

**B-37: Phytosociology of the Wilpattu National Park**

**S A A Sathurusinghe**

*(Forest Dept, Battaramulla)*

Wilpattu National Park which represents a relatively undisturbed vegetation was studied in detail to fill the scarcity of information on the dry zone vegetation of Sri Lanka.

Aerial photographs were used in identification of different plant communities and plot sampling technique was used.

Ten different plant communities, which could be broadly divided into 2 categories: High stature or semi-evergreen vegetation and Low stature or evergreen vegetation were identified during the reconnaissance survey as (a) High stature semi-evergreen forest, (b) High stature evergreen forest, (c) Low stature evergreen forest, (d) Evergreen scrub community, (e) Reverine or gallery forest, (f) Swamp forest, (g) Thorn forest, (h) Mangroves, (i) Villus and (j) Grassland

Euphorbiaceae was found to be the dominant family among the 78 angiosperm families identified and mainly represented by *Drypetes sepiaria*. Species of *Glycosmis* and *Memecylon* were the major shrub species identified in the area.