

**Characterization of true Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum* Persl) based on leaf morphology and their relationship with yield and quality**

This study was conducted at the Cinnamon Research station Palolpitiya, during the year 2000 to investigate the different morphological features of true Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum* Persl) in relation to yield and quality of bark and leaf. On the basis of leaf morphological characters, seven different types of true cinnamon were identified. They were Normal leaves (maximum length x width 12-15 x 7-9 cm: currently most common type), Big leaves (16-18 x 7-9 cm), Small round leaves (6-7 x 3-4 cm), Large round leaves (9-12 x 6-7 cm), Normal size with inwardly curled leaves (11-16 x 4-6 cm), Long narrow leaves (11-16 x 4-5 cm) and Short narrow leaves (7-9 x 2-4 cm).

Results showed that trees with Large round leaves and Big leaves had high bark yield. In contrast, bark oil quality (*cinnamaldehyde* %) is higher in the variety with inwardly curved leaves. A high quantity of leaf oil was obtained from the variety with Small round leaves. Significant positive correlation was observed between bark yield with leaf characters. However, none of the type had all good characteristics. Therefore, breeders can identify superior characters based on morphological features and develop better varieties through hybridization and biotechnological methods.