

B - 20 STRIPE CANKER IN CINCHONA CAUSED BY *PHYTOPHTHORA CINNAMONI* RANDES
IN SRI LANKA

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Since 1978 a bark disease causing the death of many cinchona trees has been noticed in the cinchona plantings at the Tea Research Institute, Talawakelle. The cause of the disease remained unknown, as reported in last year's annual sessions. *Phytophthora cinnamoni* has now been isolated from the bark. This proves that the disease is identical with the stripe canker of cinchona caused by *P. cinnamoni*. The disease is characterised by narrow stripes of sunken, necrotic tissue starting from soil level and going one to two meters up the stem. Internally the necrosis of the bark tissues near the wood continues for another 10-20 cm. Dissection of the collar and the roots below reveals the presence of similar necrotic tissue. The bark symptoms are accompanied by foliar symptoms followed by defoliation and die-back of the branches, leading eventually to the death of the plant.

The presence of this disease poses a serious problem as attempts are now being made to revive the cinchona industry.