

II. THE GREGARIOUS DYING OF DIPTEROCARPUS TREES

In the past the gregarious dying of *Dipterocarpus* stands in Kamphaeng Phet, Tak and Phitsanulok provinces was reported (WINIT WANANDORN 1934). Investigation and preliminary study on the causal agents showed complicate problems both physiological and climatical. The main original cause can be assumed by the physiological change of the environment due to the removal of the natural ground cover; secondly as the type of the forest has been changed, drought will prevail and thus causes the dying back of tree species.

In the area under investigation there occurs two species of Yang, i.e. *Yang na* or *Yang khao* (*Dipterocarpus alatus*) and *Yang daeng* (*D. turbinatus*), these are classified as evergreen species, and found in the Tropical Rain and Dry Evergreen forests (SMITINAND 1958). The species do not tolerate to drought and fire hazard, therefore they will die under both physiological and climatical changes.

This is an interesting phenomenon in the forest pathological point of view. Further investigation and intensive study on other causes should be carried on, in order to clear the complication.

REFERENCES

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