

is not warranted as the mixture is required for efficient downy mildew and purple blotch control. Whilst a yield advantage was not obtainable in the experiment, complete destruction of areas within commercial plantings have occurred in the past and the requirement for protection against damage exists. The failure to demonstrate a yield advantage is attributed to low overall yields (0.25 tonnes/hectare) associated with an unfavourable growing season.

Table 1. The effect of five fungicidal sprays on the severity of garlic rust.

Treatments	Spray Concentrations (gm or mL/100 L)	Garlic rust severity†
Metalaxyl + mancozeb (Ridomil MZ* WP)	250 g	1.4
Propiconazole (Tilt* 250 EC)	100 mL	2.0
Oxycarboxin (Plantvax* 74W)	130 g	5.5
Triadimefon (Bayleton* 100EC)	250 mL	9.2
Bitertanol# (Baycor* 25 WP)	250 g	9.5
Untreated control	—	21.8

LSD of treatment means ( $P = 0.05$ ) = 4.8

† The mean number of rust pustules from 3 cm lengths of the second youngest leaves of 20 plants from each plot.

# Proposed common name.

\* trade name.

## References

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- (3) Laudon, G.F. and Waterson, J.M. (1965) — *Puccinia allii* C.M.I. Descriptions of Pathogenic Fungi and Bacteria No. 52.
- (4) Moore, W.C. (1959) — *British parasitic fungi*. Cambridge University Press p. 430.
- (5) Walker, J.C. (1952) — *Diseases of Vegetables*. McGraw Hill publication p. 529.

® Registered Trade Name.

## OBITUARY

### Aldworth William Thompson

by Gillian M. Pearson

Aldworth "Tommy" Thompson died in Adelaide on the 8th July 1982 at the age of 82. His passing breaks one of the remaining links with the pioneering days of plant pathology in Malaysia.

He was born in Cork, Ireland, the youngest of six children in a Methodist family; a brilliant student whose early interest in botany developed into a life-long dedication to the diseases of plants. It was no mean feat when, in 1917, he gained 6th place in Ireland, in public examinations in Irish — a language he was required to study at short notice over a few months in order to gain entrance to University. He graduated from the National University of Ireland in 1920 with Honours in Botany and Zoology and went on to further study in plant pathology at the Imperial College in London.

His appointment as Mycologist in 1921 in the Department of Agriculture, Federated Malay States, took him to Kuala Lumpur where his career continued, interrupted only by World War II, until 1952 when he took up a post at the University of Malaya. He was always ready to help others and between 1921 and 1926 he lectured in Mycology and plant pathology to subordinate staff until the establishment of the College of Agriculture.

He early became particularly interested in the *Phytophthora* diseases and very soon he described a new species, *P. heveae*, from rubber — a species that still stands. He investigated other *Phytophthora* species on rubber and *Phytophthora* diseases on other crops, including betel vine, roselle, durian, potato, tomato, *Colocasia*, papaya and *Cinchona*, and published a monograph on the species.

Between 1926 and 1931 he was principally engaged in investigating the diseases of oil palms, in particular stem rot, and conducted advisory work on oil palm and tea estates. He recognised stem rot as an important disease and published two major bulletins describing his research and also wrote the section on diseases in the book "The Oil Palm in Malaya". Although the fungi which he showed to be associated with stem rot did not at the time cause a great deal of loss, they have recently become much more important, and according to his successor, Anthony Johnston, "it suggests considerable foresight that he anticipated the later trouble."

To his family, he jokingly referred to himself as "the plant doctor" when called away yet again, often for a week or more, to a tea, oil palm or rubber estate where trouble had struck.

In 1937 he was promoted to Senior Plant Pathologist and took charge of the Division of Plant Pathology's research and advisory service. He continued research on diseases of oil palm, tobacco, tea, fruits and vegetables and made a special study of the diseases of the pineapple. During this pre-war period, he published some 22 papers.

His career was interrupted between 1941 and 1945 when he was interned by the Japanese as a prisoner of war, first at Changi Gaol and then in labour camps in Thailand, where, despite severe illness and starvation,

he survived forced labour on the infamous Burma-Siam railway. In his forties, he was considerably older than most of his fellow prisoners who were mainly young servicemen from the British and Australian armies. As a member of the Malayan Volunteer Forces since 1921, he joined the No.3 Volunteer Field Ambulance Service in 1939. His unit was sent to Sitiawan in December 1941 and throughout the retreat down the peninsula he set up temporary field hospitals under makeshift conditions where they were often bombed and strafed until they were disbanded in Singapore just before the surrender in February 1942.

After the war, he became interested in plant quarantine and in 1949 he organised the Phytosanitary Conference, South East Asia (in which Australia participated) and drafted new regulations — the Plant Importation and Pest Control Legislation Ordinances and Enactments for Malaya.

During 1949, a major interest was the safe importation of cocoa planting material to establish the new cocoa industry in Malaya. He personally visited West Africa to collect the Amelonado cocoa seed. Because of problems caused by low temperatures and plane delays, 6,000 surface sterilised seeds, packed in ventilated tins in heated compartments and in insulated containers, travelled with him under his charge in the passenger compartment of a BOAC Constellation aircraft. The venture proved a success with 90% germination of this first batch at the island quarantine station on Pulau Tekong Besar which he had earlier planned and established. Through there safely passed all the early imported cocoa material which formed the basis of the cocoa industry in Malaya, Sarawak and Borneo.

He anticipated the arrival of blister blight of tea in Malaya, and published a paper on it to warn of its dangers, stressing the importance of adherence to local regulations controlling the importation of planting material.

He was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of Botany, University of Malaya in 1952, where he remained for the next eight years until his retirement. Much of his work was concerned with the establishment of laboratories with equipment for the teaching of general botany and microbiology, and the designing of courses in Botany for the Medical and Science classes. Research work at the University was mainly concerned with investigations of local material suitable for class instruction in morphology, anatomy, bacteriology and mycology and included research into the use of antibiotics in control of bacterial wilt of Solanaceae. He also continued with advisory work on plant importation and quarantine. He retired in 1960 to the United Kingdom for a period before moving to South Australia. Here he co-authored with Dr Gloria Lim of the University of Malaya, his last publication, "A Manual of tropical Mycology" published in 1965.

Tommy was a man whose warm and friendly personality inspired respect and affection in those who knew him. He had a lively sense of humour and a fine baritone singing voice which was much in demand at pre-war functions.

A fitting tribute to his character and his achievements is the comment from one of his colleagues, "Tommy was such a very nice man, and such a pleasure to work with."

Gillian M. Pearson

**Footnote by R.N. Hilton,  
Botany Department,  
University of Western Australia**

As a young plant pathologist in Malaya in the 1950's I received much kindness and professional help from 'Tommy' Thompson. Although he was never a member of APPS, he had spent his last years in Adelaide and had an indirect influence in Australia through personal contact and by his contributions to tropical plant pathology. For example, a reference to 'his' phytophthora, *Phytophthora heveae*, in Australia is in APP 5:8, 1976. I felt that his passing marked the end of the colonial era in the plant pathology of South East Asia and should not go unnoticed in the profession. Mr T.C. Lee contacted Mr Thompson's daughter, Mrs G.M. Pearson, for personal background on her father and made the discovery that Mrs Pearson was not only glad to provide the information but, as an historian, was well-qualified to write it up. Mr Anthony Johnston, recently retired Director of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute and former colleague of Mr Thompson, was able to help her with a number of technical points. The result is as above.

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## REGIONAL NEWS

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### Queensland Branch

A dinner meeting of the Queensland Branch was held at the Queensland Agricultural College on 1st August, 1984. The dinner was attended by approximately forty people including members, wives and Graduate Diploma (Plant Protection) students. Prof. John Spillman (Cranfield Institute of Technology, U.K.) presented an after-dinner address on some important aspects of air and its movement, with particular reference to spray droplets.

John Spillman (Professor of Applied Aerodynamics) was an invited speaker at the Pesticide Application Technology Course held at the Queensland Agricultural College from 24th to 29th June, 1984. Following the course, he has spent a period of study leave as a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Plant Protection at the Queensland Agricultural College.

Alan Wearing

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### Victorian Branch

I.S.P.P. Extract of information from Newsletter, Vol.14, No.2, July, 1984.

#### **Fusarium formae speciales Committee request**

This Committee was established as a subcommittee of the Fusarium Committee at the Fusarium Workshop held in Sydney, Australia, 8-12 August 1983. The objectives were to compile a list of scientists, techniques, plant cultivators, and isolates used to identify formae speciales of *Fusarium*.

The Committee requests input from those actively working in this area of *Fusarium*, including a brief description of inoculation techniques, availability and descriptions of differential cultivars, and *Fusarium* isolates (races, strains, etc.). Volunteers with expertise and actively working with formae speciales are needed.