PREFACE

Human interference in the form of shifting agriculture (Jhum) is the major destructive force of vegetation in the entire north-east India. Forested areas after few years of jhumming are left for vegetation regrowth. Some earlier workers have studied the secondary succession on abandoned jhum fallows in Meghalaya. This piece of research work lays emphasis on investigating functional attributes of the seral communities. The study was conducted in the young ($\leq 5$ year old) and old (15 - 20 year old) stands of subtropical wet hill and tropical moist deciduous forests of Meghalaya.

The thesis is divided into six chapters. General introduction and review of relevant work is given in the first chapter. Second chapter describes the study sites and climate of the area. Community composition and tree phenology are dealt with in the third chapter. Data pertaining to litter production and accumulation have been discussed in the fourth chapter. Results of mineral elements (N, P, K) input through litter and their release during decomposition are discussed in the fifth chapter. A general discussion is given in the last chapter followed by a summary. Literature cited is given at the end.
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