

D-66: Ecology of woody species of Oliyagankela forest reserve in Matara district, Part 2

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This work was undertaken to compile a list of names and to study the ecology of woody undergrowth species over 2 cm and below 30 cm girth at breast height (GBH) of Oliyagankela forest reserve (6° 10'N: 80°32'E). The total area of the forest was 488 ha.

Three sites were studied. At each site 16 contiguous quadrants, each 25 x 25 m were sampled.

In soils, pH ranged from 4.3 to 7.4. The ranges of extractable N, P and K were 5.5 - 42.6, 43 - 172 and 2.3 - 17.5 mg/100 g dry soil respectively.

The floristic richness of the undergrowth ranged from site to site between 90 - 99 species. 10,596 woody stems belonging to 42 families, 81 genera and 128 species were recorded in the entire area of 3 ha sampled.

The dominant species (by total number of woody stems) were: *Aporosa* sp (Sinh. Heen Utha 8% of total stems), *Hopea jucunda* (6%), *Axinandra zeylanica* (5%), *Aporosa lindleyana* (4%), *Gyrinops walla* (3%), *Srombosia ceylanica* (3%) and *Aporosa* sp. (Sinh. Ma-utha 3%). 68% of the stems were represented by 121 species. About 40% of the species encountered in the study area were endemic to Sri Lanka.