

IN SITU ACTION OF SOME SYSTEMIC FUNGICIDES
ON PORIA HYPOLATERITIA

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The action of certain systemic fungicides on Poria hypolateritia, the fungus causing Red Root Disease of tea, was investigated in laboratory, pot and field experiments. The fungicides tested were Baycor (Bitertanol), Calixin (tridemorph) and Anvil (hexaconazole). Mycelial growth was completely inhibited at 5 ppm in agar plate cultures and in soil drench tests at the concentration of 2.0%. From the results obtained it appears that it is possible to eliminate the fungus from within infected tea roots in the soil by the application of these systemic fungicides.

The application of chemicals in the field to standing crop has hitherto not been feasible because of phytotoxic effects. However, experiments with these fungicides indicate that even at high rates of application, such as a soil drench with 4 - 5% solution of the formulation, they are not phytotoxic to mature tea plants.

If the present results are confirmed in field trials, which are now in progress, the chemical control of root diseases in the field, in standing tea, may well become a reality.