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In vitro evaluation of selected fungicides against *Sclerotium rolfsii*, causal organism of stem and pod rot of groundnut

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Efficacy of several fungicides namely thiophanate methyl 50% + thiram 30% WP (Homai), thiophanate methyl 70% WP (Topsin M 70), tebuconazole 250 g/l EW (Folicur EW 250), carbendazim (Bavistin SL), tricyclazole (Sivic), copper 50% WP (Kocide 101) and pyraclostrobin 250 g/l EC (F 500) was tested *in vitro* against *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc., causal organism of stem and pod rot of groundnut based on the percent inhibition of mycelial growth on fungicide amended agar medium using poison food technique. Thiophante methyl+thiram, tebuconazole and pyraclostrobin totally inhibited *Sclerotium rolfsii* at 40 g/10 l, 18 ml/10 l and 8 ml/10 l respectively showing higher efficacy. Carbendazim at 11 ml/10 l, tricyclazole 6 g/10 l, thiophanate methyl at 16 g/10 l and copper 40 g/10 l were found to be less effective. Efficacy of thiophante methyl+thiram was adversely affected upon dilution of the fungicide. Thus diluted dosages of thiophante methyl+thiram (20 g/ 10 l and 10 g/ 10 l) were not much effective for the management of *Sclerotium rolfsii* while the dosage of 40 g/10 l showed total effectiveness. Lower dosages of tebuconazole were as effective as the highest dosage (18 ml/10 l) tested indicating the possibility of use of lower dosages (4.5 ml/10 l and 9 ml/ 10l) with total effectiveness under *in vitro* conditions. Lower dosages of pyraclostrobin (4 ml/ 10l and 2 ml/ 10l) showed over 95% inhibition of the pathogen. Tebuconazole at 4.5 ml/10 l, pyraclostrobin at 2 ml/10 l and thiophante methyl+thiram at 40 g/10 l are the lowest dosages found effective against *S. rolfsii* and recommended for testing at field level against the stem and pod rot of groundnut.

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