

Soil Technologies Corp.
Research and Development Department



Research Report

Title: Control of *Mycena citricolor* in Coffee Plants

Location: Costa Rica

Principal Investigator: José Rafael Elizondo

Crop: Coffee

Date: September 2000

Abstract:

The purpose of this field trial was to evaluate the potential use of Fungastop¹ in controlling *Mycena citricolor*, the fungus responsible for the disease commonly referred to as American Leaf Spot. This is a very aggressive fungus that, in just a matter of days, would normally completely defoliate the plant (Photo 1) causing the fruits to fall off. Moreover, it would disseminate very quickly, causing considerable loss in the coffee plantation. In order to evaluate the effects of Fungastop on this pathogen, the treatment was applied to an infected plant and was observed 45 days later. The plant maintained its leaves and the damages spots ceased to grow after the treatment. The disease was controlled and the plant remained healthy during the observation.

¹Fungastop is a natural alternative to synthetic agro-industrial chemicals with antifungal and antibacterial compounds manufactured by Soil Technologies Corp. in Fairfield, IA USA.



Photo 1: Defoliation caused by *M. citricolor*

Methods:

Fungastop was applied to a coffee plant that was infected with *M. citricolor* and the effects were observed and documented for 45 days.

Results:

The photo 2, below, shows the effect of the Fungastop treatment where, even 45 days after treatment, the advance of the disease is totally controlled. Specifically, the typical circular stains on the leaves, caused by this fungus, did not increase and there was no defoliation or disease dissemination to the surrounding plants.



Photo 2: Control of *M. citricolor*

Conclusions:

Observations made in this trial provide evidence for the potential of Fungastop as an effective treatment against *Mycena citricolor*. After the application of Fungastop to an infected coffee plant, the circular stains that are symptomatic of the disease, discontinued to develop and defoliation was avoided.