

KERALA FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

As part of initiating several ecological studies, Kerala Forest Research Institute, India installed four Skye MiniMets during 1997 in the Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Silent Valley National Park and Eravikulam National Park.

Hourly recordings of RH, air temperature, solar radiation, wind speed, wind direction, rainfall and soil temperature have been made from 1997 to March 1999 and the data processed by a computer programme developed at KFRI. One of the main objectives of collecting microclimate data from the four sanctuaries at different elevations, was to study the variation in the different parameters.

Since the latitudinal variation is minimum in the four locations most of the variation in microclimate can be ascribed to altitudinal gradation starting from 100m at Peechi to 1800m at Eravikulam. The full report is available from KFRI: Weather Data Acquisition from Selected Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kerala KFRI Research Report number 176.

Thanks to Dr. Jose Kallarackal for allowing us to feature his project.



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