

D-01 The occurrence of flavonoids in the genus *Cassia* in Sri Lanka

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Flavonoid patterns were studied for 17 species of the genus *Cassia* found in Sri Lanka. According to the flavonoid aglycone distribution pattern, 17 species were categorized into 6 different groups in the chemosystematic study. Flavonols were the common type of flavonoids found in almost all the species surveyed, while flavones were restricted only to 3 species (*Cassia occidentalis*, *Cassia auriculata* and *Cassia spectabilis*). Deoxy flavonols were found only in group ii, species namely *Cassia biflora*, *Cassia tora* and *Cassia* sp.1. The presence of proanthocyanidin was not a common character of the genus *Cassia* and it was only found in *Cassia alata*, *Cassia fistula* and *Cassia marginata*. It is important to observe the presence of proanthocyanidin in most of the plants of *Cassia marginata*. Although morphological characters were widely used as the most important taxonomic evidence, the chemical characters can also provide useful information to the existing classification to solve the problems. This preliminary work provides important information to a sectional classification for the genus *Cassia* in future.