

VEGETATION ANALYSIS OF SHRUB VEGETATION  
AT VANTHARUMOLAI (EASTERN PROVINCE)

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A preliminary vegetational survey was carried out in a 3.10 hectare area of shrub vegetation in the University premises at Vantharumolai in the Eastern Province. Two hundred samples of m x m quadrat were taken at random and frequencies of species within were recorded. Desmodium spp., Cynodon sp. were the most abundant.

Contiguous data was collected and Sequential Composition Index (SCI) was estimated as 0.51 which suggests a moderate diversified vegetation.

Soil samples of 5 cm radius x 9 cm depth were collected from 100 locations at random using a bucket type auger. Vegetation data of percentage cover was collected using a 1m x 1m quadrat above each soil sample. Vegetation data was analysed by Bray & Curtis ordination technique. Three groups were evident but it was not possible to pick out a collection of species characteristic of any group. Soil was analysed for available (P), (K), total (N), organic matter content, Bulk density and pH, and the results were superimposed on the ordination map produced for vegetation. There was no obvious parallel relation of any soil parameter to vegetational grouping, though (P) revealed a detectable trend.