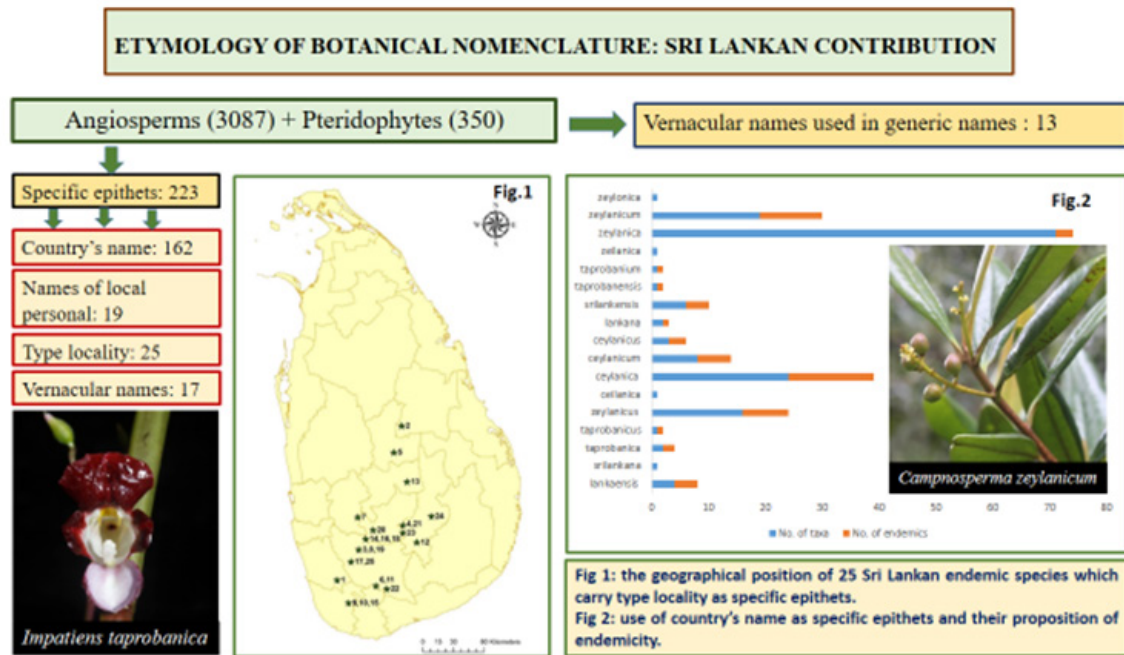


REVIEW ARTICLE

ETYMOLOGY OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE: SRI LANKAN CONTRIBUTION

R.H.G. Ranil*, M.P.T. Wijewickrama, R.M.A.P.M. Rajatewa and R.W. Bussmann



Highlights

- Sri Lanka has a long history of botanical exploration and nomenclature.
- Two hundred and twenty-three taxa carry the country's name, names of local people, type locality, and vernacular names.
- Out of 223 taxa, nearly 85% of taxa have been named during the British colonial era.
- The country's name has been used for naming 162 taxa.
- Thirteen local names have been used for naming of genera.

ETYMOLOGY OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE: SRI LANKAN CONTRIBUTION

R.H.G. Ranil^{1,*}, M.P.T. Wijewickrama², R.M.A.P.M. Rajatewa³ and R.W. Bussmann⁴

¹Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

²Postgraduate Institute of Science, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

³Environmental Consultant, Educational and Rehabilitation Organization (ECERO), 93/A18, 2nd Lane, Bandaranayakepura, Indigolla, Gampaha, Sri Lanka

⁴Department of Botany, Institute of Life Sciences, State Museum of Natural History, Karlsruhe, Germany

⁵Department of Ethnobotany, Institute of Botany and Bakuriani Alpine Botanical Garden, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

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Abstract: The botanical names of many species carry etymological information such as morphological characteristics, habitats, and ecological features, distributional range, etc. Some species contain the name of local people, type locality, and vernacular names as generic names and specific epithets. Sri Lanka has an interesting history of botanical exploration and nomenclature. Hence, the country's name has been often used in the naming of plant species, particularly during the colonial era. Apart from that, a considerable number of species have also been named often after the local people. Moreover, type locality and vernacular names have also been considered in the naming of plant species. The aim of this publication was to compile such plant species with their etymological information and to understand how Sri Lanka and *Sinhala* language have contributed to the field of botanical nomenclature. Out of all native plant species (Angiosperms: 3,087 + Pteridophytes: 350), 223 taxa carry the country's name, names of local people, type locality, and vernacular names as specific epithets. The naming of 162 plant species by country's name is a significant contribution to the field of botanical nomenclature. Since similar assessment has not been carried out in other countries, the values cannot be compared.

Keywords: Flora of Sri Lanka, etymology, nomenclature, specific epithets.

INTRODUCTION

Scientific names are labels for taxa that are governed by formalized rules of nomenclature (Remsen, 2016). Names are often derived from the attribute of a species (Jozwiak *et al.*, 2015). Names have long included place names, historical events, people's names, songs, prose, poetry, religious ceremony, and even in naming species (Wahaanga, *et al.*, 2013). Scientific names are necessary for the precise communication of biological information across time (history) and space (languages and regions) (Fick and Luckow, 1991). Though the names of most species include botanical features, in the history of botanical nomenclature, there are plenty of species reflecting their place of origin and type locality which is important to understand their distributional ecology as well as biological and conservation

attributes. Plant species named after local people, or their collectors are also common. Common names clearly show how the plants are viewed, either as a whole or in terms of their separate parts, as similar to objects, people, or animals, or are reminiscent of their actions and properties and some plant names are symbols related to folk beliefs, legends, and traditional customs (Nedelcheva and Dogan, 2009). The specific epithet is not merely a term that designates the identity of a particular species. It carries a wealth of information of a species to be used in the study of taxonomy, conservation biology as well as biogeography species.

The flora of Ceylon (presently known as flora of Sri Lanka) has long fascinated botanists, ecologists, and conversationalists due to its isolation in the Indian Ocean. The botanical collection and nomenclature of Sri Lanka's plants date back to 1672 with the appointing of Paul Hermann as the Chief Medical officers at the Dutch Hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka for the period of 1672-1679 by the Dutch East India Company (Cramer, 2001; van Andel and Barth, 2018). Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) made his first acquaintance with a tropical flora in about 1744 when studying a large collection of herbarium specimens and drawings made in Sri Lanka by Paul Hermann (Stearn, 1988). Hermann's collection has also significantly influenced on some 18th century publications: Linnaeus's *Flora Zeylanica* and *Species Plantarum* and Burmann's *Thesaurus Zeylanicus* (van Andel and Barth, 2018). Thereafter, most of the floristically rich areas of Sri Lanka were extensively botanized by European botanists, particularly during the British era. With that knowledge, they significantly contributed to the advancement of the post-Linnaean taxonomy.

Botanists were often fascinated with the knowledge of native Sri Lankans on the classification and nomenclature of local species as well as a wide range of uses of native plant species (Ranil *et al.*, 2021). While Hermann's naming of plants in his *Musaeum Zeylanicum* was related to their local names, Linnaeus substituted these names

*Corresponding Author's Email: rhgranil@gmail.com; rrajapaksha@agri.pdn.ac.lk



in the *Flora Zeylanica*, a methodology marking the first advance towards a Linnaean nomenclature (Cramer, 2001). Alexander Moon worked from 1821-1843 as the first superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, in Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and used ethnobotanical knowledge of the local community in his nomenclatural system of native plants of Sri Lanka (Ranil *et al.*, 2021). Moon advanced this nomenclature further adopting Linnaeus' binomial systems in naming his Sri Lankan plants; this catalogue of plants aimed at a *Sinhala* nomenclature failed as many of these names had no correspondence with their botanic identities and often denoted more than one plant in different places (Cramer, 2001). However, thereafter, botanists fully adopted Linnaean binomial nomenclature for Sri Lankan plants. Apart from botanical characteristics, they used the country's name, type locality, vernacular names, and the name of botanists to name Sri Lankan plant species. The aim of this publication was to inventories the plant species which carry the generic name and specific epithet based on country's name, type locality, personal names, and common names used by native Sri Lankans and discuss their etymological information.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We used the series of “*A Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon*” (Volumes 1-15) and the National Red List -2020 to extract the species which carry the country's name, names of local people, type locality, and vernacular names as generic names or specific epithets. Recent publications were also examined for additional information. The extracted names were grouped under major categories; (1) use of country's name, (2) names of local people, (3) type locality, and (4) use of vernacular names in botanical nomenclature. For angiosperm, the APG IV system was followed whereas ferns and lycophytes were arranged according to APG 1 system. While compiling species that carry the country's name as a specific epithet, only accepted names were considered following the National Red List - 2020. The considerable numbers of synonyms of species, subspecies, and varieties with the country's name were excluded. Apart from the National Red List -2020, the online web resources; GBIF (<https://www.gbif.org>), IPNI (<https://www.ipni.org>), BHL (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>) and Plants of the World Online (<http://powo.science.kew.org>) were also used for nomenclatural updates of species used here. All species were arranged alphabetically in each table under four categories. We also compiled common names used in some species, while providing details of type locality with a map and information on a person who was honoured by botanical names.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Here we provide species lists with their etymological information under four main categories. Altogether 223 species have been listed which carry botanical names with the country's name, vernacular names, personal names, and locality names as specific epithets (Fig. 1). Of these, 73% of taxa carry the country's name in 17 different forms of epithets (Fig. 2). Also, 13 and 17 local names have been

used as generic names and species epithets, respectively. The type locality was used in 25 species and 19 species carries names of local people in various fields. Here we discussed all these entities under four key areas.

1. Use of country's name in nomenclature

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was named Ceylon under British rule from 1815 to 1972. Before becoming a British colony, the island was called *Serendib* and *Taprobane* by other Europeans, Arabs, etc. The first major botanical expeditions were conducted during the Dutch and British colonial eras particularly focusing on the Central highland of the country. As a result, most of the species were described and named using the country's name. The term, “*zeylanica*” derived from Ceylon was commonly used as a specific epithet followed by “*ceylanica*”. The present study founded 17 different specific epithets derived from the country's name (Fig. 2). Under each category, 162 taxa were listed (Table 1/ Annex I). All these taxa are accepted according to available taxonomic treatments. The large number of synonyms which also include country's names were excluded in this study.

Sri Lanka might be one of the countries which significantly contributed to species nomenclature based on the country's name, due to its long botanical history e.g., by the German physician and botanist Paul Hermann, considered one of the pioneers of Asian botany, who collected the first plant specimens in the Dutch colony of Ceylon in the 1670s (van Andel and Barth, 2018). Based on his collection, *Flora Zeylanica* was compiled by Linnaeus (1747). Later, most of the species described in *Flora Zeylanica*, were rearranged under the binomial system by Linnaeus in his *Species Plantarum* in 1753. He described many species by country's name (e.g., *Uvaria zeylanica* L., *Lobelia zeylanica* L., *Capparis zeylanica* L., *Olex zeylanica* L., *Plumbago zeylanica* L. *Smilax zeylanica* L. etc).

The systematic botanical study of Sri Lanka was initiated during the period of colonial expansion by the European powers in the 18th and 19th century (Dassanayake, 2002) and they were extensively explored the species and described them botanically. However, the systematic species collection was initiated in the 19th century during the British Colonial period, by George Wall (1821-1894), J.T. Walker (1830-1840), William Ferguson (1839-1887), Frederick Hutchinson (1870-1872), and R.H. Beddome (1863-1883, 1892) as botanists and G. Gardner (1843-1849), G.H.K. Thwaites (1849-1888), H. Trimen (1880-1896) and J.C. Willis (1896-1912) who served as Directors of the Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya (Ranil *et al.*, 2021; Ranil and Bussmann, 2021). They also considerably used the terms “*zeylanica*, *zeylanicus*, *ceylanica*” for nomenclatural purposes (Figure 3). *Alsophila srilankensis* (Ranil) Ranil (Synonym: *Cyathea srilankensis* Ranil) and *Lagenandra srilankensis* Madola, D.Yakandawala & K.Yakandawala were the only described species that carry the country's name over the last two- three decades (Madola *et al.*, 2021; Ranil *et al.*, 2010).

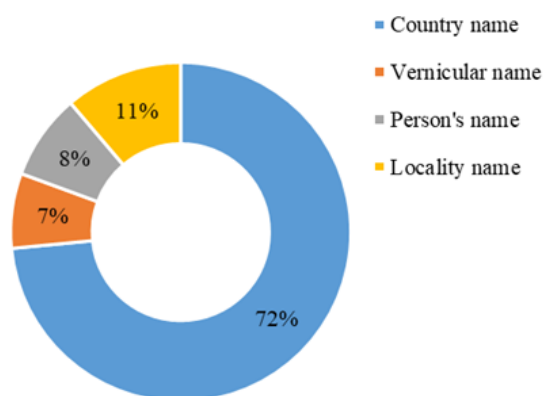


Figure 1: The percentages of country's name, vernacular names, person's name, and locality names used in Sri Lankan angiosperm and fern species.

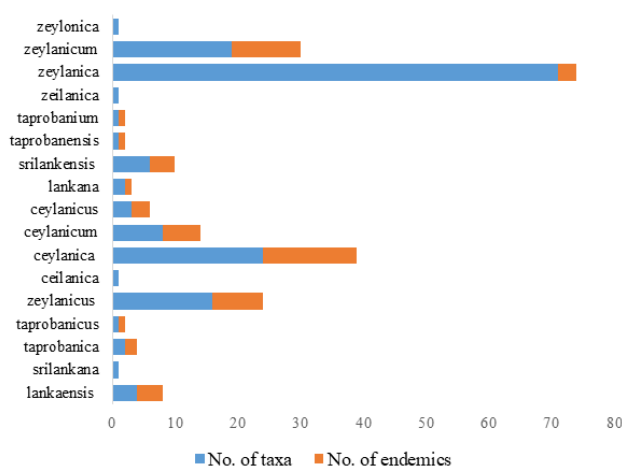


Figure 2: Use of country's name as specific epithets and their proposition of endemism.

2. Use of type locality in nomenclature

A type locality is the geographical place of collection of the name-bearing type of a species or subspecies (Gardner and Ramírez-Pulido, 2020). Correct type localities provide useful information on a wide range of aspects for taxonomists, conservation biologists, ecologists as well policymakers and administrative bodies responsible for making conservation and management guidelines on biological diversity. Most of Sri Lankan specimens collected during the colonial era did not include detailed locality information, perhaps due to unfamiliarity of the country's geographical boundaries. For example, most of the Sri Lankan species collected by G.H.K. Thwaites (1849-1888) were not given a specific location and mentioned the locality as "Ceylon". The National Red List – 2020, listed 16 Pteridophyte species as data deficient (DD) and 25 species as critically endangered (possibly extinct), but most of these taxa were confined to poorly cited specimens, implying the importance of locality information. If the species epithet contains the name of the type locality, it will help to recollect and further investigate such data deficient as well as possibly extinct species.

Here we have listed 25 endemic vascular plant species

carrying the name of the type locality (Table 2, Fig. 5). Figure 4 shows that except for one species (*Rhinacanthus polonnaruwensis* L.H. Cramer), all other species have been reported from the protected area network of the wet zone of Sri Lanka. There is no reliable evidence on occurrence of *Balanocarpus kitulgallensis* Kosterm. in other parts of the island except its type locality in the *Kitulgala* forest in the Kegalle district. Except, *B. kitulgallensis* and *Ilex knucklesensis* Philcox, all others are occurring in nearby forests of their original locations. Also, the recently described *Lagenandra wayambae* Madola, K.Yakand., Yakand. & Karunaratne cannot place under this category because it has been named in honor of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. It is the only species which named for an institute in Sri Lanka. Unless the name is changed due to some taxonomic changes, the species epithet will remain while providing valuable information, particularly supporting understanding of its site characteristics, habitat preferences, and distributional ecology. Given that morphological variations are often associated with climatic, soil, geographical and other biotic factors of a given site.

3. Use of person's names in botanical nomenclature

The naming of biological organisms to honour popular people has long been practiced. In the field of botany, mostly in honour of botanists, plant explorers, ecologists, or people who were significantly contributed field of botany or related disciplines. Sri Lanka was also not an exception for the naming species following the same philosophy. During the colonial era, some species were named after famous European botanists and explorers who were significantly contributed to foster botanical studies and collections of Sri Lanka. For examples, some species were named after botanists, R.H. Beddome (*Diplazium beddomei* C. Chr., *Oreogrammitis beddomeana* (Alderw.) T.C. Hsu), G. Gardner (*Pyrrosia gardneri* (Mett.) Sledge, *Psychotria gardneri* (Thw.) Hook. f, G.H.K. Thwaites (*Palaquium thwaitesii* Trimen, *Tectaria thwaitesii* (Bedd.) Ching) and J.T. Walker [*Prunus walkerii* (Wight) Kalkman, *Alsophila walkerae* (Hook.) J. Sm.] to acknowledge their immense contribution for botany during the colonial era.

After independence, only a limited number of new species were described, of which 19 species have been named after Sri Lankans who actively and significantly contributed to various fields. (Table 3). All these species are considered Sri Lankan endemics. All except *Aponogeton kannangarae* M.A. Silva, Deshaprema & Manamperi and *Oberonia meegaskumburae* Priyad., Wijew. & Kumar were named after local botanists, plant collectors, and ecologists (Table 3). The recently described *Pteroceras dalaputtuwa* Atthan., Priyad., Wijew., Aberathna & Kumar is named after an iconic animal in the country. This specific epithet, 'dalaputtuwa', means entwined and is chosen in honour of an iconic entwined tusker from Sri Lanka, which was killed by poachers for its ivory. The authors claimed that the reason for this choice of name was to attract wider public and government attention pertaining to the need for improved conservation policies to protect Sri Lankan biodiversity (Priyadarshana et al., 2019).

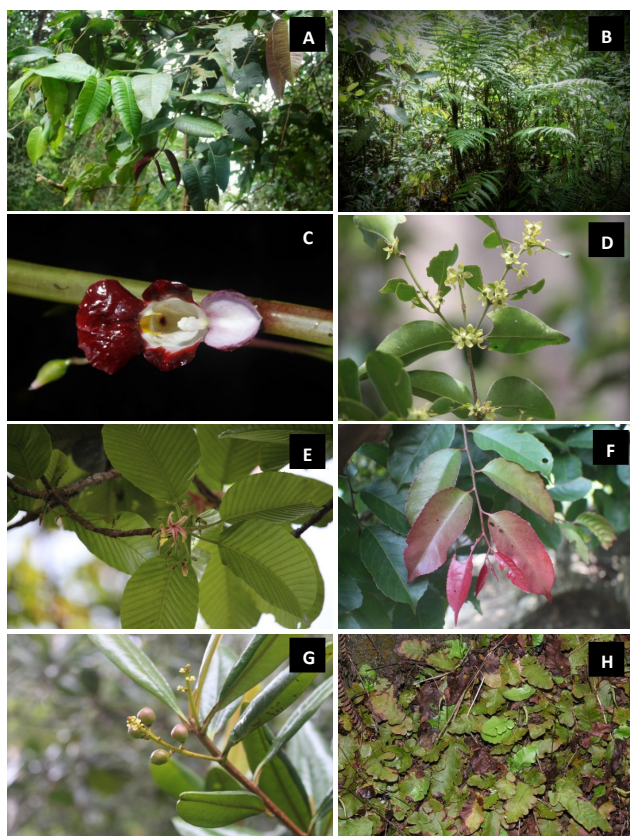


Figure 3: A: *Axinandra zeylanica* Thwaites, B: *Alsophila srilankensis* (Ranil) Ranil, C: *Impatiens taprobanica* Hiern, D: *Cassipourea ceylanica* (Gardner) Alston, E: *Dipterocarpus zeylanicus* Thwaites, F: *Homalium ceylanicum* (Gardner) Benth. G: *Campnosperma zeylanicum* Thwaites, H: *Tectaria zeilanica* (Houtt.) Sledge.

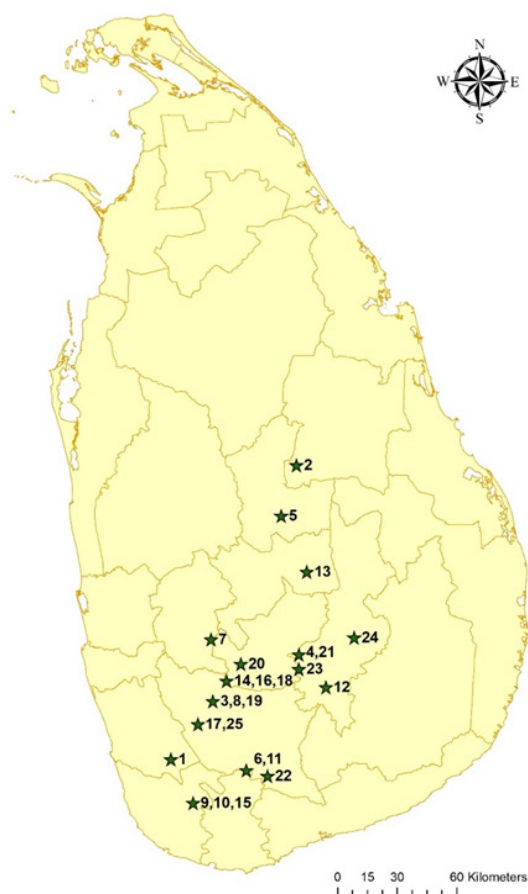


Figure 4: the geographical position of 25 Sri Lankan endemic species which carry type locality as specific epithets (Table 2).

Table 2: The list of specific epithets used to acknowledge the type locality.

Botanical name	Type locality
Araceae	
<i>Lagenandra kalugalensis</i> Madola, D.Yakandawala & K.Yakandawala	Kalugala, in the periphery of the Kalugala Forest Reserve, Kalutara District (Madola et al., 2021).
Acanthaceae	
2. <i>Rhinacanthus polonnaruwensis</i> L.H. Cramer	Bakamuna, Polonnaruwa district (Cramer, 1998).
3. <i>Strobilanthes medahinnensis</i> Nilanthi	Medahinna, Peak Wilderness Nature Reserve, Ratnapura district (Nilanthi et al., 2021).
Apiaceae	
4. <i>Bupleurum hakgalense</i> Klack.	Hakgala strict nature reserve, Nuwara Eliya district (Klackenberg, 1988).
Aquifoliaceae	
5. <i>Ilex knucklesensis</i> Philcox	Knuckles Mountain, road from Rattota to Illukkumbura, Matale district (Philcox, 1999).
Balsaminaceae	
6. <i>Impatiens ciliifolia</i> Grey-Wilson subsp. <i>sinharajensis</i> Grey-Wilson	Sinharaja forest, Ratnapura district (Grey-Wilson, 1985).
Dipterocarpaceae	
7. <i>Balanocarpus kitulgallensis</i> Kosterm.	Kitulgala, Kegalle district (Kosterman, 1992).
8. <i>Stemonoporus gilimalensis</i> Kosterm.	Gilimale, Rathnapura district (Kosterman, 1992).

9. <i>Stemonoporus kanneliyensis</i> Kosterm.	Kanneliya forest reserve, Galle district (Kosterman, 1992).
Lamiaceae	
10. <i>Coleus kanneliyensis</i> L.H. Cramer & S. Balas.	Kanneliya forest reserve, Galle district (Cramer, 1981).
Lauraceae	
11. <i>Cinnamomum sinharajaense</i> Kosterm.	Weddagala entrance, Sinharaja forest, Rathnapura district (Kosterman, 1995).
Myrtaceae	
12. <i>Eugenia haputalense</i> Kosterm.	Haputale, Badulla district (Kosterman, 1981).
13. <i>Eugenia madugodaense</i> Kosterm.	Madugoda, Kandy district (Kosterman, 1981).
14. <i>Eugenia sripadense</i> Kosterm.	Sripada mountain, Rathnapura district (Kosterman, 1981).
15. <i>Syzygium kanneliyensis</i> Kosterm.	Kanneliya forest reserve, Galle district (Kosterman, 1981).
16. <i>Syzygium montis-adam</i> Kosterm.	Sripada mountain range (Adam's peak), Rathnapura district (Kosterman, 1981).
Orchidaceae	
17. <i>Oberonia weragamaensis</i> Jayaw.	Weragama, Rathnapura district Jayaweera (1963).
18. <i>Podochilus warnagalensis</i> Wijewardana, Priyadarshana, Arangala, Atthanagoda, Samarakoon & Kumar.	Warnagala, Adam's peak, Kuruvita-Erathna, Rathnapura district (Atthangoda, R.T.S. and Kumara 2016).
19. <i>Taeniophyllum gilimalense</i> Jayaw.	Gilimale, Rathnapura district (Jayaweera, 1963).
20. <i>Bulbophyllum maskeliyense</i> Livera	Meericotta Estate, Maskeliya, Kandy district (Liver, 1926).
Phyllanthaceae	
21. <i>Phyllanthus hakgalensis</i> Thw. ex Trimen	Hakgala, Nuwara Eliya district (Philcox, 1997).
Pteridaceae	
22. <i>Pteris gongalensis</i> T.G. Walker	Gongala hill, Rathnapura Walker (1960).
Rubiaceae	
23. <i>Hedyotis gartmorensis</i> Ridsdale	Gartmore state, Maskeliya, Nuwara Eliya district (Ridsdale, 1996).
24. <i>Pavetta badullensis</i> Ridsd. (This species a synonym of <i>Pavetta blanda</i> Bremek.)	Badulla, Badulla district (Ridsdale, 1996).
Thelypteridaceae	
25. <i>Thelypteris ratnapuræ</i> Fraser-Jenk. (a doubtful species)	Ratnapura district (Fraser-Jenkins 1997).

Table 3: The list of specific epithets named after eminent local scientists/ local persons in Sri Lanka.

Family and Botanical names	Etymology
Aponogetonaceae	
1. <i>Aponogeton dassanayakei</i> Manawaduge & Yakandawala	This species has been named after Prof. M. D. Dassanayake, an eminent plant taxonomist in Sri Lanka (Manawaduge et al. 2016).
2. <i>Aponogeton kannangarae</i> De Silva, Deshaprema & Manamperi	This species has been named for Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara (1884–1969), “The father of free education in Sri Lanka” (De Silva et al. 2016).
Celastraceae	
3. <i>Cassine balae</i> Kosterm.	This species has been named after Prof. S. Balasubramanian of University of Peradeniya (Wadhwa, 1996).

Clusiaceae4. *Garcinia hermonii* Kosterm.

This species named in honour of Mr. Maurice A. Hermon, Superintendent of Moray Estate (Maskeliya) in 1970's, later at Frotoft Estate retired in about 1979 and lived at Digana (Kostermans, 1980).

Cornaceae5. *Mastixia nimalii* Kosterm.

This species has been named for Prof. Nimal Gunatilleke, an ecologist, University of Peradeniya (Kostermans, 1982).

Ebenaceae6. *Diospyros pemadasai* Jayasuriya

This species has been named in honour of Prof. M. A. Pemadasa of Ruhunu University, Matara, Sri Lanka (Jayasuriya, 1998).

Fabaceae

7. *Abarema abeywickramae* Kosterm.
(This species is synonym of *Archidendron bigeminum* (L.) I.C. Nielsen)

This species has been named after Prof. B.A. Abeywickrama, University of Colombo, an eminent plant taxonomist in Sri Lanka (Rudd, 1980)

Gesneriaceae8. *Henckelia wijesundarae* Ranasinghe & Mich. Möller

The specific epithet Wijesundarae honours the botanist and former Director General of the Botanic Gardens in Sri Lanka, Prof. Siril Wijesundara (Ranasinghe et al., 2016).

Lamiaceae9. *Plectranthus crameri* R.H. Willemse

This species has been named in honour of Father L.H. Cramer, visiting scientist, National Institute of Fundamental Science, Kandy (Willemse, 1979).

Melastomataceae10. *Sonerila guneratnei* Trimen

This species has been named in honour of Plant Collector, Mr. Don Seman de Silva Gunarathna in Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya who discovered this species (Bremer, 1987).

Orchidaceae

11. *Bulbophyllum jayaweerae* S.S. Fernando & Ormerod
(This species is synonym of *Bulbophyllum elliae* Rchb.f.)

The species has been named after Mr. D.M.A. Jayaweera, leading orchid taxonomist and former curator of Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya (Fernando and Ormerod, 2008).

12. *Oberonia meegaskumburae* Priyadarshana, Wijewardana & Kumar

The species has been named after Prof. Madhava Meegaskumbura, a leading taxonomist and herpetologist, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya. (Priyadarshana et al., 2018).

13. *Oberonia wallie-silvae* Jayaw.

The species has been named after late Mr. Wallie Silva, plant collector, National Herbarium, Peradeniya (Jayaweera, 1963).

14. *Phreatia jayaweerae* Ormerod

The species has been named after Mr. D.M.A. Jayaweera, leading orchid taxonomist and former curator of Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya Ormerod (2005).

15. *Gastrodia gunatillekeorum* Bandara, Priyankara & Kumar

The species epithet honours the pioneer forest ecologists, Prof. Nimal Gunatilleke and Prof. Savitri Gunatilleke, University of Peradeniya (Bandara et al., 2020).

16. *Taeniophyllum alwisii* Lindl.

The species has been named after Mr. Haramanis de Alwis, Draftsmen of Royal Botanical Garden Peradeniya (Lindley, 1858).

Rubiaceae

17. *Psychotria gardneri* (Thw.) Hook.f. var. *jayasuriyae* Sohmer
(This variety is synonymous with *Psychotria gardneri* Hook.f.)

This variety has been named in honour of Dr M. Jayasuriya, former curator of the National Herbarium, Peradeniya (Sohmer, 1977).

Theaceae

18. *Polyspora dassanayakei* (Wadhwa & Weeras.) Orel
(Syn: *Gordonia dassanayakei* Wadhwa & Weeras.)

This species has been named after Prof. M.D. Dassanayake, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (Wadhwa, 1996).

Thelypteridaceae

19. *Thelypteris dassanayakei* Fraser-Jenk.

This species has been named after Prof. M.D. Dassanayake, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (Fraser-Jenkins, 1997).

5. Use of vernacular names

Folk taxonomy deals with the traditional naming and classification of organisms and the folk names of plants are the basis of traditional plant biodiversity knowledge (Phaka *et al.*, 2019; Khasbagan, 2008). Local names given to plants by indigenous people in their local dialects often reflect a broad spectrum of information on their understanding of plants and such folk names assigned to species often carry etymological information such as therapeutic effects, morphological features, mythical connotations, and allegorical values (Nnamani *et al.*, 2019; Singh, 2008). Most often, the local names are given based on some salient features, e.g., appearance, shape, size, habit, habitat, smell, taste, colour, utility, and other peculiar characters, etc of the plants and these practical, meaningful, easily understandable, and unforgettable local names are disappearing rapidly along with the culture and tradition of the tribal groups (Singh, 2008).

Within the Sri Lankan botanical history, Alexander Moon documented many local names during his works in Sri Lanka as he worked as the first superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Peradeniya (Ranil and Bussmann, 2021; Ranil *et al.*, 2021). The Moon catalogue is one of the best examples of the use of traditional knowledge of plants for botanical nomenclature (Ranil *et al.*, 2021). However, Moon did not use any of such local names as a specific epithet or as generic names in botanical nomenclature.

Later nomenclatural works used Moon's list of common names used to name Sri Lankan plant species. Tables 4 and 5 shows species with thirteen generic names and 16 specific epithets carry local names, respectively.

Though most common names have specific meanings, some names do not reflect any characteristics of the species. For example, all *Cinnamomum* species are generally known as “Kurundu” by the local community. The specific epithet of *Cinnamomum capparu-coronde* Blume was latinised by its local name “Kapurukurundu” which means its camphor smell. *Kuruna densifolia* (Munro) Attigala, Kathr. & L.G.Clark is an endemic species to Sri Lanka and the generic name *Kuruna* is derived from the common name in Sinhalese of the native Sri Lankan *Arundinaria* group, “Kuru-Una”. “Kuru” means dwarf, and “Una” means bamboo (Attigala *et al.*, 2014). But the nomenclature of *Adenia hondala* (Gaertn.) W.J. de Wilde supported by the local name “Hondala” does not reflect any meaning of the species. Also, it is hard to find a meaning of the local name, “Iriya” used in *Horsfieldia irya* (Gaertn.) Warb. However, the people create local names in their willingness to distinguish the different species from one another and to be precise in their verbal communication (Nedelcheva and Dogan, 2009). Hence, it is important to understand the science behind that and explore and document such local names used in botanical nomenclature.

Table 4: Vernacular names used in specific epithet.

Family	Botanical name	Common name used
Acanthaceae	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L.	Adhatoda
Asteraceae	<i>Blainvillea acmella</i> (L.) Philipson (Syn: <i>Spilanthus acmella</i> L.)	Akmella/ Acmella
Dipterocarpaceae	<i>Shorea hulanidda</i> Kosterm.	Hulan-idda
Fabaceae	<i>Saraca asoca</i> (Roxb.) Willd	Asoka
Fabaceae	<i>Senna tora</i> (L.) Roxb. (Syn: <i>Cassia tora</i> L.)	Pethi Thora
Lauraceae	<i>Cinnamomum capparu-coronde</i> Blume	Kapurukurundu
Malvaceae	<i>Grewia damine</i> Gaertn (Synonym of <i>Grewia tiliifolia</i> Vahl)	Daminiya, Daminna
Myristicaceae	<i>Horsfieldia irya</i> (Gaertn.) Ward.	Iriya

Myristicaceae	<i>Horsfieldia iryaghedhi</i> (Gaertn.) Ward.	<i>Iriya-ghedhi</i>
Myrtaceae	<i>Syzygium alubo</i> Kosterm. <i>Syzygium batadamba</i> Kosterm.	<i>Alubo</i> <i>Batadamba</i>
Passifloraceae	<i>Adenia hondala</i> (Gaertn.) de Wilde	<i>Hondala</i>
Rubiaceae	<i>Ixora pavetta</i> Andr.	<i>Pavatta</i>
Rutaceae	<i>Melicope lunu-ankenda</i> (Gaertn.) T.Hartley	<i>Lunu-ankenda</i>
Sapindaceae	<i>Allophylus cobbe</i> (L.) Rausch.	<i>Kobbe</i>
Sapotaceae	<i>Palaquium hinmolpedda</i> van Royen	<i>Heen-mol-pedda</i>
Thymelaeaceae	<i>Gyrinops walla</i> Gaertn.	<i>Walla-patta</i>

Table 5: Vernacular names used in generic names.

Family	Genus name with an example	Common name used
Apocynaceae	<i>Walidda</i> (<i>Walidda antidysenterica</i> (L.) M. Pichon) <i>Wrightia</i> *	<i>Wal-idda</i>
Araceae	<i>Pothos</i> (<i>Pothos hookeri</i> Schott)	<i>Pota-Wel</i>
Celastraceae	<i>Kokoona</i> (<i>Kokoona zeylanica</i> Thwaites)	<i>Kokum</i>
Dipterocarpaceae	<i>Doona</i> (<i>Doona affinis</i> Thw.) <i>Shorea</i> *	<i>Dun</i>
Nelumbonaceae	<i>Nelumbo</i> (<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn.)	<i>Nelum</i>
Poaceae	<i>Kuruna</i> (<i>Kuruna densifolia</i> (Munro) Attigala, Kaththriarachchi & L. G. Clark.)	<i>Kuru-una</i>
Ranunculaceae	<i>Naravelia</i> (<i>Naravelia zeylanica</i> (L.) DC.) <i>Clematis</i> *	<i>Nara-wel</i>
Rubiaceae	<i>Diyaminauclea</i> (<i>Diyaminauclea zeylanica</i> (Hook.f.) Ridsdale)	<i>Diya Mee</i>
Rubiaceae	<i>Mussaenda</i> (<i>Mussaenda frondosa</i> L.)	<i>Mussaenda</i>
Rubiaceae	<i>Pavetta</i> (<i>Pavetta indica</i> L.)	<i>Pavatta</i>
Rubiaceae	<i>Tarenna</i> (<i>Tarenna asiatica</i> (L.) Kuntze ex Schumann)	<i>Tarana</i>
Rutaceae	<i>Pamburus</i> (<i>Pamburus missionis</i> (Wall. ex Wight) Swingle)	<i>Pamburu</i>
Simaroubacea	<i>Samadera</i> (<i>Samadera indica</i> (Gaertn.) Noot.) <i>Quassia</i> *	<i>Samadara</i>

Note: if the generic name has changed, the accepted name is given with asterisk.

CONCLUSION

The present study summarizes the contribution of Sri Lanka and the native language, *Sinhala*, for the naming of plant species since the beginning of the pre-Linnaean taxonomy. Out of all native plant species (Angiosperms: 3087 + Pteridophytes: 350), 223 taxa carry the country's name, names of local people, type locality and vernacular names as specific epithets. Moreover, 13 local names have been used as generic names. The country's name has been used for naming 162 species under 17 derived names

from the name, Sri Lanka. Out of 223 taxa, approximately 85% of taxa have been described and named during the British colonial era. The naming of 162 plants by country's name is a significant contribution to the field of botanical nomenclature. Since similar assessment has not been carried out in other countries, the values cannot be compared. However, this analysis shows that despite the land size, the isolated and unique flora of Sri Lanka has substantially contributed to the field of botanical nomenclature over the last two centuries.



Figure 5: A: *Stemonoporus kanneliyensis* Kosterm., B: *Ilex knucklesensis* Philcox, C: *Bulbophyllum maskeliyense* Livera, D: *Taeniophyllum alwisii* Lindl., E: *Gastrodia gunatillekeorum* Bandara, Priyankara & Kumar, F: *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) Willd, G: *Naravelia* (*Naravelia zeylanica* (L.) DC., H: *Melicope lunu-ankenda* (Gaertn.) T.G. Hartley.

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ANNEX -I

Table 1: Use of country's name in botanical nomenclature.

Family	Botanical name
ceilanica	
Gentianaceae	<i>Fagraea ceilanica</i> Thunb.
ceylanica	
Acanthaceae	<i>Justicia ceylanica</i> (Nees) T.Anderson*, <i>Lepidagathis ceylanica</i> Nees*
Amaranthaceae	<i>Cyathula ceylanica</i> Hook.f.*
Anonaceae	<i>Orophea zeylanica</i> Hook.f. & Thomson*
Apocynaceae	<i>Petchia ceylanica</i> (Wight) Livera*
Asteraceae	<i>Psiadia ceylanica</i> (Arn.) Grierson
Berberidaceae	<i>Berberis ceylanica</i> C.K.Schneid.*
Centroplacaceae	<i>Bhesa ceylanica</i> (Arn. ex Thwaites) Ding Hou*
Commelinaceae	<i>Cyanotis ceylanica</i> Hassk.*
Lycopodiaceae	<i>Huperzia ceylanica</i> (Spring) Trevis.
Myristicaceae	<i>Myristica ceylanica</i> A.DC.*
Olacaceae	<i>Strombosia ceylanica</i> Gardner
Pentaphyllaceae	<i>Eurya ceylanica</i> Wight*
Podostemaceae	<i>Dalzellia ceylanica</i> (Gardner) Wight
Polypodiaceae	<i>Prosaptia ceylanica</i> Parris*, <i>Pyrrosia ceylanica</i> (Giesenh.) Sledge
Primulaceae	<i>Myrsine ceylanica</i> (Mez) Wadhwa*
Proteaceae	<i>Helicia ceylanica</i> Gardner*
Rhizophoraceae	<i>Cassipourea ceylanica</i> (Gardner) Alston
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus ceylanica</i> (Wight) Miq.
Rubiaceae	<i>Acranthera ceylanica</i> Arn. ex Meisn.*, <i>Hedyotis ceylanica</i> N.Wikstr. & Neupane*
Rutaceae	<i>Atalantia ceylanica</i> (Arn.) Oliv.
Theaceae	<i>Polyspora ceylanica</i> (Wight) Orel, Peter G.Wilson, Curry & Luu*
ceylanicum	
Acanthaceae	<i>Gymnostachyum ceylanicum</i> Arn. & Nees
Apiaceae	<i>Peucedanum ceylanicum</i> Gardner*
Apiaceae	<i>Tetrataenium ceylanicum</i> (Gardner ex C.B.Clarke) Manden.*
Dryopteridaceae	<i>Elaphoglossum ceylanicum</i> Krajina ex Sledge*
Eriocaulaceae	<i>Eriocaulon ceylanicum</i> Körn.*
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum ceylanicum</i> Wight*
Rubiaceae	<i>Urophyllum ceylanicum</i> (Wight) Thwaites*
Salicaceae	<i>Homalium ceylanicum</i> (Gardner) Benth.
ceylanicus	

Elaeocarpaceae	<i>Elaeocarpus ceylanicus</i> (Arn.) Mast.*
Gesneriaceae	<i>Aeschynanthus ceylanicus</i> Gardner*
Pandanaceae	<i>Pandanus ceylanicus</i> Solms*
<i>lankaensis</i>	
Calophyllaceae	<i>Calophyllum lankaensis</i> Kosterm.*
Fabaceae	<i>Albizia lankaensis</i> Kosterm.*, <i>Senegalia lankaensis</i> (Kosterm.) Ragup., Seigler, Ebinger & Maslin*
Primulaceae	<i>Ardisia lankaensis</i> Kosterm.*
<i>lankana</i>	
Apocynaceae	<i>Ceropegia lankana</i> (Dassan. & Jayas.) Bruyns*
Cyperaceae	<i>Eleocharis lankana</i> T.Koyama
<i>srilankana</i>	
Linderniaceae	<i>Lindernia srilankana</i> L.H.Cramer & Philcox
<i>srilankensis</i>	
Araceae	<i>Lagenandra srilankensis</i> Madola, D.Yakandawala & K.Yakandawala*
Cyatheaceae	<i>Alsophila srilankensis</i> (Ranil) Ranil* (Synonym: <i>Cyathea srilankensis</i> Ranil)
Orchidaceae	<i>Bromheadia srilankensis</i> Kruiz. & de Vogel*
Poaceae	<i>Calamagrostis srilankensis</i> Davidse*, <i>Leptochloa srilankensis</i> N.Snow
Rubiaceae	<i>Hedyotis srilankensis</i> Deb & Ratna Dutta*
<i>taprobanensis</i>	
Cyperaceae	<i>Carex taprobanensis</i> T.Koyama*
<i>taprobanica</i>	
Apocynaceae	<i>Ceropegia taprobanica</i> H.Huber*
Balsaminaceae	<i>Impatiens taprobanica</i> Hiern*
<i>taprobanicus</i>	
Elaeocarpaceae	<i>Elaeocarpus taprobanicus</i> Zmarzty*
<i>taprobanium</i>	
Orchidaceae	<i>Dendrobium taprobanium</i> * Atthan., Priyad., Wijew., Aberathna, Peabot. & Kumar
<i>zeylanica</i>	
Acanthaceae	<i>Staurogyne zeylanica</i> (Nees) Kuntze, <i>Strobilanthes zeylanica</i> T.Anderson*,
Achariaceae	<i>Trichadenia zeylanica</i> Thwaites*
Anacardiaceae	<i>Mangifera zeylanica</i> (Blume) Hook.f.*
Annonaceae	<i>Alphonsea zeylanica</i> Hook.f. & Thomson, <i>Miliusa zeylanica</i> Gardner ex Hook.f. & Thomson*, <i>Sageraea zeylanica</i> Heusden*, <i>Uvaria zeylanica</i> L.
Apocynaceae	<i>Hunteria zeylanica</i> (Retz.) Gardner ex Thwaites
Aquifoliaceae	<i>Ilex zeylanica</i> (Hook.f.) Maxim.
Asperagaceae	<i>Dracaena zeylanica</i> (L.) Mabb.
Asteraceae	<i>Anaphalis zeylanica</i> C.B.Clarke*, <i>Blumea zeylanica</i> Grierson*, <i>Emilia zeylanica</i> var. <i>walkeri</i> (Hook.f.) Trimen, <i>Gynura zeylanica</i> Trimen*, <i>Jeffreyia zeylanica</i> (L.) H.Rob., S.C.Keeley & Skvarla*
Athyriaceae	<i>Deparia zeylanica</i> (Hook) M.Kato.*
Buxaceae	<i>Sarcococca zeylanica</i> Baill.*
Campanulaceae	<i>Lobelia zeylanica</i> L.
Capparaceae	<i>Capparis zeylanica</i> L.
Celastraceae	<i>Kokoona zeylanica</i> Thwaites*, <i>Microtropis zeylanica</i> Merr. & F.L.Freeman*
Clusiaceae	<i>Garcinia zeylanica</i> Roxb.*
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia zeylanica</i> Van Heurck & Müll.Arg.

Commelinaceae	<i>Murdannia zeylanica</i> (C.B.Clarke) G.Brückn.
Crypteroniaceae	<i>Axinandra zeylanica</i> Thwaites*
Cyperaceae	<i>Fimbristylis zeylanica</i> T.Koyama*, <i>Mapania zeylanica</i> (Thwaites) Trimen
Dennstaedtiaceae	<i>Dennstaedtia zeylanica</i> (Sw.) Zink ex Fraser-Jenk.
Dipterocarpaceae	<i>Shorea zeylanica</i> (Thwaites) P.S.Ashton*
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Adenochlaena zeylanica</i> (Baill.) Thwaites*
Fabaceae	<i>Crudia zeylanica</i> (Thwaites) Benth.*, <i>Cynometra zeylanica</i> Kosterm.*, <i>Entada zeylanica</i> Kosterm.*, <i>Sophora zeylanica</i> Trimen*
Gentianaceae	<i>Swertia zeylanica</i> (Griseb.) Walker ex C.B.Clarke*
Gesneriaceae	<i>Henckelia zeylanica</i> (R.Br.) A.Weber & B.L.Burt*
Haloragaceae	<i>Laurembergia zeylanica</i> (Arn. ex C.B.Clarke) Schindl.*
Hydroleaceae	<i>Hydrolea zeylanica</i> (L.) Vahl
Lamiaceae	<i>Leucas zeylanica</i> (L.) W.T.Aiton var. <i>zeylanica</i> **
Lauraceae	<i>Beilschmiedia zeylanica</i> (Thwaites) Trimen*
Malvaceae	<i>Sterculia zeylanica</i> Kosterm.*
Melastomataceae	<i>Osbeckia zeylanica</i> L.f., <i>Sonerila zeylanica</i> Wight & Arn.*
Olacaceae	<i>Olax zeylanica</i> L.
Ophioglossaceae	<i>Helminthostachys zeylanica</i> (L.) Hook.
Orchidaceae	<i>Gastrodia zeylanica</i> Schltr.*, <i>Luisia zeylanica</i> Lindl., <i>Oberonia zeylanica</i> Hook.f., <i>Panisea zeylanica</i> (Hook.f.) Aver.*
Orobanchaceae	<i>Pedicularis zeylanica</i> Benth.
Plumbaginaceae	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.
Poaceae	<i>Eragrostis zeylanica</i> Nees & Meyen, <i>Eremochloa zeylanica</i> (Hack. ex Trimen) Hack., <i>Leptaspis zeylanica</i> Nees ex Steud.
Polypodiaceae	<i>Oreogrammitis zeylanica</i> (Fée) Parris*
Primulaceae	<i>Ardisia zeylanica</i> (Gaertn.) Lam. ex Forsyth f.*
Putranjivaceae	<i>Putranjiva zeylanica</i> (Thwaites) Müll.Arg.*
Ranunculaceae	<i>Clematis zeylanica</i> (L.) Poir.
Rosaceae	<i>Agrimonia zeylanica</i> Moon ex Hook.f.
Rubiaceae	<i>Dichilanthe zeylanica</i> Thwaites*, <i>Diyaminauclea zeylanica</i> (Hook.f.) Ridsdale*, <i>Knoxia zeylanica</i> L.*, <i>Pavetta zeylanica</i> (Hook.f.) Gamble, <i>Psychotria zeylanica</i> Sohmer*
Salicaceae	<i>Casearia zeylanica</i> (Gaertn.) Thwaites
Sapotaceae	<i>Isonandra zeylanica</i> Jeuken*
Smilacaceae	<i>Smilax zeylanica</i> L.
Sphenocleaceae	<i>Sphenoclea zeylanica</i> Gaertn.
Thelypteridaceae	<i>Christella zeylanica</i> (Fée) Holttum
Urticaceae	<i>Pouzolzia zeylanica</i> (L.) Benn.
zeilanica	
Tectariaceae	<i>Tectaria zeilanica</i> (Houtt.) Sledge
zeylanicum	
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Crinum zeylanicum</i> (L.) L.
Achariaceae	<i>Erythrospermum zeylanicum</i> (Gaertn.) Alston*
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Pancratium zeylanicum</i> L.
Anacardiaceae	<i>Camptosperma zeylanicum</i> Thwaites*
Apocynaceae	<i>Vincetoxicum zeylanicum</i> (Decne.) Meve & Liede
Boraginaceae	<i>Cynoglossum zeylanicum</i> (Sw. ex Lehm.) Thunb. ex Brand, <i>Heliotropium zeylanicum</i> (Burm.f.) Lam., <i>Trichodesma zeylanicum</i> (Burm.f.) R.Br.

Burseraceae	<i>Canarium zeylanicum</i> (Retz.) Blume*
Celastraceae	<i>Glyptopetalum zeylanicum</i> Thwaites
Dichapetalaceae	<i>Dichapetalum zeylanicum</i> Kosterm.*
Erythroxylaceae	<i>Erythroxylum zeylanicum</i> O.E.Schulz*
Myrtaceae	<i>Syzygium zeylanicum</i> (L.) DC.
Orchidaceae	<i>Agrostophyllum zeylanicum</i> Hook.f.*, <i>Angraecum zeylanicum</i> Lindl.*
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Glochidion zeylanicum</i> var. <i>tomentosum</i> (Dalzell) Trimen**
Piperaceae	<i>Piper zeylanicum</i> Miq.*
Polygalaceae	<i>Xanthophyllum zeylanicum</i> Meijden*
Sapotaceae	<i>Palaquium zeylanicum</i> Verdc.*
zeylanicus	
Annonaceae	<i>Artabotrys zeylanicus</i> Hook.f. & Thomson, <i>Cyathocalyx zeylanicus</i> Champ. ex Hook.f. & Thomson, <i>Desmos zeylanicus</i> (Hook.f. & Thomson) Saff.*
Arecaceae	<i>Calamus zeylanicus</i> Becc.*
Asteraceae	<i>Senecio zeylanicus</i> DC.
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Trichopus zeylanicus</i> Gaertn.
Dipterocarpaceae	<i>Dipterocarpus zeylanicus</i> Thwaites*
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Croton zeylanicus</i> Müll.Arg., <i>Paracroton zeylanicus</i> (Müll.Arg.) N.P.Balakr. & Chakr.*
Moraceae	<i>Allaeanthus zeylanicus</i> Thwaites*, <i>Taxotrophis zeylanica</i> (Thwaites) Thwaites
Oleaceae	<i>Chionanthus zeylanicus</i> L.
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Phyllanthus zeylanicus</i> Müll.Arg.*
Picrodendraceae	<i>Mischodon zeylanicus</i> Thwaites
Rubiaceae	<i>Neurocalyx zeylanicus</i> Hook.*
Sapindaceae	<i>Allophylus zeylanicus</i> L.*
zeylonica	
Malvaceae	<i>Pavonia zeylonica</i> (L.) Cav.

Note: endemic species are denoted by asterisk