

**STUDY ON *Cinnamomum camphora* OF ITS MEDICINAL VALUES, DISTRIBUTION
AND SUBSTITUTION IN SRI LANKA**

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Cinnamomum camphora known as Camphor used in Ayurveda drug preparations for its therapeutic properties. It is typically found in East Asia, Borneo and Sumatra. In Sri Lanka, this plant is reported only in 2 locations, including Peradeniya and Hakgala Botanical Gardens. Therefore, it is difficult to get the authentic plant in the local Ayurveda drug market. Limited availability and ignorance of its original source have resulted in problems with adulteration and substitution. This research was focused on the challenges associated with the adulteration of Camphor, evaluating its medicinal value, and exploring the potential for its local cultivation and conservation. The main objective of the study was to assess the growth performance of the plant under Sri Lankan lowland wet zone climatic conditions. A Camphor plant authenticated by the National Herbarium, Peradeniya was purchased from there and cultivated in the Ehaliyagoda area, Ratnapura district. Morphological parameters, including plant height, were recorded weekly over a 24-week duration. Environmental factors such as rainfall, temperature, and soil mixture were also monitored to assess their influence on plant growth. A literature review has been conducted to support this research, and additional data regarding medicinal uses, market adulteration practices, and cultivation requirements. The result demonstrated the plant's height increased from 12.2 cm over the 24-weeks observation period, showing its ability to adapt under the given climatic conditions. The findings revealed *Pinus longifolia* is used as a common substitute while synthetic camphor available in the market and practice as adulterants in the products. It can be concluded the benefits of understanding about promoting local cultivation to reduce alternatives and make sure safer Ayurveda products while supporting the cultivation and conservation of Camphor in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Camphor, *Cinnamomum camphora*, cultivation, conservation, substitutes