TREE INVENTORIES IN PRIMARY TROPICAL LOWLAND FOREST

IN SOUTHERN GUYANA, PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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In a primary, semideciduous tropical lowland forest in southern Guyana a total lichen inventory was made on 18 downed trees, palms and a liana. Altogether over 500 corticolous species were recognized, of which 320 have so far been identified to species level. Several species are newly recorded for the Guianas, like *Ancistrosporella leucophila*, *Eugeniella palleola*; others are presumably undescribed. The species number per phorophyte varied from 18 to 168. Full-grown trees had usually over 100 species. Undergrowth trees up to 11 m high had 26-53 species. The two palms had only 18-36 species, and the liana fragment 37 species. A comparison with published inventories at family level shows a strong similarity with a plot in lowland southern Venezuela. In both areas the dominant families are Graphidaceae and Trypetheliaceae. In mountain forest in El Salvador and Ecuador the significance of these families is reduced, while Parmeliaceae and Physciaceae increase. In contrast, in a recently published observation in the northern temperate zone (Germany) the top five families are Lecanoraceae, Parmeliaceae, Physciaceae, Ramalinaceae, Teloschistaceae.