

Summary

The effect on seed germination of chemical scarification with sulfuric acid and of storage under CIAT's laboratory (22 °C, 80% humidity) and cold-room conditions (18 °C, 50% humidity) was determined for *Centrosema acutifolium* CIAT 5277 cv. Vichada, *C. macrocarpum* CIAT 5713, and *C. brasilianum* CIAT 5234. Seeds with 99% purity and 95% viability in tetrazolium were packed in polypropylene bags and stored for 19 months under the previous conditions. Their physiological condition was checked every 30 days with germination tests performed in a booth with temperatures alternating between 20 °C and 30 °C.

In laboratory conditions, higher germination percentages (70%) were obtained with seeds of the three accessions that had been scarified and stored for six months. In cold-room storage, the effect of scarification was equally significant and germination was high (85%) up to 19 months of storage. When seeds were scarified every 30 days, *C. acutifolium* CIAT 5277 suffered physiological damage that affected its germination. However, *C. macrocarpum* CIAT 5713 and *C. brasilianum* CIAT 5234 increased their germination, independently from the storage site. Best results were obtained with cold-

room storage and scarification two to three days
before planting.