

A Preliminary Survey of Mosses, in Galahitiya, Meneripitiya Grama Niladhari Division in Rathnapura District of Sri Lanka

Authors : B. W. U. Deepashika

Abstract : Rathnapura is located in the south-western part of Sri Lanka, the so-called wet zone. This area receives rainfall mainly from south-west monsoons from May to September. During the remaining months of the year, there is also a considerable precipitation due to convective rains. The average annual precipitation is about 4,000 to 5,000 mm. The average temperature varies from 24 to 35 °C, and there are high humidity levels. Mosses are one of the important groups of the flora of this region and they are very sensitive to climatic changes. Proper exploration and systematic studies on mosses in many parts of the country have not yet been carried out. Therefore, launching a study on the bryophyte flora of the country has become very important. The preliminary survey of bryophytes was carried out in Galahitiya, Meneripitiya Grama Niladhari Division, located in Rathnapura district, in Sabaragamuwa province which is situated 20 kilometres away from Rathnapura. Its geographical coordinates are 6° 35' North, 80° 35' East. Samples were collected from different habitats including home gardens, near the wells, small forest patch, tea land, near the stream, from non-cemented wall, from cement wall, and from ditches. Two small quadrates (1× 1m²) were used in each study site. Taxa were identified up to the generic level using taxonomic keys produced for different geographic regions of the world. In the present survey, a total of 09 mosses belonging to seven families were identified to their generic level. They are Family-Bryaceae (3) (Bryum sp, Brachymenium sp, Pohlia sp), Fissidentaceae (1) (Fissidens sp), Leucobryaceae (1) (Octoblepharum sp), Calymperaceae (1) (Calymperes sp), Polytrichaceae (1) (Pogonatum sp), Pterobryaceae (1) (Pterobryopsis sp), Sematophyllaceae (1) (Taxithelium sp).

Keywords : mosses, wet zone, Sabaragamuwa province, Sri Lanka

Conference Title : ICSRD 2020 : International Conference on Scientific Research and Development

Conference Location : Chicago, United States

Conference Dates : December 12-13, 2020