

SEED PRETREATMENT METHODS TO ENHANCE THE GERMINATION OF *MEMECYLON TALBOTIANUM* BRANDIS ENDEMIC TO THE WESTERN GHATS, A POTENTIAL SPECIES FOR CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

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Abstract: *Memecylon talbotianum* is an understory evergreen tree endemic to Western Ghats. Propagation of *Memecylon* species is mainly through seeds, but the very poor and delayed germination of fresh seeds is a major hurdle in planting stock production. The present study was formulated to improve the germination of this species by imparting nine seed pretreatments. Results indicated the presence of physiological dormancy in this species which was evident from the permeable seed coat and presence of differentiated embryo. Soaking of depulped seeds in water for 12 hours was the best pretreatment with superior germination (41.1%), Mean Daily Germination (0.44) and Peak Value (0.56). This simple and cheap treatment can be recommended for large scale planting stock production of this species. This study forms the first report on germination attributes of *M. talbotianum* and the data will contribute to *ex situ* conservation of this endemic plant.

Keywords: Germination, *Memecylon talbotianum*, Physiological dormancy, Pretreatments, Water soaking

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