

# **GENETIC DIVERSITY OF *Corynespora cassiicola*, THE CAUSAL AGENT OF CORYNESPORA LEAF FALL DISEASE ON RUBBER TREE (*Hevea brasiliensis*)**

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## **Summary**

*Corynespora cassiicola*, the causal agent of Corynespora leaf fall disease on the rubber trees, is one of the most important plant pathogenic fungus in most rubber growing countries. This fungus has complex biological characteristics, it is described as a necrotrophic, saprophytic and endophytic parasite. The genetic diversity of this fungus was demonstrated by different morphological characteristics among isolates, wide host range and adapt in many ecological regions, as well as different pathogenicity among isolates and level susceptible of rubber clones. At least two races of *C. cassiicola* infecting rubber tree and at least six groups of cassiicolin-encoding genes (Cas genes) have been identified. Some rubber clones previously considered resistant to *C. cassiicola* in some countries were described susceptible in others, this suggested the existence of different distinct races in these regions. The paper was conducted to overview the current understandings of genetic diversity of *C. cassiicola* in rubber trees, providing information for studies identifying the genotypes and epidemiological characteristics of this fungus.

**Keywords:** *Corynespora cassiicola*, rubber tree, genetic diversity.