

66. Classification of natural forests sites by partial abundance of indicator tree species

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Analysis of common natural forest tree species abundance and distribution in Papua New Guinea, showed contrasting patterns between groups of tree species. Most noticeable was between *Syzygium* spp and *Pometia* spp. It was observed that where one was partially abundant, the other was rare and vice versa. Partial abundance of the two tree species was further explored to determine the nature of the contrast using Correspondence Analysis and field observations. Data was obtained from 68, one hectare permanent sample plots randomly established throughout the country in logged over forest sites. Results revealed that the contrasting nature of partial abundance between the two tree species was directly related to soil types and some of the soil properties were thus determined from the result. Both tree species were therefore concluded as indicator species and hence their distribution and abundance pattern could be used to classify site types in natural forests for management purposes.

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