

## D-62: Woody flora of semi-evergreen forests of Knuckles

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Floristic structure and composition of 3 forest stands of semi-evergreen forests of the Knuckles region: Illukkumbura, Mimure and Pallegama (305 m - 455 m), were studied for phytosociological characterization. The woody taxa above 30 cm GBH (Girth at Breast Height) were enumerated in a total area of 14,250 sq.m. Altogether 1,231 woody individuals of 105 species belonging to 81 genera and 35 families were enumerated. Cover Value Indices (CVI) based on relative density and relative basal cover were calculated for each species. Average CVI values for the three sites showed the dominance of *Dimocarpus longan* (12.58), *Vitex altissima* (9.15), *Pleurostyliia opposita* (6.88), *Semecarpus nigro-viridis* (5.72) and *Palaquium hinmolpedda* (5.16) in semi-evergreen forests of the Knuckles region. CVI values calculated for families showed the dominance of Sapindaceae (15.90), Verbenaceae (11.56), Anacardiaceae (9.44), Celastraceae (6.88) and Euphorbiaceae (5.93). The distribution of girth classes of woody plants approximately fit into an inverted 'J' shaped curve characteristic of relatively undisturbed forests.

The study showed that semi-evergreen forests of Knuckles, phytosociologically, consisted of *Dimocarpus-Vitex-Pleurostyliia* sub-group of semi-evergreen forests. The pattern of distribution of girth classes was indicative of structural maturity of these forests.

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