

**The Defoliation of Teng (*Shorea Obtusa*, Wall.) and Rang (*Pentacme Suavis* A.
DC.)**

at ASRCT Sakaerat Experiment Station

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ANAN NALAMPHUN, THAWATCHAI SANTISUK, TEM SMITINAND.

Royal Forestry Department, 1968.

ABSTRACT

Defoliation is an idiosyncrasy of certain tree species. Any deciduous tree, even transferred from its natural habitat, always more or less keeps the leaf-shedding habit.

The defoliation of tropical trees is to reduce the loss of water through transpiration during the dry season and at the same time helps to conserve the moisture content in the soil. During the dry season the forest floor is generally dried up; the stream flow is less and small waterways even dry up.

It is clear that the moisture content of the soil plays a vital role in the defoliation. This statement is backed up by an observation at Sakaerat: a clump of teng, 17-20 m high, standing at the back of the bath house, shed their leaves comparatively less than the others, due to the high moisture content in the soil caused by the seepage from the bath house (Figure 14).

The photograph (Figure 14) was taken during February when most trees (on the right) have almost completely shed their leaves. These tengs (on the left) even sent up new leaves to replace the fallen ones. The defoliation of trees is thus variably subject to the moisture content of the soil.