

Survey on Taro Leaf Blight and Its Chemical Control

T.C. Chen , S.F. Tai and C. M. Han

abstract

The taro leaf blight caused by *Phytophthora colocasiae* is a severe disease in taro main production area in Taiwan, making a big damage , not only affects the taro yield, but also influences its quality. In order to understand the occurring of the disease, a project for field survey was carried out at five localities in Kaohsiung and Pingtung area, including Liukwei, Meilong, Kaoshu, Yenpu and Changchih, and two observation fields were established at Liukwei and Kaoshu from 1989 to 1990. The monthly average rate of disease spots area ,taro production and disease symptom development were recorded. It was found that the highest peak of taro leaf blight appeared in May and June, the disease spots area were 55.1% ~ 66.0%. The second peak was in September and October with 45.8% ~ 53.3%. The lowest rate of the disease occurred in February with 15.8% ~ 16.7% of disease spots area. The disease symptom developed rapidly, a severe damage can be found five days after infection.

For controlling taro leaf blight, a screening test for pesticides and pesticide application method were evaluated from 1989 to 1991. The experimental results indicated that the controlling rate of the disease by using soil irrigating method was not effective. On the contrary, by using whole plant spraying method, some pesticides such as 68.8% Atakin WP got pretty good control effect of the disease.