

## INCIDENCE AND SEVERITY OF CORYNESPORA LEAF FALL (CLF) DISEASE OF RUBBER IN COASTAL KARNATAKA AND NORTH MALABAR REGION OF KERALA

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Manju, M.J., Idicula, S.P., Jacob, C.K., Vinod, K.K., Prem, E., E. Suryakumar, M. and Kothandaraman, R. (2001). Incidence and severity of *Corynespora* leaf fall (CLF) disease of rubber in coastal Karnataka and North Malabar region of Kerala. *Indian Journal of Natural Rubber Research*, 14(2) : 137 - 141.

Widespread incidence of *Corynespora* leaf fall (CLF) disease in mature rubber plantations was reported in 1996 from Nettana in South Karnataka, India. Surveys carried out in coastal Karnataka and North Malabar region of Kerala during 1998-2000 disease seasons indicated that the disease incidence and severity of infection varied between light to severe in all the locations. The intensity of infection was found to increase gradually and the incidence to widen year after year. Subramanya region in Karnataka exhibited maximum intensity of the disease. Fresh incidence was noticed in Hosdurg and Nileshwar in Kerala during 2000. Variation in intensity of disease among different clones was observed with the clone RR11 105 showing high and RR1M 600 and GT 1 showing low infection in all the locations surveyed.

**Key words :** *Corynespora cassiicola*, *Hevea brasiliensis*, India, Leaf disease.

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### INTRODUCTION

*Corynespora* leaf fall (CLF) disease, incited by *Corynespora cassiicola* (Berk. and Curt.) Wei has emerged as a major disease of rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) in South East Asia. The disease is reported to be more prominent and widely distributed since 1975 in Malaysia (Kamar, 1994). In Indonesia, it was first reported in 1980 in North Sumatra, and caused heavy economic loss (Sinulingga *et al.*, 1996). Severe outbreak of this disease was reported in Sri Lanka during 1985, which subsequently led to an epidemic (Liyanage *et al.*, 1991). In India, mild incidence of the disease was reported in mature plantations in 1969 and 1976 (George and Edathil, 1980). During 1996, the disease appeared in more damaging dimensions at Hevea Breeding

Sub-Station of the Rubber Research Institute of India at Nettana in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka State (RR11, 1997). Thereafter, it spread rapidly to adjacent coastal Karnataka and northern Kerala.

Considering the potential damage due to CLF disease, the present study was undertaken to assess the intensity and spread of the disease by conducting survey in coastal region of Karnataka and adjoining North Malabar region of Kerala.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The survey was carried out in six locations in coastal region of Karnataka spread over three districts, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Coorg and three locations in Kasaragod district of North