

Harpephyllum caffrum

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<i>Collection date</i>	3 July 2000		
<i>Seed source</i>	University of Natal, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal		
<i>Initial trials</i>			
<i>Fruit weight</i>	365.24 g		
<i>Seed weight</i>	121.03 g		
<i>Initial mc (embryo)</i>	55.78 %		
<i>Initial mc (cotyledons)</i>	12.09 %		
<i>Initial germination</i>	10 %		
<i>Desiccation trial</i>			
<i>Mc of cotyledons after desiccation (%)</i>	16.10	7.10	4.10
<i>Germination after desiccation (%)</i>	20	10	0
<i>Mc of cotyledons of controls (%)</i>	10.01	5.09	7.20
<i>Germination of controls (%)</i>	10	0	0
<i>Comments and conclusions</i>	<p>The seeds are characterised by axes with a high moisture content (55.78 %) and cotyledons with a low moisture content (12.09 %).</p> <p>However, it is difficult to establish conclusively the effects of desiccation on <i>H. caffrum</i> survival in these experiments. Control seeds exhibited poor germination (10%), as did seeds that were dried for 46 h to a moisture content of 7.10 %. The survival of some of these seeds to such low water contents seems to suggest that these seeds are not recalcitrant.</p> <p>It is possible that the inability of these seeds to germinate is due to the increase in mechanical resistance of the stone during desiccation, rather than damage <i>per se</i> to the seed itself. A similar response has been observed in our laboratory for <i>Sclerocarya birrea</i> (a related species).</p>		



Figure 1. Fruits and seeds of *Harpephyllum caffrum* (Bernh)