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**Effect of Rhythmic Buddhist Chanting (*Pirith*) and Pop Music on Growth Performance of *Codariocalyx motorius* (Houtt.) H. Ohashi**

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Music affects the growth of plants by either promoting or restricting the growth of plants. The response of *Codariocalyx motorius* to Pop music and *Pirith* chanting was examined by conducting a laboratory experiment. Three (03) months old *C. motorius* saplings were kept in a sound proof confined chamber in Botany Research Laboratory, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Sri Lanka. The saplings were planted in plastic pots filled with a mixture of compost and soil, up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the total depth. Completely Randomized Design (CRD) was used with five replicates. One week after planting, plants were exposed to three treatments; Pop music, *Pirith* (*Thunsuthra*) and silence served as the control. Music and *Pirith* were played separately for an hour, 30 cm distance away from the plants with a sound level of 58 – 63 dB for two months continuously, maintaining equal environmental conditions. Measurements on plant height, number of leaves, number of branches, leaf area, leaf width, leaf length, number of leaflets, and chlorophyll content per plant were taken once every two weeks. The percentage difference of the parameters was calculated and data were analyzed using ANOVA. Significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) between the treatment of *Pirith* and pop music were observed for plant height, leaf width, leaf area, chlorophyll content and leaflet length. The magnitudes of the percentage difference between measured parameters of *C. motorius* under *Pirith* chanting and pop music indicated that there was discernible effect of *Pirith* chanting on the measured plant parameters in the study. The results of the study revealed that the rhythmic chanting of *Pirith* is the most appropriate rhythmic sound pattern that improved the growth performance of *C. motorius*, attributing to increases the metabolism when appropriate tune is played.

Keywords: *Codariocalyx motorius* (Houtt.) Ohashi, *Pirith*, Pop music, 'Pranajeewa.'

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