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Effect of drought stress on morphological characters of four tree species at seedling stage

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The effect of drought stress on morphological characters of four forest tree species namely Neam (*Azadiracta indica*), Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), Milla (*Vitex pinnata*) and Teak (*Tectona grandis*) was studied at seedling stage. Three levels of drought stresses (30, 50 and 70 % of field capacity) were imposed on four months old seedlings for 60, 90 and 120 days. Seedling height, leaf number, root length, root volume and dry matter were decrease with the increasing level of drought stress. The lowest rate of reduction in seedling height, leaf number, root length and total dry matter content was observed in tamarind, which indicates its relatively higher drought tolerance than the other three species.

Keywords: drought stress, forest trees, morphological characters, tamarind