



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***TRICHODERMA* PERS. EX FR. AND ITS EFFICACY AS A BIOLOGICAL
CONTROL AGENT OF BASAL STEM ROT OF OIL PALM
(*ELAEIS GUINEENSIS* JACQ.)**

G. N. M. ILIAS

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By
G. N. M. ILIAS

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of
Science and Environmental Studies,
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January 2000



To my Parents
for their love and 'Doa' which nourishes my inspiration

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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Faculty : Science and Environmental Studies

This study evaluated the potential of species of *Trichoderma* as a bio-control agent against *Ganoderma boninense* Pat., the causal pathogen of 'basal stem rot' of oil palms. Out of 102 *Trichoderma* colony-forming units (CFU) isolated from oil palm rhizospheres, 39 were *T. harzianum* Rifai, 38 were *T. aureoviride* Rifai, 19 were *T. longibrachiatum* Rifai and 5 were *T. virens* (Miller, Giddens and A. A. Foster) von Arx. Isolate T43 showed overlapping characteristics between *T. hamatum* and *T. harzianum* and was termed 'indeterminable' taxonomically. All isolates were screened for their antagonistic properties against *G. boninense* (isolate PP28) by dual culture studies, from which isolates T32 (*T. harzianum*) and T128 (*T. virens*) were selected as the two most effective antagonists. *In vitro* non-mycelial studies by normal and bilayer poison agar techniques and of culture filtrates, showed that secondary metabolites produced by the two selected isolates were able to suppress growth of *Ganoderma* on agar as well.



In greenhouse trials using *Trichoderma*-incorporated mulch, all 5 control plants were killed by *Ganoderma* at 24 weeks after infection, whereas the survival rates were 60% and 20% when treated with T32 and T128 respectively. These were 80% for T32 and 40% for T128 using clonal plants for the same experiment. Two out of 4 modes showed very good disease control when *Trichoderma* was used as conidial suspension. As a root coating supplemented by *Trichoderma*-incorporated mulch at the start of experiment, the survival rate was 90% when treated with T32 and 70% with T128. When applied directly (1 L/plant once every fortnight for 12 weeks), a survival rate of 90% using T32 and 80% using T128 were obtained. In the use of its secondary metabolites, 2 out of 3 modes of application gave very good results. The first was by direct application of secondary metabolites (300 ml/plant at fortnightly intervals for 6 times), which resulted in a survival rate of 70% when treated with T32 and 60% when treated with T128. The second was its application as root coating followed by a single boost of 300 ml of the metabolite given only once at the start of the experiment, which resulted in a survival rate of 70% using T32 and 40% using T128.

Trichoderma treatments were found to be effective when applied at the start of experiment but were no longer effective in delayed treatments of 6 to 8 weeks after infection. T32 (*T. harzianum*) showed better efficacy than T128 (*T. virens*) for all experiments. *Trichoderma* treatments which gave good survival rates and which could be commercially exploited were its use in the form of conidial suspension, whether applied indirectly as a root coating or poured directly on to soils of infected plants.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah.

**TRICHODERMA PERS. EX FR. DAN KEBERKESANANNYA SEBAGAI
AGEN KAWALAN BIOLOGI KEPADA PENYAKIT REPUT PANGKAL
BATANG POKOK KELAPA SAWIT (*ELAEIS GUINEENSIS* JACQ.)**

Oleh

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Januari 2000

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Kajian ini telah menilai keupayaan beberapa spesies *Trichoderma* sebagai agen bio-kawalan untuk *Ganoderma boninense* Pat., penyebab penyakit 'reput pangkal batang' pada pokok kelapa sawit. Daripada 102 pencilan unit pembentukan-koloni (CFU) *Trichoderma* yang didapati daripada habitat mikrob kawasan akar atau rizosfera kelapa sawit, 39 adalah *T. harzianum* Rifai, 38 adalah *T. aureoviride* Rifai, 19 adalah *T. longibrachiatum* Rifai dan 5 adalah *T. virens* (Miller, Giddens and A. A. Foster) von Arx. Pencilan T43 menunjukkan sifat-sifat pertindihan *T. hamatum* dan *T. harzianum* dan ia dianggap sebagai pencilan 'yang tidak dapat diputuskan alafnya' dari segi taksonomi. Kesemua pencilan telah di skrin ciri antagonisnya terhadap *G. boninense* (pencilan PP28) melalui kajian dwikultur. Pencilan T32 (*T. harzianum*) dan T128 (*T. virens*) telah dipilih sebagai 2 pencilan antagonis yang paling berkesan. Kajian tanpa miselium *in vitro* melalui kaedah agar beracun biasa dan dwilapis dan juga melalui kajian turasan kultur telah menunjukkan bahawa hasil daripada metabolit

sekunder oleh kedua-dua pencilan yang dipilih dapat merencat pertumbuhan miselium *Ganoderma* di atas agar.

Dalam kajian rumah hijau pula, melalui rawatan kultur *Trichoderma* dalam sungkupan serabut kelapa sawit, kesemua 5 pokok kawalan mati terkena jangkitan *Ganoderma* pada minggu ke 24, manakala anak benih rawatan T32 dan T128 masih hidup pada kadar kemandirian 60% dan 20%. Kadar kemandirian pokok klon adalah 80% bagi rawatan dengan T32 dan 40% bagi rawatan dengan T128. Dua daripada 4 cara menggunakan ampaian konidium *Trichoderma* telah memberikan kawalan penyakit yang baik. Dalam penggunaan ampaian konidium sebagai celupan akar yang dilengkapi dengan *Trichoderma* dalam serabut kelapa sawit, kadar kemandirian ialah 90% melalui rawatan T32 dan 70% dengan T128. Apabila ampaian konidium disiram secara terus ke tanah (1 L/pokok setiap 2 minggu selama 12 minggu), sejumlah 90% anak pokok rawatan T32 masih hidup, manakala 80% untuk rawatan T128 hidup pada akhir ujikaji. Dalam penggunaan metabolit sekunder, 2 daripada 3 cara rawatan telah memberikan keputusan yang baik. Rawatan pertama ialah secara siraman terus ke tanah (300 ml/pokok sebanyak 6 kali setiap dua minggu), di mana kadar kemandirian ialah 70% dengan menggunakan T32 dan 60% dengan menggunakan T128. Cara kedua ialah rawatan tidak-terus melalui celupan akar diikuti dengan satu dos tambahan 300 ml metabolit pada permulaan ujikaji, di mana kadar kemandirian didapati ialah 70% dengan rawatan T32 dan 40% dengan rawatan T128.

Rawatan *Trichoderma* adalah berkesan apabila dilakukan pada permulaan ujikaji tetapi tidak berkesan untuk rawatan yang ditangguhkan 6 hingga 8 minggu selepas jangkitan. Dalam kesemua ujikaji, T32 (*T. harzianum*) telah menunjukkan keberkesanan yang lebih baik daripada T128 (*T. virens*). Rawatan *Trichoderma* yang menunjukkan keberkesanan yang baik serta boleh dieksploitasikan untuk kegunaan komersil adalah penggunaannya dalam bentuk ampaian konidium, samada melalui celupan akar atau aplikasi secara siraman langsung pada pokok terjangkit.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	iii
ABSTRAK.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	viii
APPROVAL SHEETS	xi
DECLARATION.....	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xviii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xxiii
LIST OF PLATES.....	xxiv
 CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION.....	1
II LITERATURE REVIEW.....	9
Basal Stem Rot of Oil Palm.....	9
Sign and Symptoms of Basal Stem Rot.....	11
Biology and Epidemiology of <i>Ganoderma</i>	12
Pathogenicity Status of <i>Ganoderma</i>	15
Control Strategies of Basal Stem Rot.....	17
Chemical Control.....	20
Biological Control.....	21
Biological Control of Plant Pathogen.....	22
Biological Control of <i>Ganoderma</i>	23
Efficacy of <i>Trichoderma</i> as Bio-control Agents.....	24
Occurrence and Distribution of <i>Trichoderma</i>	26
Factors Affecting Growth of <i>Trichoderma</i>	27
Survival and Proliferation of <i>Trichoderma</i> in Soil and Plant Rhizosphere.....	29
III ISOLATION, IDENTIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF <i>Trichoderma</i> SPECIES FROM SOILS OF AN OIL PALM PLANTATION.....	31
Introduction.....	31
Materials and Methods.....	33
Experimental Site.....	33
Field Sampling.....	37
Isolation of <i>Trichoderma</i>	38
Identification of <i>Trichoderma</i>	39
Distribution of <i>Trichoderma</i>	40

	Soil Moisture Content and Acidity.....	41
	Soil Physical and Chemical Analysis.....	42
	Results.....	42
	History of Experimental Site.....	42
	Isolation and Identification of <i>Trichoderma</i>	43
	Assessment of <i>Trichoderma</i> Distribution.....	57
	Soil Moisture Content and Acidity.....	58
	Soil Physical and Chemical Analysis.....	58
	Discussion.....	59
IV	SCREENING OF <i>Trichoderma</i> AND ITS MODE OF ANTAGONISM ON <i>Ganoderma boninense</i>	64
	Introduction.....	64
	Materials and Methods.....	67
	Source of <i>Ganoderma</i>	67
	Source of <i>Trichoderma</i> Species.....	67
	Screening by Dual Culture Technique.....	67
	Observation of Hyperparasitism.....	70
	Screening by Poison Agar Technique Using Crude Metabolites.....	71
	Screening of Diffusible Metabolites by Bilayer Agar Technique.....	75
	Effect of Culture Filtrates of <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> and <i>T. virens</i> on Growth of <i>Ganoderma boninense</i>	78
	Results.....	80
	Screening by Dual Culture Technique.....	80
	Observation of Hyperparasitism.....	90
	Screening by Poison Agar Technique Using Crude Metabolites.....	93
	Screening of Diffusible Metabolites by Bilayer Agar Technique.....	106
	Effect of Culture Filtrates of <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> and <i>T. virens</i> on Growth of <i>Ganoderma boninense</i>	110
	Discussion.....	111
V	<i>IN VIVO</i> TRIALS OF <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> AND <i>T. virens</i> FOR CONTROL OF BASAL STEM ROT ON OIL PALM PLANTS	119
	Introduction.....	119
	Materials and Methods.....	121
	Sources of Fungal Cultures.....	121
	Collection and Preparation of Oil Palm Seedlings and Clones.....	121

	Collection and Preparation of Soil for Experiment.....	122
	Collection and Preparation of Mulching Materials.....	123
	Preparation of Inoculum.....	124
	Infection of Oil Palm Seedlings and Clones.....	126
	Assessment of Treatment.....	131
	Recognition of Disease Symptoms.....	131
	Quantification of <i>Trichoderma</i> from Soil.....	133
	Determination of Soil Moisture Content and Acidity (pH).....	133
	Histopathological Studies of Infected Oil Palm Roots.....	134
	Results.....	135
	Recognition of Disease Symptoms.....	135
	Quantification of <i>Trichoderma</i> from Soil.....	149
	Determination of Soil Moisture Content and Acidity (pH)....	152
	Histopathological Studies of Infected Oil Palm Roots.....	156
	Discussion	160
VI	<i>IN VIVO</i> TRIALS OF <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> AND <i>T.virens</i> FOR CONTROL OF BASAL STEM ROT USING OIL PALM CLONES.....	165
	Introduction.....	165
	Materials and Methods.....	167
	Sources of <i>Ganoderma</i> and <i>Trichoderma</i>	167
	Preparation of Inoculum.....	167
	Collection and Preparation of Oil Palm Clones.....	168
	Collection and Preparation of Mulch Materials.....	168
	Collection and Preparation of Soil for Experiment.....	168
	Infection of Oil Palm Clones.....	169
	Root Coating of Oil Palm Clones.....	169
	Preparation and Application of <i>Trichoderma</i> Conidial Suspension.....	171
	Assessment of Treatment.....	175
	Recognition of Disease Symptoms.....	175
	Quantification of <i>Trichoderma</i> from Soil.....	177
	Determination of Soil Moisture Content and Acidity (pH).....	177
	Results	177
	Recognition of Disease Symptoms.....	177
	Quantification of <i>Trichoderma</i> from Soil.....	191
	Determination of Soil Moisture Content and Acidity (pH).....	194
	Discussion.....	197

VII	IN VIVO TRIALS ON USE OF SECONDARY METABOLITES OF <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> AND <i>T. virens</i> FOR CONTROL OF BASAL STEM ROT ON OIL PALM SEEDLINGS.....	201
	Introduction	201
	Materials and Methods.....	203
	Sources of <i>Ganoderma</i> and <i>Trichoderma</i>	203
	Preparation of Inoculum.....	203
	Collection and Preparation of Oil Palm Seedlings.....	204
	Collection and Preparation of Soil for Experiment.....	204
	Infection of Oil Palm Seedlings.....	204
	Root Coating of Oil Palm Seedlings.....	205
	Preparation and Application of <i>Trichoderma</i> Secondary Metabolites.....	205
	Assessment of Treatment.....	208
	Recognition of Disease Symptoms.....	208
	Determination of Soil Moisture Content and Acidity (pH).....	210
	Results	210
	Recognition of Disease Symptoms.....	210
	Determination of Soil Moisture Content and Acidity (pH).....	225
	Discussion.....	227
VIII	GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION.....	232
	REFERENCES	242
	APPENDICES.....	254
	A Medium for <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolation.....	255
	B <i>Trichoderma</i> Spp. Identification Documents of IMI, London.....	256
	C Raw data of PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of 38 <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolates From Rhizosphere of Diseased Palms Based on Dual Culture with <i>G. boninense</i> (First Screening).	259
	D Raw Data of Screening by Normal Poison Agar Technique Using Crude Metabolites of T32 (<i>T. harzianum</i>).....	264
	E Raw Data of Screening of Diffusible Metabolites by Bilayer Agar Technique.....	268
	F Raw Data of Effect of Culture Filtrates of <i>Trichoderma</i> on Growth of <i>Ganoderma</i>	269
	G <i>Trichoderma</i> Spore Count in Spore Suspension/ml.....	270
	H Additional Tables.....	271
	I Abstracts and Extended Abstracts in Proceedings.....	276
	VITA.....	282

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Species of <i>Trichoderma</i> and Their Source of Origin.....	46
2	Distribution of <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolates.....	58
3	Soil Moisture, pH, Physical and Chemical Characteristics.....	59
4	PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of 38 <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolates From Rhizosphere of Diseased Palms Based on Dual Culture with <i>G. boninense</i>	82
5	PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of 64 <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolates From Rhizosphere of Healthy Palms Based on Dual Culture with <i>G. boninense</i>	83
5	(contd.) PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of 64 <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolates From Rhizosphere of Healthy Palms Based on Dual Culture with <i>G. boninense</i>	84
6	PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of Selected Isolates of <i>Trichoderma</i> Against <i>G. boninense</i> by Dual Culture Technique (Method I).....	86
7	PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of Selected Isolates of <i>Trichoderma</i> Against <i>G. boninense</i> by Dual Culture Technique (Method II).....	87
8	Mean PIRG Values of <i>Ganoderma</i> at 4 Concentrations of Metabolites (20-80%) of 7, 14 and 21 days old of T32 (<i>T. harzianum</i>).....	95
8	(contd.) Mean PIRG Values of <i>Ganoderma</i> at 4 Concentrations of Metabolites (20-80%) of 7, 14 and 21 days old of T32 (<i>T. harzianum</i>)...	96
9	Effect of Age of Culture Filtrates, Mean Percentage of Metabolites Concentration of 7, 14 and 21 days old Culture of T32 (<i>T. harzianum</i>) on Percentage Inhibition of Radial Growth (PIRG) of <i>Ganoderma</i>	99
10	Mean PIRG Values of <i>Ganoderma</i> at 4 Concentrations of Metabolites (20-80%) of 7, 14 and 21 days old of T128 (<i>T. virens</i>).....	101

10	(contd.) Mean PIRG Values of <i>Ganoderma</i> at 4 Concentrations of Metabolites (20-80%) of 7, 14 and 21 days old of T128 (<i>T. virens</i>).....	102
11	Effect of Age of Culture Filtrates, Mean Percentage of Metabolites Concentration of 7, 14 and 21 days old Culture of T128 (<i>T. virens</i>) on Percentage Inhibition of Radial Growth (PIRG) of <i>Ganoderma</i>	105
12	Mean Summary of Growth Index of <i>Ganoderma</i> (PP28) on Agar Bilayer Surface.....	107
13	Mean PIGW Values of <i>Ganoderma</i> by Culture Filtrate of <i>T.harzianum</i> and <i>T.virens</i>	111
14	Effect of Percentage of Culture filtrate of <i>T. harzianum</i> and <i>T. virens</i> on Mycelial Growth of <i>Ganoderma</i>	111
15	Number of Plants With Signs and Symptoms of BSR Out of 5 Replicate Plants per Treatment at 24 Weeks After Artificial Infection...	137
16	Disease Severity Index Based on Visible Signs and Symptoms of BSR of Oil Palm Seedlings and Clones Over 24 Weeks Observation:.....	139
17	Root Disease Severity Index of BSR of Oil Palm Seedlings and Clones after 24 Week Observation.....	149
18	Colony Forming Units (CFU) of <i>Trichoderma</i> Species in Experimental Pots Sampled Over 24 Weeks Period ($\times 10^3$ CFU/g soil).....	150
19	Comparison of Colony Forming Units (cfu) of <i>Trichoderma</i> at Two Level of Depths of Soil.....	152
20	Soil Moisture Content in Experimental Pots Sampled Over 24 Weeks Period.....	154
21	Soil Acidity (pH) in Experimental Pots sampled Over 24 Week Period.	155
22	Number of Plants with Signs and Symptoms of BSR out of 10 Replicate Plants per Treatment at 24 Weeks after Artificial Infection...	179
23	Disease Severity Index Based on Visible Signs and Symptoms Over 24 Week Observation:.....	181

24	Root Disease Severity Index of Infected Oil Palm Clones Over 24 Weeks Observation.....	188
25	Colony Forming Units (CFU) of <i>Trichoderma</i> Species in Experimental Pots Sampled Over 24 Week Period. (x 10 ³ CFU/g Soil).....	192
26	Colony Forming Units (CFU) of <i>Trichoderma</i> at Two Level of Depths of Soil.....	193
27	Soil Moisture Content in Experimental Pots Sampled Over 24 Week Period.....	195
28	Soil pH in Experimental Pots Sampled Over 24 Week Period.....	196
29	Number of Plants with Signs and Symptoms of BSR out of 10 Replicate Plants per Treatment at 24 Weeks after Artificial Infection...	212
30	Disease Severity Index of BSR on 10 Replicate Plants per Treatment Over 24 Weeks after Artificial Infection	214
31	Root Disease Severity Index of BSR of Oil Palm Seedlings Over 24 Weeks Observation.....	222
32	Soil Moisture Content in Experimental Pots Sampled Over 24 Weeks...	226
33	Soil Acidity (pH) in Experimental Pots Sampled Over 24 Weeks.....	227
34	Raw Data of PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of 38 <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolates From Rhizosphere of Diseased Palms Based on Dual Culture with <i>G. boninense</i> (First Screening).....	259
35	Raw Data of PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of 68 <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolates From Rhizosphere of Healthy Palms Based on Dual Culture with <i>G. boninense</i> (First Screening).....	260
35	(Contd.) Raw Data of PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of 68 <i>Trichoderma</i> Isolates From Rhizosphere of Healthy Palms Based on Dual Culture with <i>G. boninense</i> (First Screening).....	261
36	Raw Data of PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of Selected Isolates of <i>Trichoderma</i> Against <i>G. boninense</i> by Dual Culture Technique (Method 1).....	262

37	Raw Data of PIRG and Colony Overgrowth Time of Selected Isolates of <i>Trichoderma</i> Against <i>G. boninense</i> by Dual Culture Technique (Method 2).....	263
38	Raw Data of Screening by Normal Poison Agar Technique Using Crude Metabolites of T32 (<i>T. harzianum</i>).....	264
39	Raw Data of Screening by Modified Bilayer Poison Agar Technique Using Crude Metabolites of T32 (<i>T. harzianum</i>).....	265
40	Raw Data of Screening by Normal Poison Agar Technique Using Crude Metabolites of T128 (<i>T. virens</i>).....	266
41	Raw Data of Screening by Modified Bilayer Poison Agar Technique Using Crude Metabolites of T128 (<i>T. virens</i>).....	267
42	Raw Data of Screening of Diffusible Metabolites by Bilayer Technique	268
43	Raw Data of Effect of Culture Filtrates of T32 (<i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>) and T128 (<i>T. virens</i>) on Growth of <i>Ganoderma boninense</i> .	269
44	Mean Numbers of <i>Trichoderma</i> Spores in Spore Suspension/ml ($\times 10^6$ / ml).....	270
45	Analysis of Variance of Screening by Poison Agar Technique Using Crude Metabolites.....	271
46	Analysis of Variance of Screening of Diffusible Metabolites by Bilayer Agar Technique.....	271
47	Analysis of Variance of Effect of Culture Filtrates of T32 and T128 on Growth of <i>G. boninense</i>	272
48	Analysis of Variance of <i>Trichoderma</i> Populations from Pot Soils of Experiment Described in Chapter V.....	272
49	Analysis of Variance of Moisture Content from Pot Soils of Experiment Described in Chapter V.....	273
50	Analysis of Variance of pH from Pot Soils of Experiment Described in Chapter V.....	273

51	Analysis of Variance of <i>Trichoderma</i> Populations from Pot Soils of Experiment Described in Chapter VI.....	274
52	Analysis of Variance of Moisture Content from Pot Soils of Experiment Described in Chapter VI.....	274
53	Analysis of Variance of pH from Pot Soils of Experiment Described in Chapter VI.....	275
54	Analysis of Variance of Moisture Content from Pot Soils of Experiment Described in Chapter VII.....	275
55	Analysis of Variance of Moisture Content from Pot Soils of Experiment Described in Chapter VII.....	275

LIST OF FIGURE

Figure		Page
1	Map of Peninsular Malaysia Showing Experimental Site for Soil Samples Collection.....	35
2	Location of Experimental Site and Its Surroundings.....	36
3	Diagrammatic Representation of Soils Sampled Around an Oil Palm Base.....	38
4	Diagrammatic View of Experimental Plot.....	44
5	Measurements of Radial Growth of <i>G. boninense</i> Mycelia by Method 1 Where Culture Plug Placement was at the Margin and Method 2 Where Placement was 2 cm Away From the Margin.....	69
6	Diagrammatic Representation of Bilayer Agar Technique of Diffusible Metabolites.....	76

LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
1	Five-day old colony forming units on RBA.....	45
2	Five-day old colony of <i>T. harzianum</i> (IMI No. 375050, T32) on PDA (Left) and the reverse (Right).....	47
3	Hypha (a), Conidiophore (b), Phialide (c) and Conidia (d) of <i>T. harzianum</i> (IMI No. 375050, T32) (x 640).....	48
4	Five-day old colony of <i>T. virens</i> (IMI No. 375371, T128) on PDA (Left) and the reverse (Right).....	49
5	Hypha (a), Conidiophore (b), Phialide (c) and Conidia (d)) of <i>T. virens</i> (IMI No. 375371, T128) (x 640).....	50
6	Five-day old colony of <i>Trichoderma</i> species (IMI No. 375051, T43) under normal light on PDA (Left) and the reverse (Right).....	52
7	Hypha (a), Conidiophore (b), Phialide (c) and Conidia (d)) isolate T43 (IMI No.375051) after exposure to UV light (x 640).....	52
8	Five-day old colony of <i>T. aureoviride</i> (IMI No. 375056, T27) on PDA (Left) and the reverse (Right).....	53
9	Hypha (a), Conidiophore (b), Phialide (c) and Conidia (d) of <i>T. aureoviride</i> (IMI No. 375056, T27) (x 640).....	54
10	Five-day old colony of <i>T. longibrachiatum</i> (IMI No. 375055, T28) on PDA (Left) and the reverse (Right):.....	55
11	Hypha (a), Conidiophore (b), Phialide (c) and Conidia (d) of <i>T. longibrachiatum</i> (IMI No. 375055, T28) (x 640).....	56
12	(L-R): 7 days old culture filtrates of <i>Trichoderma virens</i> (T128), <i>T. harzianum</i> (T32) and Richard's Solution as control.....	73
13	Antagonistic effect of T (T32, <i>T. harzianum</i>) against G (PP28, <i>G. boninense</i>) in dual culture after 4 days of inoculation showing <i>Ganoderma</i> colony was still visible.....	88