B-59 Effect of storage period and removal of pericarp on cinnamon seed germination

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Seed is the most widely used propagation method for cinnamon, but it has several constraints. Cinnamon bears only once in a year and viability of seeds rapidly declines after harvesting. Therefore it is very important to introduce a suitable time period for seed storage. This experiment was conducted at Cinnamon Research Station in 1994, to study the effect of storage period and removal of pericarp on germination of cinnamon seeds.

Ripe seeds were harvested and bulked into 3 portions. The first portion was washed with water and their pericarps removed. The depericarped seeds were stored under good ventilated conditions. Second and third portions were stored with their pericarps in the same atmosphere. Removal of seeds from each portion and planting were continued for 4 weeks. Seed samples from the second portion were planted with pericarps while the third portion was depericarped just befor planting.

Germination percentage and the time taken for germination on each treatment were estimated. Germination of cinnamon seeds tends to decline with increase of storage time as well as removal of seed pericarp tends to increase the germination.

To obtain maximum results, ripe seeds must be stored for one day and depericarping must be performed just before planting. It is acceptable to store depericarped seeds up to one week in ventilated conditions to secure higher germination percentage. It is also possible to store ripe seeds with their pericarps up to 5 days and pericarp must be removed before planting.