Induced polyploidy potential for improving resistance in *Hevea* clones to *Microcyclus ulei*, causal agent of rubber tree leaf blight.

Junqueira [1], N.T.V.; Moraes[2], V.H.F.; Lieberei[3], R.; Gasparotto[2], L.
[1]EMBRAPA/CPAC, C.P.08223, DEP.73301-970,Planaltina, DF, Brazil;
[2]EMBRAPA/CPAA, C.P.319, CEP.69060-Manaus, AM, Brazil;
[3]Institut für Angewandte Botanik, Universität Hamburg, Postfach 302762, 20355 Hamburg

Components of resistance that reduce the epidemic rate of rubber tree leaf blight, were evaluated on colchicine-induced polyploids (CIP) Hevea clones and on their respective natural diploids ofter inoculation with a virulent *Microcyclus ulei* isolates to the diploid clones. Some plants originated from CIP clones as Fx 985 P1, MDF 180 P1, CNSAM 7704 P1, IAN 873 (IAC 222) and IAN 6158 P1 presented high level of resistance in comparison with their susceptible diploids clones. On the other hand all plants originated from other CIP clones as IAN 717 P1, Fx 4098 P1, Fx 3925 P1, CNSAM 7665 P1 and IAN 6323 P1 were as susceptible as their respective natural diploids. The results indicate the possibilities to use the induced polyploidy for improving resistance in rubber tree clones, against leaf blight.