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A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON VARIOUS TYPES OF INOCULAM IN SCREENING FOR RESISTANCE AGAINST PHYTOPHTHORA MEADII IN ELETTARIA CARDAMOMUM MATON.

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A B S T R A C T

Azhukal or capsule rot disease caused by Phytophthora meadii is the most serious disease of small cardamom in India. Attempts were made to evolve an effective screening technique for the identification of resistant source against P. meadii. Types of inocula tested include zoospore suspension, mycelial culture discs and infected cardamom seeds under various methods of inoculation viz., dipping the seedlings in zoospore suspension, spraying of zoozpore suspension on the seedlings and panicles, inoculation with mycelial culture discs and infected seeds on panicles and cut tips of capsule both in vitro and in vivo conditions. In screening seedlings, spraying with zoospore suspension was found to be superior to seedling dip method. Among the various methods tested in mature plants, inoculation on cut tips of capsules with culture disc inoculam was found to be the best method for rapid screening of cardamom cultivars. Panicle inoculation with infected cardamom seeds also resulted in infection but to a lesser extent.