

B-82: Selection of inocula for studies on leaf scald disease of sugarcane

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Leaf scald disease caused by *Xanthomonas albilineans* is one of the important diseases of sugarcane. In this paper, extracts of infected plant materials were used for artificial inoculation. Artificial inoculation is important for the screening of commercial sugarcane varieties for resistance.

Extracts obtained from various parts of the infected plants: infected leaves with sheath, stalk - upper portion with 6 leaf scars, lower portion of stalks separately and in combinations were tested on 3 sugarcane varieties i.e Co 775, Co 997 and Co 1001. Co 1001 was highly susceptible, Co 997 was highly resistant. Variety Co 775 showed intermediate resistance.

Highest disease incidence was present in plants of susceptible variety Co 1001 treated with extracts obtained from infected leaves. Extracts obtained from stem - upper portion, stem - lower portion and stem and leaves together showed lower inoculum potential than extracts obtained from infected leaves. Therefore leaf extracts obtained from diseased plants were found to be the most suitable for artificial inoculation studies.