

Phenology and seasonal growth of dry dipterocarp forest tree species.

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ABSTRACT

Observations were made of leaf fall, flushing, flowering and fruiting periodicities of forest trees in undisturbed dry dipterocarp forest of Sakaerat during 1975 to 1976. A total of 230 stems representing 44 species were marked for continuous observation. Four main tree species (*Shorea talura* Roxb., *Pentecme suavis* A.DC., *Quercus kerrii* Craib and *Sindora maritima* Pierre) were fitted with vernier growth measuring tapes to determine monthly basal area growth. Peak of leaf fall (late February-March) was followed immediately by the intense leaf flushing (March) and peak of flowering (April). Fruit bearing trees could be found in all months, but fruiting peaks occurred in June and late August. A heavy fruit fall was observed in February-March. Monthly basal area growth fluctuated considerably and was strongly influenced by rainfall. The growing period began in May-June and ended in December with maximal growth in September. Stem contraction could occur during the dry period.