

Original Research Paper

Analyze the Significance of Age and Height on the Physical and Chemical Properties of Ethiopian *Giant Timber Bamboo*

¹Yalew Dessalegn, ¹Balkeshwar Singh and ³Aart W. van Vuure

¹Department of Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering,
Mechanical, Adama Science and Technology University, Ethiopia

³Department of Materials Engineering; Campus Groep T,
Composite Materials Group and Reas Vesaliusstraat 13, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

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Corresponding Author:

Yalew Dessalegn
Department of Mechanical
Design and Manufacturing
Engineering, Adama Science
and Technology University,
Adama City, Ethiopia
Email: yalewdesu@yahoo.com

Abstract: This research aims to examine the properties of culm based on the factors of age and height for structural and industrial purposes. Aged from 1-3 years old of culm and the height was divided into 3 parts which bottom, middle and top. The properties of Giant Timber bamboo in Ethiopia were not investigated so far from the other research work using age and height factors. 3 Samples of the culm are harvested at each age in the Amhara region at Injibara town, Ethiopia and 6 specimens are prepared for each experimental work. New growth of the bamboo shoot has higher internodes length, internodes diameter, and culm thickness than the previous generates of bamboo shoot. Morphological characteristics of the culm are improved when the ages of culm younger. Moisture contents and shrinkage of culm decrease when the age of culm older, and along culm height goes from the bottom to top. However, oven-dry density, cellulose, and lignin contents increase when the age of culm older and along culm height goes from the bottom to top. Whereas hemicelluloses, extractive and ash contents decrease when the age of culm older and along culm height goes from the bottom to top. Higher moisture contents of culm used to easy extraction of fibers without damage, but it has higher shrinkage in the culm. Whereas higher basic density of culm used for structural and furniture making. Celluloses are used for the biofuel and pulp industry. The lignin used as a binder and improve the structural application of the culm. Whereas hemicelluloses are used in the paper industry.

Keywords: Bamboo, Morphological Properties, Physical Properties, Chemical Properties, Age and Height

Introduction

A bamboo is a group of grass, family which 1600 bamboo species distributed across the world and bamboo is indigenous in Asia, Africa, North and South -America and Oceania. The subfamily of bamboo is categorized into three groups which are Arundinarieae, Bambuseae, as well as and Olyreae. According to the coverage area of species, from the largest to lowest are Bambuseae, Arundinarieae, as well as, Olyreae respectively. Arundinarieae founds in the temperate areas, whereas Bambuseae founds in the tropical areas (Banik, 2015a).

Giant timber bamboo is the common name of *Bambusa oldhamii* that is the greatest growth performance survival, density and basal area in the world bamboo species. The density, survival rate and the apparent basal area of *Bambusa oldhamii* were 1731

culms per hectare, 97.9% and 27.56 m² ha⁻¹ respectively. The height, internode length and diameter of the *Bambusa oldhamii* had reached 170-20 m, 20-35 and 10 cm respectively. Giant Timber bamboo is introduced in Ethiopia, which synonyms with bambusa oldhamii, Lelebaoldhamii, *Sinocalamus oldhamii*, *Dendrocalamopsis oldhamii*, *Bambusa atrovirens*, *Dendrocalamopsis atrovirens* (Sanquetta *et al.*, 2015; Mulatu *et al.*, 2016).

Bambusa oldhamii required annual average temperatures of 18-20°C, annual precipitation of more than 1400 mm and planted in the river banks under 200-300 m above sea level (Hua and Ping.).

In Ethiopia, research on bamboo management and utilization were scarce. Identified constraints or lack of awareness about the resource, scanty technologies/scientific knowledge, lack/absence of strong policy frameworks and

institutional set-up and depletion of the resource base. Major opportunities where the existing national and international interest in the appropriate utilization and development of bamboo (Kindu and Mulatu, 2016). Bamboo resources in Ethiopia were restricted by challenges such as lack of product quality, trained manpower, training and technology, capital, working and selling the place, market linkage, support service, organizational, attitudinal and bamboo resource-related challenges (Kebede, 2018).

Nowadays, Bamboo in Ethiopia is limited to traditional applications like house construction, fencing, fodder, household furniture and utensils and firewood (Gebrekidan *et al.*, 2018). Moreover, it has barriers remain to mainstream bamboo construction. Therefore, further research was needed to (1) encourages government, institutional and policy support and integration with the private sector, (2) integrate bamboo with local building materials and promote a broader range of bamboo construction projects, (3) prepare the bamboo building codes and construction product standards and (4) assess resource management and water requirements of supplying bamboo on an industrial scale construction (Paudel, 2011).

Utilization and processing of bamboo culm were influenced by the type of bamboo species, culm locations, nodes or internodes, harvesting seasons (at the end of the rainy season it is much higher moisture contents than at the end of the dry season), bamboo culm age (young culm has a higher moisture content than a mature one), as well as, humidity and dryness of the environment during the growth and harvesting of bamboo (Yu, 2008).

Long segmented stems are known as culms which are existed many hinges known as nodes, with hollow culms joint one the other. Long Unidirectional (UD) fibers exist along within the culm of the internodes and are discontinued at the nodes. Long unidirectional fibers are used for the production of fiber reinforcement composite products. Since Giant Timber bamboo is not indigenous to Ethiopia, most of the species are examined from their continents where it is indigenous (Kalali *et al.*, 2019).

However, in the current research, the morphological, physical and chemical properties of the species in Ethiopia are investigated based on ages and height. The sizes of the bamboo culm are depending upon their species and environmental conditions. Some of the species grow less than 0.5 m, while other species can grow over 30 m, with some species even growing up to 40 m (Banik, 2015b). The internodes length, internodes diameter and culm wall thickness varied along the culm height go from the bottom to top which internodes diameter and culm wall thickness reduce, but internodes length increase up to middle parts, then decrease. Benton (2015) reported that the relationship between the number of internodes with Internodal length, internodes diameter and culm wall

thickness is assessed in different bamboo species. The internodal lengths are important as it determines the maximum length of the fibers that extracted. The maximum length of fiber is determined by the length of the internodes, but the volume of extracting fibers is determined by the internodal diameter and culm wall thickness.

Generally, internodal diameters and culm wall thicknesses are increased around the bottom parts and reducing goes to the top parts.

The dimension of bamboo culm is determined by the age, which newly planted bamboo culm producing a smaller size of the culm. when the new shoots of culm generate, they have attained a maximum culm diameter, internodes length and culm wall thickness. The current research that bamboo plants were planted more than 20 years ago, so that matured enough to characterize their properties. The common age of maturity period of the culm is 2-3 years old. The ages of the culm are influenced by the morphological properties, physical and chemical properties which determined the application area like furniture making, structure working, fibers board production, paper industry, biofuel production and laminated board production (Banik, 2015a). The ages of the bamboo have a negative influence on the moisture contents (Wang *et al.*, 2015).

The moisture contents are higher at the end of the rainy season and lowest at the end of the dry season. The yield of fibers, modulus of elasticity and strength improve when the moisture contents of the bamboo increase. Moreover, the higher moisture contents are used to easily isolate the fibers from the parenchyma, as well as extract a higher amount of bamboo fibers without any damage (Banik, 2015b). The moisture contents vary with the age, species, along the culm length, across the culm wall, environmental condition and harvesting season (INBAR, 1996). Basic density increase when the ages of bamboo older, along with culm length from bottom to top, as well as, across the culm wall from inner to outer parts (Chaowana, 2013).

The basic density has more influence on compressive strength, as well as, modulus of rupture than other mechanical properties (Correal and Arbeláez, 2010). Shrinkage of culm along the height is very low which is favorable properties of bamboo fiber-reinforced composite products. Hence, bamboo has more dimensional stability than wood (Chaowana, 2013). Tangential shrinkage in culm is about 30-50% less than radial shrinkage, but longitudinal shrinkage is insignificant compared to tangential and radial shrinkage (Azadeh and Ghavami, 2018). Dimensional stability of culm higher when the lower difference between tangential and radial shrinkage (Anokye *et al.*, 2014).

The main chemical constituents of bamboo are cellulose, hemicelluloses, as well as, lignin. Cellulose contents used to improve the strength and stiffness of bamboo, whereas lignin is used as a matrix that is used for bonding the fibers. Cell wall forms from celluloses which are arranged in a helical configuration around it (Parameswaran *et al.*, 1976). Chemical compositions vary species, environmental condition, ages, and location along with culm height. However, chemical constituents tend to remain slightly constant when the age of culm matured (Liese, 1985).

Materials and Methods

Study Area

Kombolcha found a distance of 13 Km far from the Dessie City in the South Wollo Zone of the Amahara Region it has a latitude and longitude of 11°5'N 39°44'E with an elevation between 1842 and 1915 m above sea level. The annual average high and low temperature of Kombolcha is 25.8 and 11.3°C respectively, with annual average rainfall (mm) and annual average relative humidity (%) is 1,027 and 56 respectively.

Sampling Technique

The bamboo culm was harvested in February 2019 Kombolcha town in South Woll Zone of Amhara Region, Ethiopia. Three representatives of Giant Timber bamboo (*bambusa oldhamii*) were harvested in each age of one, two and three years old. The age of bamboo culm was known by experienced field personnel using its color and sheath in the culm. The culm was later subdivided into three parts such as the bottom, middle and top portions based on the criteria of internodes length and outer diameter.

Moisture Content

6 specimens are prepared from each height at the bottom, middle and top parts evaluate moisture contents. 18 experiments was performed at each age of 1, 2 and 3 years old of bamboo culm. The total of 54 experiments were performed to evaluate the moisture contents of culm aged from 1-3 years old.

The samples were weighed in an analytical balance accuracy of 0.001 g and dried in an oven at 105±2°C for 72 h until a constant weight was attained, then the moisture content of the samples was calculated according to (ASTM, 2004) as follows:

$$MC = \frac{M1 - M2}{M2} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

Where:

<i>MC</i>	=	The moisture content (%)
<i>M1</i>	=	The initial weight of the wet sample (g)
<i>M2</i>	=	The weight of the dried sample (g)

Basic Density

18 specimens were prepared from each age of 1, 2 and 3 years-old and 6 specimens were prepared from each height at the bottom, middle and top position. Each bamboo specimen was prepared for the size of 25×25 mm×t. Basic density was determined based on oven-dry weight and green volume. The specimens are weighed in analytical balance before oven-dried. Then, the specimens were oven-dried for 72 h at 105±2°C until a constant weight was attained. Then, the specimens were weighed in an analytical balance after oven-dried. The green volume of the specimen was measured using digital vernier calipers (Koman and Feher, 2015) reported that basic density was calculated according to the following formula:

$$BD = \frac{ODW (Kg)}{GV (m^3)} \quad (2)$$

Where:

<i>BD</i>	=	Basic Density (Kg/m ³)
<i>ODW</i>	=	Oven Dry Weight (Kg)
<i>GV</i>	=	Green Volume (m ³)

Shrinkage in Wall Thickness

6 specimens are prepared from each height at the bottom, middle and top parts. At each age of 1, 2 and 3 years-old. 18 Experiments are performed to evaluate shrinkage in wall thickness at each age of the culm. Each specimen was prepared in the size of 20×20 mm×t. Shrinkage in wall thickness was determined based on the green dimension and oven-dry dimension that was before and after oven dried in the oven respectively. The specimens were oven-dried for 72 h at 105±2°C until a constant weight was attained. Then, the size of the specimens measured using digital vernier calipers.

ASTM (1997) stated that shrinkage in wall thickness calculated according to the following formula:

$$SHCM = \frac{GD - ODD}{GD} \times 100\% \quad (3)$$

Where:

<i>SHCM</i>	=	Shrinkage in Culm (%)
<i>GD</i>	=	Green Dimension (mm)
<i>ODD</i>	=	Oven Dry Dimension (mm)

Table 1: Age determination of *Bambusa oldhamii* bamboo

Morphological features	Bamboo age		
	<1 year	1-2 year	>2 year
Internode color	White flour is distributed on the surface of the bamboo Culm	Gets Light green	Gets darker green
Culm sheaths	More than half of the bamboo culm covered with a sheath	The culm sheath begins to fall until none are left	All of the culm sheaths

Table 2: Criteria setting for the division of bamboo culm along with the height

Age	Position	Criteria
1 year	Bottom	Wall thickness >9.25 mm
	Middle	Between bottom and top
	Top	Outer diameter <104 mm
2 year	Bottom	Wall thickness >8.35 mm
	Middle	Between bottom and top
	Top	Outer diameter <74 mm
3 year	Bottom	Wall thickness >7.15 mm
	Middle	Between bottom and top
	Top	Outer diameter <62 mm

Age of Culm Determination Method

As presented in Table 1, internode color and sheaths are used to determine the ages of the Giant Timber bamboo. At an early age, white flour with culm sheaths has covered the whole of the culm, whereas at a young age, light green with some culm sheaths are covered in the culm and the older and older age, dark and darker green without culm sheaths are covered in the culm.

Culm Height Determination Methods

As presented in Table 2, criteria set for the division of the Giant Timber Bamboo culm along the height used bottom criteria in the culm wall thickness and top criteria in the outer diameter. The middle position is between the bottom and top positions. Between the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old, bottom criteria in the culm wall thickness are greater than 9.25, 8.35 and 7.15 mm, moreover, the top criteria in the culm diameter are less than 104, 74 and 62 mm respectively.

Statistical Analysis

Significant of the main factor of ages and heights were analyzed using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) with stata. version 12 software.

Investigation of the variance was applied to decide that the main factors were significant or insignificant to a difference in means.

Results

Morphological Characteristics of the Culm

As shows in the Table 3, the age of 1, 2 and 3 years-old of Giant Timber bamboo has an average clump length

of 12.00, 10.07 and 10.29 m, number of internodes per clump of 39, 35 and 32, range of internodes length of 22.3-34.6, 25.0-32.9 and 29.2-34.4 cm, culm diameter of 75.04-125.67, 47.66-96.05 and 33.01-89.11 mm, as well as, culms wall thickness of 4.47-13.98, 4.79-12.59 and 3.98-9.71 mm respectively. Giant Timber bamboo has properties like other bamboo species tapers from the base towards the tip and culm diameter, Internodes culm length, as well as wall thickness decrease when the number of internodes increase.

The main factor of culm age significantly ($P < 0.05$) value influenced all parameters measured such as moisture content, basic density and shrinkage of wall thickness, whereas along culm height was not statistically significant at ($P < 0.05$) value on moisture content, basic density and shrinkage of culm thickness. Pairwise comparison of age and height in the turkey method are presented in Tables 4 and 5. The factor of age between 2 Vs 1 and 3 Vs 1 are statistically significant at ($P < 0.05$). However, the factor of age between 3 Vs 2 is not statistically significant at ($P < 0.05$). The pairwise comparison of the factor of height is not statistically significant at ($P < 0.05$).

Physical Characteristics of the Culm

Moisture Content

The mean moisture content (%) of along with the culm height at the bottom, middle and top are 143.067, 121.767 and 101.933, whereas, at the age of 1, 2 and 3 years old are 159.167, 139.0667 and 68.533 respectively, as presented in Fig. 1.

In the present results, the moisture content decrease when the age of the culm older and along culm height goes from the bottom to top.

The main factor of age on the moisture content was a statistically significant difference at ($P < 0.05$), whereas along the culm height was not a statistically significant difference at ($P < 0.05$), as presented in Tables 6 and 7.

Basic Density of the Culm

As indicated in Fig. 2: The mean basic density (Kg/m^3) of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old are 596.7, 745.4 and 825.7 respectively. The basic density increase when the ages of the culm older, as well as, along the culm height goes from bottom to top.

Table 3: Morphological characteristics of Giant Timber bamboo

Morphological features	Position	Age		
		1 year	2 year	3 year
Average culm length (m)		12.00	10.07	10.29
No. Internode per culm		39.00	35	32.00
Average culm Wall Thickness (mm)	Bottom	13.98	12.59	9.71
	Middle	7.14	6.71	6.62
	Top	4.47	4.79	3.98
	Mean	8.53	8.03	6.77
Average Internode diameter (mm)	Bottom	125.67	96.05	89.11
	Middle	112.72	80.05	66.15
	Top	75.04	47.66	33.01
	Mean	104.48	74.59	62.75
Average Internode length (cm)	Bottom	34.60	25.00	34.30
	Middle	36.30	28.60	32.30
	Top	22.30	32.90	29.20
	Mean	31.00	28.80	31.90
Section of Culm length in the height (m)	B	0-4.00	0-3.50	0-5.00
	M	4.00-8.00	3.50-6.00	5.00-7.00
	T	8.00-12.00	6.00-10.00	7.00-10.00

Table 4: Pairwise comparison of age in Tukey method

Age	Contrast	Std. Err.	Tukey		Tukey	
			t	p> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
2 Vs 1	-10.3770	2.44617	-4.24	0.029	-19.095	-1.65860
3 Vs 1	-12.4800	2.44617	-5.10	0.015	-21.198	-3.76190
3 Vs2	-2.1033	2.44617	-0.86	0.691	-10.821	6.61478

Table 5: Pairwise comparison of height in Tukey method

Height	Contrast	Std. Err.	Tukey		Tukey	
			t	p> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
2 vs 1	3.47000	2.44617	1.42	0.415	-5.2481	12.1881
3 vs 1	7.83334	2.44617	3.20	0.069	-0.8848	16.5514
3 vs2	4.36333	2.44617	1.78	0.285	-4.3548	13.0814

Table 6: ANOVA factor of Age in the response of moisture content

Number of obs = 54			R-squared = 0.8261		
Root MSE = 21.8372			Adj R-squared 0.7682		
Source	Partial SS	df	MS	F	Prob>F
Model	13593.40	2	6796.680	14.25	0.0053
Age	13593.40	2	6796.680	14.25	0.0053
Residual	2861.18	6	476.863		
Total	16454.50	8	2056.820		

Table 7: ANOVA factor of Height in the response of moisture content

Number of obs = 54			R-squared = 0.1543		
Root MSE = 48.1587			Adj R-squared = -0.1276		
Source	Partial SS	df	MS	F	Prob > F
Model	2539.0	2	1269.50	0.55	0.6048
Height	2539.0	2	1269.50	0.55	0.6048
Residual	13915.5	6	2319.26		
Total	16454.5	8	2056.82		

Table 8: ANOVA factor of Age in the response of basic density

Source	Partial SS	df	MS	F	Prob > F
Model	0.40916	2	0.20458	10.41	0.0112
Age	0.40916	2	0.20458	10.41	0.0112
Residual	0.11793	6	0.01966		
Total	0.52710	8	0.06589		

Number of obs = 9
 Root MSE = 0.140199
 R-squared = 0.7763
 Adj R-squared = 0.7017

Table 9: ANOVA factor of Height in the response of basic density

Source	Partial SS	df	MS	F	Prob>F
Model	0.02946	2	0.01473	0.18	0.8415
Height	0.02946	2	0.01473	0.18	0.8415
Residual	0.49764	6	0.08294		
Total	0.52710	8	0.06589		

Number of obs = 9
 Root MSE = 0.287992
 R-squared = 0.0559
 Adj R-squared = -0.2588

Table 10: ANOVA factor of Age in the response in Shrinkage of wall thickness

Source	Partial SS	df	MS	F	Prob > F
Model	267.850	2	133.925	6.26	0.034
Age	267.850	2	133.925	6.26	0.034
Residual	128.343	6	21.3905		
Total	396.193	8	49.5241		

Number of obs = 54
 Root MSE = 4.62499
 R-squared = 0.6761
 Adj R-squared = 0.5681

Table 11: ANOVA factor of height in the response in Shrinkage of wall thickness

Source	Partial SS	DF	MS	F	Prob > F
Model	92.4407	2	46.2203	0.91	0.4506
Height	92.4407	2	46.2203	0.91	0.4506
Residual	303.752	6	50.6253		
Total	396.193	8	49.5241		

Number of obs = 54
 Root MSE = 7.11515
 R-squared = 0.2333
 Adj R-squared = -0.0222

Table 12: Chemical constituents of giant timber bamboo

Age	Location	Ash (SD)%	Extractives (SD)%	Hemicelluloses (SD)%	Cellulose (SD)%	Lignin (SD)%
1	Bottom	2.49(0.15)	11.43(0.68)	23.59(1.73)	43.25(2.65)	19.29(1.13)
	Middle	2.74(0.18)	11.29(0.53)	23.65(1.69)	43.44(2.48)	19.42(1.21)
	Top	2.89(0.17)	10.15(0.56)	23.89(1.92)	43.75(2.58)	19.57(1.53)
	Mean	2.71(0.17)	10.96(0.59)	23.71(1.78)	43.48(2.57)	19.43(1.29)
2	Bottom	1.88(0.07)	10.69(0.64)	22.06(1.23)	45.34(2.75)	20.26(1.46)
	Middle	2.32(0.13)	10.47(0.61)	22.16(1.35)	44.55(2.82)	21.21(1.61)
	Top	2.59(0.16)	10.15(0.67)	22.75(1.45)	43.15(2.78)	21.73(1.82)
	Mean	2.26(0.12)	10.44(0.64)	22.32(1.34)	44.35(2.78)	21.07(1.63)
3	Bottom	1.53(0.08)	7.94(0.39)	19.31(1.15)	48.73(3.06)	22.29(1.89)
	Middle	1.8(0.05)	7.38(0.36)	19.52(1.18)	49.02(3.11)	22.37(1.94)
	Top	2.27(0.14)	7.02(0.34)	19.74(1.21)	49.23(3.09)	22.59(1.97)
	Mean	1.87(0.09)	7.45(0.36)	19.52(1.18)	48.99(3.08)	22.42(1.93)

The main factor of age on the basic density was a statistically significant difference at ($P < 0.05$), whereas, along with culm height was not a statistically significant difference at ($P < 0.05$), as presented in Tables 8 and 9.

Shrinkage in Culm Wall Thickness

The average shrinkage in wall thickness (%) along with culm height have registered at the bottom 15.683, at the middle 13.59 and the top 12.327 respectively, whereas the average shrinkage (%) in wall thickness at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old have registered 17.077, 13.3 and 12.223 respectively, as presented in Fig. 3.

The main factor of age on the percentage of shrinkage in wall thickness was a statistically significant difference at ($P < 0.05$), whereas along with culm height was not a statistically significant difference at ($P < 0.05$), as presented in Tables 10 and 11.

Chemical Composition of the Culm

Chemical constituents of the bamboo culms have influenced on the application area like structural, construction, biofuel and fibers board production. The main chemical constituents of bamboo culms are Cellulose, hemicelluloses, lignin and extractives.

Bamboo strips are cut into small pieces using scissors, then grind using higher duty coffee grinder mill in powder form. The powder is sieved in the sieve size of 425 and 375 μm . The sample size of the particles are passed through in sieve size of 425 μm and lay down on sieve size of 375 μm . The current studies have applied the methods of gravimetric methods to determine the chemical constituents of the culm. Acetone, NaOH and H_2SO_4 are utilized for the determination of extractive, hemicelluloses and lignin contents respectively. The gravimetric methods are selected for chemical constituent analysis in considering economically suitable for developing countries because of cheap and mostly available on the shelf (Adeeyo *et al.*, 2015).

Cellulose Contents

As shown in the Table 12, the average cellulose contents (%) of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old are 43.48, 44.35 and 48.99 respectively. The cellulose contents increase when the ages of the bamboo culm older. Whereas the cellulose contents increases when goes along culm height from the bottom to top parts at the ages of 1 and 3 years old, but decrease when goes along culm height from the bottom to top parts at the ages of 2 years-old.

Hemicelluloses Content

The hemicelluloses contents (%) of Giant Timber bamboo, depending upon ages and heights are presented in Table 12. At the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old of average hemicelluloses contents (%) are 23.71, 22.32 and 19.52 respectively. The hemicelluloses contents decrease when the ages of the culm older. Whereas, the hemicelluloses content increases when goes along culm height from the bottom to top parts.

Lignin Contents

As shown in Table 12, the average lignin contents of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old are 19.43, 21.07 and 22.42% respectively. The lignin contents increase when the ages of the culm older, as well as along culm height from the bottom to top parts.

Extractive Contents

The effect of ages and height on the extractive contents are presented in Table 12. The average of extractive contents (%) of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old are 10.96, 10.44 and 7.45 respectively. The average percentage of extractive contents decreases when the ages of the culm older, as well as go along culm height from the bottom to top parts.

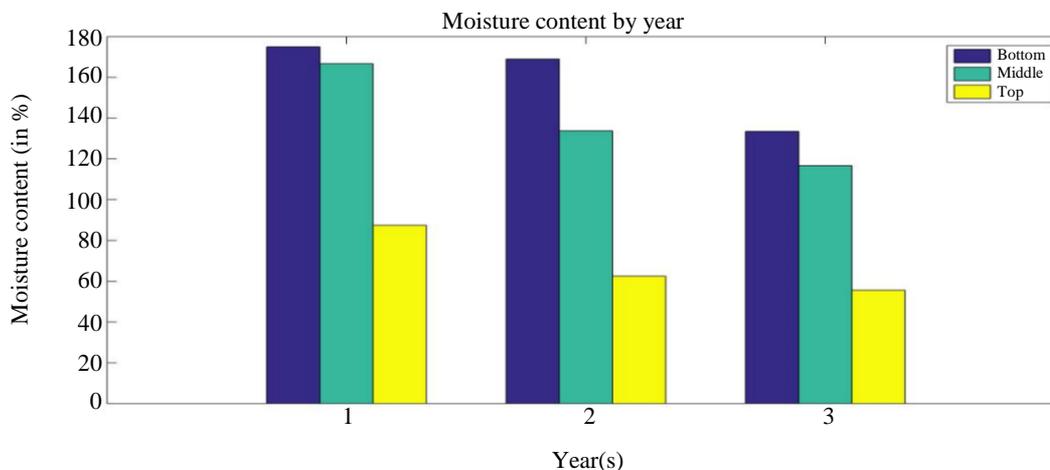


Fig. 1: Moisture content a long culm height aged from 1-3 years-old Giant Timber bamboo

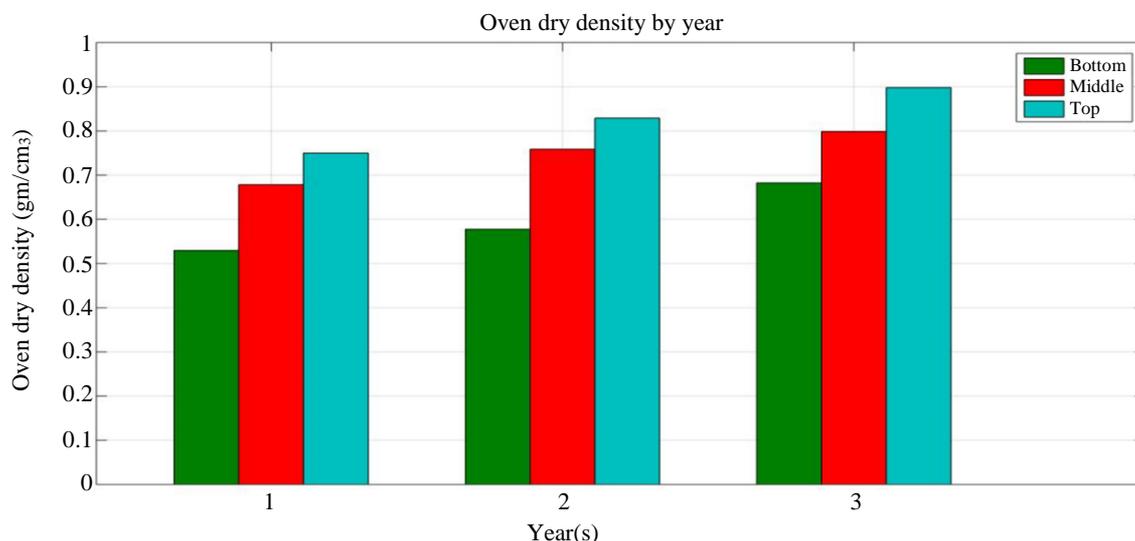


Fig. 2: Basic density of Giant Timber bamboo aged from 1-3 years-old with along culm height

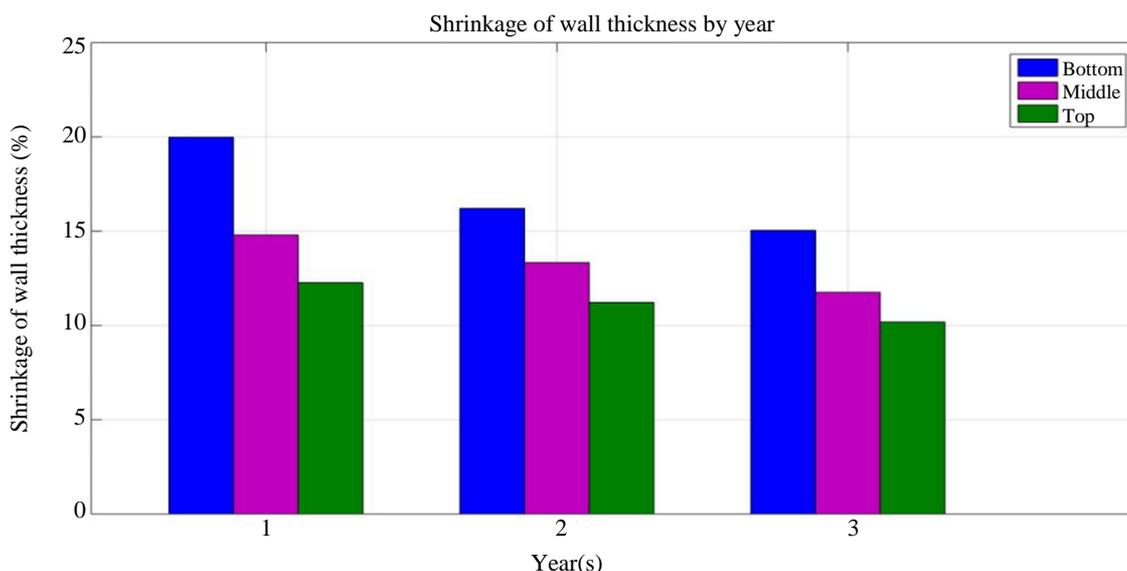


Fig. 3: Shrinkage in culm wall thickness along culm height and aged from 1-3 years-old

Ash Contents

As shown in Table 12, the average ash contents (%) of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old are 2.71, 2.26 and 1.87 respectively. The ash contents decrease when the ages of the culm older, as well as along culm height goes from the bottom to top parts.

Discussion

The culm length (m) of *Bambusa Blumeana* at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old are 18.90, 18.29 and 17.38, internodes length (cm) are 18.3-33.4, 25.1-34.1 and 29.9-35.0, internodes diameter (cm) are 7.7-8.2, 7.3-

8.2 and 8.1-8.7, as well as, culm wall thickness (cm) are 0.71-1.14, 0.72-1.10 and 0.82-1.46 respectively.

The current results of Giant Timber bamboo have higher internodes length, number of internodes, internodes diameter and wall thickness, but the lower culm length than the previous studies of *Bambusa Blumeana*. Therefore, the Giant Timber bamboo has good morphological properties which are utilized in the application area of building house, industrial purpose and furniture making (Mohmod *et al.*, 2016a).

Reported *Dendrocalamus asper* was culm height of 20-30 m, culm diameter of 7.0-10.0 cm, wall thickness of 11-20 mm and internodes length of 20-45 cm,

Dendrocalamus giganteus Wallich ex Munro was culm height of 30-36 m, culm diameter of 16-30 cm, wall thickness of 2.5-3.5 cm and internodes length of 20-70 cm, *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii* was culm height of 12-25 m, culm diameter of 9-19 cm, wall thickness of 0.8-1.2 cm and internodes length of 30-50 cm, *Dendrocalamus longispatus* was culm height of 10-18 m, culm diameter of 4-10 cm, wall thickness of 0.2-1.8 cm and internodes length of 25-65 cm and *Dendrocalamus membranaceus* Munro was culm height of 18-25 m, culm diameter of 8-11 cm, wall thickness of 0.8-1.6 cm and internodes length of 30-50 cm respectively (Banik 2015a).

The range of internodes length of *Gigantochloa scortechinii* bamboo is 32.3-49.5 cm, internodes diameter 10.5-17.8 cm and culm wall thickness 6–8.5 mm. Similar findings were found with the current results of Giant Timber bamboo (Hisham *et al.*, 2006).

Internodal length, wall thickness and culm diameter of *Moso* bamboo was 250, 10 and 90 mm. Whereas, *Guadua* bamboo are 330, 21 and 120 mm respectively. The Giant Timber bamboo has higher internodal length, wall thickness and culm diameter than *Moso* and *Guadua* bamboo (Pozo Morales *et al.*, 2017).

The moisture contents of *Yushanina Alpina* at the ages of 2 (120.3%) lower and 3 (100.5%) higher than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old (Gebremariam and Assefa, 2018).

The moisture content of *Bambusa Blumeana* bamboo at the ages of 1 (79.3-97.0%) lower, 2 (57.3-79.6%) lower and 3 (57.5-79.6%) higher than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years-old (Mohmod *et al.*, 2016b).

The moisture contents of *Bambusa vulgaris* var. *vulgaris* at the ages of 1 (49.13%) lower, 2 (40.07%) lower and 3 (39.73%) lower, *Bambusa vulgaris* var. *striata* ages of 1 (29.68%) lower, 2 (29.43%) lower, 3 (27.82%) lower, *Bambusa balcooa* at the ages of 1 (56.86%) lower, 2 (51.46%) lower and 3 (48.35%) lower, *Bambusa tulda* at the ages of 1 (42.93%) lower, 2 (48.76%) lower and 3 (38.60%) lower, *Bambusa polymorpha* at the ages of 1 (68.14%) lower, 2 (62.48%) lower and 3 (56.85%) lower, *Dendrocalamus strictus* at the ages of 1 (49.02%) lower, 2 (48.76%) lower and 3 (38.60%) lower, as well as, *Bambusa bambos* at the ages of 1 (56.19%) lower, 2 (49.64%) lower and 3 (41.34%) lower than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old respectively (Thirunirai Selvan *et al.*, 2017).

The moisture contents of *Bambusa Balcooa*, *Bambusa Tulda*, *Bambusa Salarkhanii* and *Melocanna Baccifera* bamboo decreased along with the culm height goes from the bottom to top parts. Whereas, their ages of 2, 3 and 4 years-old were a little effect on the moisture content. However, their findings of moisture contents were low compared to the current results of Giant Timber bamboo (Kamruzzaman *et al.*, 2018).

The moisture contents of *Bambusa blumeana* at the ages of 1 (105.92%) lower, 2 (81.33%) lower and 3 (94.80%) higher, *Bamusa Vulgaris* var ages of 1 (224.96%) higher, 2 (86.66%) lower and 3 (89.95%) higher, as well as, *Gigantochloa scortechinii* at the ages of 1 (108.58%) lower, 2 (93.21%) lower and 3 (90.57%) higher than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old (Mohmod *et al.*, 2016a).

The basic density of *Bambusa vulgaris* var. *vulgaris* at the ages of 1 (410.5 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (426.4 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (441.8 Kg/m³) lower, *Bambusa vulgaris* var. *striata* at the ages of 1 (390.0 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (410.0 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (435.0 Kg/m³) lower, *Bambusa balcooa* at the ages of 1 (428.0 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (442.0 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (466.0 Kg/m³) lower, *Bambusa tulda* at the ages of 1 (431.2 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (446.8 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (468.2 Kg/m³) lower, *Bambusa polymorpha* at the ages of 1 (416.7 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (428.4 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (441.6 Kg/m³) lower, *Dendrocalamus strictus* at the ages of 1 (432.3 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (448.7 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (458.0 Kg/m³) lower, as well as, *Bambusa bambos* at the ages of 1 (422.2 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (438.8 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (450.75 Kg/m³) lower than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old (Thirunirai Selvan *et al.*, 2017).

Mean basic density (Kg/m³) of *Yushania Alpina* at the age of 1 (599.85 Kg/m³) higher, 2 (652.89 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (666.85 Kg/m³) lower than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old (Gebremariam and Assefa, 2018).

The mean basic density of *Bambusa blumeana* at the ages 1 (1103 Kg/m³) higher, 2 (1037 Kg/m³) higher and 3 (1000 Kg/m³) higher, *Bamusa Vulgaris* var at the ages of 1 (293 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (507 Kg/m³) lower and 3 (543 Kg/m³) lower, as well as, *Gigantochloa scortechinii* at the ages of 1 (470 Kg/m³) lower, 2 (533 Kg/m³) lower and 3(557 Kg/m³) lower than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old (Mohmod *et al.*, 2016b).

Basic density increased when the age of culm older and goes from bottom to the top along with the culm height (Pozo Morales *et al.*, 2017; Wang *et al.*, 2010).

Mean basic density (Kg/m³) of *Gigantochloa levis* at the age of 2 (733 Kg/m³) lower and 4 (751 Kg/m³) lower, whereas along with culm height at the bottom (696.5 Kg/m³) lower, middle (750.5 Kg/m³) lower and top (758.5 Kg/m³) lower than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old and at the bottom, middle and top parts respectively (Sadiku and Bada, 2017).

Basic density of *Bambusa balcooa* and *Bambusa Tulda* aged from 2-4 years-old have lower, whereas, *melocanna baccifera* and *Bambusa Salarkhanii* aged from 2-4 years old have higher than the current results of Giant timber bamboo aged from 1-3 years old (Kamruzzaman *et al.*, 2008).

The shrinkage in wall thickness decrease when the age of the culm older and along culm height goes from the bottom to top of *Bambusa Blumeana*. However, their findings were low shrinkage in wall thickness compared to the current results of Giant Timber bamboo (Mohmod *et al.*, 2016a).

The shrinkage in culm wall thickness of Giant Timber was low compared to the previous results of *Gigantochloa Scortechinii* (Anwar *et al.*, 2005).

The shrinkage in wall thickness of *Gigantochloa levis* at the age of 2 (7.69%) lower, 3 (5.21%) lower and 4 (5.60%) lower than the current results of Giant Timber bamboo aged from 1-3 years old (Sadiku and Bada, 2017).

The mean percentage of shrinkage in the wall thickness decrease from bottom to the top along with the culm height of *B. balcooa*, *B. tulda*, *B. salarkhanii* and *Melocanna baccifera*. Ages of 4 years old has not a significant effect on the shrinkage in wall thickness. Similar findings were obtained with the current results of Giant Timber bamboo (Kamruzzaman *et al.*, 2008).

The cellulose contents of *Y. alpina* and *Dendrocalamopsis oldhami* are 46.76 and 45.0% which lower than the current results of 3 years-old of Giant Timber Bamboo (48.99%) (Tsegaye *et al.*, 2020). The average cellulose contents of Moso bamboo aged from 1 to 5 years old is 44.64% which is lower than the current results of 3 years old of Giant Timber Bamboo (48.99%) (Li *et al.*, 2015).

The average cellulose contents of *Bambusa vulgaris* species is 50.23% which higher than the current results of 3 years old of Giant Timber bamboo (48.99%) (Nahar and Hasan, 2013).

The hemicelluloses content of *Y. alpina* at the ages of 3 years-old is 12.18% which lower than the current results of 3 years-old of Giant Timber bamboo (19.52%) (Tsegaye *et al.*, 2020; Nahar and Hasan, 2013).

The average hemicelluloses contents of Moso bamboo and *Dendrocalamopsis oldhami* are (23.65%) similar and (26.1%) higher compared to the current results of aged from 1 to 3 years old of Giant Timber bamboo (19.52-23.71)% respectively (Li *et al.*, 2015; Cao *et al.*, 2014).

The average hemicelluloses contents of *Bambusa vulgaris* bamboo is 16.85% which lower than the current results of aged from 1 to 3 years old of Giant Timber bamboo (19.52-23.71)% (Nahar and Hasan, 2013).

The lignin content of *Y. alpina* at the ages of 3 years-old is 25.27% which higher than the current results of aged from 1-3 years-old of Giant Timber bamboo (19.43-22.42)% (Tsegaye *et al.*, 2020).

The average lignin contents of Moso and *Dendrocalamopsis oldhami* bamboo are 20.35 and 20.9% respectively, which similar compared to the current results of aged from 1-3 years old of Giant Timber bamboo (19.43–22.42)% (Li *et al.*, 2015; Cao *et al.*, 2014).

Average lignin contents of *Bambusa vulgaris* bamboo is 23.91% which higher than the current results of aged from 1 to 3 years old of Giant Timber bamboo (19.43-22.42)% (Nahar and Hasan 2013).

The average extractive contents of *Dendrocalamopsis oldhami* bamboo is 3.9% which lower than the current results of aged from 1-3 years old of Giant Timber bamboo (7.45-10.44)% (Cao *et al.*, 2014).

The ash content of *Y. alpina* at the ages of 3 years-old is 3.77% which higher than the current results of aged from 1-3 years-old of Giant Timber bamboo (1.87-2.71)% (Tsegaye *et al.*, 2020).

The ash content of *G. atrovioleacea* bamboo is 3.29% which higher than the current results of aged from 1-3 years-old of Giant Timber bamboo (1.87-2.71)%. However, Giant Timber bamboo aged from 1-3 years old is similar the ash content of *G. apus* and *G. levis* are 2.45 and 2.46% respectively, which similar with the current results of aged from 1-3 years old of Giant Timber bamboo (1.87-2.71)% (Purbasari *et al.*, 2016).

The average lignin contents of *Bambusa vulgaris* bamboo is 1.38% which lower than the current results of aged from 1-3 years old of Giant Timber bamboo (1.87-2.71)% (Nahar and Hasan, 2013).

The ash content of *Dendrocalamopsis oldhami* bamboo is 1.5% which lower than the current results of aged from 1-3 years-old of Giant Timber bamboo (1.87-2.71)% (Cao *et al.*, 2014).

Conclusion

Giant Timber bamboo in Ethiopia was investigated to characterize their properties based on ages and heights for structural application, industrial purpose and fiberboard production uses. The bamboo plants were harvested in Amhara Region South Wollo at Kombolcha town.

The culm is the highest and largest in diameter of bamboo species in Ethiopia. The height, internodes length, internodes diameter and thickness of the culm are 10.3-12.00 m, 28.8-31.8, 6.3-10.4 cm and 6.77-8.53 mm respectively. Depending on the morphological characteristics considered, the length of the internodes is suited for bamboo fiber production, moreover, internodes diameter and culm wall thickness are suited for structural application and furniture making.

Moisture contents of Giant timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old are 159.167, 139.0667 and 68.533%, whereas, along with the culm height at the bottom, middle and top are 143.067, 121.767 and 101.933% respectively. Shrinkage in wall thickness is lowest at the ages of 3 years old which has good enough dimensional stability.

Depending on the moisture contents and shrinkage in wall thickness considered, age of 3 years old of the culm is suited for structural application and furniture making, but age of 1-year-old of the culm is suited for fiber extraction without damage to the fibers. The existing of water in

the culm to improve an easy extraction of the fibers from the culm. Basic density of Giant timber bamboo at the ages of 1, 2 and 3 years old are 596.7, 745.4 and 825.7 Kg/m³ respectively.

Considering the age of culm in the basic density, age of 3 years old has been good mechanical strength which could be utilized for building a house, furniture making and structural application. The properties of the culm are evaluated by the percentages of constituents of the chemical on the culm which influence the performance of structural and fibers reinforced composite application.

Cellulose and lignin contents of Giant Timber bamboo increase when the ages of culm older, whereas ash, extractive and hemicelluloses decrease when the ages of culm older. Celluloses, hemicelluloses, lignin and ash contents increase along with the culm height, but extractive contents decrease along with the culm height.

Depending on the cellulose contents considered, age of 3 years old is suited for biofuel production, fiber production and pulp industry, whereas lignin contents are greatest at the ages of 3 years old which used for a structural application and furniture making. Moreover, hemicelluloses are greatest at the ages of 1-year old which used for the paper factory. Cellulose content of Giant Timber is a greater amount compared to *Y. alpina* and. It is used for the application area of requiring high celluloses contents like a laminate board, fiberboard and particleboard products.

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Author's Contributions

Yalew Dessalegn: Proceed the experiment work.

Balkeshwar Singh: Designed the research plan and organized the study.

Aart W. van Vuure: Coordinated the mouse work.

Ethics

This article is original and contains unpublished material. The corresponding author confirms that all of the other authors have read and approved the manuscript and no ethical issues involved.

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