

**DIVERSITY OF MOSSES IN SOME SELECTED SITES  
AT HANTANA RANGE - A PRELIMINARY STUDY**

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Studies on bryophytes are very few and scanty; and further there are no active bryologists in Sri Lanka. The present study was planned to fill the gaps of knowledge on mosses of the island to a certain extent.

A survey was done to study the diversity of mosses in some selected sites at Hantana range, from June to December 2002. Three main habitats (*viz.* forest patch, stream side and road side) and three microhabitats within each main habitat (*viz.* rock surface, tree trunk and soil surface) were selected to sample mosses.

A total of 468 moss samples (stream side-295, forest patch-89 and road side-84) were collected during the survey. These belong to 16 families (33%) and 26 genera (15%) out of the 48 families and the 174 genera of mosses, which have been recorded from Sri Lanka to date. The results revealed a relatively high diversity and richness of mosses in the study area.