

Early Holocene environmental history inferred from
palynofacies records on the master core segment 4 in
the Horton Plains, Central Sri Lanka

By

Pituwala Kankanamge Dona Dilinie Prabha Kumarie Alwis

TH 115

A thesis submitted to the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology,
University of Kelaniya in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the
degree of Master of Science

Abstract

A radiocarbon dated biostratigraphic (*i.e.* pollen, pteridophyta spores, fungi spores, thermally matures, microcharcoal and plant debris) study carried out on three samples from the peat and sediment sequence in the Horton Plains, Central Sri Lanka show Early Holocene environmental changes. Over 30 types of palynomorphs with their respective frequency distributions were identified. Clusiaceae/*Calophyllum* sp., *Syzygium* sp., Ericaceae/*Rhododendron* sp., represent as the most common Upper Montane Rain Forest (UMRF) species. Grasslands also occur to considerable level. Palynofacies results indicate that Early Holocene climate was humid. Anthropogenic activities including forest clearance and burning regime were maintained during the Early Holocene.