

## Predictive model of *Amorphophallus muelleri* growth in some agroforestry in East Java by multiple regression analysis

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### ABSTRACT

Budiman, Arisoesilaningsih E. 2012. Predictive model of *Amorphophallus muelleri* growth in some agroforestry in East Java by multiple regression analysis. *Biodiversitas* 13: 00-00. This research aimed to determine the multiple regression models of vegetative and corm growth of *Amorphophallus muelleri* Blume in some age variations and habitat conditions of agroforestry in East Java. Descriptive exploratory research method was conducted by systematic random sampling at five agroforestries on four plantations in East Java: Saradan, Bojonegoro, Nganjuk and Blitar. In each agroforestry, we observed *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm growth on four growing age (1, 2, 3 and 4 years old) as well as environmental variables such as altitude, vegetation, climate and soil conditions. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics to compare *A. muelleri* habitat in five agroforestries. Meanwhile, the influence and contribution of each environmental variable to the growth of *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm were determined using multiple regression analysis of SPSS 17.0. The multiple regression models of *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm growth were generated based on some characteristics of agroforestries and age showed high validity with  $R^2 = 88-99\%$ . Regression model showed that age, monthly temperatures, percentage of radiation and soil calcium (Ca) content either simultaneously or partially determined the growth of *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm. Based on these models, the *A. muelleri* corm reached the optimal growth after four years of cultivation and they will be ready to be harvested. Additionally, the soil Ca content should reach 25.3 me.hg<sup>-1</sup> as Sugihwaras agroforestry, with the maximal radiation of 60%.

**Key words:** prediction, *A. muelleri* growth, agroforestry, regression model.

### INTRODUCTION

*Amorphophallus muelleri* Blume, syn. *A. blumei* (Schott) Engler; syn. *A. oncophyllus* Prain; syn. *A. burmanicus* Hook.f. is a tropical native corm plants are included in the family of Araceae (Jansen et al. 1996; Perum Perhutani of KPH Saradan 2007). This perennial herbs have corm which can produce flour with high glucomannan level (until 75%), much higher than in the commonly grown species such as *A. konjac* and *A. bulbifer*. The maximum viscosity could be over 40000 mPa with good transparency of the colloid solution from glucomannan extracted (Zhang and Wang 2010). The *A. muelleri* flour can be modified into various processed food products such as meatballs, chips, cookies, noodles (shirataki), *rangginang* and tofu (konyaku). Moreover, *A. muelleri* corms also can be used in cosmetics, textiles and pharmaceuticals (Prihatyanto 2007; Bayu 2008a).

Due to the high economic potency of *A. muelleri* corms, many people started to cultivate it. *A. muelleri* cultivation is conducted in simple agroforestry systems, as secondary crops under the teak, mahogany or *sonokeling* plantation in Perum Perhutani land (Perum Perhutani of East Java 2008). The conditions of agroforestry are suitable for *A. muelleri* growth that have well-developed under the auspices of 50-60% (Jansen et al. 1996). Currently, the total area of *A. muelleri* cultivation in East Java exceed 1605.3 hectares

and is spreading across *Kesatuan Pemangkuan Hutan* or Forest Management District (KPH/FMD), covering KPH North Banyuwangi, Blitar, Bojonegoro, Jember, Nganjuk, Madiun, Padangan, Purwodadi and Saradan (Perum Perhutani of East Java 2008). In each hectare area, at least four tons of wet corms per year are produced and in an intensive cultivation, *A. muelleri* corm production reach 8-9 tons (Suryadi 2008) and even 12 tons of wet corm or 1.5 tons of dry corm per year (Prihatyanto 2007).

Nevertheless, the production of *A. muelleri* corm still has not met the standards of local and international market yet (Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Europe and Canada), which exceeds 9,000 tons of wet corm and 1,000 tons of dry corm slices per year. It is caused by *A. muelleri* cultivation system applied produces inconsistency corm sizes, which still found a corm's weight less than 1 kg and sometimes in a hectare of cultivation area only produces 4 tons of wet corms (Bayu 2008a, b ; Suryadi 2008).

Inconsistency *A. muelleri* corm production is closely linked with genetic variations and environmental conditions where *A. muelleri* grown. Based on DNA sequence analysis, it is known that *A. muelleri* in KPH Saradan, Bojonegoro, Blitar and Nganjuk have low genetic variations (S. Indriyani, 2009, pers. comm.). It is caused by the culture of *A. muelleri* have done vegetatively, using corm and bulbil. Additionally, *A. muelleri* grown in East Java, mostly from the same seeds, from Klanton

cultivation (Arisoesilaningsih et al. 2010). Meanwhile, the location of each *A. muelleri* plantation unit (KPH) in East Java have the altitudes, climates, soil and vegetation is different and is predicted to interfere *A. muelleri* growth (Budiman et al. 2010). In addition, the age factor has affected *A. muelleri* growth as well. Therefore, this study is required to clarify the influence and contribution of environmental factors and age on *A. muelleri* growth in cultivation system.

The influence and contribution of environmental factors and age on *A. muelleri* growth can be identified by a regression model. This model is used to describe the pattern of relationships between a response variable with some predictor variables (Hair et al. 1998). Additionally, this model also predicts the value of one variable related to other variables, identified through a linear regression equation (Hasan 2008) so it can be used for optimization. Accordingly, this research aims to design multiple regression model of *A. muelleri* growth which can be used as a predictor in determining the key variables affecting the *A. muelleri* corm productivity in a cultivation system.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Descriptive exploratory research method was conducted using systematic random sampling. Sampling of *A. muelleri* and soil was performed in March until May 2009 at five *A. muelleri* agroforestries of Perum Perhutani in East Java, which were Klangon Village (KPH Madiun), Bendoasri and Sugihwaras Village (KPH Nganjuk), Kalirejo Village (KPH Blitar) and Klino Village (KPH Bojonegoro).

In each agroforestry, we observed *A. muelleri* growth at the age of 1, 2, 3 and 4 years old in opened and shaded areas in triplicates. *A. muelleri* age determined based on the patterns of petiole branching, namely: (i) at one year, has one base of branching, (ii) at two years, has four bases of branching; (iii) at three years, has ten bases of branching and (iv) at four years, has 22 bases of branching. *A. muelleri* age was determined as described by Sumarwoto (2005), namely: (i) at one year, has 20-50 cm of petiole height and 50-200 g of corm weight, (ii) at two years, has 40-75 cm of petiole height and 250-1350 g of corm weight, (iii) at three years, has 75-175 cm of petiole height and 450-3350 g of corm weight.

*Amorphophallus muelleri* growth was determined by petiole height, canopy diameter, number of bulbils, corm thick, corm diameter, corm weight and corm volumes. Then, *A. muelleri* habitats were observed including altitude measured by Global Positioning System (GPS), the percentage of plant coverage, microclimate and soil sampling. Microclimate conditions observed including percentage of radiation (measured using solarimeter), precipitations and temperatures. The data of precipitations and temperatures were obtained from Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency at Karangploso Malang, from October to December 2008 and January to April 2009. The observations of soil characteristics used a drill soil sampling (analysis of organic matter contents,

cation exchange capacity (CEC), Ca content, pH and conductivity) and soil ring (density). Soil organic matters were measured by volumetry, CEC was measured by flame photometry, Ca content was measured by EDTA titration and soil density was measured by cylindrical method.

The influence and contribution of predictor variables towards response variables were determined by multiple regression models. The models were designed using SPSS 17.0 with a stepwise method. The modeling was conducted in two steps of regression test, namely: (1) between the predictor variables (environmental indicators) with the transition variables (*A. muelleri* vegetative growth indicators) so that obtained multiple regression model of *A. muelleri* vegetative growth and (2) between transition variables with response variables (*A. muelleri* corm growth indicators), so a multiple regression model of *A. muelleri* corm growth was generated. Following this, a substitution model between *A. muelleri* vegetative growth models with corm growth models was performed. Furthermore, the examination of validity of regression models was determined by determination coefficient ( $R^2$ ) value, regression coefficient and some assumptions, which were: (i) normality of residues is known through Kolmogorov-Sminov; (ii) linearity of model is identified by curve estimation; (iii) non multicollinearity is known through Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) value and (iv) homoscedasticity is known through Spearman Rank correlation test (Table 1). The models that have not met the assumptions must be evaluated. Evaluations the regression models can be conducted with were not include one of variables causes multicollinearity and transforming the variables have heteroscedasticity and unnormal residual into log form.

**Table 1.** The provisions for each indicator in determining the validity of regression models

Indicator	Provision
$R^2$	80%
F test for determining the simultaneously influence X to Y	p-value < 0.05
t test for determining the partially influence X to Y	p-value < 0.05
Non multicollinearity using VIF value	< 5
Normality of residual using Kolmogorov-Sminov	p-value > 0.05
Homoscedaticity using Spearman Rank correlation test	p-value > 0.05
Linearity of model using curve estimation	p-value < 0.05

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Models of *A. muelleri* growth in some agroforestries

The evaluation of regression models indicate that age, monthly temperature, percentage of radiation and soil Ca content either simultaneously or partially were significantly determined *A. muelleri* vegetative growth (Table 2). Based on the the model of *A. muelleri* vegetative growth, petiole height (PH) was determined positively by age and monthly temperature ( $R^2 = 97.3\%$ ) with each regression coefficient 116.186 and 1.963. This means that 97.3% of petiole height is determined by age and monthly temperature and the remaining 2.7% is explained by other factors not included in the model. Meanwhile, canopy diameter (CnD) was

determined positively by age and soil Ca content ( $R^2 = 93.3\%$ ) with each regression coefficient 196.892 and 1.564. And, bulbil number (BN) was determined by age, percentage of radiation and monthly temperature ( $R^2 = 88.8\%$ ) with each regression coefficient 25.855, 0.044 and -0.085. The models can be used to predict the optimal value of petiole height, canopy diameter and bulbil number because it had  $R^2$  value more than 80% and overall regression model assumptions are met (non multicollinearity, linear, homoscedasticity and normality of residual).

**Table 2.** The regression models of *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm growth

Regression models	R <sup>2</sup> (%)	Validity
<b>Vegetative growth</b>		
PH = 116.186 log A** + 1.963 T**	97.3	Valid
CnD = 196.892 log A** + 1.564 Ca**	93.3	Valid
BN = 25.855 log A** + 0.044 PR** - 0.085 T**	88.8	Valid
<b>Corm growth</b>		
CT = 0.069 PH** + 0.099 BN**	96.4	Valid
Log CD = 0.434 log PH** + 0.29 log BN**	99.6	Valid
Log CW = 1.091 log CnD** + 0.765 log BN**	99.1	Valid
Log CV = 1.090 log CnD** + 0.052 BN**	97.7	Valid

Note: PH petiole height; CnD canopy diameter; BN bulbil number; A age; T monthly temperature; Ca soil calcium content dan PR percentage of radiation; CT corm's thick; CD corm's diameter; CW corm's weight; CV corm's volume; \*\* the influence is very significant (p-value < 0.01)

In other research, Arisoesilaningsih et al. (2010) showed that altitude, monthly temperature, soil Ca content, cation exchange capacity (CEC) and percentage of vegetation cover were also significantly affect the bulbil number of *A. muelleri*. The difference result occurs because of the research using structural model with PLS Smart program. Analysis by PLS will have a structural model that can determine the variables that affect the other variables by considering one or more indicators. The structural model could not determine how much the X value (predictor variable) is needed to optimize the Y value (response variable) or optimization, as well as regression models have.

Based on the results, optimization of *A. muelleri* vegetative growth using regression models can only be conducted on the observed age range, namely 1-4 years. After 4-year old, *A. muelleri* allegedly will enter the generative phase that produces flowers and fruit. During the generative phase, the food reserve in the corm is reduced so that corm has shrinkage and broken (S. Indriyani 2010, pers. comm.). Based on the regression model, if environmental factors are considered constant then *A. muelleri* vegetative growth maximum at the age of 4 years.

The evaluation of regression models indicate that petiole height, canopy diameter and bulbil number either simultaneously or partially were significantly determined *A. muelleri* corm growth (Table 2). Based on the model of *A. muelleri* corm growth can be explained that corm's thick

(CT) and corm's diameter (CD) were determined positively by petiole height and bulbil number with  $R^2 = 96.4\%$  and  $99.6\%$  respectively. Meanwhile, corm's weight (CW) and corm's volume (CV) were determined positively by canopy diameter and bulbil number with  $R^2 = 99.1\%$  and  $97.7\%$  respectively. Additionally, the  $R^2$  value also exceed 80% and the overall regression model assumptions are met so that the model can be used to predict the growth of *A. muelleri* corm.

Based on the models, the number of bulbil has contribution to all corm growth variables (height, diameter, weight and volume). This is supports a research report of Arisoesilaningsih et al. (2010). Therefore, optimization of *A. muelleri* corm production should be consider all factors that influenced to amount of bulbil number, such as age, altitude, percentage of radiation, monthly temperature, Ca content of soil and CEC. In the meantime, the results are also accordance with the statement Ambarwati and Murti (2001) that the petiole height and canopy diameter have positive correlation significantly to the diameter and weight of *A. variabilis* corm.

The substitution between models in Table 2 obtained corm growth model related to environmental factor at *A. muelleri* agroforestry (Table 3). The model explains that the height and diameter of *A. muelleri* corm were determined by age, monthly temperature and percentage of radiation. Meanwhile, the weight and volume of *A. muelleri* corm are influenced by age, level of soil Ca, monthly temperature and percentage of radiation.

**Table 3.** Model of *A. muelleri* corm growth related to environmental factors

Regression model
CT = 10.577 log A + 0.127 T + 0.004 PR
log CD = 0.434 log (116.186 log A + 1.963 T) + 0.29 log (25.855 log A + 0.044 PR - 0.085 T)
log CW = 1.091 log (196.892 log A + 1.564 Ca) + 0.765 log (25.855 log A + 0.044 PR - 0.085 T)
log CV = 1.090 log (196.892 log A + 1.564 Ca) + 1.344 log A + 0.002 PR - 0.004 T

The fourth models emphasize that the physiological age of *A. muelleri* have important role on determine growth of *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm. Regarding to *A. muelleri* are perennial plants that may die or their corm to be shrunk and damaged after producing flowers and fruit, the growth of *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm are limited (S. Indriyani 2010, pers. comm.). Therefore, growth of both *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm will maximal after completing the fourth vegetative period or before entering the generative phase.

#### Recommendations of harvest and habitat manipulation

To meet the quality standards of *A. muelleri* corm match to market demand, the harvesting is done after corm's diameter more than 15 cm and weight minimum is 1-2 kg. *A. muelleri* corm on Sugihwaras Village, Klangon, Bendoasri and Klino are predicted to be harvested after

**Table 4.** Prediction profiles of *A. muelleri* corm before and after manipulation in environmental variables at third and fourth period of vegetative growth in some agroforestry

Agroforestry	Temperature (°C)	Radiation (%)	Ca content (me.hg <sup>-1</sup> )	Corm's diameter (cm)		Corm's weight (kg)		Increasing (%)
				3 years	4 years	3 years	4 years	
<b>Before</b>								
Sugihwaras	27.65	14,01	25.34	15.23	17.37	1.27	1.87	47.24
Klangon	26.65	36.37	6.39	15.54	17.62	1.04	1.58	51.92
Kalirejo	25.50	2.98	8,03	<b>14.85*</b>	17.00	<b>0.97*</b>	1.50	54.64
Bendoasri	25.65	47.66	13.37	15.64	17.70	1.20	1.78	48.33
Klino	23.39	59.33	13.26	15.60	17.64	1.25	1.84	47.20
<b>After</b>								
Sugihwaras	27.65	from 14 to 60	from 25.3 to 28.3	16.03	18.07	1.51	2.14	41.72
Klangon	26.65	from 36 to 60	from 6.4 to 9.4	15.93	17.97	1.16	1.73	49.14
Kalirejo	25.50	from 3 to 60	from 8 to 11	15.82	17.86	1.20	1.77	47.50
Bendoasri	25.65	from 48 to 60	from 13.4 to 16	15.84	17.87	1.29	1.88	45.74
Klino	23.39	from 59 to 60	from 13.3 to 16	15.61	17.65	1.31	1.90	45.04

Note: \* not meet standard qualification of *A. muelleri* corm

completing the third period of vegetative growth (Table 4). However, harvesting of the corm should be done after completing the fourth period of vegetative growth. It is caused by highly percentage increasing of corm's weight from third vegetative growth to fourth vegetative growth. Meanwhile, the *A. muelleri* corm on Kalirejo Village should be harvested after completing the fourth period of vegetative growth. It is caused corm production in third period of vegetative growth not meet the quality standard. In accordance with Ambarwati and Murti (2001), the larger the corm's diameter will be followed by the increase in corm's weight, which in turn increases the content of glucomannan. Therefore, the diameter and weight of corm can be used as a main selection of morphological characters in the harvesting of *A. muelleri* corm.

The optimizing *A. muelleri* corm production in the five agroforestries can be conducted by manipulation of some environmental variables. Environment variables are likely to be manipulated, which were percentage of radiation and soil Ca content. Based on regression models of *A. muelleri* corm growth, percentage of radiation and soil Ca content have a positive effect on the growth of *A. muelleri* corm so that both the value of these variables need to be improved. Increasing percentage of radiation can be done by pruning the shade canopy of *A. muelleri*. Nevertheless, the other research show that the higher light intensity will decrease plant height, growth of leaf and chlorophyll content of konjac plant (Liu et al. 1998), the *A. konjac* yielded 66% more corms under 50% shade than without shade (Douglas et al. 2005) and *A. muelleri* showed positive response to suitable shading (Zhao et al. 2010). Santosa et al. (2006) also show that leaf size of *A. muelleri* increased with the increase in the shading level, resulting in the production of large corms at a low light intensity and corm reached a commercial size two years after planting under the 75% shading condition. Perum Perhutani of East Java (2008) explained that the minimum shade is required by *A. muelleri* for optimize the growth was 40% so that pruning can be done to generate 60% maximum exposure. In the meantime, the soil Ca content can be improved by the

addition of lime on the land *A. muelleri* agroforestry. Douglas et al. (2005) show that lime and potassium increased yields but increasing rates of urea reduced yields after two season's growth of *A. konjac*. However, the addition of lime is recommended not exceeding 20 tons lime per ha because it can reduce the growth of corms. Addition of 20 tons of lime per ha can increase soil Ca content from 6.54 to 9.53 me.hg<sup>-1</sup> or equivalent with 3 me.hg<sup>-1</sup> (Sumarwoto 2004).

Based on those considerations, optimization *A. muelleri* corm production is recommended by improving percentage of radiation to 60% and soil Ca content increased 3 me.hg<sup>-1</sup> than before (Table 4). The manipulation can increase corm's weight of *A. muelleri* is 3.26-23.7% from the previous (Table 5). The biggest increasing in corm's weight occurred in the Village Kalirejo. Meanwhile, the corm's weight increasing in Bendoasri and Klino Village not too high so that habitat manipulation is not necessary.

**Table 5.** Prediction of *A. muelleri* corm weight after habitat manipulation

Agroforestry	Corm's weight (kg) at 3 years			Corm's weight (kg) at 4 years		
	Before	After	Increasing (%)	Before	After	Increasing (%)
	Sugihwaras	1.27	1.51	18.90	1.87	2.14
Klangon	1.04	1.16	11.54	1.58	1.73	9.49
Kalirejo	0.97	1.20	23.71	1.50	1.77	18.00
Bendoasri	1.20	1.29	7.50	1.78	1.88	5.62
Klino	1.25	1.31	4.80	1.84	1.90	3.26

It should be noted that the pruning of canopy can only be done with permission Perum Perhutani because it was feared it would reduce productivity of stands. Therefore, to increase percentage of radiation can also be done by cultivation in a location that stand spacing is not too tight and the canopy of stand do not thick. Additionally, increasing of soil Ca content has a risk reducing *A. muelleri* corm quality because the previous studies show that soil Ca

content positively correlated with oxalate content in *A. muelleri* corm (Indriyani et al. 2010). The results Handayani (2009) also explained that the addition of lime (dolomite) in *A. muelleri* growth media can increase the density of Ca-oxalate crystals in *A. muelleri* leaves. Nevertheless, the results of research Sumarwoto (2004) explains that the addition of 20 tons of lime (Ca)/ha can also increase soil pH from 4.55 to 5.99. Given that the pH is negatively correlated with oxalate content in *A. muelleri* corm (Indriyani et al. 2010), it is necessary to ensure on the continued study about the relationship between the increase of pH, soil Ca content, corm production and decreasing oxalate content in *A. muelleri* corm. Furthermore, in structural model using PLS, Indriyani et al. (2011) explained that corm oxalate content of *A. muelleri* was determined directly by temperature and soil CEC. Therefore, optimization *A. muelleri* corm production by improving percentage of radiation and soil Ca content can be conducted in *A. muelleri* agroforestries.

#### Selection of new habitat for *A. muelleri* agroforestry

Optimizing the *A. muelleri* corm production for new agroforestry can be conducted by controlling the vegetative growth by choosing a new agroforestry has character monthly temperature, percentage of radiation and soil Ca content are optimum. To achieving monthly temperature optimum, *A. muelleri* better planted in agroforestry with low altitude, for example in the village of Sugihwaras (Arisoesilansih et al. 2010). Meanwhile, maximum of radiation (60%) can be achieved in agroforestry with stands not too tight. Additionally, soil Ca content can be optimized so that CEC to be optimal, like Sugihwaras Village. The increasing of Ca content can be done with calcification (Sumarwoto 2004).

#### CONCLUSION

The multiple regression analysis of *Amorphophallus muelleri* growth at some characters agroforestry and age showed high validity with  $R^2$  88-99%. Regression model showed that age, monthly temperature, percentage of radiation and soil Ca content either simultaneously or partially determined the growth of *A. muelleri* vegetative and corm. Based on these models, the *A. muelleri* corm reached the optimal growth after four years of cultivation and they will be ready to be harvested. Additionally, the soil Ca content should reach  $25.3 \text{ me.hg}^{-1}$  as Sugihwaras agroforestry, with the maximal radiation of 60%.

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