

**CLAMPING COCOYAMS TO PROMOTE WOUND HEALING AND
RESISTANCE TO IMPACT-INDUCED DAMAGE, AND TO IMPROVE
STORABILITY OF CORMS**

Mbonomo René Bikomo

Abstract

A post-harvest study was conducted to evaluate the influence of variety, wounding, clamping, and bruising on the storage performance of white- and red-fleshed cocoyams (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium* (L.) Schott). The white-fleshed cocoyam lost less fresh wt after 3 months' storage and exhibited more resistance to rot infection than did the red-fleshed cocoyam, which, however, produced more sprouts. Wounding exacerbated—noticeably so in the red cocoyam—deterioration of stored corms. Clamping after wound infliction significantly enhanced the red cocoyam's ability to recover from damage. When wounded corms were bruised, they deteriorated rapidly during storage. This undesirable behaviour occurred, regardless of whether the corms were clamped after wounding. Bruising increased abundant sprouting in the white cocoyam. Wounds and bruises considerably reduced moisture content in stored products. Paradoxically, this was not reduced by clamping. Palatability was not affected by any of the pre-storage and potentially occurring factors studied.

Note: This manuscript was incomplete (copies of the figures were mislaid)