

STORAGE STUDIES OF BANANA (*MUSA SP. AAA*) FRUITS

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ABSTRACT

The effects of water dipping of banana fruits in 1% NaOCl (household bleach) and removal of *biosynthesized ethylene* (using *Ethylene* control sachet) on green life and shelf quality of banana fruits were studied. In another experiment, the efficacy of *Irvingia gabonensis* fruits as ethylene generator for banana ripening was evaluated. Water-dipped bananas had the lowest weight loss and delayed occurrence of crown rot till about 14 days compared to 10 and 9 days where ethylene was removed and the Control sample, respectively. In the second experiment, inclusion of *I. gabonensis* with bananas quickened its attainment of respiratory climacteric and resulted to higher weight loss. However, the bananas developed brighter and sharper yellow peel colour than the Control. Green life was 8 days for bananas where ethylene was removed as against 4 days for the Control.

Keywords: Banana, Ethylene control, NaOCl, ripening, water-dipping, crown rot.