

A quick method of isolating coconut root wilt virus from the diseased palms

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It has been evidenced earlier that coconut root wilt virus in crude sap is not infectious because of the presence of tannins in the host tissues. The infectious moiety of the virus can be isolated from the diseased palm only on purification involving a laborious procedure. *In vitro* studies have recently revealed that lead acetate and polyclar inhibit the activity of tannins and enhance the viral infectivity. With this in view, these two chemicals were used in formulating a quick method for isolating coconut root wilt virus from the diseased palms. Diseased material viz., roots and leaves were subjected to low temperature for about ten days before sap extraction. Ten per cent lead acetate and polyclar were used separately for preparing the standard extract. The extracts were clarified (low centrifugation) and the supernatants were separately assayed on *Chenopodium amaranticolor*. Few local lesions were observed in both the cases. When the clarified extracts were centrifuged at 35,000 rpm for 90 minutes and the pellets thus obtained were assayed, a good number of lesions were obtained in the case of lead acetate as compared to polyclar thereby indicating that lead acetate gives better isolation of the virus under study than the polyclar.

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