

**SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY OF SOUTH AMERICAN LEAF BLIGHT**

**A. de S. Liyanage**  
(*Rubber Research Institute, Agalawatta*)

South American leaf blight (SALB) caused by *Microcyclus ulei* is the most destructive disease of rubber *Hevea brasiliensis*.

There are two types of conidia ; 2-celled conidia are predominant during wet weather and 1-celled during dry weather. Conidia germinated readily on susceptible and resistant clones within 3-12 h, after inoculation. The distal cell germinated first, often followed by the proximal cell. The appressoria are usually observed within 3 h after inoculation and are oval in shape. Occasionally, they are formed directly at the tips of the distal cell. In susceptible clones, sporulation occurs within 96-120h. In resistant clones, cell collapse was extensive. When conidia are produced they looked abnormal.