

**DISTRIBUTION CHARACTERISTICS OF *Eleocharis dulcis*
(Burm.f.) Trin. ex Hensch.) and ASSESSMENT OF
CULTIVATION POTENTIAL OF *Eleocharis dulcis* var. *tuberosa*.
IN MEKONG RIVER DELTA**

**Dao Phu Quoc, Tran Van Bang, Phan Thi Thanh Nha,
Dong Thi Minh Hau, Nguyen Phi Nga, Le Buu Thach**

Summary

Eleocharis dulcis (Burm.f) Trin. ex Hensch. (called Năng ống) is considered one of typical species of acid sulphate soil, naturally growing in unfavorable places for agricultural cultivation. Mean while, *Eleocharis dulcis* var. *tuberosa* (Schult.) T. Koyama (called Mã thầy), one variety of *E. dulcis*, is planted in many countries, including Vietnam, because its tubers contains high nutritional and medicinal values. The objectives of the paper are to determine the distribution and ecological characteristics of Năng ống in their natural habitats, thereby assessing the cultivation potential of Mã thầy in the Mekong delta. Field surveys were carried out to collect information on soil and water environmental characteristics as well as morphological characteristics of Năng ống; to combine soil distribution map and Google Earth's data to develop potential distribution map of Năng ống by software MAXENT. The results showed that the distribution area of Năng ống is widespread throughout the Mekong delta provinces, environmental conditions so that this species has a competitive advantage with other wetland species are pH <5, salinity <1‰. This map will also identify potential areas for planting Mã thầy to contribute to the diversity of crop structures and sustainable use of resources in Mekong delta.

Keywords: *Mekong delta, acid soil, Eleocharis dulcis, Eleocharis dulcis* var. *tuberosa, Chinese water chestnut.*