

## A major concern of then: banana Sigatoka disease

Among the five articles published in the first two *Fruits* issues of 1958, three were devoted to banana Sigatoka disease, including two papers in the continuation of a long series on chemical control at a low volume, which has already been treated here. We are reproducing the introductions of these two articles, which give a good idea of the current context:

In *Fruits* vol. 13 (1), one could read: “Whereas the first chapter of this series, with J. Cuillé and H. Guyot, studied the implementation of the spraying material, we approach now the fungicide itself. The fungicidal or fongistatic role of oil has been highlighted since 1955, but some experimenters could wonder what was the advantage of adding a classical fungicide, what was its effectiveness and in which circumstances it was useful to do so.

*The work by J. Brun gives the precise details awaited on this point and its rigorous experimentation has a particular value in an area where Sigatoka disease is a major concern.*

*It would be worth testing the action of mineral oils at a low volume on other crop diseases, because few fungicides are currently sufficiently active to stop an advanced fungic attack, like oil does.”*

Otherwise, the second article in *Fruits* vol. 13 (2) specified: “Whereas the second paper of this series was devoted by J. Brun to the fongitoxic action of mineral oils, we are now looking for the determining factor of their plant toxicity.”

*The work by J. Cuillé and B. Blanchet constitutes a preliminary stage aiming at defining the physicochemical properties of oils, particularly important for the induction of plant symptoms. The aim is to look for a wise choice of mineral oils to minimize the effects of true accidents due to an excessive use of these products. Other researchers are looking at the influence of sprays with adequate oil amounts on the plant physiology. Their results will be published later on.”*

The third article dedicated to banana Sigatoka disease, written by G. Bouriquet and J. Bataille, dealt with two banana parasitic fungi in Madagascar: *Cercospora musae* and *Alternaria musae*. Thus, again Sigatoka disease was treated in its conidian form.

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