

STUDIES ON THE OCCURRENCE AND USES OF  
CERTAIN LEGUMINOUS TREE SPECIES IN  
THE CENTRAL PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA

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Of the 86 species of tree legumes recorded in Sri-Lanka, only 30 are reported to occur in the Central Province (Trimen, 1983 - 1900; Dassanayake and Fosberg, 1980).

In the present study, data on leguminous tree species in the Central Province were re-evaluated by reference to published literature and established herbaria. In addition, several field visits were made to representative areas, during which local people were interviewed with regard to the presence of these species and their local uses. Information obtained in this manner was verified by field observations during which, herbarium material, seeds and root nodules, where present, were collected.

We report here, of the occurrence of three species which have not been recorded so far in the central province. While a wider variety of leguminous trees now appear to be utilized as timber, firewood and shade trees, their use for medicinal purposes and to obtain chemical substances like gums and tanins have declined.