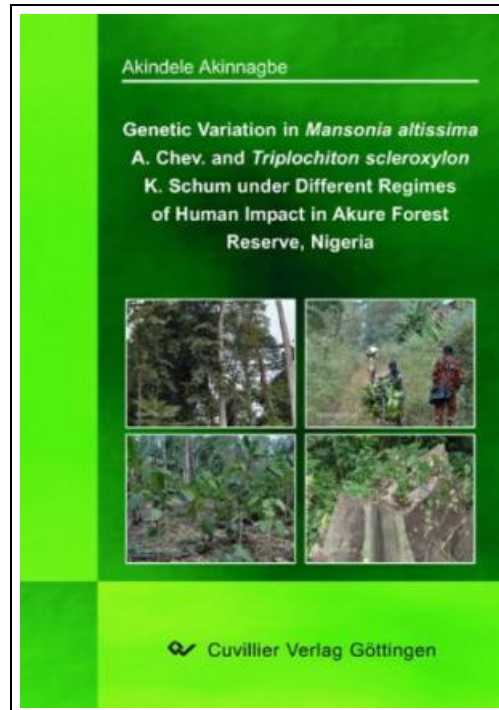


## Genetic Variation in *Mansonia altissima* A. Chev. And *Triplochiton scleroxylon* K. Schum under Different Regimes of Human Impact in Akure Forest Reserve, Nigeria



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## GENETIC VARIATION IN MANSIONIA ALTISSIMA A. CHEV. AND TRIPLOCHITON SCLEROXYLON K. SCHUM UNDER DIFFERENT REGIMES OF HUMAN IMPACT IN AKURE FOREST RESERVE, NIGERIA

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Cuvillier Verlag Sep 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 209x147x14 mm. Neuware - Humans have exploited forests for thousands of years as they seek to use forest species as resources for food, fuel and timber, or to clear forested land for agricultural and urban purposes. In modern times, forests exposed to intensive human disturbance are the species-rich tropical forest ecosystems. For instance, Nigeria has the world's highest deforestation rate of primary forests. Between 2000 and 2005, 55.7 percent of primary forests in the country, defined as forests with no visible signs of past or present human activities, were lost as a result of human activities such as logging, subsistence agriculture, and the collection of fuelwood. Since genetic diversity within species is crucial for their long-term survival, conservation of genetic diversity in tree species should be given high priority. For effective conservation of genetic diversity in tree species in a country where prevalent human activities are shrinking its forests, effects of human activities on genetic diversity in tree species need to be analysed. This dissertation aims at analysing and comparing effects of human impacts on genetic diversity in *Mansionia altissima* A. Chev. and *Triplochiton scleroxylon* K. Schum. *Mansionia altissima* and *Triplochiton scleroxylon* are important West African timber tree species of family Sterculiaceae with contrasting successional status. *Mansionia altissima* is a non-pioneer light demanding tree species, characteristically more abundant in closed forests, whereas *Triplochiton scleroxylon* is a pioneer species predominant in open forests. Since human disturbances tend to have opposite impacts on the regeneration potential of these two species, also different effects on genetic diversity levels were expected. Fresh leaves of adult trees and saplings of both species were collected from the same plots in Akure Forest Reserve, Nigeria namely: an isolated forest patch, a logged forest and a primary forest with no visible signs of past or present human activities. Additionally, samples were collected from a plantation for *M. altissima* and a...



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