

# PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THE FLOWERING AND FRUITING BEHAVIORS OF NYAMPLUNG (*Calophyllum inophyllum* Linn.)

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## ABSTRACT

Nyamplung (*Calophyllum inophyllum* Linn.) has high potential as raw material for biodiesel. Understanding reproductive growth behavior of nyamplung is important if the species want to be developed for supporting biodiesel program. This study is aiming at understanding the flowering and fruiting characteristics and their development; ripe fruit production; fruit harvesting time and seed viability of nyamplung. The study completed in 2010 in Jerowaru and Korleko (East Lombok District), and North Batukliang (Central Lombok District). The method consists of direct observation and seed germination trial. The results indicated that nyamplung has a perfect flower were both male and female reproductive organs are in a single flower. Nyamplung fruit is globose with its length from 2.5 to 3.4 and the width from 2.3 to 3.3 cm. Nyamplung flowering period was different between sites as a respond to biophysical and agro-climatic condition of the habitat. The flowering period tends to delay with the increase of rainfall and this association had high correlation (97,3%). The flowering period completes within a month, while the fruiting period within 1.5 to 2.5 months. The percentages of ripe fruits at each location were 40.29% (Korleko), 36.45% (North Batukliang), and 32.78% (Jerowaru). The percentages of germinated seeds were 94.87% (North Batukliang), 91.01% (Jerowaru), and 77.05% (Korleko). Mature fruits were potentially available in August in Jerowaru and Korleko, and in October in North Batukliang.

Keywords: *Calophyllum inophyllum* Linn., flowering, fruiting, seed viability

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nyamplung (*Calophyllum inophyllum* Linn.) is a medium to a large tree species and belongs to the family of *Clusiaceae*. The trees can reach up to 30 m height and 80 cm in diameter. The tree is native to Australia, South Asia and South East Asia (Friday and Okano, 2006). Habitat for the trees ranges from altitude of 0 to 200 m above sea level, rainfall type A and B, and between 1,000-3,000 mm/year. Nyamplung is categorized as a multi-purpose tree species and has high potential as biodiesel raw material with 74% productive substance contents (Departemen Kehutanan, 2008). The trees

produce flowers throughout the year although the highest fruit production occurs during August to September. Nyamplung starts to produce fruits at age of 7 years and continue fruiting up to the age of 58 years (Bustomi *et al.*, 2008).

Despite of its wide distribution area, information on phenology (flowering and fruiting behavior) of nyamplung is still limited. The information is needed to know the optimum quantity and quality of fruits and seeds production. The study aims at knowing the flower and fruit characteristics and their development, ripe fruits production, seed viability, and fruit harvesting time. The study completed from April to October 2010 and located in Jerowaru and Korleko villages in East Lombok District and North Batukliang village in Central Lombok District.

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## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### A. Materials

The materials used for this study were nine nyamplung trees, three trees each from Jerowaru, Korleko and North Batukliang for flowering and fruiting observation. The seeds were harvested for germination trials. Some equipment used in the study was Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS) tool, camera, thermo-hygrometer, and microscope.

### B. Methods

The trees were selected from a productive population, which have straight stem and having some branches heading to the east or west. The distance between the observed trees at each location was minimum 20 m. Ten branches at each tree were labeled, then three flowers were selected from the labeled branches for flowering observation and continued for fruiting observation.

Flower observation was done regularly, which was started when 50% of the tree population was flowering. The observation was done by measuring flower length from the bottom to the top of the flowers. Fruiting observations were started since the initial fruit had been formed. These observations were done regularly on fruit dimension (length and width) and development (young to mature). Ripe fruit percentage was obtained by dividing the number of ripe fruits by the number of all fruits from 10 labeled branches at each tree in a certain harvesting period. Ripe

fruits were germinated, and the germinated seed percentage was calculated by dividing the number of germinated seed by the number of seed used.

It was assumed that the tree flowering and fruiting process was influenced by the specific environmental condition. For that reason, biophysical characteristic and agro-climate condition of the sites were observed. The observed characteristics were temperature, monthly rainfall and altitude.

### C. Data Analysis

Correlation between flowering period with monthly rainfall, canopy temperature, and altitude were analyzed using Pearson's correlation analyses. Variation in flower length and fruit length were analyzed using variance analyses (ANOVA) followed by Least Significant Difference (LSD) multiple comparison test at  $\alpha = 0.01$ .

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Flowering Session

The results showed that nyamplung flowers in April to May in Jerowaru (Figure 1), May to June in Korleko (Figure 2), and June to July in North Batukliang (Figure 3). The periodicity difference on flowering was affected by the difference on habitat condition. Pallardy (2008) stated that flowering periodicity of plants in the tropics was very diverse. In non-seasonal tropical climate, the flowering of plants might be seen throughout the year with the greatest flowering occurred at a

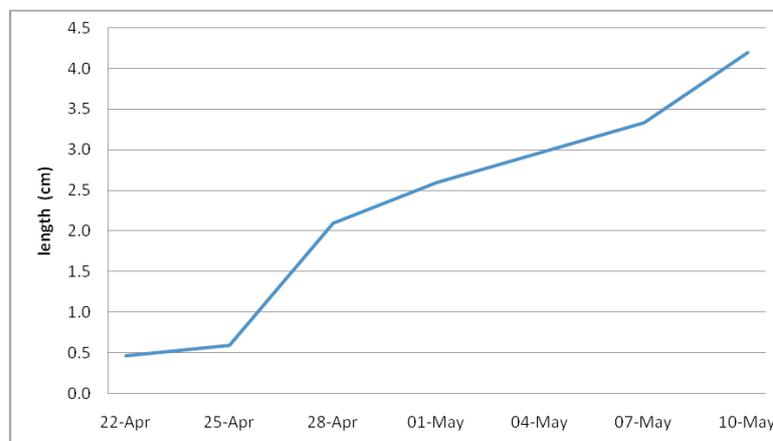


Figure 1. Nyamplung flowering season in Jerowaru

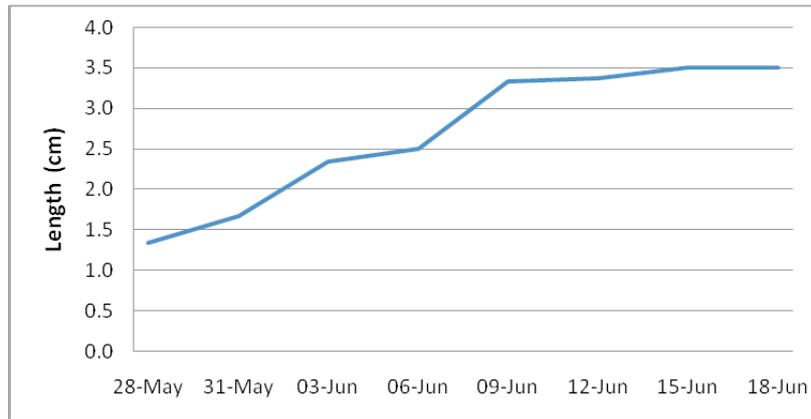


Figure 2. Nyamplung flowering season in Korleko

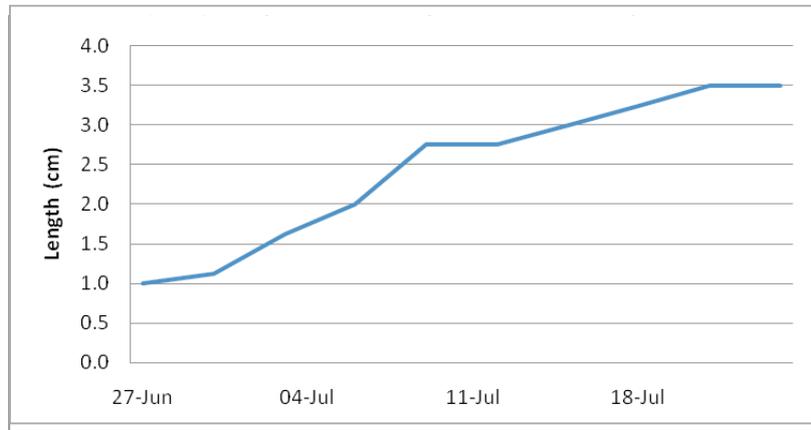


Figure 3. Nyamplung flowering season in North Batukliang

certain time of the year, and much greater when there was a distinct dry season. Lesica and Kittelson (2010) stated that in semi-arid regions, precipitation and temperature were associated with flowering phenology. In relation to the land altitude, Warnock *et al.* (1993) stated that the plants that grow on plateau would have late flowering session than those that grow on lowland.

In North Batukliang with altitude of 425 m above sea level (asl), the flowering period was occurred at temperature of 29.5°C, and monthly

rainfall of 242 mm. In Korleko with altitude of 75 m asl, the flowering period was occurred at temperature of 34.2°C, and monthly rainfall of 130 mm. In Jerowaru with altitude of 50 m asl, the flowering period was occurred at temperature of 32.7°C, and monthly rainfall of 83 mm (Table 1).

Based on the correlation analyses (Table 2), the correlation coefficients between nyamplung flowering period with canopy temperature, monthly rainfall, and altitude were 66.7%, 97.3% and 89.4%, respectively. The analyses indicated

Table 1. Nyamplung flowering periods, site temperatures, monthly rainfalls, and altitudes in North Batukliang, Korleko, and Jerowaru

Site	Flowering period (month)	Canopy Temperature (°C)	Monthly Rainfall (mm)	Altitude (m asl)
North Batukliang	Juni-Juli	29.5	242	425
Korleko	Mei-Juni	34.2	130	75
Jerowaru	April-Mei	32.7	83	50

Table 2. Results of correlation analyses between nyamplung flowering periods and canopy temperature, monthly rainfall, and altitude

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N =3				
Prob>  r  under H0: Rho=0				
	FP	CT	Alt	MR
FP	1.00000	-0.66647	0.89429	0.97326
		0.5356	0.2954	0.1476
CT	<b>-0.66647</b>	1.00000	-0.92963	-0.81991
	0.5356		0.2402	0.3880
Alt	<b>0.89429</b>	-0.92963	1.00000	0.97317
	0.2954	0.2402		0.1478
MR	<b>0.97326</b>	-0.81991	0.97317	1.00000
	0.1476	0.3880	0.1478	

Notes:

N= sites number

FP = Flowering Period

CT = Means of Canopy Temperature

Alt = Altitude

MR = Monthly Rainfall

Table 3. Variance analyses result of flower length between individual flowers

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3.592	2	1.796	6.883	.004(*)
Within Groups	6.262	24	.261		
Total	9.854	26			

\*) significant at the 0.01 level

Table 4. LSD test results of flower length between individual flowers from all sites

(I) SITE	(J) SITE	Mean Difference (I - J)	Std. Error	Sig.	99% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1.00	2.00	.8000(*)	.24080	<b>.003</b>	.1265	1.4735
	3.00	.7444(*)	.24080	<b>.005</b>	.0709	1.4179
2.00	1.00	-.8000(*)	.24080	<b>.003</b>	-1.4735	-.1265
	3.00	-.0556	.24080	.819	-.7291	.6179
3.00	1.00	-.7444(*)	.24080	<b>.005</b>	-1.4179	-.0709
	2.00	.0556	.24080	.819	-.6179	.7291

\*) The mean difference is significant at the 0.01 level.

Site 1.00 = Jerowaru; Site 2.00 = Korleko; Site 3.00 = North Batukliang

that the increase in monthly rainfall was highly correlated (97.3%) with the delay on flowering period. The trees that grow in habitat with more monthly rain showed more belated flowering season than those that grow in habitat with less rain. However, more information is still required to clearly understand such relationship.

The longevity of flower was regulated by environmental condition although it was more determined by pollination. The longevity of individual flowers, usually quite short but differs depending on the species, habitat, and environmental conditions (Pallardy, 2008). Bud development was controlled by an interaction of

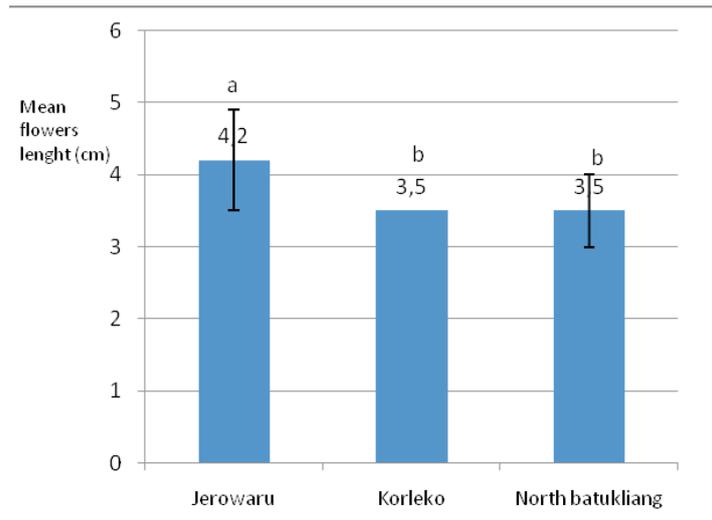


Figure 4. Nyamplung flower length. The same letters on the histograms indicate no significant difference in the corresponding flower length ( $p < 0.01$  by LSD test)



Figure 5. Nyamplung flower

environmental factors and indigenous factors. However, the relationship between environmental factors with flowering of plant is still difficult to identify (Raghavendra, 1991).

Flower longevity and bud development of the trees differ between sites. At final growth, the length of flower in the three locations ranged from 3.5 to 4.2 cm. Analyses of variance (ANOVA) of flower length between individual flowers showed a significant flower length difference (Table 3). In line with the variance analyses, the LSD test showed different flower length between trees in different locations (Table 4). Further analyses indicated that there

were two different flower lengths; the longer sizes were produced from Jerowaru (4.2 cm), and the shorter sizes (3.5 cm) were produced from Korleko and North Batukliang (Figure 4).

Based on the observation, nyamplung flower was white, clustered, and have 4-6 oblong petals. It is similarly with Friday and Okano (2006) stated that nyamplung flower is white, clustered, and have 4-8 oblong petals. Moreover, the observation showed that the flower was perfect (Figure 5). Both male and female reproductive organs were located in a single flower. The male and female reproductive organs of nyamplung flower can be seen in Figure 6 and 7 respectively.



Figure 6. Nyamplung flower pollen

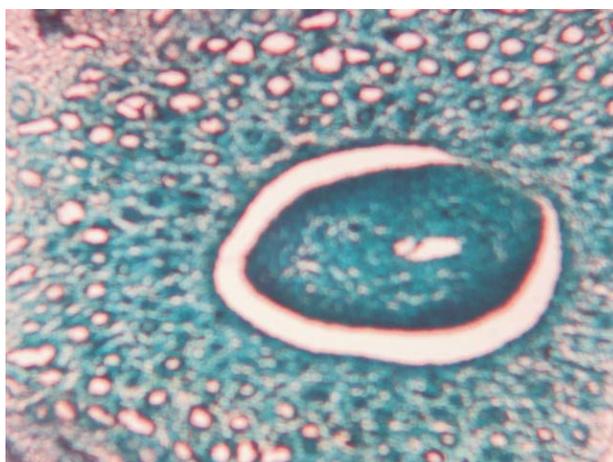


Figure 7. Nyamplung flower ovum

### B. Fruiting Session

Nyamplung starts to produce fruits after pollinated by insects. One of these pollination vectors is beetle as illustrated by the Figure 8. Fruiting session occurred between 1.5 and 2.5

months and showed some differences between locations. The fruiting sessions in the three locations of Jerowaru, Korleko, and North Batukliang were: 2.5 months (from May to August), 2 months (from June to August), and 1.5

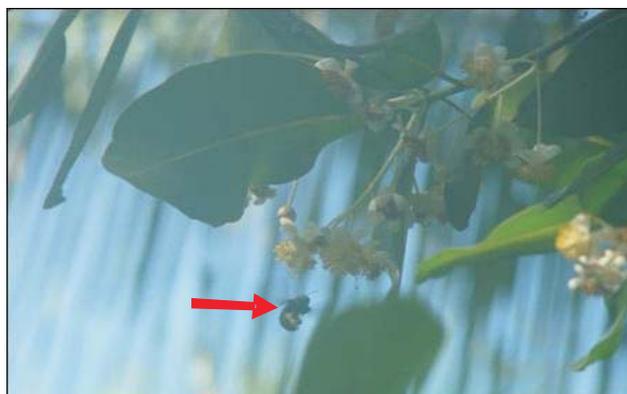


Figure 8. Nyamplung pollination by beetle

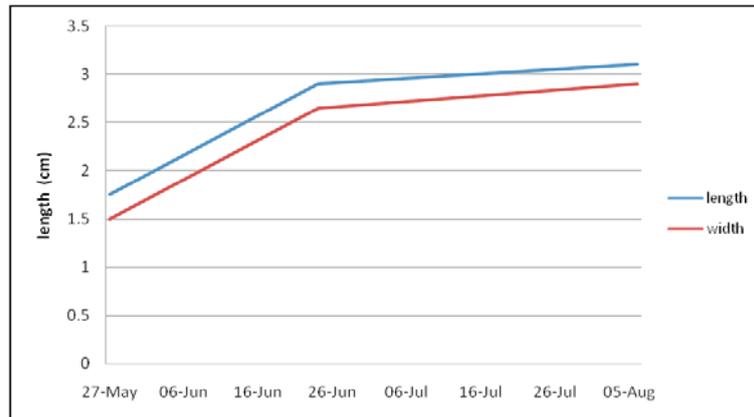


Figure 9. Nyamplung fruiting season in Jerowaru

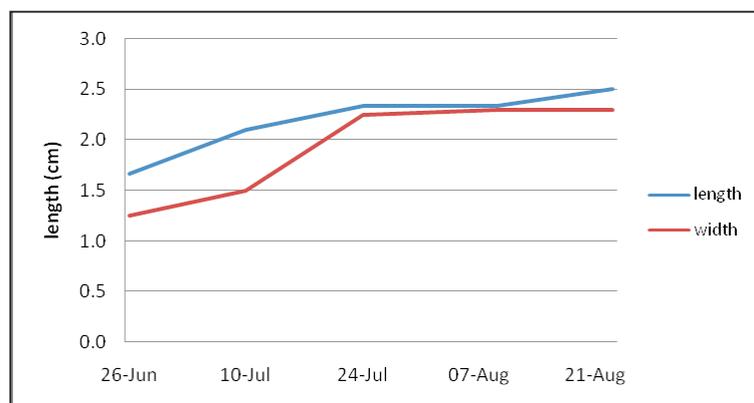


Figure 10. Nyamplung fruiting season in Korleko

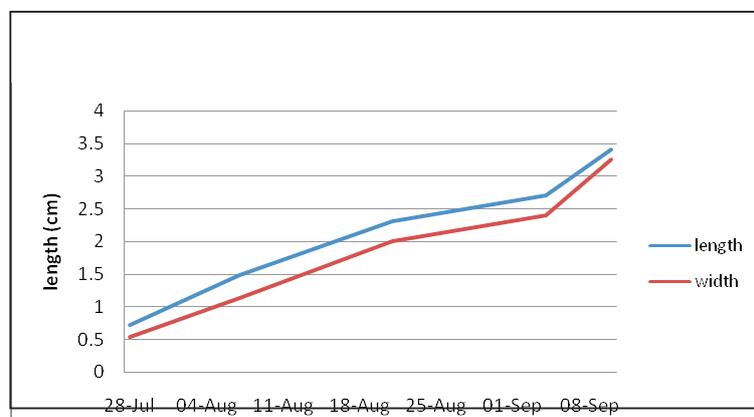


Figure 11. Nyamplung fruiting season in North Batukliang

Table 5. Variance analyses result of fruit length between individual fruits

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	4.601	2	2.300	51.651	.000 (*)
Within Groups	1.069	24	.045		
Total	5.670	26			

) significant at the 0.01 level.

Table 6. Multiple comparison (LSD) results of fruit length between individual fruits from all sites

(I) SITE	(J) SITE	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	99% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1.00	2.00	.5000(*)	.09948	.000	.2217	.7783
	3.00	-.5111(*)	.09948	.000	-.7894	-.2329
2.00	1.00	-.5000(*)	.09948	.000	-.7783	-.2217
	3.00	-1.0111(*)	.09948	.000	-1.2894	-.7329
3.00	1.00	.5111(*)	.09948	.000	.2329	.7894
	2.00	1.0111(*)	.09948	.000	.7329	1.2894

) The mean difference is significant at the 0.01 level.  
 Site 1.00 = Jerowaru; Site 2.00 = Korleko; Site 3.00 = North Batukliang

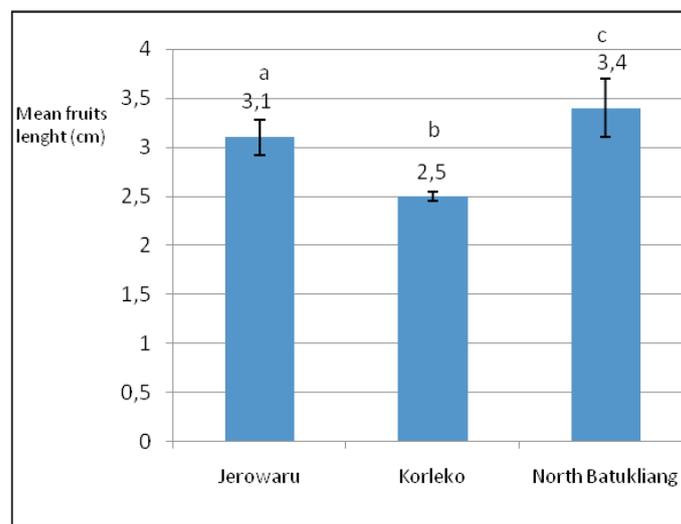


Figure 12. Nyamplung fruit length. The same letters on the histograms indicate no significant difference in the corresponding fruit length ( $p < 0.01$  by LSD test)

months (from July to September) respectively. The fruiting sessions for each location are presented in Figure 9, 10 and 11 respectively.

Nyamplung fruit length showed some differences. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and further LSD test showed that the difference was found significantly on the length of fruit between the individual fruits and between locations (Tables 5 and 6). As showed by the Figure 12, the longest average fruit length was found in North Batukliang (3.4 cm) where as the shortest was found in Korleko (2.5 cm).

**C. Ripe Fruit, Seed Viability, and Fruit Harvesting Time**

The percentage of ripe fruits in Jerowaru, North Batukliang and Korleko were 32.78%,

36.45%, and 40.29% respectively (Figure 13). Nyamplung trees in Korleko had the highest fruit production, where as the least one was in Jerowaru. Environmental and indigenous factors affected production as well as quality of the fruits. Field study indicated that many of young fruits were fall during the fruiting period, but it is difficult to understand which factors that had affected this phenomenon.

The competition of pollen among flowers in one tree was believed as the endogenous factor that affects fruit production (Lestari, 2010). The premature drop of flowers and fruits might be resulted by the competition for metabolism between vegetative and reproductive shoots. Abortion was seen as a trade-off between seed number and seed quality that permits the parent

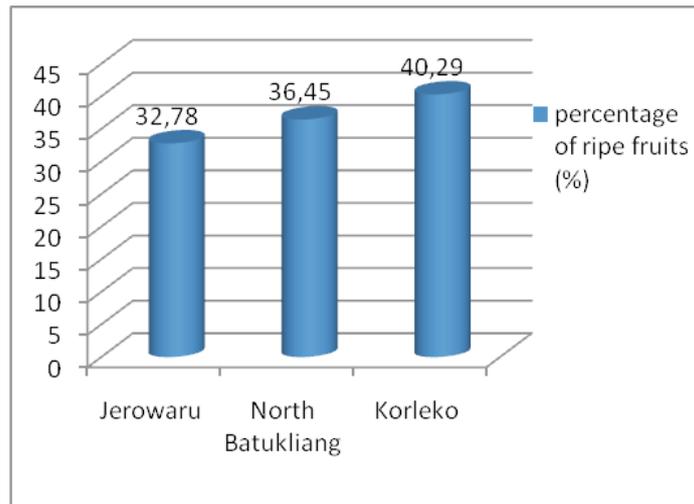


Figure 13. Percentage of ripe fruits in Jerowaru, North Batukliang, and Korleko

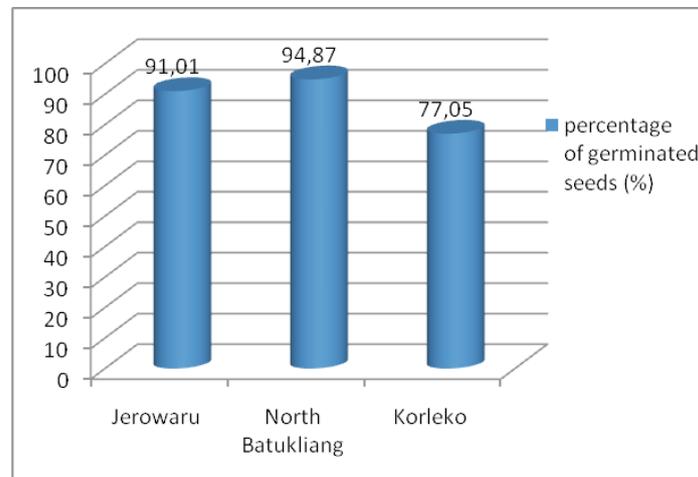


Figure 14. Germinated seed percentages in Jerowaru, North Batukliang, and Korleko



Figure 15. Nyamplung flower and fruit development scheme

plant to match fruit production with available resources. Loss of flowers and fruits vary between species (Raghavendra, 1991). This study in Jerowaru indicated somewhat evidence that the strong wind was happened in a short period that caused many drops of young fruits in some trees.

Fruit quality is a critical issue for successful seed stocking and continuity of seedling production. Seed germination trials were done to know the viability seeds that were harvested from the study sites. Figure 14 shows the percentage of nyamplung germinated seeds of all sites. The highest percentage of germinated seed was found in seeds that were harvested from North Batukliang (94.87%), while from Jerowaru and Korleko the percentages were 91.01% and 77.05% respectively.

It took 1.5 - 2.5 months for young nyamplung fruit to mature. The actual fruit harvesting time among the sites differed due to the difference of initial flowering time. Based on the observation, the mature nyamplung fruit was available on August in Jerowaru and Korleko, while in North Batukliang was on October. Nyamplung flower and fruit development scheme are presented in Figure 15.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Nyamplung has perfect flowers with both male and female organs in a single flower. The length of flowers ranges from 3.5 to 4.2 cm. The longest flower was found in Jerowaru. The flowering session occurs within a month, although there were differences on when the season occurs in the three study sites. Higher rainfall tends to delay nyamplung flowering period.

Nyamplung fruit is globose with its length from 2.5 to 3.4 and the width from 2.3 to 3.3 cm. The fruiting process occurred from 1.5 to 2.5 months. The mature fruits in Jerowaru and Korleko could be available in August, while in North Batukliang in October. Percentage of the ripe fruits in Jerowaru, North Batukliang and

Korleko were 32.78%, 36.45% and 40.29% respectively, while the germinated seed percentage were 91.01%, 94.87%, and 77.05%, respectively.

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