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## Evaluation of Lac Cultivation in two Southwestern Districts in Bangladesh

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### Abstract

Lac is the dermal secretion of lac insect, *Kerria lacca* Kerr., on the host plant, e.g. Ber, fig which is used to make expensive natural dye, burnish, coating materials for ship, electronic purposes, raw materials of lipstick, nail polish etc. Though it is very perspective industry and available of host plants over the country especially in southern districts of Bangladesh, lac cultivation is confined within some northern districts of Bangladesh. An experiment was conducted to find out the possibility of lac Cultivation on ber plant in two southwestern districts of Bangladesh: Khulna and Satkhira compared to Chapainowabgonj, the main lac producing area during July to October 2006. The bark thickness, bark weight of ber plant as hose, ratio of harvested and inoculated lac sticks, harvested raw lac and harvested processed lac were measured and compared. Statistically non significant results were found meaning the similar performance of lac cultivation among the three regions. Numerically, the thickest bark of ber plant was found at Satkhira (0.100 cm) whereas thinnest at Chapainowabgonj (0.095 cm). Mean bark weight of ber plant was highest at Khulna (3.377 g) whereas the lowest was in Chapainowabgonj (3.254g). Lac insects on ber plants at Khulna showed highest performance noticing 6.708 times harvested lac sticks against inoculated lac sticks and the lowest was in Chapainowabgonj 6.360 times. A similar result was found regarding harvested raw lac. However considering processed lac it was found highest performance in Chapainowabgonj (96.360 g) but lowest at Kolaroa (74.830g). All these studies recommend that lac cultivation is possible at the southwestern part of Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Lac sticks, raw lac, shellac, turi