

**PRE- AND POST-PENETRATION BEHAVIOUR OF COLLETOTRICHUM GLOEOSPORIOIDES  
IN RUBBER (*HEVEA BRASILIENSIS*) LEAVES**

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Colletotrichum leaf disease, caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, is a disease affecting immature leaves of rubber. Although chemical control is feasible, cultivation of resistant varieties appears to be more economical. This study was conducted to study the behaviour of this fungus in susceptible and resistant cultivars.

## SECTION B

*C. gloeosporioides*, grew well on susceptible cultivars. On penetration, the fungus ramified within the palisade and spongy tissues and aecia were formed at 72 hours after inoculation. In resistant cultivars fungal growth was slow and more appressoria were detected compared to a susceptible reaction. The host cells of resistant cultivars, reacted to fungal penetration, causing an intense discolouration of the cell contents. A movement of nuclei in epidermal and palisade cells towards the site of infection was also noted.

Leaf exudates of resistant clones suffered the growth of the fungus, but stimulated the formation of appressoria, which was not observed in exudates of susceptible cultivars. Inhibitory phenols were detected in the exudate of resistant clones.