

CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION	1 - 7
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	8 - 36
3. MATERIALS AND METHODS	37 - 71
3.1. Plant Material	37
3.1.1. Collection	37
3.1.2. Clonal propagation	37
3.1.3. Maintenance in Glass House	39
3.2. Callus induction	39
3.2.1. Preparation of cell suspension cultures	39
3.3. Fungal material	40
3.3.1. Causal organism (<i>Exobasidium vexans</i>)	40
3.3.1.1. Collection of blister spores	40
3.3.2. Other microorganisms	42
3.4. Artificial inoculation	42
3.4.1. Spore suspension	42
3.4.2. Inoculation technique	42
3.4.3. Disease assessment	43
3.5. Abiotic treatment	44
3.5.1. Preparation of test solutions	44
3.5.2. Foliar application	44
3.6. Protein extraction and estimation	45
3.6.1. Soluble leaf protein	45
3.6.2. Acid soluble proteins	45
3.6.3. Intercellular fluids	45
3.6.4. Protein estimation	46
3.7. Extraction and assay of defense enzymes	46
3.7.1. Chitinase	46
3.7.2. β -1,3-glucanase	47
3.7.3. Peroxidase	47
3.7.4. Phenylalanine ammonia lyase	48

3.8. SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)	48
3.8.1. Preparation of stock solutions	48
3.8.2. Preparation of gel	49
3.8.3. Sample preparation	50
3.8.4. Electrophoresis	51
3.8.5. Fixing	51
3.8.6. Staining and destaining	51
3.9. Native polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE)	51
3.9.1. Preparation of stock solutions	52
3.9.2. Preparation of gel	53
3.9.3. Sample preparation	53
3.9.4. Electrophoresis	54
3.9.5. Fixing and staining	54
3.10. Preparation of antigens	54
3.10.1. Leaf antigen	54
3.10.2. Spore antigen	54
3.10.3. Antimicrobial protein	55
3.10.3.1. Protein purification	55
3.11. Polyclonal antibody production	55
3.11.1. Rabbits and maintenance	55
3.11.2. Immunization	55
3.11.3. Bleeding	56
3.11.4. Preparation of serum from whole blood	56
3.11.5. Purification of IgG	56
3.11.5.1 Precipitation	56
3.11.5.2. Column preparation	57
3.11.5.3. Fraction collection	57
3.11.5.4. Estimation of IgG concentration	57
3.11.5.5. Storage of IgG	58
3.12. Immunodiffusion	58
3.12.1. Agarose gel plates	58
3.12.2. Diffusion	59
3.12.3. Washing, staining and drying of slides	59

3.13. Plate trapped antigen - enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (PTA- ELISA)	59
3.14. Dot immunobinding assay (DIBA)	60
3.14.1. Immunoblotting	60
3.14.2. Immunoprobng	61
3.15. Western blot	61
3.15.1. Extraction and estimation of proteins	62
3.15.2. SDS-PAGE of proteins	62
3.15.3. Electrophoretic blotting procedure	62
3.15.4. Immunoprobng	62
3.16. Immunocytochemical staining	63
3.17. Immunofluorescence	64
3.17.1. Cross sections of leaves	64
3.17.2. Basidiospores of <i>E. vexans</i>	64
3.17.3. Binding of FITC labelled concanavalin A	65
3.18. Bioassay for antimicrobial activity of proteins	65
3.18.1. Spore germination bioassay	65
3.18.2. Microtitre dish assay	65
3.18.3. Agar cup bioassay	66
3.19. Extraction of antifungal compounds	66
3.19.1. Phenolics	66
3.19.2. Catechins	67
3.20. Analyses of antifungal compounds	67
3.20.1. Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)	67
3.20.2. UV-spectrophotometry	68
3.20.3. High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)	68
3.21. Bioassay of antifungal phenolics	68
3.21.1. Spore germination bioassay	68
3.21.2. Radial growth bioassay	69
3.21.3. Agar-cup bioassay	69
3.22. Electron microscopy	69
3.22.1. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)	69

3.22.2. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)	70
3.22.2.1. Tissue processing	70
3.22.2.2. Immunogold labeling	71
4. EXPERIMENTAL	72-204
4.1. Influence of environmental conditions on development of blister blight of tea	72-79
4.2. Screening of resistance of tea towards <i>E. vexans</i>	79-91
4.2.2. Immunoenzymatic assays	84
4.2.2.1. Optimization of PABs and antigen concentrations	84
4.2.2.2. Screening by PTA-ELISA and DIBA	88
4.2.2.3. Determination of cross reactivity	88
4.3. Cellular localization of major cross reactive antigens shared by <i>E. vexans</i> and <i>Camellia sinensis</i>	92-96
4.3.1. Indirect immunofluorescence	92
4.3.1.1. Healthy leaf	92
4.3.1.2. Basidiospores of <i>E. vexans</i>	95
4.3.1.3. Fluorescent-labelled Concanavalin-A binding	95
4.3.2. Indirect immunogold labeling	95
4.4. Immunodetection of <i>E. vexans</i> in tea leaf tissue	97-104
4.4.1. Natural infection	97
4.4.1.1. PTA-ELISA	97
4.4.1.2. Dot immunobinding assay	99
4.4.2. Time course detection of pathogen	100
4.4.3. Characterization of pathogen induced protein in tea leaf tissues	100
4.5. Immunolocalization of <i>E. vexans</i> in blister infected tealeaf tissues	104-112
4.5.1. Non-fluorescent immunocytochemical staining	104
4.5.1.1. Growth of <i>E. vexans</i> in artificially inoculated plants	104
4.5.1.2. Colonization of <i>E. vexans</i> in natural infection	107
4.5.2. Indirect immunofluorescent antibody staining of infected leaves	107
4.5.3. Immunogold labelling of blister infected leaves	107

4.6. Analyses of tea leaf proteins	113-121
4.6.1. Total soluble protein determinations in leaf homogenates	113
4.6.2. Acid soluble protein (PR) determination in leaf homogenates	116
4.6.2.1. PR-proteins in tea leaves following inoculation with <i>E. vexans</i>	116
4.6.2.2. <i>In vitro</i> antifungal assay of acid soluble PR-proteins	121
4.7. Association of defense enzymes in tea leaves triggered by <i>E. vexans</i> during disease development	122-127
4.7.1. Chitinase	122
4.7.2. β -1,3-glucanase	123
4.7.3. Peroxidase	125
4.7.3.1. Isozymes of peroxidase	126
4.8. Time course accumulation of defense enzymes in tea varieties following inoculation with <i>E. vexans</i>	128-137
4.8.1. Chitinase	128
4.8.2. β -1,3-glucanase	130
4.8.3. Peroxidase	131
4.8.3.1. Isozymes of peroxidase	134
4.8.4. <i>In vitro</i> antifungal activity of chitinase and β -1,3-glucanase	136
4.9. Evaluation of PABs raised against chitinase and β -1,3-glucanase	138-144
4.9.1. Immunodiffusion	138
4.9.2. PTA-ELISA	138
4.9.3. Dot Immunobinding Assay	140
4.9.4. Western blot	143
4.9.5 Indirect immunofluorescence	143
4.10. Immunological characterization of pathogenesis-related proteins in tea triggered by <i>E. vexans</i>	144-153
4.10.1. Chitinase	144
4.10.1.1. PTA-ELISA	144
4.10.1.2. Dot-immunobinding assay	146
4.10.1.3. Western blotting	146

4.10.1.4. Immunogold localization of chitinase in <i>E. vexans</i> inoculated tea leaves	149
4.10.2. β -1,3-glucanase	149
4.10.2.1. PTA-ELISA	149
4.10.2.2. Dot immunobinding assay	151
4.10.2.3. Western blotting	151
4.10.2.4. Immunogold localization of β -1,3-glucanase in <i>E. vexans</i> inoculated tea leaves	151
4.11. Accumulation of antifungal phenolic compounds in tea plants triggered by <i>E. vexans</i>	153-167
4.11.1. Phenolics	154
4.11.1.1. UV-spectrophotometric analysis	154
4.11.1.2. HPLC analysis in leaf tissues before, after and during infection	155
4.11.1.3. Antifungal assay	156
4.11.2. Catechins	160
4.11.2.1. HPLC analysis in leaf tissues before, after and during infection	160
4.11.2.2. Antifungal assay	167
4.12. Induction of resistance towards <i>E. vexans</i> in tea plants and associated changes in defense enzymes	168-185
4.12.1. Influence of abiotic elicitors on defense enzymes	168
4.12.1.1. Fungicides	169
4.12.1.1.1. Hexaconazole	169
4.12.1.1.2. Calixin	171
4.12.1.2. Mercuric chloride	173
4.12.1.3. Di-potassium ortho-phosphate	173
4.12.1.4. Salicylic acid	175
4.12.1.5. Plant products and Phytoextracts as inducers of resistance	177
4.12.1.5.1. Biocrop	178
4.12.1.5.2. <i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	178
4.12.1.5.3. <i>Azadirachta indica</i>	179

VII

4.12.2. Evaluation of disease reaction by PTA-ELISA	179
4.12.3. Changes in antifungal phenolics (pyrocatechol)	184
4.13. Induction of PR-proteins in suspension-cultures of tea cells by treatment with biotic and abiotic elicitors	186-194
4.13.1. Tea cell cultures	186
4.13.1.1. Induction by <i>E. vexans</i>	188
4.13.1.2. Induction by salicylic acid (SA)	190
4.13.1.3. Induction by jasmonic acid (JA)	191
4.13.2. Western blot analysis of elicitor induced PR-proteins in cultured tea cells	192
4.13.3. Immunolocalization of defense enzymes in cultured tea cells treated with abiotic elicitors	192
4.14. Cellular localization of chitinase in tea leaf tissues following abiotic treatments	195-198
4.15. Immunogold localization of PR-2 in tea plants induced by Salicylic acid	199-201
4.16. Immunogold localization of PR-3 in tea plants induced by Salicylic acid	202-204
5. DISCUSSION	205-233
6. SUMMARY	234-242
7. REFERENCES	243-280