

837. **Venkataramanan, C. and Chinnamani, S. 1978.** A preliminary note on the return of nutrient by the leaf litter of wet (montane) temperate evergreen *Shola* forests of Nilgiris. *Indian For.*, 104(6):450-456.

Results of a preliminary study conducted at Ootacamund on the chemical composition and total quantity of the leaf litter in the wet (montane) temperate evergreen forests (locally called as *Sholas* of the Nilgiris) are presented. *Shola* forests of Nilgiris add annually 2121 kg/ha of litter, which by way of nutrients works out to annual addition to 231 kg N/ha, 1.3 kg P/ha, 11 kg K/ha, 34 kg Ca/ha and 5 kg Mg/ha in addition to 1956 kg organic matter/ha containing all important micronutrients. In terms of money value, addition of nutrients works out to be about Rs. 4300/ha/annum. Without recycling of nutrients, *Shola* forests maintain high fertility status with rich top soil and dense vegetation.