

B-41: Phenology of some savanna tree species at Victoria-Randenigala-Rantembe sanctuary

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The reproductive (flowering and fruiting) and vegetative (flushing) growth patterns of 7 savanna tree species were examined in relation to climate, in the Randenigala-Rantembe part of the sanctuary, from July 1992- May 1994, by viewing the crowns of 30 mature individuals for each species.

Cassia roxburghii, *Adina cordifolia* and *Bauhinia racemosa* flushed throughout the year. Flushing was synchronized among individuals within each population. All species flowered annually except *B. racemosa* and *A. cordifolia* which flowered twice a year.

Three flowering patterns were observed. Two species flowered during the dry season (April to July) while 4 commenced flowering during the dry season and continued into the early part of the wet season and the last flowered late in the dry season and continued throughout the wet season.

Flowering at population level varied between 3-7 months and overlapped among species. It was synchronized among individuals of *C. roxburghii* but less among individuals of the other species.

In 5 species, fruit fall commenced with the beginning of the dry, windy season (May-June) whereas in the 2 remaining species it coincided with the rainy period.

This study provides preliminary information on the phenology of the study species. Five of them disperse fruits during the dry season when fires are most frequent.

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