STUDY OF THE STORAGE BEHAVIOUR OF MICHELIA CHAMPACA L. (SAPU) SEEDS UNDER DIFFERENT STORAGE CONDITIONS

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A study was conducted, (I) to examine the difference of storage behaviour between M. champaca L. seeds with mesocarp and mesocarp-removed seed, and (II) to examine the storage behaviour among mesocarp-removed M. champaca L. seeds with different moisture contents.

In the first experiment, seeds with mesocarp and mesocarp-removed seeds were stored in room temperature and under refrigeration (mean temperature = 6.5°c). In the other experiment, mesocarp-removed seeds, dried to moisture contents of 21%, 17% 13% were stored under the above two temperature conditions. Both viability and germination of seed samples were determined before storage and after storage (2,4,6 and 8 weeks after storage). A Tetrazolium test procedure was adopted for viability determination, and germination test was conducted on a substratum of 2:1 mixture of top soil and river sand.

We found that, (1) loss of viability was significantly greater in seeds stored with mesocarp than seeds with mesocarp-removed under both temperature conditions. (2) Viability loss was greater in seeds with mesocarp-removed, with decreasing moisture contents. (3) In both mesocarp-removed and mesocarp not removed seeds, viability loss was greater at the room temperature than at low temperature (6.5°c). It shows that M.champaca L. seeds are not chilling sensitive up to 6.5°c.