MONOXENIC CULTURE OF *HETERODERA TRIFOLII* ON WHITE CLOVER (*TRIFOLIUM REPENS*)

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A method was developed for aseptically culturing clover cyst nematode (CCN) (*Heterodera trifolii*) on white clover as a first step towards providing an experimental system to study the potential biocontrol activity of fungal parasites of nematodes. Second stage juveniles (J2) of CCN were surface-sterilised by immersion in 0.5% Hibitane (Chlorhexidine 0.1% a.i.) for 15 min, rinsed twice in sterile, distilled water, then transferred onto modified Hoagland & Knop's agar medium containing white clover seedlings. The Hibitane treatment controlled microbial contaminants of the J2. Female CCN developed on the white clover roots 2-3 weeks after inoculation with J2.

RATING CAMELLIA SPECIES FOR RESISTANCE TO *CIBORINIA CAMELLIAE* KOHN

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The fungus *Ciborinia camelliae* causes flower blight of *Camellia* spp. Commercial cultivars are susceptible to the disease, but resistance has been observed in other species. A screening method to detect resistance within the genus uses dry spore inoculation of petals, in which spores ejected from apothecia are blown into a chamber and settle onto petals lying at the base. Inoculated petals were incubated in humid chambers at 20°C, and assessments made after 24, 48 and 72 h. The resistance rating scale developed describes four reaction categories. In Susceptible and Moderately Susceptible reactions, lesions were first observed between 24 and 48 h after inoculation and by 72 h most petals were 100% diseased. In Moderately Resistant reactions, lesions were not seen until 72 h, were small, and spread slowly, if at all. In the Resistant reactions, lesions were not observed after 72 h incubation. While multiple tests for each cultivar and species should be carried out to allow for changes in inoculum load and environmental fluctuations, this method allows a rapid rating for resistance of camellia species to *C. camelliae* and has given consistent results in Los Angeles and New Zealand.