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**DISTRIBUTION AND SPREAD OF RIGIDOPORUS LIGNOSUS ON HEVEA BRASILIENSIS**

**N. I. S. Liyanage and O. S. Peries**  
(*Rubber Research Institute, Agalawatte*)

*Rigidoporus lignosus* affects *Hevea brasiliensis* Muell. Arg., causing a root disease commonly known as white root disease.

The infection was mostly observed on the lateral roots, in the first 30 cm of soil. The rate of spread of the fungus varied from 1.9 to 8.7 m per year with an average of 4 m per year. The spread of the disease was low in dry, compared to wet areas. In wet areas the cumulative loss of trees within 12 months ranged from 0.5-2.4% under natural conditions. The disease is known to spread through root contact. The size of the inoculum is important in the initiation and spread of the disease. Small roots of diameter 1.2 cm caused infection in young plants, if present in the planting hole. The removal of food base prior to planting is important and it is likely that small pieces of infected roots could be left in the field unnoticed. Emphasis has to be placed on the removal of these in order to reduce foci of infection so that the required stand per acre could be maintained.