

## CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1-5</b>
<b>2. LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>6-31</b>
<b>3. MATERIALS AND METHODS</b>	<b>32-63</b>
3.1. Plant Material	32-35
3.1.1. Source	32
3.1.2. Clonal propagation	32
3.1.3. Maintenance of tea saplings in the nursery	34
3.1.4. Plantation	34
3.1.5. Maintenance of mature plants	34
3.2. Fungal Materia	36-38
3.2.1. Collection	36
3.2.2. Completion of Koch's postulates	36
3.2.3. Maintenance of stock culture	36
3.2.4. Assessment of mycelial growth	36-37
3.2.4.1. Solid media	36
3.2.4.2. Liquid media	36
3.2.5. Assessment of sporulation in solid media	37-38
3.3. Scanning Electron Microscopy	38
3.3.1. Pathogen (fungal spore)	38
3.3.2. Host (leaf tissue)	38
3.4. Leaf clearing and staining	38
3.5. Assessment of disease caused by <i>G. cingulata</i> on <i>Camellia sinensis</i>	39
3.5.1. Detached leaf	39
3.5.2. Whole plant	39-40
3.6. Analysis of fungal protein	40-43
3.6.1. Extraction	40
3.6.2. Estimation	40

3.6.3. SDS – PAGE	40-43
3.6.3.1. Preparation of stock solutions	40
3.6.3.2. Preparation of gel	41
3.6.3.3. Sample preparation	42
3.6.3.4. Electrophoresis	43
3.6.3.5. Fixing and staining	43
3.7. Analysis of fungal cell wall	43-45
3.7.1. Isolation	43
3.7.2. Estimation	44
3.7.2.1. Protein content	44
3.7.2.2. Carbohydrate content	44
3.7.3. Bioassay	44
3.7.4. SDS – PAGE analysis	44
3.8. Analysis of host protein	45
3.8.1. Extraction	45
3.8.2. Estimation	45
3.8.3. SDS – PAGE analysis	45
3.9. Collection of leaf diffusates and fungitoxic assay	45
3.10. Extraction and estimation of phenolics	46-47
3.10.1. Total phenol	46
3.10.2. Ortho-dihydroxy phenol	46
3.11. Polyclonal antibody preparation	47-48
3.11.1. Rabbits and their maintenance	47
3.11.2. Immunization	47
3.11.3. Bleeding	47
3.12. Purification of IgG	48-49
3.12.1. Precipitation	48
3.12.2. Column preparation	48
3.12.3. Fraction collection	48
3.12.4. Estimation of IgG concentration	49
3.12.5. Storage of IgG	49

3.13. Immunodiffusion	49
3.13.1. Preparation of agarose slides	49
3.13.2. Diffusion	50
3.13.3. Washing, staining and drying of slides	50
3.14. Immunological techniques	50
3.14.1. Plate-trapped Antigen-Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (PTA-ELISA)	51
3.14.2. Dot-immuno binding assay (DIBA)	52
3.14.2.1. Immunoblotting	53
3.14.2.2. Immunoprobng	53
3.14.3. Western blot analysis	53
3.14.3.1. Immunoblotting	54
3.14.3.2. Immunoprobng	55
3.14.4. Indirect Immunofluorescence	55
3.14.4.1. Fungal mycelia and cell wall	55
3.14.4.2. Cross sections of tea leaves	56
3.15. Application of Inducers	56-57
3.15.1. Hydrogen Peroxide (H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> )	57
3.15.2. Sodium Nitroprusside (SNP)	57
3.15.3. Benzothiadiazole (BTH)	57
3.16. Assay of enzyme activity	57-61
3.16.1. Peroxidase (POX; E. C. 1.11.1.7)	57
3.16.2. Polyphenol oxidase (PPO; E.C. 1.14.18.1)	58
3.16.3. Phenyl alanine ammonia lyase (PAL; E.C. 4.3.1.5)	58
3.16.4. Tyrosine ammonia lyase (TAL; E.C. 4.3.1.5)	58
3.16.5. Chitinase (CHT; E.C. 3.2.1.14)	59
3.16.6. β-1, 3-glucanase (GLU; E.C. 3.2.1.39)	59
3.16.7. Catalase (CAT; E.C. 1.11.1.6.)	60
3.16.8. Ascorbate Peroxidase (APX; E.C. 1.11.1.11)	60

3.17. Isozyme analysis by Native PAGE	61-63
3.17.1. Preparation of stock solutions	61
3.17.2. Preparation of gel	61
3.17.3. Sample preparation	62
3.17.4. Electrophoresis	63
3.17.5. Staining	63
3.17.5.1. Peroxidase	63
3.17.5.2. Polyphenol oxidase	63
<b>4. EXPERIMENTAL</b>	<b>64-181</b>
4.1. Brown blight – symptomatology and disease development	64-67
4.2. Characterization of <i>G. cingulata</i> isolates	67-84
4.2.1. Growth	70
4.2.2. Sporulation	73
4.2.3. Spore morphology	73
4.2.4. Appressoria	75
4.2.5. Protein content	75
4.2.6. SDS-PAGE	78-80
4.2.7. Serological relatedness	81
4.2.7.1. Immunodiffusion	81
4.2.7.2. Optimization of PTA-ELISA	81
4.2.7.2.1. Enzyme dilution	81
4.2.7.2.2. Antibody dilution	82
4.2.7.2.3. Antigen dilution	82
4.2.7.3. PTA-ELISA	82
4.2.7.4. Dot Blot	82
4.2.7.5. Western Blot	84
4.3. Screening of resistance of tea varieties towards <i>G. cingulata</i>	84-92
4.3.1. Pathogenicity tests	86
4.3.1.1. Detached leaf	86
4.3.1.1. Whole plant	87
4.3.2. Immunoenzymatic assays	87

4.3.2.1. PTA-ELISA	87
4.3.2.2. Dot Immunobinding assay	92
4.4. Disease reaction elicited by <i>G. cingulata</i> spore and cell wall and its characterization	92-103
4.4.1. Spore of <i>G. cingulata</i>	96
4.4.2 Cell wall of <i>G. cingulata</i>	98
4.4.3. Bioassay of diffusible compounds elicited by cell wall	98
4.4.4. Characterization of cell wall	
4.4.4.1. Indirect Immunofluorescence	101
4.4.4.2. SDS-PAGE	102
4.5. Analysis of pathogen-induced proteins in tea varieties	103-111
4.5.1. Protein content of healthy and <i>G.cingulata</i> infected tea leaves	103
4.5.2. SDS-PAGE of healthy and <i>G. cingulata</i> infected tea leaves	105
4.5.3. Dot Immunobinding Assay	106
4.5.4. Western blot of healthy and <i>G. cingulata</i> infected tea leaves	107
4.6. Determination of activity of defense enzymes in tea varieties triggered by <i>G.cingulata</i>	111-132
4.6.1. Peroxidase	113
4.6.1.2 Peroxidase isozyme analysis	114
4.6.2. Polyphenol oxidase	120
4.6.2.2. Polyphenol oxidase isozyme analysis	122
4.6.3. Phenyl alanine ammonia lyase	127
4.6.4. Tyrosine ammonia lyase	132
4.7. Analysis of diffusible compounds in tea varieties following infection with <i>G.cingulata</i>	132-135
4.7.1. Changes in levels of phenolics in healthy and <i>G. cingulata</i> inoculated tea leaves	132

4.7.1.1. Total phenol	133
4.7.1.2. Ortho-dihydroxy phenol	133
4.7.2. Studies on biological activities of leaf diffusates of tea	133
4.8. Induction of resistance in tea plants against brown blight disease and associated changes in defense enzymes	136-168
4.8.1. Induction of resistance with hydrogen peroxide	137
4.8.1.1. Bioassay of hydrogen peroxide	137
4.8.1.2. Assessment of disease intensity and determination of induction period in tea varieties following treatment with hydrogen peroxide and inoculated with <i>G. cingulata</i>	139
4.8.1.3. Analysis of level of defense enzymes on treatment of tea plants with hydrogen peroxide and inoculation with <i>G.cingulata</i>	139
4.8.1.3.1. Peroxidase	141
4.8.1.3.2. Catalase	143
4.8.1.3.3. Ascorbate peroxidase	144
4.8.1.3.4. Chitinase	147
4.8.1.3.5. $\beta$ -1,3-glucanase	147
4.8.2. Induction of resistance with sodium nitroprusside	149
4.8.2.1. Assessment of disease intensity and determination of induction period in tea varieties following treatment with sodium nitroprusside and inoculated with <i>G. cingulata</i>	149
4.8.2.2. Analysis of level of defense enzymes on treatment of tea plants with sodium nitroprusside and inoculation with <i>G.cingulata</i>	151
4.8.2.2.1. Peroxidase	152
4.8.2.2.2. Catalase	152
4.8.2.2.3. Ascorbate peroxidase	154
4.8.2.2.4. Chitinase	156

4.8.2.2.3. Ascorbate peroxidase	154
4.8.2.2.4. Chitinase	156
4.8.2.2.5. $\beta$ -1, 3-glucanase	156
4.8.3. Induction of resistance with benzothiadiazole	158
4.8.3.1. Assessment of disease intensity and determination of induction period in tea varieties following treatment with benzothiadiazole and inoculated with <i>G. cingulata</i>	161
4.8.3.2. Anatomical changes	161
4.8.3.3. Analysis of level of defense enzymes on treatment of tea plants with sodium nitroprusside and inoculation with <i>G. cingulata</i>	161
4.8.3.3.1. Peroxidase	161
4.8.3.3.2. Catalase	162
4.8.3.3.3. Ascorbate peroxidase	163
4.8.3.3.4. Chitinase	165
4.8.3.3.5. $\beta$ -1, 3-glucanase	165
4.9. Peroxidase isozyme analysis of tea plants following induction of resistance towards <i>G. cingulata</i>	169-176
4.9.1. Hydrogen peroxide	170
4.9.2. Sodium nitroprusside	174
4.9.3. Benzothiadiazole	174
4.10. Immunolocalization of defense enzymes in tea leaf tissues	177-182
4.10.1. Spore germination on leaf surface	177
4.10.2. Western blot analysis	179
4.10.3. Indirect Immunofluorescence	181
<b>5. DISCUSSION</b>	<b>183-201</b>
<b>6. SUMMARY</b>	<b>202-203</b>
<b>7. REFERENCES</b>	<b>204-242</b>