

## PRODUCTION STRUCTURE OF MAIN COMMERCIAL TREE SPECIES IN A MANGROVE FOREST IN EAST SUMATERA, INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

Production structure of main commercial tree species was studied in a mangrove forest in East Sumatera, Indonesia. This research was carried out in January 1991 using the estimation of standing biomass with stratified clipping method in order to know the production structure of the main commercial tree species in this mangrove forest, i.e. *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Bruguieraparviflora* and *B. sexangula*.

The results obtained show that *R. apiculata* tended to have a sparser foliage of thicker leaves along the stem than *B. parviflora* or *B. sexangula*; therefore, *R. apiculata* is regarded as a shade-intolerant tree species. In contrast, either *B. parviflora* or *B. sexangula* tended to have a larger proportion of leaves and branches along the stem; consequently, those species are recognized as shade-tolerant tree species.

### INTRODUCTION

A substantial proportion of about 81 000 km coastal line in Indonesia is covered by mangrove formations of various extents, from several meters to several kilometers (Soegiarto 1979). In terms of tree size and extent, mangroves are more developed in the five big islands, i.e. Java, Sumatera, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Irian Jaya (Darsidi 1984). In Sumatera, the mangrove covers an area of 667 000 ha of which 276 000 ha are distributed in Riau. Recently, about 87 000 ha of mangrove forest in Riau have been designated as forest concession areas belonging to the Bina Lestari Company (42 000 ha), Thai Rayvithi Company (40 000 ha) and Silva Saki Company (5000 ha).

For many years, the mangrove trees in Riau were cut for fuelwood and used for charcoal either by forest concessionaires or local people inhabiting the region surrounding the mangroves. However, recently, most of the commercial tree species, especially *Bruguiera* spp. and *Rhizophora apiculata* are being exploited for the production of chipwood.

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It is highly necessary to establish a proper management system based upon biological knowledge to secure a sustained yield of mangrove resources. Therefore, the production structure of mangrove tree species must be studied to understand the biological characteristics of mangroves.

This research was undertaken in an attempt to analyze the production structure of the main commercial tree species (*Bruguiera parviflora*, *B. sexangula* and *R. apiculata*) in the mangrove forest of Talidandang Besar, Riau, East Sumatera.

### STUDY AREA AND METHODS

This research was carried out in January 1991 in a mangrove forest concession area belonging to the Bina Lestari Company at Talidandang Besar (Long. 103°28' to 103°48' E, Lat. 0°21' to 1°N), which lies on the east coast of Sumatera, Riau Province, Indonesia (Fig. 1).

No meteorological data were available for Talidandang Besar. The rainfall data of Mandah, the nearest area to Talidandang Besar, provide a good approximation of the climatic conditions (Fig. 1). The average annual rainfall is about 1335 mm. According to the Schmidt and Ferguson system (1951), the climate of this area belongs to the type B rainfall with seven wet, two dry and three humid months.

The mangrove forest in this area is characterized by the *Bruguiera* species. The seaward fringe is strongly dominated by *B. parviflora* and landward zones are numerically dominated by *B. sexangula*. In the transition zone with a fresh-water swamp forest, the stand of *B. sexangula* is invaded by *Nypa fruticans*, in which a few large individual trees of *R. apiculata* form an emergent layer above an even canopy of *B. sexangula*. In this zone, a few trees of a marginal species, *Ficus benjamina*, occur in open areas created by fallen or dead trees and sometimes intermingled with *N. fruticans* along the river bank.

Sample trees of *B. parviflora*, *B. sexangula* and *R. apiculata* which have similar diameter sizes were felled. Stem diameter at breast-height (DBH) and tree height of sample trees were 20.1 cm and 19.4 m for *B. parviflora*, and 19.2 cm and 17.6m for *B. sexangula*, respectively. However, the diameter at 20 cm above the highest prop-roots and the height of a felled sample tree of *R. apiculata* were 19.5 cm and 22.8 m, respectively.

Sample trees were felled at ground level and cut into horizons of 1 m length along the stem. Fresh weight of stems, branches, flowers and fruits, and leaves of each horizon were separately weighed. A small sample of each organ from each horizon was taken and dried in an oven at 80°C for 48 hours to obtain a constant dry weight. The leaf area of a small sample of leaves from each horizon was measured with a leaf-area meter (Type AAM-7, Hayashi Denko).

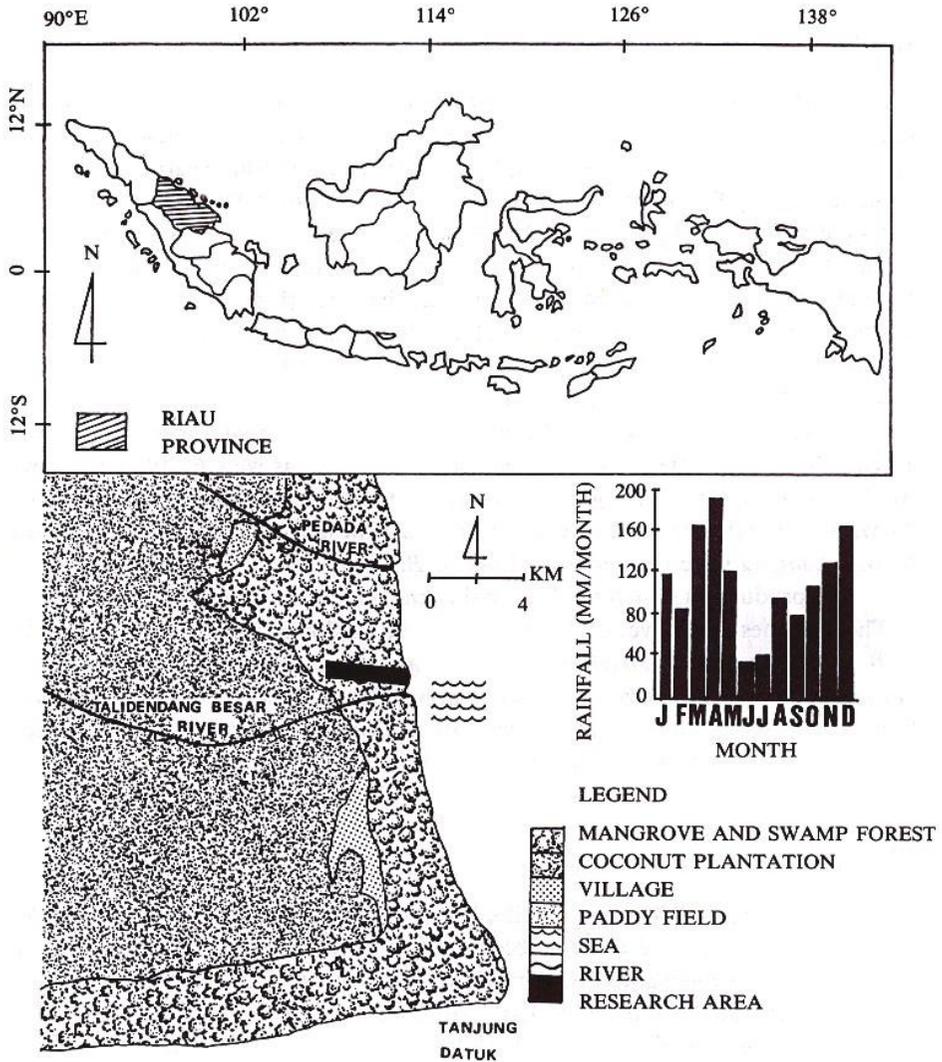


Figure 1. Location and climatic diagram of the research area

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Results

Tables 1, 2 and 3 show the estimated aboveground biomass of anatomical organs of each tree, the leaf area and specific leaf area of a sample tree of *R. apiculata*, *B. sexangula* and *B. parviflora*, respectively. The aboveground biomass of sample trees of *R. apiculata*, *B. sexangula* and *B. parviflora* were estimated at 381 kg d.wt, 387.70 kg d.wt and 296.36 kg d.wt, respectively. Compared to the sample trees of *R. apiculata* and *B. sexangula*, a sample tree of *B. parviflora* has a smaller aboveground biomass, although its diameter (DBH) was similar to the sample trees of the two former species. The leaves as a photosynthetic part contributed very little to biomass matters, i.e. 2.48%, 3.61% and 4.48% for *R. apiculata*, *B. sexangula* and *B. parviflora*, respectively. The total leaf area as well as the mean specific leaf area of *R. apiculata* were smaller than those of the other species. It was estimated that the mean specific leaf areas were 61.19 cm<sup>2</sup>/g d.wt for *R. apiculata*, 77.57 cm<sup>2</sup>/g d.wt for *B. sexangula*, and 80.80 cm<sup>2</sup>/g d.wt for *B. parviflora*. It indicates that the leaves of *R. apiculata* were thickest, while the leaves of *B. sexangula* were thicker than those of *B. parviflora*.

The production structure of the main commercial tree species is shown in Fig. 2. The branches and leaves of *R. apiculata* were shallower and sparser than those of *B. sexangula* and *B. parviflora*. The large amount of leaves and branches of *R. apiculata* in the stem horizon of 13 to 14 m was due to the existence of large main branches with a diameter of 13.5 cm. In addition, *B. sexangula* has a larger proportion of branches than the other species.

## Discussion

As indicated by the mean specific leaf area (Table 1) and vertical production structure (Fig. 2), *R. apiculata* is recognized to have a sparser foliage of thicker leaves than *B. sexangula* and *B. parviflora*. It is suggested that one characteristic of *R. apiculata* is to be a shade-intolerant tree species as reported by Macnae (1968). In the mangrove forest of Halmahera, Maluku Province in Indonesia, Komiyama *et al.* (1988) reported that *R. apiculata* has a sparser foliage of thicker leaves than *B. gymnorrhiza*. Similar results were also reported by Ninomiya *et al.* (1989) for *R. stylosa* and *B. gymnorrhiza* in the mangrove forest of Funaura Bay, Iriomote Island in Okinawa, and by Nakasuga (1979) for *R. mucronata* and *B. conjugata* in the Ryukyu Islands, Southern Japan.

Table 1. Estimated aboveground biomass, leaf area (LA) and specific leaf area (SLA) of the sample tree of *Rhizophora apiculata*

Horizon (m)	Aboveground biomass (kg d.wt)						LA	SLA
	Leaf	Flowers and fruits	Branch	Stem	Prop-roots	Total	(m <sup>2</sup> )	(cm <sup>2</sup> /g d.wt)
0- 1				9.57	16.74	26.31		
1- 2				22.65	13.77	36.42		
2- 3				22.33	22.33			
3- 4				19.46	19.46			
4- 5				18.82	18.82			
5- 6				18.82	18.82			
6- 7				18.50	18.50			
7- g	0.07	0.01	6.68	16.59	23.35		0.36	66.09
8- 9				16.27	16.27			
9-10	0.08	0.01	0.33	15.63	16.05		0.52	62.23
10-11				14.36	14.36			
11-12				14.67	14.67			
12-13				12.44	12.44			
13-14	5.34	0.71	63.67	10.53	80.25		21.15	50.49
14-15	0.03	0.01	0.17	5.42	5.63		0.09	67.87
15-16				5.30	5.30			
16-17	0.14	0.01	0.45	4.72	5.32		0.62	50.38
17-18	0.45	0.04	1.67	4.15	6.31		2.08	50.43
18-19	0.50	0.07	2.17	3.13	5.87		2.12	68.11
19-20	1.37	0.16	4.07	2.04	7.64		6.44	63.37
20-21	0.71	0.10	1.70	1.40	3.91		3.63	62.56
21-22	0.59	0.11	1.11	0.64	2.45		2.46	63.87
22-22.8	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.14	0.52		0.68	67.68
Total	9.45	1.26	82.20	257.58	30.51	381.00	40.15	673.08
Average								61.19

The prop-roots constituted about 8% of the aboveground biomass of a sample tree of *R. apiculata*. It is supposed that in this area the stand of *R. apiculata* grows in estuarine conditions. Lugo and Snedaker (1974) also reported the low proportion of prop-roots (2%, 15%) in estuarine forest in the mangroves of Florida. In addition, Christensen (1978) stated that the small proportion of prop-roots of *Rhizophora* stand growing in the estuarine conditions might be due to a better nutrient supply or reduced salinity regime.

The existence of the prop-roots on the stem may be regarded as a characteristic to distinguish the production structure of *R. apiculata* from that of *B. sexangula* and *B. parviflora*. On the other hand, *B. parviflora* and *B. sexangula* tended to have a greater proportion of leaves and branches along the stem than *R. apiculata*.

Table 2. Estimated aboveground biomass, leaf area (LA), and specific leaf area (SLA) of the sample tree of *Bruguiera sexangula*

Horizon (m)	Aboveground biomass (kg d.wt)					LA (m <sup>2</sup> )	SLA (cm <sup>2</sup> /g d.wt)
	Leaf	Flowers and fruits	Branch	Stem	Total		
0- 1				40.52	40.52		
1- 2				23.73	23.73		
2- 3				23.79	23.79		
3- 4				21.90	21.90		
4- 5				20.44	20.44		
5- 6	0.15	0.01	0.77	18.62	19.55	1.53	97.96
6- 7				17.16	17.16		
7- 8	0.21	0.03	2.71	18.25	21.20	2.34	79.87
8- 9	0.46	0.05	3.84	17.16	21.51	4.36	75.73
9-10	0.27	0.04	2.07	15.70	18.08	2.55	77.36
10-11	2.86	0.37	29.68	16.79	49.70	21.22	80.49
11-12	4.09	0.61	39.65	12.05	56.40	21.48	74.75
12-13	0.14	0.02	0.89	6.75	7.80	1.51	75.29
13-14	1.69	0.27	11.21	5.48	18.65	10.86	80.41
14-15	1.62	0.24	6.93	3.87	12.66	9.59	74.99
15-16	1.56	0.34	6.84	1.61	10.35	8.83	71.12
16-17	0.11	0.12	2.04	0.91	3.88	5.54	72.84
17 - 17.6	0.14	0.02	0.15	0.07	0.38	0.70	70.05
Total	14.00	2.12	106.78	264.80	387.70	90.51	930.86
Average							77.57

## CONCLUSION

While the leaves of *B. parviflora* were thinner than those of *B. sexangula*, *Rhizophora apiculata* has a sparser foliage of thicker leaves than the two former tree species. In addition, either *B. parviflora* or *B. sexangula* has a larger proportion of leaves and branches along the stem than *R. apiculata*. It is suggested that one characteristic of *R. apiculata* is a shade-intolerant tree species whereas *B. parviflora* and *B. sexangula* are shade-tolerant tree species.

Table 3. Estimated aboveground biomass, leaf area (LA), and specific leaf area (SLA) of the sample tree of *Bruguiera parviflora*

Horizon (m)	Aboveground biomass (kg d.wt)					LA (m <sup>2</sup> )	SLA (cm <sup>2</sup> /g d.wt)
	Leaf	Flowers and fruits	Branch	Stem	Total		
0- 1				28.81	28.81		
1- 2				21.11	21.11		
2- 3				18.43	18.43		
3- 4				17.76	17.76		
4- 5				17.42	17.42		
5- 6				16.08	16.08		
6- 7				15.08	15.08		
7- 8				14.41	14.41		
8- 9	0.50	0.07	4.43	13.40	18.40	5.41	109.16
9-10	4.30	0.39	23.78	12.40	40.87	31.89	73.13
10-11	0.64	0.11	2.71	9.72	13.18	5.04	81.96
11-12				8.71	8.71		
12-13	0.09	0.02	0.21	7.71	8.03	0.73	99.01
13-14	1.66	0.32	9.68	8.04	19.70	14.36	85.18
14-15	1.99	0.35	8.64	4.69	15.67	12.91	75.75
15-16	1.11	0.22	4.43	3.02	8.78	6.97	71.12
16-17	2.06	0.45	6.23	1.34	10.08	13.50	85.03
17-18	0.83	0.18	1.80	0.67	3.48	5.56	73.67
18-19	0.08	0.01	0.11	0.10	0.30	0.47	68.36
19 -19.4	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.15	66.47
Total	13.29	2.13	62.03	218.91	296.36	96.99	888.84
Average							80.80

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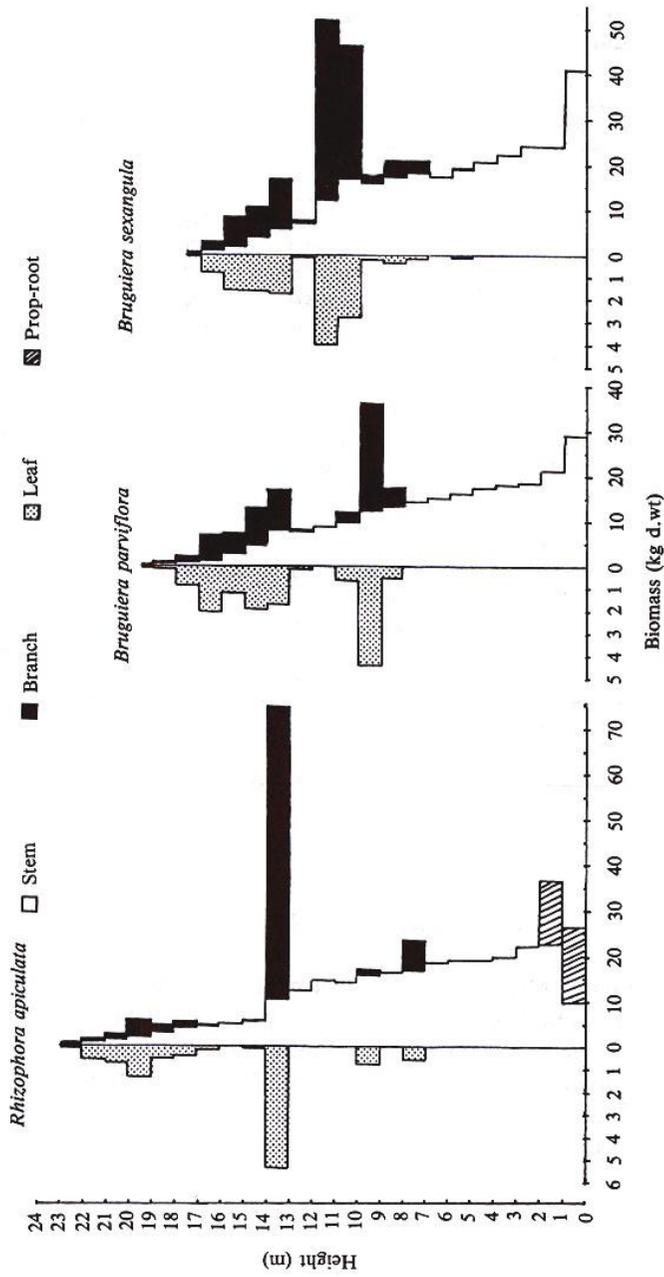


Figure 2. Production structure of a sample tree of *R. apiculata* (left), *B. parviflora* (middle), and *B. sexangula* (right)

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