

**B-102 : PHYTOSOCIOLOGY OF AN EVER-GREEN SCRUB IN
WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK**

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Vegetation sampling of peripheries of villus in Wilpattu National Park led to identification of evergreen scrub community. It comprised a number of plant islands where plants were arranged into five different zones.

In a *Central Tree Zone* an average height and diameter of 4 m and 40 cm respectively were recorded for the species. *Pleurostyliya opposita*, *Diospyros malabarica*, *Syzygium cumeni*, *Vitex altissima*, *Manilkara hexandra* and *Diospyros ebenum* were recorded in it. Only 1 -3 individuals of above species were found in the Central Tree Zone and 5 - 10 % of the total density was represented by these trees.

Poorly developed diameter and height growth was characteristic of the species found in the *Neighbouring Tree Zone*, where *Alphonsea lutea*, *Diospyros ferrea*, *Drypetes sepiaria*, *Eugenia bracteata*, *Canthium coromandelicum* and *Mischodon Zeylanicus* were identified.

A *Shrub Zone*, where the plants had an average height and diameter of 1.5 m and 5 cm respectively was also identified. *Memecylon umbellatum* was the most dominant species here. *Glycosmis pentaphylla*, *Tarenna asiatica*, *Gmelina asiatica* and *Carissa spinarum* were among the others recorded.

The margin of the scrub island was occupied by a single species, viz., *Ochna sp.* showing the highest individual density among species. Of the total density of the island 28-35%, and the highest Importance Value Index of 18.41% was represented by this species.

The grass species *Fimbristylis*, *Bulbostylis*, *Apluda* and *Eragrostis* in the ground layer, the herbaceous species *Leucas zeylanica*, *Crinum asiaticum*, *Hippocratea indica* and *Evolvulus alsinoides*, and the lianas *Connarus monocarpus*, *Hugonia mistax* and *Todalía sp.* were also recorded.

The vegetation found in the scrub community can be considered as a successional stage of a sub climax type.