

16. Phenology assessment of commercial timber trees of Papua New Guinea

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Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these events are influenced by seasonal and inter-annual variations in climate. This study mainly looked at the flowering and fruiting pattern and behavior of commercial timber trees, starting from floral bud initiation and development, blooming through to fruit formation and subsequent seed fall. The main objective of this study was to determine the flowering and fruiting pattern and behavior of selected commercial timber trees. Monthly assessments were done on 15 timber tree species, with an average of 10 parent trees per species tagged. This study was initiated in 2005, with parent trees tagged in lowland tropical rainforests of Madang Province in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Progressive results so far indicated that flowering and fruiting of most tree species are complex and irregular in timing, duration and intensity. Results obtain from such study could be a useful forest management tool to further enhance understanding of the ecological traits of valuable trees of PNG. Understanding this ecological trait of forest is fundamental for improved management of natural forests as far as forest ecology is concern.

Keywords :

Phenology, flowering, fruiting, pattern & behavior, weather, forest management tool

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