

Psychotria capensis

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<i>Collection date</i>	14 June 2000				
<i>Seed source</i>	University of Natal, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal				
<i>Initial trials</i>					
<i>Fruit weight</i>	32.9 g				
<i>Seed weight</i>	6.095 g				
<i>Initial mc</i>	42.27 %				
<i>Initial germination</i>	100 %				
<i>Desiccation trial</i>					
<i>Mc after desiccation) (%)</i>	35.20	27.85	17.58	10.85	13.51
<i>Germination after desiccation (%)</i>	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Mc of controls (%)</i>	36.55	33.95	19.64	12.65	12.72
<i>Germination of controls (%)</i>	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Comments and conclusions</i>	<p>The seeds were harvested at a relatively high moisture content (36.51 - 42.47%) and 100% of the seeds germinated. The seeds showed quick germination, as radicle extension occurred within 7 days for most of the seeds. This could be due to the fact that all the seeds tested were fully mature and extracted from mature fruits.</p> <p>Moisture loss during drying in silica gel was rapid, reaching 35.20% and 27.85% within 4.5 and 21 hours respectively. Drying to seed moisture levels lower than 27.85% was not as rapid, however, reaching 17.58% and 13.51% within 44 and 86 hours. However, even though the rate of water loss decreased, seed viability remained unaffected (i.e. 100%). This was also the case for seeds maintained in vermiculite for equivalent periods. The survival of these seeds at a moisture content of 13.51% seems to suggest that this species is not recalcitrant. Further investigations will be undertaken to establish the survival of these seeds at lower moisture contents.</p>				