



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND GENETIC VARIATION OF FOUR
ACACIA SPECIES PLANTED IN PAHANG, MALAYSIA**

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**GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND GENETIC VARIATION OF FOUR *ACACIA*
SPECIES PLANTED IN PAHANG, MALAYSIA**

By

MOHD NOOR MAHAT

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Acacia mangium Willd, *Acacia auriculiformis* A. Cunn. ex Benth., *Acacia crassicarpa* A. Cunn. ex Benth. and *Acacia aulacocarpa* A. Cunn. ex Benth. are the four fast-growing tropical acacias which have received high priority for genetic assessment and improvement in the Asian region. Despite their rapid early growth and tolerance to a wide range of environmental conditions, only *A. mangium* has been widely planted in the Compensatory Forest Plantation Programme in Malaysia. The seed sources utilised in the plantation were however, unselected and originated from a narrow genetic base. Therefore, this study was conducted at Kampung Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang to evaluate the genetic variation and growth performance of a base breeding populations of *Acacia* species in terms of their quantitative and qualitative growth characteristics. Estimates of some parameters such as genetic correlation and heritability were also made. Twenty progenies each of the species were collected from two geographic regions namely Queensland and Papua New Guinea were used in this study. This trial was laid out in a randomized complete block design with four replications.



Generally all species adapted and performed well in local condition and their growth performances were significantly different ($P < 0.05$) between species, provenance and family. *A. mangium* was the best performer in almost all of the traits tested, followed by *A. crassicarpa*, *A. auriculiformis* and *A. aulacocarpa*. Concurrently, all species exhibited high intra species variation for all the traits assessed. There were also significant genetic variation between regions, between provenances within region and between families within the provenances exists in the quantitative traits assessed for all species. The populations collected from Papua New Guinea, generally, outperformed those from Queensland in quantitative growth traits except for stem quality which appeared otherwise. The progenies in the family also exhibit high genetic variability with variance component ranging from 39% to 93.7% of the total variance. Out of these, few individuals were found to be exceptionally good performer, even from the poor families such as JSL3777 of *A. mangium*, MHL14 of *A. crassicarpa*, BH14068 of *A. auriculiformis* and GB100 of *A. aulacocarpa*. Among the top performing families were KN097, CG1853 and JSL380 of *A. mangium*, BVG2609 and MHL13A of *A. crassicarpa*, GB098, MM1016 and AR10 of *A. aulacocarpa* and BH14607 and JSL363 of *A. auriculiformis*.

There were significant differences between species (at $P < 0.05$) for selected wood properties tested. *A. aulacocarpa* gave the highest wood density of 0.59 g/cm^3 , followed by *A. auriculiformis* (0.54 g/cm^3), *Acacia crassicarpa* (0.51 g/cm^3) and *A. mangium* (0.43 g/cm^3). On the contrary, the order of ranking differed in fiber length where, *A. crassicarpa* produced the longest fiber length (0.91mm), followed by *A. mangium* (0.85mm), *A. aulacocarpa* (0.83mm) and *A. auriculiformis* (0.83mm).

The study found that all species were efficient in their photosynthetic capabilities since they produced F_v/F_m values above 0.80 and were not significantly different.

Generally the heritability estimates were variable between traits and between species. The heritability estimates of quantitative growth traits for *A. aulacocarpa* were found to be almost consistent for all traits ranging from 0.36 to 0.40. Similarly, *A. mangium* gave estimates ranging from 0.30 to 0.36. On the contrary *A. auriculiformis* gave comparatively more variable estimates ranging from 0.23 to 0.37. *A. crassicarpa* recorded comparatively lower estimates ranging from 0.20 to 0.30. The heritability estimates for the qualitative traits were however, low with majority of them estimating narrow sense heritabilities below 0.20. The heritability estimates for wood properties and chlorophyll fluorescence varied significantly from none (0.0) to moderate (0.32) for families of all species tested. The phenotypic and genetic correlations varied widely ranging from 0.0 to 0.96 for the former and from 0.0 to 0.83 for the latter, respectively. Generally, these correlations were found to vary between traits as well as between species. The correlations between growth traits and stem qualitative traits were generally moderate (0.4 –0.6) to high (above 0.6). The correlations between quantitative traits and other traits were found to be generally low (below 0.4) whereas correlations between physiological traits and wood properties and with other traits were generally very low (below 0.1) or even not correlated at all. This study indicated that further improvement could still be done on this base breeding population by employing further selection on a few selected traits at a time for the development of advanced breeding or even for the production populations.



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**PRESTASI PERTUMBUHAN DAN VARIASI GENETIK EMPAT SPESIES
ACACIA DI TANAM DI PAHANG, MALAYSIA**

Oleh

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Acacia mangium Willd, *Acacia auriculiformis* A. Cunn. ex Benth, *Acacia crassicaarpa* A. Cunn ex Benth dan *Acacia aulacocarpa* A. Cunn ex Benth merupakan empat spesies Acacia tropika yang cepat tumbuh yang mendapat penilaian utama penilaian genetik dan penambahbaikan di kawasan Asia. Walaupun mempunyai kadar pertumbuhan awal yang cepat dan toleransi terhadap pelbagai keadaan persekitaran, hanya *Acacia mangium* yang ditanam secara meluas di bawah Program Kompensatori Hutan Ladang di Malaysia. Sumber biji benih yang digunakan dalam program ini walau bagaimanapun, tidak dipilih dan berasal daripada asas genetik yang kecil. Oleh yang demikian, kajian ini dijalankan di Kampung Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang untuk menilai variasi genetik dan prestasi ciri-ciri pertumbuhan populasi pembiakan asas genotip Acacia dari sudut kuantitatif dan kualitatif. Di samping itu anggaran terhadap beberapa parameter seperti korelasi genetik dan keterwarisan juga dibuat. Sebanyak 20 progeni setiap spesies dari dua kawasan geografi iaitu Queensland dan Papua New Guinea digunakan dalam kajian ini. Kajian spesies, provenan dan progeni dijalankan menggunakan reka bentuk blok rawak lengkap.

Secara umum, kesemua spesies berupaya menyesuaikan dan tumbuh dengan baik di Malaysia dan menunjukkan kadar pertumbuhan yang berbeza secara bererti ($P < 0.05$) antara spesies, provenan dan famili. *A. mangium* menunjukkan pertumbuhan yang terbaik diikuti dengan *A. crassicarpa*, *A. auriculiformis* and *A. aulacocarpa*. Pada masa yang sama kesemua spesies mempamerkan variasi intra-spesifik yang tinggi bagi setiap ciri yang dinilai. Variasi genetik juga didapati ketara antara kawasan geografi, antara provenan dari kawasan yang sama, dan antara famili daripada provenans yang sama dalam kesemua ciri yang dikaji daripada keempat-empat spesies. Populasi yang berasal dari Papua New Guinea pada umumnya menunjukkan prestasi yang lebih baik berbanding Queensland dalam semua ciri pertumbuhan kuantitatif kecuali kualiti batang. Progeni-progeni dalam famili juga menunjukkan variasi genetik yang tinggi dengan varians antara 39% ke 93.7%. Beberapa individu didapati menunjukkan kadar pertumbuhan yang begitu baik walaupun berasal daripada famili yang inferior seperti *Acacia mangium* JSL3777, *A. crassicarpa* MHL14, *A. auriculiformis* BH14068 dan *A. aulacocarpa* GB100. Antara famili terbaik ialah *A. mangium* KN097, CG1853 dan JSL380, *A. crassicarpa* BVG2609 dan MHL13A, *A. aulacocarpa* GB098, MM1016 dan AR10, dan *A. auriculiformis* BH14607 dan JSL363. Terdapat juga perbezaan secara bererti ($P < 0.05$) untuk beberapa sifat-sifat kayu yang diuji. *A. aulacocarpa* memberikan ketumpatan kayu tertinggi iaitu 0.59 g/cm^3 , diikuti dengan *A. auriculiformis* (0.54 g/cm^3), *A. crassicarpa* (0.51 g/cm^3) dan *A. mangium* (0.43 g/cm^3). Berbeza pula dengan saiz gentian di mana *A. crassicarpa* menghasilkan gentian terpanjang (0.91 mm), diikuti dengan *A. mangium* (0.85 mm), *A. aulacocarpa* (0.83 mm) dan *A. auriculiformis* (0.83 mm). Kajian ini juga mendapati



semua spesies mempunyai keupayaan fotosintesis yang efisien kerana menghasilkan nilai F_v/F_m melebihi 0.80 dan tidak berbeza secara bererti.

Pada umumnya, anggaran keterwarisan berbeza antara ciri dan antara spesies. Anggaran keterwarisan ciri pertumbuhan kuantitatif *A. aulacocarpa* didapati hampir konsisten bagi semua ciri iaitu antara 0.36 ke 0.40. *A. mangium* juga menunjukkan anggaran yang agak konsisten antara 0.30 ke 0.36. Sebaliknya, *A. auriculiformis* memberikan anggaran yang lebih tidak sekata iaitu antara 0.23 ke 0.37. *A. crassicarpa* pula merekodkan anggaran yang jauh lebih rendah antara 0.20 ke 0.30. Anggaran keterwarisan untuk ciri-ciri kualitatif walau bagaimanapun rendah dengan majoriti di bawah 0.20. Anggaran keterwarisan untuk sifat-sifat kayu dan pendarfluor klorofil berbeza dengan bererti daripada tiada (0.0) ke sederhana (0.32) untuk kesemua famili yang diuji. Korelasi fenotip dan genetik pula mempunyai perbezaan yang jelas dengan julat 0.0 ke 0.96 untuk korelasi fenotip dan 0.0 ke 0.83 untuk korelasi genetik. Secara umum, korelasi-korelasi ini didapati berbeza antara ciri dan juga antara spesies. Korelasi antara ciri pertumbuhan dan ciri kualitatif batang adalah sederhana (0.4 – 0.6) ke tinggi (melebihi 0.6). Korelasi antara ciri kuantitatif dan ciri-ciri yang lain pada dasarnya didapati lebih rendah (di bawah 0.4), manakala korelasi antara ciri fisiologi dan sifat-sifat kayu dengan ciri-ciri yang lain adalah sangat rendah (di bawah 0.1) atau tidak ada korelasi. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa kualiti populasi pembiakan asas ini mampu dipertingkatkan dengan melakukan pemilihan berterusan pada ciri-ciri terpilih dan juga boleh digunakan sebagai populasi pengeluaran bahan tanaman.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 5th October 2007 conduct the final examination of Mohd Noor Mahat on her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Growth Performance and Genetic Variation of Four *Acacia* Species Planted in Pahang, Malaysia” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommended that the candidate be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

MOHD NOOR MAHAT

Date: 1 January 2008



TABLES OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	ii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	viii
APPROVAL	x
DECLARATION	xii
LIST OF TABLES	xvi
LIST OF FIGURES	xxv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxvii
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION	1
Introduction	1
The Study Background and Justification	5
The Objectives	8
II LITERATURE REVIEW	9
<i>Acacia</i> as a Plantation Species	9
<i>Acacia mangium</i>	10
Natural Distribution and Ecology	11
Growth and Performance of <i>Acacia mangium</i> in Malaysia	11
Wood Properties and Utilization	13
Other Selected <i>Acacia</i> Species	14
Natural Distribution and Ecology	15
Growth and Yield	17
Wood Properties and Uses	22
Wood and Genetic Control	23
Variation within Tree	25
Variation between Tree	30
Wood Variation among Sites and Geographic Regions	33
Wood Density	38
Fiber Length	41
III MATERIALS AND METHODS	45
The Materials	45
Field Establishment	45
Experimental Design and Layout	46
The Sub-studies	50
Data Analysis	50
Analysis of Species Performance	51
Variance Component	52



IV	ASSESSMENT OF THE GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGENY	58
	Introduction	58
	Species Trials	61
	Provenance Test	62
	Progeny Test	64
	Materials and Methods	67
	The Materials	67
	Measurement of The Traits	67
	Statistical Analysis	68
	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	68
	Variance Components Estimates	68
	Results and Discussion	69
	Performances between Species	69
	Performances within Species	62
	Variance Component	91
V	ASSESSMENT OF SOME SELECTED QUALITATIVE TRAITS OF STEM QUALITY OF THE PROGENY	96
	Introduction	96
	Genetic Control of Qualitative Stem Quality	99
	Materials and Methods	103
	The Materials	103
	Description of The Traits	103
	Statistical Analysis	104
	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	109
	Variance Component Estimates	109
	Results and Discussion	110
	Species Comparison	110
	Variation within Species	114
	Variance Component	135
VI	GENETIC VARIATION OF SELECTED WOOD QUALITY OF THE PROGENY	139
	Introduction	139
	Materials and Methods	141
	The Materials	141
	Wood Samples	141
	Determination of Wood Density	142
	Determination of Fiber Length	142
	Maceration	142
	Slide Preparation	143
	Statistical Analysis	143
	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	144
	Variance Components Estimates	144



	Results and Discussion	145
	Variation between Species	145
	Variation within Species	147
	Variance Components	156
VII	GENETIC VARIATION OF THE CHLOROPHYLL FLOURESCENCE OF THE PROGENY	160
	Introduction	160
	Photosynthesis and Environment	162
	Chlorophyll Flourescence	165
	Materials and Methods	167
	The Materials	167
	Chlorophyll Flourescence	167
	Stomata Count	168
	Statistical Analysis	169
	Analysis of Variance	169
	Results and Discussion	170
	Variation Between and Within Species	170
VIII	HERITABILTY ESTIMATION AND CORRELATION BETWEEN THE TRAITS	181
	Introduction	181
	Heritability	183
	Correlation between Traits	186
	Phenotypic and Genetic Correlations	188
	Materials and Methods	191
	The Materials	191
	Heritability	191
	Genetic Correlation	192
	Results and Discussion	192
	Heritability of The Traits	192
	Relationship between Traits	200
IX	GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	210
	The Growth Performance of The Species	213
	Genetic Variation and Implications for Future Selection	215
	Heritabilities and Correlations between Traits	219
	Recommendation for Further Breeding Strategy	221
	REFERENCES	223
	APPENDICES	260
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	299



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Details of Species, Region, Provenance and Progeny Used in the Study	48-49
2	Random Distribution of Families in Block 1	53
3	Random Distribution of Families in Block 2	54
4	Random Distribution of Families in Block 3	55
5	Random Distribution of Families in Block 4	56
6	Means for Height, Diameter at Breast Height, Clear Bole Height, Crown Height and Crown Size of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	70
7	Analysis of Variance for Species Using Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) Method for the Growth Traits.	71
8	Analysis of Variance for the Quantitative Growth Traits at 36 Month after Planting of <i>A.mangium</i>	73
9	Analysis of Variance for the Quantitative Growth Traits at 36 Month after Planting of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> .	74
10	Analysis of Variance for the Quantitative Growth Traits at 36 Month after Planting of <i>A. auriculiformis</i>	74
11	Analysis of Variance for the Quantitative Growth Traits at 36 Month after Planting of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> .	74
12	Means of the Growth Traits for Geographic Regions of <i>A mangium</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	77
13	Means of the Growth Traits for Provenances of <i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	77
14	Means of the Growth Traits for Families of <i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	78
15	Means of the Growth Traits for Geographic Regions of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	79



16	Means of the Growth Traits for Provenances of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	79
17	Means of the Growth Traits for Families of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	80
18	Means of the Growth Traits for Geographic Regions of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	81
19	Means of the Growth Traits for Provenances of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	81
20	Means of the Growth Traits for Families of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	82
21	Means of the Growth Traits for Geographic Regions of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	83
22	Means of the Growth Traits for Provenances of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	83
23	Means of the Growth Traits for Families of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	84
24	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance For Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. mangium</i>	92
25	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance For Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. crassicarpa</i>	92
26	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. auriculiformis</i>	93
27	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i>	93
28	Examples of the Inheritance of Tree Straightness	100
29	Studies on the Inheritance of Branch Characteristics and Forking of Tree Bole	101
30	Means and Mode for Bole Quality, Stem Form, Forking Habit, Branch Size and Branch Angle of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	110
31	Analysis of Variance of Bole Quality, Stem Form, Forking Habit,	111



Branch Size and Branch Angle for Species Using Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) Method for All Growth Traits

32	Frequency and Percentage of Trees According to Class for Bole Quality of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	112
33	Frequency and Percentage according to Class for Forking Habit of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	112
34	Frequency and Percentage according to Class for Stem Form of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang	112
35	Frequency and Percentage according to Class for Branch Size of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	113
36	Frequency and Percentage according to Class for Branch Angle of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	113
37	Results of Analysis of Variance for Qualitative for Stem Quality at 36 Month after Planting of <i>A.mangium</i> .	115
38	Results of Analysis of Variance for Qualitative for Stem Quality at 36 Month after Planting of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> .	115
39	Results of Analysis of Variance for Qualitative for Stem Quality at 36 Month after Planting of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> .	116
40	Results of Analysis of Variance for Qualitative for Stem Quality at 36 Month after Planting of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> .	116
41	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Geographic Regions of <i>A mangium</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	117
42	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Geographic Regions of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	117
43	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Geographic Regions of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	117
44	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Geographic Regions of <i>A.</i>	118



	<i>auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	
45	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Provenances of <i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	118
46	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Provenances of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	118
47	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Provenances of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	119
48	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Provenances of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	119
49	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Families of <i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	120
50	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Families of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	121
51	Means of the Qualitative Traits for Families of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	122
52	Means of the Qualitative Traits for families of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	123
53	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Geographic Region According to Class for Bole Quality of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	124
54	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Geographic Region According to Class for Forking Habit of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	124
55	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Geographic Region According to Class for Stem Form of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	125
56	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Geographic Region According to Class for Branch Size of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	125
57	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Geographic Region According to Class for Branch Angle of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species	126

Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.

58	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Provenances According to Class for Bole Quality of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	127
59	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Provenances According to Class for Forking Habit of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> S Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	128
60	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Provenances According to Class for Stem Form of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	129
61	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Provenances According to Class for Branch Size of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	130
62	Frequency and Percentage of Trees for Provenances According to Class for Branch Angle of the Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	131
63	Comparison of Percentage of class (5 + 6) between Geographic Regions of each Species	133
64	Comparison of Percentage of class (5 + 6) between Provenance of each Species	134
65	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> .	136
66	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> .	136
67	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. crassicarpa</i>	137
68	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. mangium</i> .	137
69	Means for the Wood Fiber Length and Oven-dry Density of the Three Year old <i>Acacia</i> species planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	146
70	Analysis of Variance for Between Species Using Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) Method for Fiber Length and Oven-dry Density.	146



71	Analysis of Variance for Fiber Length and Wood Density of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Month after Planting.	148
72	Analysis of Variance for Fiber Length and Wood Density of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Month after Planting.	148
73	Analysis of Variance for Fiber Length and Wood Density of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Month after Planting	149
74	Analysis of Variance for Fiber Length and Wood Density of <i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Month after Planting.	149
75	Means of fiber length and wood density for Geographic Regions of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	150
76	Means of fiber length and wood density for Provenances of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	150
77	Means of the Growth Traits for Families of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	150
78	Means of Fiber Length and Wood Density for Geographic Regions of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	152
79	Means of Fiber Length and Wood Density for Provenances of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	152
80	Means of Fiber Length and Wood Density for Families of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	152
81	Means of Fiber Length and Wood Density for Geographic Regions of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	153
82	Means of Fiber Length and Wood Density for Provenances of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	153
83	Means of the Growth Traits for Families of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	
84	Means of Fiber Length and Wood Density for Geographic Regions of	155



	<i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	
85	Means of Fiber Length and Wood Density for Provenances of <i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	155
86	Means of the Growth Traits for Families of <i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	156
87	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. mangium</i>	158
88	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. crassicarpa</i>	158
89	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family <i>A. auriculiformis</i>	159
90	Variance Components and Their Percentages Toward Total Variance for Region, Provenance, Family and within Family of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> .	159
91	Means for Chlorophyll Fluorescence and Stomata Density of The Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis Pahang.	171
92	Analysis of Variance for Species Using Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) Method for Chlorophyll Fluorescence and Stomata Density on Both Side of The Phylode of The Three Year Old <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang.	171
93	Means for Length and Width of The Stomata of <i>Acacia</i> Species Planted at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	172
94	Analysis of Variance Using Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) Method for Chlorophyll Fluorescence and Stomata Density on Both Side of the Phylode at 36 Months after Planting of <i>A. auriculiformis</i>	173
95	Analysis of Variance Using Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) Method for Chlorophyll Fluorescence and Stomata Density on Both Side of the Phylode at 36 Months after Planting of <i>A. mangium</i> .	173
96	Analysis of Variance Using Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) Method for Chlorophyll Fluorescence and Stomata Density on Both Side of the Phylode at 36 Months after Planting of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i>	174
97	Analysis of Variance Using Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML)	174

	Method for Chlorophyll Fluorescence and Stomata Density on Both Side of the Phylode at 36 Months after Planting of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> .	
98	Means of the chlorophyll fluorescence and stomata density for Families of <i>A. auriculiformis</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	176
99	Means of the chlorophyll fluorescence and stomata density for Families of <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang	176
100	Means of the the chlorophyll fluorescence and stomata density for Families of <i>A. crassicarpa</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang.	177
101	Means of the the chlorophyll fluorescence and stomata density for Families of <i>A. mangium</i> at 36 Months after Planting at Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis, Pahang.	177
102	Estimates of Family Heritability for Selected Quantitative Growth Traits of the Four Selected <i>Acacia</i> Species.	193
103	Estimates of Family Heritability for Selected Qualitative Traits of the Four Selected <i>Acacia</i> Species.	195
104	Estimates of Family Heritability for Selected Wood Properties and Physiological Traits of the Four Selected <i>Acacia</i> Species.	196
105	Phenotypic (Above Diagonal) and Genetic (Below Diagonal) Correlations between Traits of <i>Acacia mangium</i> at 36 months after planting.	206
106	Phenotypic (Above Diagonal) and Genetic (Below Diagonal) Correlations between Traits of <i>Acacia crassicarpa</i> at 36 months after planting.	207
107	Phenotypic (Above Diagonal) and Genetic (Below Diagonal) Correlations between Traits of <i>Acacia aulacocarpa</i> at 36 months after planting.	208
108	Phenotypic (Above Diagonal) and Genetic (Below Diagonal) Correlations between Traits of <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> at 36 months after planting.	209

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Map of the Location of Kampung Aur Gading in Kuala Lipis, Pahang.	47
2	Field Layout of Randomised Complete Block Design of <i>Acacias</i> Species/Provenance/Progeny Trial at Kg. Aur Gading, Kuala Lipis.	57
3	Distribution of Families within Geographic Regions for the Total Height of <i>A. mangium</i>	86
4	Distribution of Families within Provenances for the Total Height of <i>A. mangium</i>	87
5	Distribution of Families within Geographic Regions for the Total Height of <i>A. crassicarpa</i>	88
6	Distribution of Families within Provenances for the Total Height of <i>A. crassicarpa</i>	88
7	Distribution of Families within Geographic Regions for the Total Height of <i>A. auriculiformis</i>	89
8	Distribution of Families within Provenances for the Total Height of <i>A. auriculiformis</i>	89
9	Distribution of Families within Geographic Regions for the Total Height of <i>A. aulococarpa</i>	90
10	Distribution of Families within Provenances for the Total Height of <i>A. aulococarpa</i>	90
11	Distribution of Classes in the Assessment of Bole Quality	105
12	Tree Bole Quality with Score Point of 6 (round bole)	105
13	Distribution of Classes in the Assessment of Stem Form	106
14	Tree Stem Form with Score Point of 2 (2 severe bends)	106
15	Tree Fork with Score Point of 1 (multiple leaders)	107
16	Distribution of Classes in the Assessment of Branch Angle	107
17	Distribution of Classes in the Assessment Branch Size	108

