D-28 : ECTOMYCORRHIZAL INFECTION OF *Shorea species* (*Dipterocarpaceae*) UNDER DIFFERENT LIGHT REGIMES IN SINHARAJA RAIN FOREST

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Ectomycorrhizal infection was examined in two-year old seedlings of five different *Shorea* species - *S. affinis, S. congestiflora, S. cordifolia, S. gardneri* and *S. zeylanica* of the Family Dipterocarpaceae. Seedlings were grown under five different light regimes simulating : (i) complete sunlight exposure (2000 mol $m^{-2}s^{-1}$); (ii) forest gap edges

(350 mol $m^{-2}s^{-1}$; (iii) two forest gap conditions exposed to 2 h direct sunlight (small gap) and 6 h direct sunlight (large gap) and (iv) forest understorey (50 mol $m^{-2}s^{-1}$) conditions.

The results revealed that the percentage mycorrhizal infection significantly ($P = 0.05$) increased from understorey light condition to full sunlight exposure condition in the following manner.

		Small gap	Large gap	
Understorey	Forest gap edge	= 2 h direct sunlight	= 6 h direct sunlight	Full sunlight exposure

It can be concluded that the complex environmental changes brought about by opening up of forest canopy favours increased mycorrhizal infection in these *Shorea* seedlings.