

Size variation of *Acacia caven* (leguminosae) pods along a climatic gradient in Chile

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Abstract

A southward tendency of increment in pod-length is shown for 11 populations of *Acacia caven* (Mol.) Hook et Arn. localized along a climatic gradient of increasing annual rainfall in Chile. This fact would suggest that *A. caven* populations occurring in the south are in better conditions for reproduction than northern populations, since pod-length is related to the amount of seeds inside the pods. The possible bearing of this southward tendency of increasing seed production upon the expansion of *A. caven* toward the more humid zones in southern Chile is discussed.

Keywords Plant Physiology, Annual Rainfall, Good Condition, Seed Production, Size Variation