HILL VEGETATION OF SUDUKANDE - WASGOMUWA NATIONAL PARK

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Hill vegetation of Sudukande-first mountain range- in the Wasgomuwa National Park was sampled by 25 random (10m x 10m) plots. Within each plot all plants of girth (gbh) greater than 10 cm. were recorded and their girth was measured. 32 species were recorded in all plots.

The data were used to calculate the relative density, relative frequency relative basal area and importance value index(IVI) for each species. Drypetes sepiaria, Polyalthia Korinti and Euphoria longana had the highest IVI values. D.sepiaria gained importance through high values in density, basal area and frequency values, whereas the importance of P. korinti was mostly due to its high density in plots. Ficus benghalensis had sixth highest IVI value solely due to its massive size forming high basal area value.

The data were analysed using ordination and association techniques. No notable trend was evident in the ordination and the eigen value calculated was only 0.41. A cluster of species was detected in association analysis, where most were representative species of disturbance in forests, suggesting disturbed sites (opened naturally or artificially) within the hill vegetation.

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