Efficacy of selected plant extracts of the Batticaloa region on mycelial growth of selected plant pathogenic fungi.

By

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Abstract

Several pressures have accelerated the search for novel fungicides which are environmentally safe, more selective and efficacious. Thus the use of botanicals with fungicidal properties in Integrated Disease Management programmes is fast gaining prominence.

Considering this aspect, an in vitro study was carried out to test the efficacy of five plant extracts of the Batticaloa region on mycelial growth of four fungal species viz *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Cochlibolus spp*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus flavus*.

Water extracts and organic solvent extracts of *Allium sativum*, *Allium cepa* bulbs and *Lantana camara*, *Eucalyptus spp* and *Aloe vera* leaves were tested for possible antifungal properties.

Water extracts of *A.sativum* gave a good control of *R.solani* (93.92%) and effectively inhibited the growth of *A.niger* (78.23%) and *A.flavus* (74.13%) while water extracts of *A.cepa* effectively inhibited growth of *A.niger* (70.34%)and *A.flavus* (69.93%) and water extract of *L.camara* effectively inhibited *A.niger* (65.01%).

Organic solvent extract of *Eucalyptus* and *L.camara* effectively inhibited the growth of *R.solani* (73.94%) and (77.94%) respectively and *Cochlibolus spp* (85.73%) and (75.59%) respectively.

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