Project Update: August 2010

We started our work on 15 April 2010. We did a basic survey in the sanctuary of different vegetation types in the first month. Based on our observations, we selected 15 study locations in different vegetation types of the wildlife sanctuary for collection and study of lichens. In each selected site, we plotted a line transect of 50 m divided into sub quadrates. Presently we have 18 transects in 6 sites. The different vegetation types we differentiated as moist deciduous, dry deciduous, semi-evergreen and plantation, within that we again classified teak forests, Nilgiri plantations, Anogesas forests, Acaica plantations, scrubby forests, roadside and interior forest, this will give whole pattern of lichen distribution and the host preference among the selected study sites. From the present collected species we identified some dominant species of lichens - they are *Parmotrema tinctorum, Bulbothrix isidiza, P. Stuppeum, Heterodermia albidiflava, H. diademata, Dirinaria applanata, Ramalina hossei, Xanthoparmelia sp. and Usnea sp.* A total of 25 species were identified - 20 corticolous, 4 saxicolous and 1 terricolous species were present. Most of the species were present on branches of trees rather than the main stem. This is an intresting factor. With this we discuss with local peoples and people living on the edge of the sanctuary about threat to the sanctuary and the utilization value of forests by local people and document the traditional knowlwdge about medicinal use of lichens and other medecinal plants. One utilisation value of lichen is *Parmotrema* species mixed with calcium are used to cure cut wounds and these species also used in food adjuctives. Further work is in progress.