

Title The ecology of a montane grassland in Sri Lanka. VII. Biomass production.

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Abstract

Biomass accumulation was studied monthly on 2 montane grasslands in Sri Lanka at 900 m and 560 m alt. from June 1976 to May 1977. The upper site was a dense sward dominated by *Cymbopogon nardus* (65.4%), *Themeda tremula* (25.4%) and *Eulalia trispicata* (10.1% of standing crop) and the lower site was a sparse sward dominated by *C. nardus* (68.6%) and *Panicum maximum* (13.9%) with some *Pennisetum polystachyon* (7.7%). Total standing crop biomass was higher at the upper site than at the lower site and increased 4-fold at both sites over the years. Productivity estimates were 911.2 g/m² for the upper sites and 679.5 g for the lower site. There was no significant difference in the amount of *C. nardus* between sites, but the upper site supported a much denser sward of *T. tremula* accounting for the higher productivity of this site.