

D-22 : PHYTOSOCIOLOGY OF YAGIRALA FOREST RESERVE

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The vegetation of Yagirala Forest Reserve in Kalutara district represents the wet zone lowland rain forest flora. This forest has been logged in the past and it is further degraded due to the over exploitation by the people living in surrounding villages. Forty hectares has been allocated to the Forestry course at University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 1991 for teaching and experimental purposes. An enumeration was carried out to investigate the floristic composition of the disturbed forest and the undergrowth of *Pinus* plantation within 40 ha.

Enumeration of 1 ha in disturbed forest showed 936 stems (5 cm DBH) belonging to 72 species and 26 families. Based on Important Value Index (IVI), the ten prominent species are *Anisophyllea cinnamomoides*, *Antidesma* sp., *Artocarpus nobilis*, *Chaetocarpus castanocarpus*, *Cyathocalyx zeylanicus*, *Diospyros* sp., *Gyneros walla*, *Madhuca fulva*, *Shorea trapezifolia* and *Timonius jambosella*. Most of these species are characteristic of the secondary forests in the wet lowlands. The dominant families found in the enumerated area are Anacardiaceae, Annonaceae, Dilleniaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Rubiaceae. *Oclandra stridula* predominates the undergrowth of selectively felled forest. *Alstonia macrophylla*, *Quassia* sp. and *Schumacheria castanifolia* are the predominant species in the undergrowth of *Pinus*.

The present floristic composition proves that the vegetation at Yagirala forest reserve is still in building phase of the forest growth cycle.