

MACRO PROPAGATION OF *Eucalyptus microcorys*

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Establishment of highly productive uniform forest plantations is essential to meet the demand for timber in sustainable forest management. *Eucalyptus microcorys* is one of the major upcountry plantation forest species in Sri Lanka. Timber of this species has a high demand due to the high density, the strength and the resistance to termite attacks. Seedlings, the planting materials that we use at present, yield less uniform (uneven) plantations because of their genetic diversity. Therefore, this experiment was conducted to identify the possibilities of obtaining clones from coppice shoots and nodal cuttings at Erabedda (Badulla) plant nursery in 2016. Two types of cuttings, nodal (2 nodes) cuttings obtained from one year old seedlings and coppice shoots (10- 15cm long) obtained from base of thinned trees (around ten years old), were used. Twenty cuttings each from both types were taken and established in the sand medium inside a completely closed propagator. Coppice shoots consisted of 15 mature and 5 fleshy herbaceous cuttings. Final reading was recorded after 59 days. Rooting was observed in 10 nodal cuttings (50%) and 13 mature coppice shoots (65%). All 5 herbaceous coppice shoot cuttings were removed in the early period of the experiment due to wilting and decaying. However, as far as only mature coppice shoots are considered the rooting percentage was 86.7. This is the first time rooting of *E. microcorys* shoots has been observed in Sri Lanka. Further studies have to be extended to evaluate the macro propagation of the species in commercial level to apply in establishment of highly productive plantations.