

Early Holocene environmental change inferred
from palynofacies records on the master core
segment 2 in the Horton Plains,
Central Sri Lanka.

By

Jayalath Mudiyanseelage Ruvini Jayalath

TH 113

A thesis submitted to the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology,
University of Kelaniya in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the
degree of Master of Science

Abstract

Radiocarbon dated pollen, pterodophyta spores, fungi spores, thermally matures, microcharcoal and plant debris record found from three samples on the peat and sediment sequence in the Horton Plains, Central Sri Lanka indicates Early Holocene environmental changes (*i.e.* 10,100-9,800 cal yrs BP). Over 25 types of palynomorphs with their respective frequency distributions were recognized. Aquifoliaceae/*Ilex* spp Symplocaceae/*Symplocos* spp, Clusiaceae/*Calophyllum* sp, *Syzygium* sp, Ericaceae/*Rhododendron* sp, are represented as the most common Upper Montane Rain Forest (UMRF) woody species. Montane grasslands also maintained to considerable level. Humid/wet climate condition prevailed during the Early Holocene. Evidence for anthropogenic activities, forest clearance and burning regime were found.