

**Litterfall production in the tropical semi-evergreen rain forest
at Sakaerat, Nakhonratchasima.**

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ABSTRACT

Litterfall measurements were made from May 1985 to April 1989 for *Shorea henryana* type and from March 1987 to February 1990 for *Hopea ferrea* type of semi-evergreen rain forest at Sakaerat, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, in Northeast Thailand. The mean annual litterfall over a period of 48 months of *Hopea ferrea* type was 6.8 t/ha/y, consisting of 70.3 % leaves, 15.2 % woody material, 5.0 % reproductive structures and 9.5 % unclassified. In the *Hopea ferrea* type, mean annual litterfall was 6.4 t/ha/y comprising 73.5% leaves, 17.3% woody material, 3.0% reproductive structures and 6.2% unclassified. The year-to-year variation in total litterfall was significant for both types. Seasonality of litterfall was more marked in the *Shorea henryana* type than in the *Hopea ferrea* type.

The nutrient element concentrations in the litter were similar between the types. The concentrations of all elements were within the ranges reported for other tropical forests.