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In Vitro Evaluation of Some Selected Fungicides Against Leaf Spot Pathogen (*Pestalotiopsis* sp.) on Oil Palm Seedlings

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Abstract.

Leaf spots on oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.) caused by *Pestalotiopsis* sp, was found in nursery on oil palm seedlings in Ghana. The objective of this study was to develop appropriate management strategies by evaluating efficacy of Suncozeb 80WP, Hepridion and Goldazim 500Sc fungicides against *Pestalotiopsis* sp. The recommended fungicides were tested at 25, 50, 75, 100 and 125 ppm. Bioassay showed that all the fungicides at all concentrations inhibited the growth of the pathogen and their effects differed significantly at 1 % (0.01). No fungal growth (mycelia) was observed in Carbendazim 500 SC at the concentrations of 100 ppm. All three fungicides exhibited higher efficacy at higher concentrations. Of the all the three fungicides tested, Carbendazim 500SC was able to effect varying degrees of suppression of the mycelial growth of the leafspot pathogen. It can be concluded that Carbendazim 500 SC was the most effective against growth of *Pestalotiopsis* sp. *in vitro* and therefore should be tested under field condition (*in vivo*).

Keywords: Leaf spot, *Pestalotiopsis*, fungicide, inhibition, bioassay