

SYLVICULTURAL CHARACTERS OF *Azadirachta excelsa* IN THE DRYLANDS OF SOUTH CENTRAL COAST REGION

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Summary

Azadirachta excelsa is a big wood indigenous species developed in some provinces in the South Central Coast. This research aims at providing scientific basis for management and protection of this species in the drylands of South Central coast. Research results showed that *A. excelsa* is scattered distributed in deciduous forests in the districts of Ninh Thuận province and some district including Tuy Phong, Bac Binh, North Ham Thuan, South Ham Thuan of Binh Thuan province; and Cam Ranh district, Khanh Hoa province. This species is usually distributed in relative flat areas with below 15°, altitude is below 350 m compared to sea level, average annual temperature is from 27.1 to 27.4°C, supreme absolute temperature is from 36 to 39.4°C, minimum absolute is from 16.1 to 18°C, average annual rainfall from 964.8 to 1431.0 mm/year. Soil type is grey or yellow grey developed on granite, lyparite or putdinh; acid or neutral soil with nutrient is from poor or rich. In research sites at Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan province, *Azadirachta excelsa* has important value (IV) 4.11 - 14.88%. Density of the natural regeneration forest is 400 - 880 trees/ha occupied 5 - 15.3% of the total regenerated trees in the stands. The species has high regenerated capacity by both shoots and seeds. The plants regenerated by shoots occupies from 30 to 80% of total regenerated plants. Height of regenerated plants contribute mainly at level I (< 0.5 m) and level II (0.5 - 1.0 m).

Key words: *Azadirachta excelsa*, composition, natural regeneration.