

Phenotypic Variation in Fruit Morphology among Provenances of *Sclerocarya birrea* (A. Rich.) Hochst.

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Sclerocarya birrea (A. Rich.) Hochst. is a multipurpose fruit tree which is very useful in providing food security and meeting nutritional and economic needs. This study was conducted to assess eighteen provenances of *Sclerocarya birrea* planted in Mangochi, Malawi. The trial was assessed for fruit traits at fifteen years of age. There were significant ($P < 0.001$) variations among the provenances in number of fruits, fruit weight, pulp weight, seed weight, fruit length, and diameter. Magunde provenance from Mozambique had the highest mean number of fruits, 2196 ± 200 . Mangochi and Moamba provenances from Malawi and Mozambique were the most outstanding in the other parameters measured attaining the mean fruit weight of 20.89 ± 0.25 g and 25.67 ± 0.67 g, pulp weight of 25.70 ± 0.08 g and 21.55 ± 0.83 g, seed weight of 4.81 ± 0.35 g and 4.12 ± 0.18 g, fruit length of 2.61 ± 0.14 cm and 2.33 ± 0.07 cm, and fruit diameter of 2.33 ± 0.15 cm and 1.97 ± 0.08 cm, respectively. There was no significant ($P > 0.05$) correlation between number of fruits and the other fruit traits. However, there were significant ($P < 0.05$) and strong positive relationships between fruit weight and pulp weight ($r = 0.987$) and fruit length and diameter ($r = 0.775$). This suggests that fruit weight can be used indirectly for selection of pulp. Further studies should investigate fruit taste quality of products from the fruits.