

Kraft Pulp from *Acacia Mearnsii* grown in Southern India

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Pulping characteristics of 14-year old *Acacia Mearnsii* were investigated using kraft pulping and C/D-E_{OP}-D-D bleaching. Results were compared with those obtained from eucalyptus, poplar, and bamboo pulped under similar conditions. We observed that *Acacia Mearnsii* wood had relatively low lignin content and high basic as well as bulk density. It gave high unbleached-pulp yield at low kappa number. It could be easily bleached to brightness levels of about 88% with low bleach chemical consumption, high bleached-pulp yield, and high strength properties. Fast-growth rate, adaptability to varying climatic conditions, and multi-utility nature of its wood make *Acacia Mearnsii* economically important tree.

Keywords: *Acacia Mearnsii*, Black wattle, Pulping, Bleaching, Papermaking, Strength properties