B-06 Evaluation of a population of *Coffea arabica* L. Cultivar Catimor for the response towards the coffee leaf rust fungus *Hemileia vastatrix* B & Br

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Coffee Catimor is a hybrid between cultivars Hibrido de Timor (HDT) and Caturra. The HDT is believed to be a spontaneous hybrid between *Coffea arabica* and *Coffea canephora* and reported as resistant to all known races of *Hemileia vastatrix*. Caturra produces high quality coffee but is very susceptible to *H. vastatrix*.

Catimor seedlings (from F4 plants) were planted at Matale. Plants were about 15 years old and trained to single stem system. The population of 368 plants were assessed in 3 ways; (a) overall plant on a visual scale 0 = no pustules 1 = 0-5%, 2 = 6-10%, 3 = 11-25%, 4 = 26-50%, 5 = more than 50% infected leaves, (b) Percent leaves infected: 50 leaves from each plant were counted; (c) disease severity: each of the 50 leaf was rated visually on the basis of the number of average size rust pustules present on a leaf, where: 0 = no pustules, 1 = 1-5 pustules 2=6-10 pustules, 3=11-20 pustules, 4=21-50 pustules, 5=51 pustules and above. The disease severity was calculated as the mean of the ratings from individual leaf.

The overall plant assessment revealed that 13 plants, were completely resistant. Seventy seven plants rated 1 and were considered as resistant. These plants had comparatively few infected leaves and few pustules per leaf. The percent leaf infection data showed that 11 plants had 1-5%, 31 plants had 6-10%, those were considered as resistant. The disease severity assessment showed that 102 plants had mild infection (rated less than 1) and were considered as resistant. Plants of which all the values lying in the resistant group in each assessment are acceptable as resistant plants.