B-40 : ISOLATES OF *Corynespora cassiicola* ON *Hevea brasiliensis* AND SCREENING FOR DISEASE RESISTANCE

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Five isolates of Corynespora cassiicola were tested on Potato dextrose agar for morphology, colony growth and sporulation.

Isolates showed variation in morphology, growth rate and sporulation. All the isolates showed abundant aerial mycelium. The Kuruwita isolate had the greatest

amount of aerial mycelium. In addition, spore shape and the size were different in this isolate and it sporulated freely in the laboratory while other isolates had to be subjected to different light treatments to induce sporulation. Exposure of cultures daily for 2h of UV radiation was best for inducement of sporulation. In spite of subjecting to different light treatments, Muwankada and Halpe isolates did not produce spores.

A population of rubber plants belonging to 16 parental groups were tested for susceptibility to *Corynespora* infection, using the culture filtrate (Toxin) of the fungus. Development of lesions on the detached leaves after treatment with the culture filtrate was assessed.

The same population was assessed for *Corynespora* infection under field conditions.

The results indicate that there is a positive correlation between the lesion size obtained in the laboratory using culture filtrate and the disease rating under field conditions.

Generaly, groups which had highly susceptible clone RRIC 103 as the parents or one of the parents showed an increased susceptibility as groups with a parentage of clone RRIC 100 (a tolerant clone) showed a tolerant reaction.