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PAL

WILD ORCHIDS IN UPPER HANTANE

SRI LANKA

A PROJECT REPORT PRESENTED BY

S.K.PALLEWATTA

to the Board of study in Plant science of the

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

In partial fulfillment of the requirement

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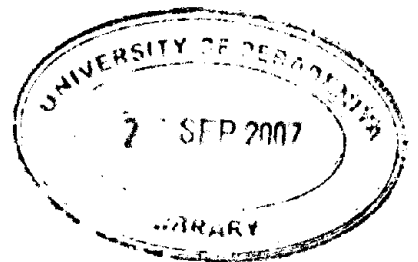
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WILD ORCHIDS IN UPPER HANTANE, SRI LANKA.**S.K.PALLEWATTA**

Postgraduate Institute of Science

University of Peradeniya

The wild orchids in Sri Lanka have a high significance and they have been threatened by negative environmental impacts in the presence of unsustainable development processes. The objectives of the study were to identify wild orchid species occurring in upper Hantane, distribution of wild orchids species with topography, climatic conditions, to compare the availability of previous studies of wild orchid species and present research and identify the threats faced by wild orchids in Hantane carried out in the area concerned. Transect method was used to identify the wild orchids species in the area selected for the research.

The study revealed that the availability of wild orchid species within upper Hantane area is determined by elevation, relative humidity, and light intensity. Thirty wild orchid species were found in the area selected and their abundance is rich at higher elevations. Orchid species are also abundantly found in areas with low Relative humidity, low light intensity, and less man made disturbances. However, this study shows a reduction in wild orchid species in the mountain range compared to previous studies. Therefore, measures should be taken immediately to overcome these problems to ensure the conservation of the present wild orchid species and sustainable management of upper Hantane mountain range.