

## PEDIGREE OF THE VEDDA CHIEF

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### Introduction

The existence of the Veddas in Sri Lanka was first reported by Knox in 1681. They were originally living in three main locations namely Thamankaduwa, Uva-Bintenne and Wellassa.

In 1958 some Uva-Bintenne Veddas were colonized at Kandeganvila. The Veddas of Dambana led by the late Vedda Chief Uruwarige Thissahamy resisted colonization and continued to stay in Dambana. In 1980 the Veddas in Kandeganvila were relocated in Hennanigala South of the Mahaweli System 'C'. Again the Veddas of Dambana resisted even though their traditional hunting grounds in Maduruoya were declared a National park in 1982. At present the Veddas of Dambana are led by Uruwarige Wanniyaletto, Tissahamy's son.

Veddas have been living in close proximity to the Sinhalese villages and an admixture with the Sinhalese has been observed. Their hunter gatherer life styles have been gradually changing to that of agriculture especially chena cultivation. The Veddas represent one of the primitive communities in the world who are faced with imminent threat of extinction due to their changes in life style and close contact with the more advanced communities.

The proper identification of the Veddas was a long-felt need. As such it was apparent that the only way in establishing and maintaining their identity is by the compilation of the family pedigrees. During the period from 1993-1996 an attempt was made to compile the pedigree of Vedda families living in Dambana and Hennanigala which was not completed.

Therefore the main objective of the present study was to compile the pedigree of the family of late Vedda Chief Uruwarige Tissahamy followed by the compilation of pedigrees of all Vedda families. The final attempt is to publish a monograph with all family pedigrees. This paper deals with the family pedigree of Uruwarige Tissahamy the late Vedda Chief.

### Methodology

Five visits were made to Dambana during the period from March to August 2009 in an attempt to complete the pedigrees that were compiled partly during the 1993-1996 study. With the help of the Vedda Chief UW Wanniyaletto identification of the Veddas were carried out. Veddas already recorded in the 1993-1996 study were individually identified when ever possible and their relationships with the late Vedda Chief UW Tissahamy were established. New individuals entering the study were then identified, their clan names, given

names, age and sex recorded in the pedigrees.

### Results

The detailed family pedigree of the late UW Tissahamy was drawn as far as possible upto seven generations. This included UW Tissahamy's great grand parents (generation I), grand parents (generation II), parents (generation III), children (generation V), grand children (generation VI) and great grand children (generation VII). The pedigree is given in Figure 1.

Table I shows the process of Sinhalisation from generation I to VII giving some of the names of members in each generation. In this, generation IV gives the siblings of UW Tissahamy, generation V gives the siblings of UW Wanniyaletto the present Vedda Chief, generation VI gives the children of UW Wanniyaletto and generation VIII gives the names of some of the grand children of UW Wanniyaletto.

### Discussion

In addition to the identification of Veddas and compilation of the pedigrees, some important facts have been observed during the analysis.

The family size of Veddas has continued to be large in the fifth and sixth generations. This ranged from 7-13. Although obtaining detailed

information regarding the family size in the first to fourth generations was difficult, there is some evidence of having large families. This has gradually reduced to an average of 3-4 in each family in the seventh generation.

Due to the admixture with the Sinhalese a gradual inclusion of Sinhalese given names have been observed in the sixth and seventh generations and the non use of the clan names (Wariges) have been observed. Another important observation is the increasing trend in the Vedda – Sinhala matings in the sixth generation.

A continuation of the compilation of pedigrees of Vedda families at Dambana and Hennanigala is in progress to finally compile a monograph.

### Conclusion

The reduction in the family size, the process of Sinhalisation as observed in the Sinhalese given names, the non use of clan (Warige) names and the Vedda – Sinhalese matings clearly show the gradual extinction of the Vedda community.

### Acknowledgement

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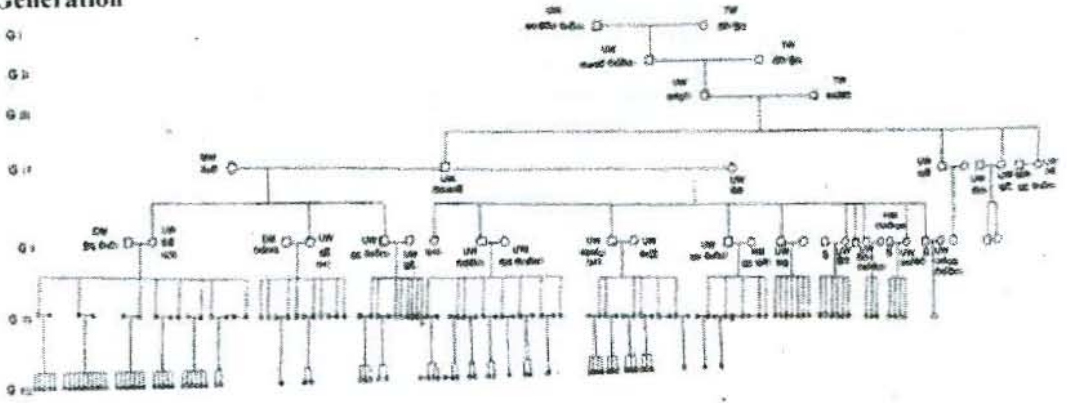


**Table 1. Sinhalisation of the Dambana Vedda**

Generation	Name
Generation I	ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් භොමිඞ්ගබන්ඩිතා ටී ඩබ්ලිව් කිරි/මුතු
Generation II	ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් කාන්තාර්චන්තිකා ටී ඩබ්ලිව් කිරි/මුතු
Generation III	ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් අප්පුචා ටී ඩබ්ලිව් ගෝමර්
Generation IV	ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හිසාහාමි එමී ඩබ්ලිව් බංඩි/ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හිනි ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් කුමි ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් ගුනබංඩිගලැප්තෝ ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හුදි ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් බුරුන්දලැප්තෝ (හිකා) එමී ඩබ්ලිව් හුදු බන්ඩිතා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් රණි
Generation V	ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හිනි ඩී එමී මුතු බංඩා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හුදි ඩී එමී වන්තකු ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හුදු බන්ඩිතා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හුදි ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් වන්තිගලැප්තෝ ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හින්මැණිකා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් කෙන්නදා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් මැද්දි ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් ගුනබංඩිතා එමී එමී හුදු කුමා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් කලු ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් මුතු ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් සීතාවන්තිකා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් ගෝමර් ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් රන්දුනු වන්තිකා
Generation VI	ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් ගුනබංඩිතා ඩී එමී විමලාවති ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් කෝමාවති ඊ ඩබ්ලිව් සුනිල් ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් ලොකු බංඩිතා ඩී එමී රං මැණිකා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් මුතු බංඩා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් නිල්මිණි ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හින් බංඩා ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් කුසුමාවති ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් පුංචි බංඩා ශ්‍රී ටී ඩබ්ලිව් නිලන්ති ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හුදු බංඩිතා ශ්‍රී ටී ඩබ්ලිව් විනෝ ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් කලු බංඩිතා
Generation VII	ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් සුමිනාවති ඊ ඩබ්ලිව් ඉරේහා ඊ ඩබ්ලිව් කමල් ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් හිරුණි ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් අරුණි ශ්‍රී ඩබ්ලිව් උදුනි සසුන් බන්ඩාර ශානුක සත්සර සංජීව සමීපත්

- UW - Uru Warige
- TW - Thala Warige
- MW - Morana Warige
- UPW - Unapana Warige
- DM - Dissanayake Mudiyansele
- HM - Herath Mudiyansele
- EW - Ilangan Weerasinghe

Generation



- UW - Uru Warige
  - TW - Thala Warige
  - MW - Morana Warige
  - UPW - Unapana Warige
  - DM - Dissanayake Mudiyansele
  - HM - Herath Mudiyansele
  - EW - Hangan Weerasinghe
- male  
 female

Figure 1: Pedigree of the late Vedda chief- Uruwarige Tissahamy