

SURVIVAL OF RHIZOPHORA MUCRONATA LAM.
AND CERIOPS TAGAL (PERR.) C.B.ROB. SEEDLINGS
UNDER DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

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The knowledge on the survival of economically important species of mangrove seedlings is useful in a replanting programme. Because of their economic importance, C.tagal and R. mucronata were selected (Tomlinson, 1986) and the manipulation of three environmental factors namely, tide, salinity and light were carried out at the Negombo Lagoon for a period of three months. Greenhouse experiments were also carried out for changes in salinities.

The field studies showed that there is no significant difference in the growth of either species between the subtidal and the intertidal regions. R. mucronata survived better than C.tagal at both tidal levels. There was no significant differences in the rate of survival of plants between the upper and lower reaches of the lagoon. Both species grew better in light than in the shade. Greenhouse studies showed that the survival of C.tagal was higher than R. mucronata and survival was higher at low salinities than the salinities recorded for the lagoon (Pinto & Wignarajah 1980, Punchihewa & Pinto, 1987). Leaf production also increased with low salinities. While other factors too could influence the survival of mangrove species, this preliminary study indicated that R. mucronata is better suited for a replanting programme than C.tagal at this ecotone.

References:

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