STUDIES ON A NEW DISEASE OF RUBBER *(HEVEA BRASILIENSIS)* CAUSED BY *FUSARIUM SOLANI* F. SP. *HEVEA*

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Fusarium solani f. sp. *hevea* has been isolated from the roots of trees showing wilt symptoms. It has been observed so far only in one rubber estate. The fungus favours a neutral or a slightly alkaline medium for growth. Maximum growth was recorded at temperatures between 25-30°C, with the optimum being 26±2°C. Macro-conidia and microconidia were abundant at low and high temperatures, respectively. The fungal growth was favoured by absence of light.

The screening of fungicides for their efficacy revealed that Bavistin and Derosal were effective at all concentrations when the radial growth was used as the basis of evaluation. Benlate was ineffective below 1 ppm. However, Derosal appeared to be less effective than both Bavistin and Benlate in reducing the radial growth and mycelial weight.