



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**THE INFLUENCE OF MANAGEMENT AND SILVICULTURAL
PRACTICES ON THE INCIDENCE OF HEART ROT IN
ACACIA MANGIUM PLANTATIONS**

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PRACTICES ON THE INCIDENCE OF HEART ROT IN
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By

HASHIM BIN MD. NOOR

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	xvi
LIST OF PLATES	xvii
GLOSARRY	xix
ABSTRACT	xx
ABSTRAK	xxiii
 CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION	1
General Introduction	1
Objectives of Study	6
II ACACIA MANGIUM AS A PLANTATION SPECIES	8
Introduction	8
Description of Species	9
Botanical Description	9
Natural Distribution and Ecology	10
Management Practices of Plantations	11
Nursery Practices	11
Silvicultural Practices	12
Growth and Performance in Malaysia	16
Pest and Disease Problems	19



	Wood Properties and Utilization	20
III	CHARACTERISTICS OF HEART-ROTTED WOOD	22
	Introduction	22
	Literature Review	22
	Fungal Wood Decay	22
	Types of Wood Decay	23
	Characteristics of Decayed Wood	25
	Heart Rot and Corewood	27
	Decay Detection	28
	Materials and Methods	29
	Pathological Observation	29
	Wood Density	30
	Microscopic Observations	32
	Chemical Analyses	32
	Results and Discussion	33
	Pathological Observation	33
	Wood Density	40
	Microscopic Observations	41
	Observation Under Light Microscope	41
	Observation Using Scanning Electron Microscope	44
	The Chemical Properties	48
IV	INCIDENCE OF HEART ROT IN <i>ACACIA MANGIUM</i> PLANTATIONS	51
	Introduction	51



Literature Review	52
Nature and Occurrence of Heart Rot	52
Silvicultural Practices and Heart Rot	54
Materials and Methods	59
Study Sites	59
Description of the Selected Stands	60
Preliminary Survey	67
Detailed Survey	68
Determination of Heart Rot	71
Statistical Analysis	73
Results and Discussion	74
Incidence of Heart Rot in Thinnings	74
Incidence of Heart Rot in Potential Crop Trees (PCTs)	80
Incidence of Heart Rot in Selected Trial Plots	89
V GENERAL DISCUSSION	105
VI SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	112
BIBLIOGRAPHY	120
APPENDICES	142
Appendix A	143
Slide Preparation Techniques	143
Method of Sample Preparation for the Scanning Electron Microscope	144



Appendix B	145
Chemical Wood Analyses	145
Appendix C	155
Description of Study Sites	155
Appendix D	163
Results of the Analyses of Variance	163
VITA	192



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	The Silvicultural Regime of the Compensatory Plantation Project	14
2	Thinning and Pruning Schedules for the Production of High Quality Logs of <i>Acacia mangium</i>	15
3	List of Fungi Isolated from a Dominant Heart-rotted Tree Grown in Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve (USFR)	38
4	The Densities of Heartwood of <i>Acacia mangium</i> at Different Stages of Decay	41
5	The Chemical Analyses of Heart-rotted and Sound Heartwood of Five-Year-Old <i>Acacia mangium</i> Grown at Kemasul Forest Reserve in Pahang	48
6	Summary of the Characteristics of Study Sites ...	62
7	Details of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Provenance Trials at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang and Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan	65
8	The Incidence and Distribution of Heart Rot in the First Thinnings of <i>Acacia mangium</i> at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve, Selangor and Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve, Johor	75
9	The Incidence and Distribution of Heart Rot in the Second Thinnings of <i>Acacia mangium</i> at Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve, Johor	76
10	The Incidence and Distribution of Heart Rot in Five-Year-Old Thinnings of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Grown in Kemasul Forest Reserve (KFR).....	78
11	The Extent of Heart Rot in Five-Year-Old Thinnings of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Grown at Kemasul Forest Reserve (KFR) in Pahang	79



	Page
12	The Incidence of Heart Rot in the Potential Crop Trees of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Grown in Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve (RPFR) in Selangor 81
13	The Incidence of Heart Rot in the Potential Crop Trees of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Grown in Bukit Tarek Forest Reserve (BTFR) in Selangor 82
14	The Incidence of Heart Rot in the Potential Crop Trees of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Grown at Kemasul Forest Reserve (KFR) in Pahang 83
15	The Incidence of Heart Rot in the Potential Crop Trees of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Grown at Setul Forest Reserve (SFR) in Negeri Sembilan 84
16	The Incidence of Heart Rot in the Potential Crop Trees of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Grown at Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve (USFR) in Johor 85
17	Heart Rot Incidence and Extent in Stands of Australian and Malaysian Seed Origins 88
18	Heart Rot Incidence of a Six-Year-Old Spacing Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve in Pahang 90
19	Heart Rot Incidence of Nine-Year-Old Spacing Trial at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve (RPFR) in Selangor 91
20	The Incidence of Heart Rot in a Three-Year-Old Singled and Unsingled Trees at Kemasul Forest Reserve in Pahang 93
21	The Effect of Singling Treatment on the Heart Rot Incidence in Six-Year-Old <i>Acacia mangium</i> Plots at Kemasul Forest Reserve (KFR) in Pahang 94
22	The Incidence of Heart Rot in Low-Pruned and Unthinned <i>Acacia mangium</i> Plot at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 96



23	The Incidence of Heartrot in High-Pruned <i>Acacia mangium</i> Plot at Kemasul Forest Reserve in Pahang	99
24	The Incidence of Heart Rot in High-Pruned <i>Acacia mangium</i> Plot at Kemasul Forest Reserve in Pahang	100
25	The Effect of Thinning on the Incidence of Heart Rot in Six-Year-Old <i>Acacia mangium</i> Stands at Kemasul Forest Reserve in Pahang	101
26	The Incidence of Heart Rot in <i>Acacia mangium</i> of Different Provenances Grown at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang	103
27	The Incidence of Heart Rot in <i>Acacia mangium</i> of Different Provenances Grown at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan	104
28	Analysis of Variance for Density of Three Heart Rot Classes	165
29	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Three Classes of the First Thinnings	165
30	Analysis of Variance for Volume of Heartwood in Three DBH Classes of the First Thinnings	166
31	Analysis of Variance for Volume of Heart Rot in Three DBH Classes of the First Thinnings	166
32	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot in Three DBH Classes of the First Thinnings	167
33	Analysis of Variance for DBH in Seven Age Groups of Potential Crop Trees Planted at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve, Selangor	167



	Page
34	Analysis of Variance for Height in Seven Age Groups of Potential Crop Trees Planted at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve, Selangor 168
35	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Seven Age Groups of Potential Crop Trees Planted at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve, Selangor 168
36	Analysis of Variance for Heart Rot Volume in Seven Age Groups of Potential Crop Trees Planted at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve, Selangor 169
37	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot in Potential Crop Trees of Seven Age Groups Planted at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve, Selangor 169
38	Analysis of Variance for DBH in Potential Crop Trees of Four Age Groups Planted at Bukit Tarek Forest Reserve, Selangor 170
39	Analysis of Variance for Height in Potential Crop Trees of Four Age Groups Planted at Bukit Tarek Forest Reserve, Selangor 170
40	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Potential Crop Trees of Four Age Groups Planted at Bukit Tarek Forest Reserve, Selangor 171
41	Analysis of Variance for Heart Rot Volume in Potential Crop Trees of Four Age Groups Planted at Bukit Tarek Forest Reserve, Selangor 171
42	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot in Potential Crop Trees of Four Age Groups Planted at Bukit Tarek Forest Reserve, Selangor 172
43	Analysis of Variance for DBH in Potential Crop Trees of Eight Age Groups Planted at Kemasul Forest Reserve 172



	Page
44	Analysis of Variance for Height in Potential Crop Trees of Eight Age Groups Planted at Kemasul Forest Reserve 173
45	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Potential Crop Trees of Eight Age Groups Planted at Kemasul Forest Reserve 173
46	Analysis of Variance for Heart Rot Volume in Potential Crop Trees of Eight Age Groups Planted at Kemasul Forest Reserve 174
47	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot in Potential Crop Trees of Eight Age Groups Planted at Kemasul Forest Reserve 174
48	Analysis of Variance for DBH in Potential Crop Trees of Six Age Groups Planted at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan..... 175
49	Analysis of Variance for Height in Potential Crop Trees of Six Age Groups Planted at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan..... 175
50	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Potential Crop Trees of Six Age Groups Planted at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan 176
51	Analysis of Variance for Heart Rot Volume in Potential Crop Trees of Six Age Groups Planted at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan 176
52	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot in Potential Crop Trees of Six Age Groups Planted at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan 177
53	Analysis of Variance for DBH in Potential Crop Trees of Seven Age Groups Planted at Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve, Johor 177



	Page
54	Analysis of Variance for Height in Potential Crop Trees of Seven Age Groups Planted at Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve, Johor 178
55	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Potential Crop Trees of Seven Age Groups Planted at Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve, Johor 178
56	Analysis of Variance for Heart Rot Volume in Potential Crop Trees of Seven Age Groups Planted at Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve, Johor 179
57	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot in Potential Crop Trees of Seven Age Groups Planted at Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve, Johor 179
58	Analysis of Variance for the Heart Rot Volume in Six-Year Old Spacing Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 180
59	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Six-Year Old Spacing Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 180
60	Analysis of Variance for Heart Rot Volume in Nine-Year Old Spacing Trial at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve, Selangor 180
61	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Nine-Year Old Spacing Trial at Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve, Selangor 181
62	Analysis of Variance for DBH in Four Crown Classes: Dominant, Co-dominant, Sub-dominant, Suppressed of the Low-Pruned Plot at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 181
63	Analysis of Variance for Height in Four Crown Classes: Dominant, Co-dominant, Sub-dominant, Suppressed of the Low-Pruned Plot at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 181



	Page
64	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in Four Crown Classes: Dominant, Co-dominant, Sub-dominant, Suppressed of the Low-Pruned Plot at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 181
65	Analysis of Variance for Volume of heart Rot in Four Crown Classes: Dominant, Co-dominant, Sub-dominant, Suppressed of the Low-Pruned Plot at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 183
66	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot in Four Crown Classes: Dominant, Co-dominant, Sub-dominant, Suppressed of the Low-Pruned Plot at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 184
67	Analysis of Variance for Size of Current Pruning Wound of Four DBH Classes in a High-Pruned Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 184
68	Analysis of Variance for Rate of Occlusion of Pruning Wound of Four DBH Classes in a High-Pruned Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 185
69	Analysis of Variance for Volume of Heart Rot of Four DBH Classes in a High-Pruned Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 185
70	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot of Four DBH Classes in a High-Pruned Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 186
71	Analysis of Variance for Volume of Heartwood in a Thinning Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve 186
72	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column in a Thinning Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 187
73	Analysis of Variance for Volume of Heart Rot in a Thinning Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 187



	Page
74	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot in a Thinning Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 188
75	Analysis of Variance for DBH of a Provenance Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 188
76	Analysis of Variance for Height of a Provenance Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 189
77	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column of a Provenance Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 189
78	Analysis of Variance for Volume of Heart Rot of a Provenance Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 190
79	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot of a Provenance Trial at Kemasul Forest Reserve, Pahang 190
80	Analysis of Variance for DBH of a Provenance Trial at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan 191
81	Analysis of Variance for Height of a Provenance Trial at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan 191
82	Analysis of Variance for Volume of Heart Rot of a Provenance Trial at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan 192
83	Analysis of Variance for Length of Heart Rot Column of a Provenance Trial at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan 192
84	Analysis of Variance for Proportion of Heart Rot of a Provenance Trial at Setul Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan 193



LISTS OF FIGURES

		Page
Figure		
1	Diagram of a Disc from a Heart-rotted Tree Grown at Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve in Johor	31
2	The Location of Study Sites of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Plantations in Peninsular Malaysia	61



LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
1	Longitudinal Section of Heart-rotted Stem Showing the Presence of Zone Lines	34
2	Heart Rot at the Advanced Stage of Decay in <i>Acacia mangium</i> Stem Showing the Fibrous Texture of the Wood	35
3	The Advanced Stage of Heart Rot of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Showing the Presence of Fungal Mycelia	36
4	Cross Section of Sound Heartwood of <i>Acacia mangium</i>	43
5	Cross Section of Decayed Heartwood Showing the Discoloration of Parenchyma Cells and the Presence of Zone Line	43
6	Cross Section of Sound Heartwood Indicates the Absent of Fungal Infection	45
7	Cross Section of Sound Heartwood of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Showing Vessels and Other Wood Cells are Intact	45
8	Cross Section of Decayed Heartwood of <i>Acacia mangium</i> Showing the Loosening of Wood Cells as Indicated by the Arrow	46
9	The Thinning of Cell Wall in Decayed Heartwood of <i>Acacia mangium</i> as Indicated by the Arrows	46
10	Ramification of Hyphae Inside the Wood Cells of Decayed Heartwood of <i>Acacia mangium</i>	47
11	Hyphae of Decay Fungi inside the Vessel of Decayed Heartwood	47



	Page
12	A Sample Tree had been Sectioned into Billets Prior to the Splitting for Heart Rot Determination 72
13	Column of Advanced Decay Enveloped by Columns of Lesser Stages of Decay 80
14	A Completely Healed Singling Wound on a Six-Year-Old <i>Acacia mangium</i> Tree Grown at Kemasul Forest Reserve 95
15	Decay beneath a Completely Healed Singling Wound 95



GLOSSARY

DBH	Diameter at 130 cm from ground level.
Decay	Decomposition of woody tissue by micro-organisms.
Infected	Containing a parasitic organism.
Isolate	To obtain a micro-organism from its substrate or host and establish it in pure culture.
Mycelium	A mass of hyphae, sometimes differentiated to form a special structure but more often the undifferentiated vegetative state of a fungus.
Resistance	The power of a plant to overcome partially or totally the effects of a pathogen.
Susceptible	Not immune
Zone lines	Narrow dark lines transversing decayed wood.



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By

HASHIM MD.NOOR

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Chairman : Associate Prof. Dr. Ahmad Said Sajap

Faculty : Forestry

Acacia mangium Willd., a major exotic timber species used in the Compensatory Forest Plantation Program for the production of sawlogs, was found to be infected by heart rot. To evaluate the incidence and severity of heart rot in *A. mangium* plantations, a study consisted of laboratory investigations and field surveys was conducted. The laboratory studies include isolation of fungi from infected tree, determination of wood density, microscopic observations, and chemical wood analyses. Field surveys were conducted at five plantations, namely Rantau Panjang Forest Reserve (RPFR), Bukit Tarek Forest Reserve (BTFR), Kemasul Forest Reserve (KFR), Setul Forest Reserve (SFR), and Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve (USFR).



Heart-rotted wood was lower in density and produced lower content of holocellulose, cellulose, lignin, pentosan, and extractives, but contained higher proportion of ash than the sound wood. The decay was identified as a white rot caused by a basidiomycete fungus from the family Polyporaceae. "Pick test" was found to be reliable in distinguishing sound heartwood from heart-rotted wood.

Heart rot incidence was found higher in the bigger diameter trees. An average of 80.8 percent incidence was recorded in trees at all sites. However, its incidence varied among the sites ranging from 66.9 percent at SFR to 97.4 percent at RPFR. The incidence and severity of heart rot at all sites except for SFR showed no relationship with the stand age. Stands established from Malaysian seed source exhibited lower infection of heart rot than those of Australian seed sources.

Silvicultural practices such as initial spacing, singling, pruning, and thinning have evidently influenced the incidence of heart rot. The susceptibility of the trees against heart rot varied among the provenances and site. Provenances from Sidie, Indonesia and Abergowrie S.F., Queensland recorded the lowest proportion of heart rot, whereas provenances from



Claudie River and Broken Pole Creek, both from Queensland, Australia, recorded the highest heart rot proportions.

In conclusion, the present management and silvicultural practices of *A. mangium* for sawlogs production have had predisposed the trees to heart rot infection. However, the incidence and severity of heart rot within the trees in these plantations could be minimized through efficient management and silvicultural practices.



Abstrak tesis ini dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Pertanian Malaysia untuk memenuhi keperluan Ijazah Master Sains.

**PENGARUH AMALAN PENGURUSAN DAN SILVIKULTUR TERHADAP
KEJADIAN REPUT TERAS PADA TANAMAN ACACIA MANGIUM WILLD.**

Oleh

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Ogos 1993

Pengerusi : Prof. Madya Dr. Ahmad Said Sajap

Fakulti : Perhutanan

Acacia mangium Willd., spesies eksotik cepat tumbuh yang utama dalam Program Ladang Hutan Kompensatori untuk penghasilan kayu balak gergaji, telah dijangkiti oleh penyakit busuk teras. Untuk menilai kejadian dan keamatan busuk teras pada tanaman *A. mangium*, satu kajian yang merangkumi penyiasatan di makmal dan survei di lapangan telah dijalankan. Penyiasatan di makmal terdiri dari pemencilan kulat dari pokok yang dijangkiti busuk teras, penentuan kepadatan kayu, pemerhatian di bawah mikroskop dan penganalisan kimia. Survei di lapangan telah dijalankan di lima tapak tanaman, iaitu Hutan Simpan Rantau Panjang (HSRP), Hutan Simpan Bukit Tarek (HSBT), Hutan Simpan Kemasul (HSK), Hutan Simpan Setul (HSS), dan Hutan Simpan Ulu Sedili (HSUS).



Kayu busuk teras didapati mempunyai kepadatan yang rendah dan menghasilkan kandungan holoselulosa, selulosa, lignin, dan ekstraktif yang lebih rendah dari kayu yang sihat, tetapi kandungan abunya adalah lebih tinggi. Busuk teras ini dikenalpasti sebagai reput putih yang disebabkan oleh sejenis kulat basidiomycete dari famili Polyporaceae. "Ujian cangkil" didapati memberi maklumat yang tepat dalam membezakan kayu yang busuk dari kayu yang sihat.

Kejadian busuk teras didapati terjadi dengan lebih kerap pada pokok yang mempunyai saiz perepang yang besar. Purata 80.8 peratus kejadian busuk teras telah dicatatkan pada kesemua tapak tanaman, berjulat dari 66.9 peratus di HSS ke 97.4 peratus di HSRP. Kejadian dan keamatan busuk teras disemua tapak tanaman kecuali di HSS didapati tidak mempunyai kaitan dengan usia dirian. Dirian yang ditubuhkan dengan menggunakan biji-benih dari Malaysia mengalami jangkitan yang lebih rendah dari dirian yang ditubuhkan dengan menggunakan biji-benih dari Australia.

Amalan silvikultur seperti jarak awal tanaman, pembuangan pucuk unjur berbilang (singling), pemangkasan dan penjarangan jelas mempengaruhi kejadian busuk teras. Kerentanan terhadap busuk teras adalah berbeza antara provenan dan tapak tanaman. Provenan dari Sidie, Indonesia dan Abergowrie S.F,

