

VEGETATION SURVEY OF THE WASGOMUWA
NATIONAL PARK : ANALYSIS OF WASGOMUWA-OYA FOREST

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Wasgomuwa-Oya forest flanks the Wasgomuwa-Oya to the North and South, which lie in the North Central Province and Central Province respectively. The forest may be categorised as a dry mixed evergreen forest at large. The forest is easily divided into three groups by the difference in their form,

- 1). High forest - Non-disturbed, closed
- 2). Medium forest - Moderately disturbed, semi-closed
- 3). Secondary forest - Disturbed, open.

Their species composition varies though the first two share many common species.

Ten samples of 10m x 10m plots were taken at random for each type of forest beyond 300m on either side of the oya. The number of species, total number of trees, number of species of saplings and the total number of saplings and girth of all trees were recorded. The data was analysed by one way ANOVA and correlation methods. There was no significant difference among forest types in number of species per lot, number of trees per plot, number of species of saplings per plot, mean girth of trees of a plot and mean basal area of a plot; total number of seedlings and total basal area per plot were significant ($p = .05$) correlation between number of trees and number of seedlings per plot was significant, for the dense forest only. ($r = 0.71$).

The rarity of species like Manilkara hexandra, Chloroxylon swietenia in the sapling and tree flora was specially noted.

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