

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE SPORE PRODUCTION,
RELEASE, BIOLOGY. AND COLONIZATION OF
HEVEA BY BASIDIOSPORES OF RIGIDOPORUS
LIGNOSUS, THE CAUSAL ORGANISM OF WHITE
ROOT DISEASE**

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Basidiocarps produce viable spores from a very early stage of their development and continue to produce viable spores in abundance at maturity. A bimodal spore release pattern was evident with the maximum spore release being in the early hours of the morning. Germination of spores occurred in the presence of water and was first noticed 8 h after their release, at room temperature. Maximum germination occurred at room temperature, the viability being adversely affected by low and high temperatures. The germinability varied greatly with the source from which they originated. Successful spore inoculations were possible only under laboratory conditions but basidiospores failed to cause infection in the field under natural conditions.