

RIVERINE VEGETATION OF
WASGOMUWA NATIONAL PARK

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Many tributaries of the Mahaweli ganga flow through the Wasgomuwa National Park from the Sudukande range of mountains. Most of these are seasonal, unlike the Mahaweli itself.

10 plots of 10m x 10m of the bordering riverine vegetation of three tributaries - Ellewela oya, Karapanagala ela and Wasgomuwa oya and Mahaweli ganga, were sampled at random. In each plot all plants of girth greater than 10 cm. were recorded and their girth was measured. A total of 55 species was recorded in 40 plots. The data were used to calculate the relative density, basal area and frequency and the important value index (IVI) for each species.

The data were analysed by ordination and association techniques. There were interesting groupings of plots. The plots of Mahaweli were separated from others by the presence by Trewia nudiflora and even the groupings of species were clear. The species composition of the riverine vegetation of Mahaweli was unique. The others though were not grouped as distinct as Mahaweli it was noted that groupings were found to have plots of one site predominantly.

The analysis suggests that the riverine vegetation of each tributary is different and that of the Mahaweli ganga is distinct, in Wasgomuwa National Park.

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