



RESEARCH ARTICLE

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## Exploratory studies on utilization of lops and tops of poplar for development of fibre board

N. ISMITA AND MANISH RANJAN

**ABSTRACT :** This work was initiated to explore the utility of lops and tops for composites. Medium density fibre board (MDF) was prepared using lops and tops of poplar. Boards were prepared at two pressure levels 17.5kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and 21.0 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and at two pressing times (15 and 20 minutes). Phenol formaldehyde was used as binder at 8% and 10% loading levels. The main use of lops and tops of the poplar at industry level is as fuel for boilers. Physical properties except thickness swelling could not meet the standard 12406 (2003). Screw withdrawal could meet the standard for 8% and 10% resin loading.

**KEY WORDS :** Fibre board, Phenol formaldehyde, Physical properties, Mechanical properties, Wax

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### MEMBERS OF RESEARCH FORUM

**Address of the Correspondence :** MANISH RANJAN, Forest Products Division, Forest Research Institute, DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND) INDIA

Email: [manishranjan509@gmail.com](mailto:manishranjan509@gmail.com)

**Address of the Coopted Authors :** N. ISMITA, Forest Products Division, Forest Research Institute, DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND) INDIA

Email: [ismita@icfre.org](mailto:ismita@icfre.org)