

A study on vegetation status of Melapattom scrub jungle in Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu

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Diversity of vegetation has strong functional role in controlling ecosystem processes like biomass production, cycling of nutrients and water. Vegetation in the scrub jungle was affected by several factors like altitude, slope, soil, canopy cover, climatic conditions etc. The present study was conducted from October 2011 to September 2013 at Melapattom scrub jungle. Melapattom scrub jungle falls under Tirunelveli district situated in $8^{\circ} 44'$ N latitude and $77^{\circ} 44'$ E longitude. It comes under the reserve forest of Tamilnadu Forest Department. The present study was carried out to analyze the vegetation status of Melapattom scrub by Shannon Wiener, Simpson, Margalef, Pielou and Sorenson indices. In Melapattom the plant diversity, dominance, richness, evenness, similarity and dissimilarity of the species varied from 0.610-3.826, 0.117-0.972, 0.208-5.149, 0.069-0.980, 0.039-0.562 and 0.438-0.961 respectively. The anthropogenic threats were documented and conservation strategies were suggested.

KEY WORDS

Scrub jungle, diversity indices, anthropogenic threats