
Hyphae variable, 2.5–6 µm diam. Chlamydospores none or rare. Sporangiophores slender, with nodal swelling from which branches arise. Sporangia variable, ellipsoid, elongated ellipsoid or obpyriform, often asymmetrical or laterally inserted, caducous with slender pedicel 10–20 µm long, papilla nearly hemispherical. Oogonia in single cultures of some isolates or on pairing with A1 or A2, spherical to pyriform, 29–49 (av. 33) µm diam., wall thin, colourless, becoming yellow-brown, thicker and wrinkled with age. Antheridia amphigynous, rounded, 12 × 13 (up to 16 × 16) µm. Oospores loose in oogonium, wall yellowish, 4 µm thick. Cultures with variable aerial mycelium and pattern, minimum temperature for growth above 5°C; optimum 25–30°C; maximum above 33°C.

HOSTS: Principally Hevea rubber; others include cacao, cardamom, Ficus, Piper, pineapple.

DISEASE: Abnormal leaf fall of rubber.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Asia (Burma, China, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam), Australia (Queensland), Oceania (Hawaii). (CMI Map 548, ed.1, 1982).

PHYSIOLOGIC SPECIALIZATION: Inoculation on rubber clones in Sri Lanka revealed 5 races (54, 5064).

TRANSMISSION: By rain water. Sporulating lesions on rubber fruits are sources of inoculum.

NOTES: Oospores are found in rubber pods and other diseased parts. Necrosis of leaves, pods and inflorescences is followed by stem dieback. In South India a pre-monsoon spray of copper fungicide is necessary. In Sri Lanka P. meadii is the principal species of this genus on rubber; both compatibility types occur, A1 predominating (63, 1935).


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