Lanka pp 101 - 191