

✓
**PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON THE MICROFLORA ON LEAVES OF
RUBBER (*HEVEA BRASILIENSIS*)**

A. de S. Liyanage and P. K. Samaradeewa
(*Rubber Research Institute,*
Agalawatta)

Different aspects of leaf colonisation by the phylloplane microbes is still poorly understood. This study was done to determine the influence of some factors controlling the leaf surface microbes and to examine their interactions with *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*. Leaves of comparable ages were compared by the leaf washing technique.

The total population of micro-organisms was greater on old than on young leaves. The total number of micro-organisms and also the specific composition of the microflora was affected by the weather conditions, with less numbers being recorded during the dry period. However, with the onset of rains the microbial population increased, especially that of fungi. This increase was associated with the appearance of species not recorded earlier. So far, seventy-three isolates of fungi, two bacteria and a few yeasts and actinomycetes have been isolated.

These isolates were grouped into three categories depending on their reaction to *C. gloeosporioides*. Species of *Trichoderma*, *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*, unidentified species of a fungus and a bacterium showed antagonism to *C. gloeosporioides*.