

Leaf life span and leaf characteristics of some dominant tree species
in dry dipterocarp forest at Sakaerat.

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ABSTRACT

The study on leaf span and leaf characteristics of some dominant tree in the dry dipterocarp forest at sakaerat was carried out for 7 dominant tree species, namely, *Shorea obtusa* Wall., *Shorea siamensis* Miq., *Shorea floribunda* Kurz., *Dipterocarpus intricatus* Dyer., *Sindora siamensis* Teijsm.ex Miq., *Pterocarpus macrocarpus* Kurz and *Xylia xylocarpa* Taub. The investigation was carried out during February 1996 – March 1997, flushing peroid of leaves, falling of leaves, leaves life span, chlorophyll content in various leaf life span and branch elongation were recorded, moreover the relationship between branch elongation and number of leaves was also analyzed.

The results showed that flushing peroid of *S. obtusa* Wall., *S. siamensis* Miq., *S. floribunda* Kurz., *S. siamensis* Teijsm. ex Miq., *P. macrocarpus* Kurz and *X. xylocarpa* Taub. Were in March, whereas *D. intricatus* Dyer was in April. The falling peroid of leaves of *S. obtusa* Wall., *S. siamensis* Miq., *S. floribunda* Kurz, *D. intricatus* Dyer, *S. siamensis* Teijsm. ex Miq., *P. macrocarpus* Kurz and *X. xylocarpa* Taub. Were in January – March, December – March, July – March, January – March, January – March, September – February and January – March, *S. siamensis* Teijsm. ex Miq. was 9.6 months and *P. macrocarpus* Kurz was 8.9 months and *X. xylocarpa* Taub. Was 6.9 months Low chlorophyllcontent in leaf was found in young leaf and old leaves befroe falling. The maximum chlorophyllcontent in leaves of *S. obtusa* Wall., *S. siamensis* Miq., *S. floribunda* Kurz., *D. intricatus* Dyer, *S. siamensis* Teijsm. ex Miq. And *X. xylocarpa* Taub. were 0.6515, 0.4949, 0.7963, 0.7718, 1.1421, 0.7621, and 0.4833 mmol/m², respective. All species expect *S. siamensis* Teijsm. ex Miq. had maximum branch elongation rate in the first month after leaf flushing, where as the rest had constant branch elongation rate The relationship between branch elongation and number of leaves in all species showed a simple linear regression