

## GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF TREE SPECIES IN MIXED PLANTATIONS RAISED IN FALLOWLAND, CHAPRA, INDIA

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### Abstract

Evaluation of growth performance study was conducted for following tree species : *Mangifera indica* , *Psidium guajava* , *Phyllanthus emblica* , *Syzigium cumini* (all fruit trees) , *Dalbergia sissoo* and *Tectona grandis* ( timber trees ) in three year old mixed plantations raised in abandoned cropland in J.P. University, campus , Chapra in August 2015. Data were collected for height and diameter of trees , length and diameter of twigs , and number of leaves on twigs . H:D ratios and tree volumes were also calculated . Better growth performance was observed in *T.grandis* in height and H:D ratios , *P.guajava* in diameter growth , *D,sissoo* in length of twig and tree volume , *M.indica* in growth of twig diameter and *P.emblica* in number of leaves on twigs . The plant species performance varied from site to site . Although the timber yielding tree species showed better performance in height , H:D ratios and tree volume considerably than the fruit trees .

**Keywords:** Growth performance, Height, Diameter, H:D ratios, Tree volume, Fallowland

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## Introduction

Plantations raised in fallowland, wastelands, mine spoils etc are helpful in reducing noise pollution (Fan et al 2010; Fang & Ling 2005), effective carbon sink (Graham et al 1992), supplier of vital oxygen (Broecker 1970) & conserve soil and water (Gokturk et al 2006). On the other hand plantations are useful in silviculture, agro-forestry and all other industrial sectors that depend on the trees. It is also helpful in restoration of biodiversity, ecosystem structure and functioning. Piotta (2007) proposed that the performance of planted native species of economic importance must be known to precisely prescribe appropriate species for enrichment planting for selecting potential species and predict their response. For every tree species height and diameter profile and survival rates varied from site to site, climatic factors and for other conditions which species is performing better is essential to know. Makela et al. (2000); Sievanen (1993); Landsberg and Waring (1997); Valentine et al. (1997); Bartelink (1998); Albrektson and Valinger (1985); Hashim (2005) and Piotta et al (2003) have evaluated the performance of the different tree plantations by some simple measurement and statistics. According to Opio et al (2000) height to diameter ratio (HDR) has been proposed as an alternative competition index to be used in determining the vigour and 'free growing' status of crop trees. HDR is an individual tree based index and is calculated by dividing the height of the crop tree either by the diameter at the root collar or diameter at breast height (DBH) of the tree. HDR has been used in Germany as a thinning tool in second growth stands of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziessi* (Mirb.) Franco var. *menziessi*) and western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla* (Raf.) Sarg) (Smith, 1986). The technique has the potential to provide a morphological measure of the influence of competing vegetation on crop trees (Mustard and Harper, 1998). HDR has been used for determination of the influence of various growth variables on height and diameter growth of crop trees (Lanner 1985; Waring and Schlesinger 1985; Salisbury and Ross 1985; Ross et al. 1986; Waring 1987; Hughes et al. 1990; MacDonald et al. 1990; Wagner and Radosevich 1991 a,b; Morris and MacDonald 1991; Tesch et al. 1993; Nilsson 1994; Messier 1996; Tanner et al. 1996; Coopersmith and Hall 1999). Generally the height and diameter growth are influenced by a combination of genetic potential, and physiological and morphological responses to environmental factors (Vogt et al. 1983; Cole and Newton 1987a; Harrington et al. 1991; Kelty et al. 1992; DeLong, 1991; Bi and Turvey 1994; Leiffers and Stadt 1994; Comeau and Sachs 1996; Simard and Heineman 1996; Davis 1998; Mustard and Harper 1998; Makinen 1998; Wang 1998). Cremer et al. (1982) and Nykanen et al (1997) reported that height: diameter ratios as a gauge for susceptibility to snow and wind damage for many years. Brunig (1974) and Faber (1975) showed that the relationships between height: diameter ratios and incidence of damage have been very strong. Lohmander and Helles (1987) and Nykanen et al. (1997) reported that conifer trees in northern Europe increased probability of damage with increases in height: diameter ratios. Cremer et al (1982) proposed that no damage at height: diameter ratios below 74 and almost complete damage at ratios above 90 for radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) in New Zealand. Baker et al (2003) reported that understanding the factors that control tree growth in successional stands is particularly important for quantifying the carbon sequestration potential and timber yield of secondary tropical forests. Uriarte et al (2004) reported that tree growth integrates competitive interactions for resources between trees at the stand level. Keddy (1989) and Whittaker (1975) proposed that H:D ratios are indicators of suitability of local environmental conditions for a given tree species (i.e., niche partitioning).

The present study was conducted to understand the growth parameters of important timber yielding plants such as *Tectona grandis* and *Dalbergia sissoo*, and fruit trees *Mangifera indica*, *Psidium guajava*, *Syzygium cumini* and medicinal plant *Phyllanthus emblica*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Four sites were selected in Jai Prakash University Campus Chapra, Bihar for growth performance study of trees species. The plantations were raised in 2012 by the village panchayats under Bihar Government schemes. The study sites are situated between 25° 36' and 26° 15' north latitude and 84° 24' and 85° 15' longitude in the Saran division Chapra Bihar. For the present study a total number of 118 individuals of six tree species were marked. On each marked individual two twigs were marked with the help of white paint. On the basis of availability of plants thirty individuals for *Mangifera indica*, twenty six for *Psidium guajava*, twenty six for *Phyllanthus emblica*, sixteen for *Dalbergia sissoo*, ten for *Tectona grandis* and six for *Syzygium cumini* were selected and marked in four study sites. In the month of August 2015 growth parameters such as height and diameter, height : diameter ratios, and tree volume of trees, length and diameter of twigs and number of leaves on twigs were determined. The height of trees was measured by using marked bamboo sticks or tape. The diameter at breast height (DBH) for tall trees at 1.34 m and for small individuals were determined above 20 cm from the soil surface with tape. The length and diameter of twigs were measured with the help of tape. Height: diameter ratio values were calculated by dividing the values of height by diameter. Tree volume growth ( $v$ ) was calculated as a cone;  $v = \frac{1}{3}d^2h$  (where  $d$  is denoted by diameter and  $h$  is denoted by height of tree).

## RESULTS

The mean values for height, diameter, height : diameter ratios; length and diameter of twigs and tree volumes recorded are in Table 1 in different study sites

### Height of trees

For *M.indica* values for height ranged from 260.0 cm to 224.8 cm; 287.60 to 229.9 cm for *P.guajava*; 331.7 to 249.6 cm for *P.emblica*; 268.16 to 422.4 cm for *D.sissoo*; 156.6 cm for *S.cumini* and 570.2 cm for *T.grandis* at different study sites (Table 1).

### Diameter of trees

The values for diameter ranged from 22.1 to 19.0 cm for *M.indica*, 27.9 to 21.0 cm for *P.guajava*, 26.5 to 15.8 cm for *P.emblica*; 8.6 to 18.6 cm for *D.sissoo*; 12.0 for *S.cumini* and 16.9 cm for *T. grandis* (Table 1).

**Table1: Height, diameter, height: diameter ratios, length and diameter of twigs and numbers of leaves in 3 year old plantations**

	Plant species	sites	Mean height (cm)	Mean diameter (cm)	Mean length of twigs (cm)	Mean diameter of twigs (cm)	Mean number of leaves	Height / diameter ratio	Tree volume ( $m^3$ )
1	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	1	237.4	22.1	64.65	2.21	53.8	10.74	0.116
		2	22.4	20.3	49.8	4.55	37.6	11.07	0.009
		3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		4	260	19	49.45	3.85	26.7	13.68	0.09
2	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		2	247.4	18.7	49.15	1.53	27.3	13.22	0.087
		3	229.9	21.4	57.1	2.07	15.4	10.74	0.105
		4	287.6	27.9	54.05	2.8	20.45	10.31	0.224
3	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	1	249.6	15.8	58.16	1.50	69.4	15.80	0.062
		2	276	26.5	63.5	1.75	84	10.42	0.194
		3	331.7	25.2	74.6	1.45	57.25	13.16	0.211
		4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	1	268.16	8.6	64.91	2.0	34.41	31.18	1.983
		2	422.4	18.8	70.1	2.09	37.5	22.71	0.149
		3			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
5	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		3	156.66	12	32.5	1.65	12.8	13.06	0.0226
		4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	1	570.2	16.6	NA	NA	NA	33.74	0.145

### Length of twigs

The mean values for length of twigs varied from 49.8 to 64.65 cm for *M.indica* ; 49.15 to 57.10 cm for *P.guajava* ; 58.16 to 74.6 cm for *P.emblica* ; 70.1 to 64.91 for *D.sissoo* and 32.5 cm for *S.cumini* at different study sites .

### Diameter of twigs

For *M.indica* the mean values for diameter of twigs ranged from 3.85 to 4.55 cm ; 1.53 to 2.80 cm for *P.guajava* ; 1.45 to 1.75 cm for *P.emblica* ; 2.0 to 2.90 for *D.sissoo* and 1.65 cm for *S.cumini*.

### Number of leaves

The mean values for number of leaves on twigs ranged from 26.7 to 53.8 for *M.indica* ; 15.4 to 27.3 for *P.guajava* ; 57.25 to 84.0 for *P. emblica* ; 37.15 to 34.41 for *D.sissoo* and 12.8 for *S.cumini* at different study sites (Table 1) .

### Height : Diameter Ratios

These values ranged from 10.74 to 13.68 for *M.indica* ; 10.31 to 13.22 for *P.guajava* ; 10.42 to 15.80 for *P.emblica* ; 22.71 to 31.18 for *D.sissoo* ; 13.06 for *S.cumini* and 33.74 for *T. grandis* in different study sites (Table 1).

### Tree volume

For *M.indica* values for tree volume ranged from 0.09 to 0.116  $m^3$  0.087 to 0.224  $m^3$  for *P.guajava*; 0.062 to 0.211  $m^3$  for *P.emblica* and 0.149 to 1.983  $m^3$  for *D.sissoo*. This value was 0.0226  $m^3$  for *S.cumini* and 0.145  $m^3$  for *T.grandis* (Table1).

### Discussion

In the present study *T.grandis* showed better performance than other species in height growth (Fig 1a) . The other species can be arranged in decreasing order as *D.sissoo* , *P.emblica* , *P.guajava* , *M.indica* and *S.cumini*. *P.guajava* showed better growth in terms of diameter growth than other species (Fig 1b) . The remaining species can be arranged as *P.emblica* , *M.indica* , *T. grandis* , *D.sissoo* and *S.cumini* . In *D.sissoo* the growth of length of twigs was better than other species (Fig 1c). The other species were *P.emblica* , *M.indica* , *P.guajava* and *S.cumini* .*M.indica* showed better performance than other species in case of growth in diameter of twigs (Fig 1d) . The other species were *P.guajava* . *D.sissoo* , *S.cumini* and *P.emblica* . The number of leaves was maximum in *P.emblica* than other species studied (Table 2; Fig 1e) .

Table 2: Mean values Of different sites for different parameters studied

Plant species	Height (cm)	Diameter (cm)	Twig length (cm)	Twig diameter (cm)	No. of leaves	H:D ratios	Tree volume (m <sup>3</sup> )
<i>M.indica</i>	173.27	20.47	54.63	3.54	39.37	11.83	0.072
<i>P.guajava</i>	254.97	22.67	53.43	2.13	21.05	11.42	0.139
<i>P.emblica</i>	285.77	25.5	65.42	1.57	70.22	13.13	0.156
<i>D.sissoo</i>	345.28	13.7	67.51	2.05	35.78	26.95	0.066
<i>S.cumini</i>	156.66	12.0	32.5	1.65	12.8	13.6	0.0226
<i>T. grandis</i>	570.27	16.0	NA	NA	NA	33.74	0.145

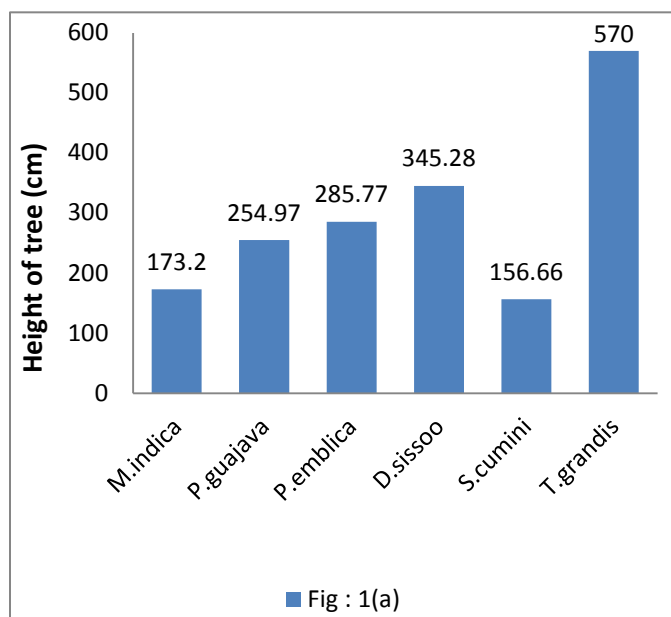


Fig :1(a) Height of trees (cm)

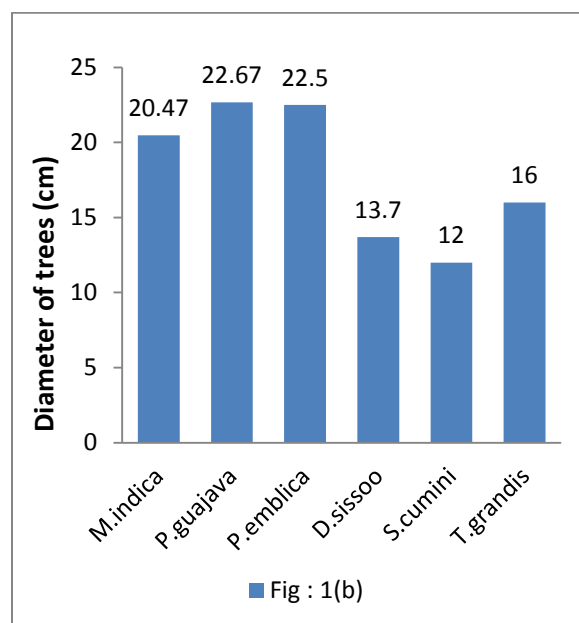


Fig : 1(b) Diameter of trees (cm)

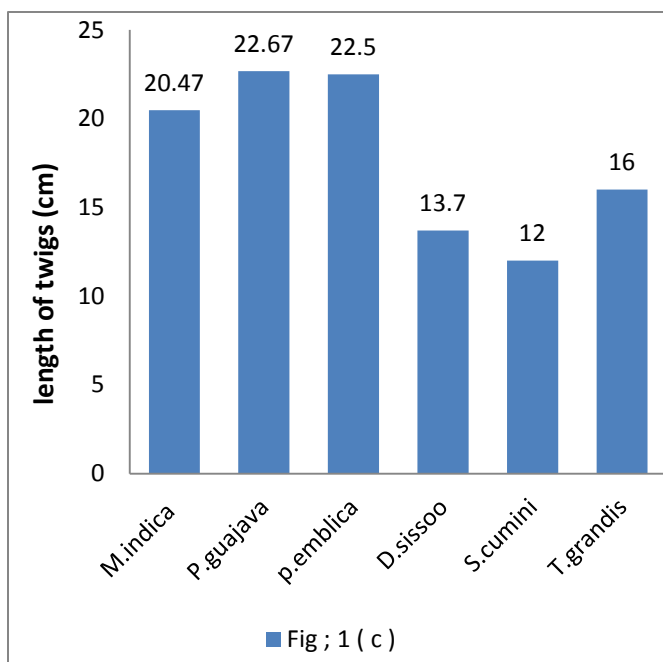


Fig : 1( c ) Length of twigs (cm)

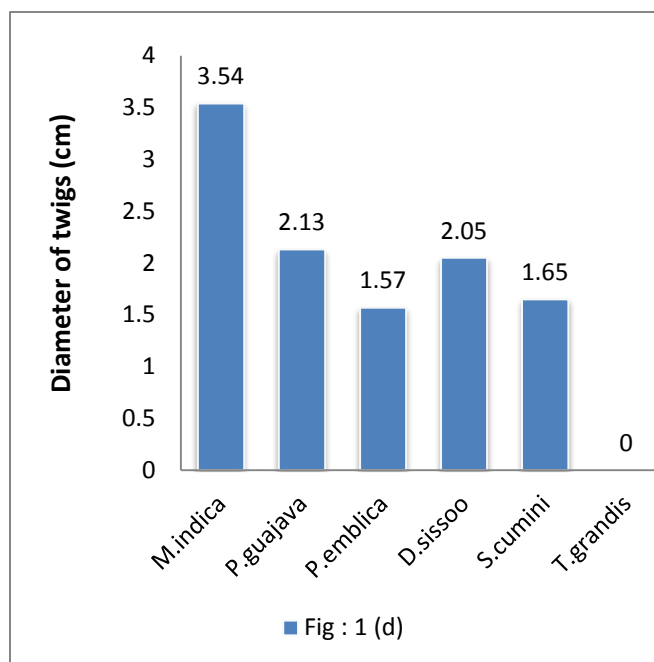


Fig : 1 (d) Diameter of twigs (cm)

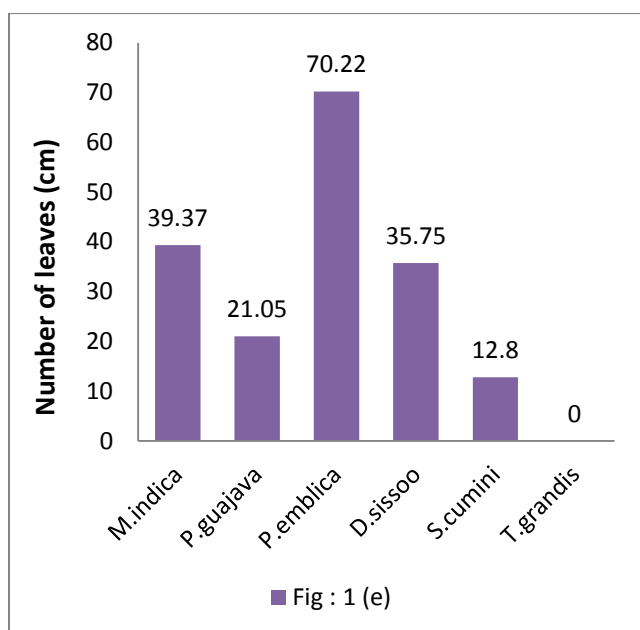


Fig : 1(e) Number of leaves /twig (cm)

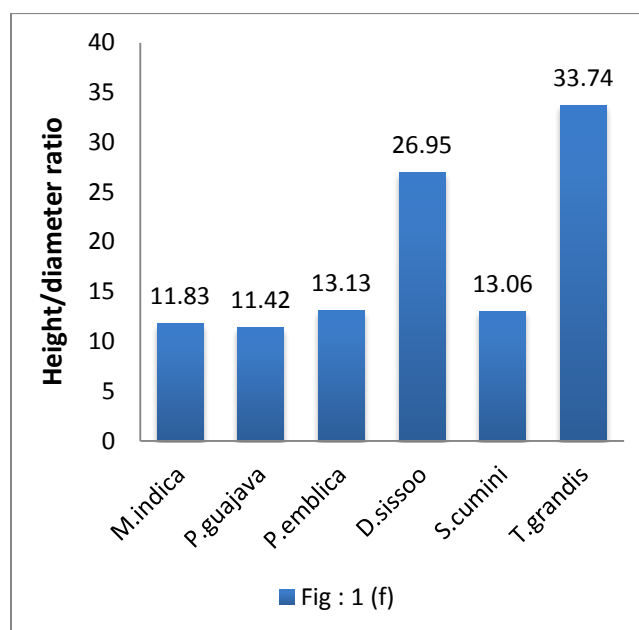
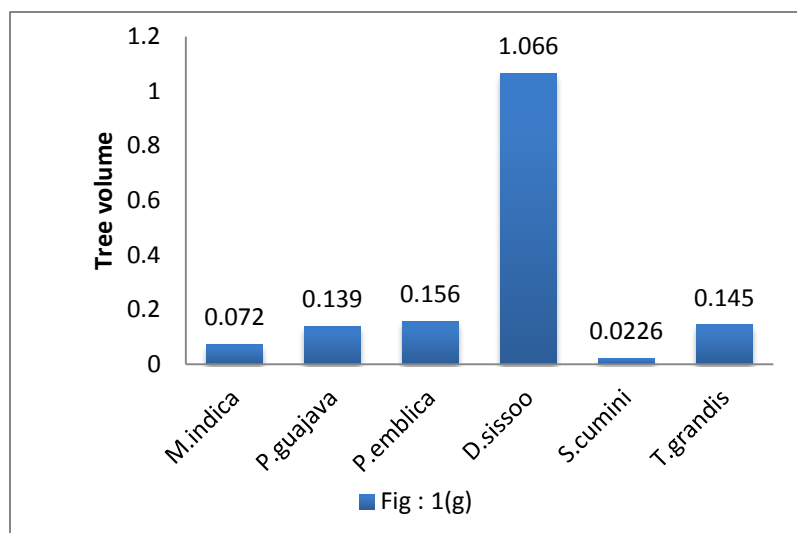


Fig : 1(f) H:D Ratios



**Fig : 1 (g) Tree volume (m<sup>3</sup>)**

*T.grandis* showed maximum values for H:D ratios than other species studied (Fig 1f) . The other species can be arranged as *D.sissoo* , *P.emblica* *S.cumini* , *M.indica* and *P.guajava* . *D.sissoo* produced maximum value for tree volume than other species (Fig 1g) . The other species were in decreasing order as *P.emblica* , *T.grandis* , *P.guajava* , *M.indica* and *S.cumini* (Table 2) .

Differences in the growth parameters were observed within the same tree species between different study sites . Piotta (2007) has also reported variations for every tree species height and diameter profile varied from site to site . The growth of companion species is suppressed by fast growing species in mixed plantations ( Hansen and Dowson 1982 ; Jha 2012). Singh et al (1997 ) reported that the lowest per tree height , diameter and volume increment in *Pangamia pinnata* when grown with other legume *Acacia catechu* . Singh (2006) observed that the highest value for height , diameter and volume were realized by *T.grandis* when grown with *Dendrocalamus strictus* . Cole and Newton (1986,1987b) and Shainsky and Radserich (1992) proposed that competition for resource as a dominant process which influences the performance of species in mixed plantations . Singh (1997) reported that height , diameter and volume increment had significant positive relationship with foliar nitrogen than phosphorus concentrations .

The present study conducted in three year old mixed culture plantations indicated that in terms of height , diameter and tree volume growth satisfactory performances were shown by *M.indica* , *P.guajava* , *P.emblica* , *D.sissoo* , *S.cumini* and *T.grndis* . Long term monitoring of growth performances are essential including regeneration and survival rates of these tree species.



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