

D-64: Medicinal plants of Rumassala

S P Samarakoon

(Dept of Botany, Univ of Ruhuna, Matara)

A survey on medicinal plants of Rumassala hill in Southern Sri Lanka ($6^{\circ}02'N$; $80^{\circ}15'E$) was conducted during 1991/92, to compile a list of species of medicinal plants, to quantitatively determine the abundance of the species and to make recommendations for the conservation of the area. Visits were made to almost all the parts of the hill and plant samples collected for identification. *In situ* abundance of the medicinal plants were recorded by counting the number of plants of each species.

152 species of medicinal plants belonging to 51 families of flowering plants and 3 families of Pteridophytes were collected from the whole area including

the homestead gardens and rocky slopes. The dominant families were Leguminosae, Euphorbiaceae, Rubiaceae and Rutaceae. The very rare species found were *Nauclea orientalis*, *Xylocarpus granatum*, *Coscinium fenestratum*, *Manilkara* sp., *Terminalia parviflora* and *Vitex pinnata*. The rare species found were *Artocarpus nobilis*, *Garcinia quaesita*, *Ichnocarpus frutiscens*, *Scolopia gaertneri*, *Phoenix zeylanica* and *Cucumis calossus*.

Rumassala is rich in medicinal plants. The vegetation is being destroyed by human settlements and granite rock-blasting. Immediate action should be taken to protect the Rumassala vegetation.