

EFFECT OF SELECTED FUNGICIDES ON *OIDIUM HEVEAE* AND *CORTICIUM SALMONICOLOR* AFFECTING RUBBER IN WEST MALAYSIA

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Efficacy of nine fungicides as protectants and eradicants against *Oidium heveae* was tested in the laboratory. Sulphur as dust and wettable and flowable formulations were better than the systemics tridemorph, triadimefon, triadimenol, prochloraz and benomyl in inhibiting infection and totally suppressing sporulation when applied as prophylactic. As antisporeulant, sulphur was as effective as triadimenol and tridemorph even when applied a week after inoculation. Only flowable sulphur was as persistent as the systematic fungicides. Field trials confirmed the effectiveness of tridemorph.

Good control of pink disease was achieved with two sprays at two weeks interval of either aqueous mixtures of 2% a.i. chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787 50 WP) with a sticker (Tenac) and a surfactant (Megapol 440), or 3% a.i. of the commercially prepared Bravo 500, or Daconil flowable 500. Brushing with Daconil 2787 50 WP or Thiram 80 WP at 3% a.i. formulated in bitumen emulsion was equally effective as the commercially prepared Calixin readymixed. Better disease control was obtained when light or moderate infection was treated.

Key words : *Oidium heveae*, *Corticium salmonicolor*, Pink disease, Powdery mildew, Chemical control, Rubber.

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INTRODUCTION

Powdery mildew disease, otherwise known as *Oidium* secondary leaf fall (SLF), caused by *Oidium heveae* Steinn. is widespread in West Malaysia. The disease induces severe defoliation of young leaves produced immediately after the annual wintering. The resultant poor canopy and poor tree vigour reduce yield. A number of techniques are available to control this disease (Radziah and Hashim, 1990), but there are drawbacks to these methods.

Sulphur dusting, although cheap and effective, is presumably rendered ineffective by rain, though the extent of wash-off is not known. Lim (1974) recommended extra nitrogen to be applied at the onset of refoliation to accelerate and complete refoliation during the drier months, to avoid the disease. The effect of selected fungicides and combination of fungicides with different nutrition inputs on *Oidium* SLF is reported in this paper.

Another disease of frequent occur-