

**THE OCCURRENCE AND UTILISATION OF LEGUMINOUS SPECIES  
ENDEMIC TO SRI LANKA**

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The occurrence of leguminous species endemic to Sri Lanka were recorded during a long-term research project conducted by the Institute of Fundamental Studies. The data initially collected from the literature surveys and questionnaires were verified during field visits which included interviews with local people, visual observations and specimen collections.

The results so far obtained when mapped on a 10 x 10 km grid of the island shows that the distribution of the endemic species is highly limited. Non-adaptability to environmental situations, lack of utilisation and the availability of substitutes may be the major reasons for this restricted distribution.

The majority of these species are unknown to local people. Of the seven tree leguminous species studied, only Pericopsis mooniana (Nedun in Sinhala) was being used as timber, although there were three others which have potential value as utilisable timber.

Further basic studies such as seed germination, growth, nodulation, nitrogen-fixation etc., are required prior to the popularisation of these endemic leguminous species.