

## **B-97: Chemical control of white root disease of rubber**

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White root disease caused by *Rigidoporus lignosus* is still the major root disease in rubber plantations of Sri Lanka. Presently around 5% of the cultivated lands are affected and are under bare patches due to this disease.

Pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB), the recommended chemical for white root disease was suspended during the year 1989 with the discovery of its carcinogenic properties. Hence, a series of experiments was conducted with 3 fungicides viz. Triadimenol, Triadimefon and Pentachlorophenol (PCP) to find an alternative for PCNB. The results of *in vitro* experiments revealed that all these fungicides can check growth of the fungus very effectively.

Field experiments carried out for 3 years with PCP, the most economical fungicide, revealed that a concentration of 2% ai. is effective in management of White root disease, provided that the fungicide was applied at early stages of infection. The degree of infection at the collar, appeared critical to treatment success. None of the chemicals proved to be effective on plants with severe foliar symptoms.

Part of the work reported will be presented at Symposium on Diseases of *Hevea brasiliensis* - IRRDB Annual Meeting, Cochin, 1994.