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A preliminary investigation on the species delimitation of the genus *Stemonoporus*

Stemonoporus is an endemic genus of the Dipterocarpaceae family in Sri Lanka. Most recent taxonomic treatments towards species limits of *Stemonoporus* are not in agreement with each other. Therefore an attempt was made to carry out a numerical analysis using morphological data to determine the species limits of *Stemonoporus*. All data for the analysis except for the stamen number were extracted from herbarium specimens. The data matrix consisted of 18 characters and 95 operational taxonomic units (OUT). The results of the analysis were in agreement with the recognition of *S.wightii*, *S. elegans*, *S.lanceolatus*, *S. oblongifolius*, *S. affinis*, *S. kanneliyensis*, *S. gardneri*, *S. scalariformis* of Kostermans's and Sahton's. the OUT's of the taxa that were in disagreement with each others classifications tend to show heterogenic groupings in the present analysis as well. The results support Kostermans views in splitting taxa but it does not fully agree with his groupings. Although a preliminary investigation, the study strengthens the position of the taxa recognized by both treatments and provides a valuable base for further study. It also stresses the need of an in depth study for other taxa which showed heterogenic groupings with taxonomically more informative characters such as floral characters as well as using anatomy, photochemistry and molecular biology related characters.