

ROOT AND BUTT ROT, AND DEATH OF Araucaria angustifolia Bert. O. Ktze CAUSED BY Phellinus sp. C.G. Auer¹ & T.L. Krttgnr². (EMBRAPA/CNPQ, C.P. 3319, 80001, Curitiba, PR; ²Deptº Fitopatologia, ESALQ/USP, C.P. 9, 13400, Piracicaba, SP) Podridão de raízes, de colo e morte de Araucaria angustifolia Bert O. Ktze causado por Phellinus sp.

A root and butt rot followed by death of trees were observed in commercial plantations of Araucaria angustifolia, from 4 to 18 years old, in Quedas do Iguaçu State of Paraná, Brazil. Phellinus sp. was isolated from active lesions and its pathogenicity tested. The inoculum was produced by growing the fungus in a substrate prepared with sawdust and oat meal, sterilized in glass jars. Roots of 4 to 18 years old A. angustifolia were exposed, sectioned about 30 cm from the trunk, and inoculated by inserting the tips into colonized jars. Examination 37 days after inoculation revealed a slow root colonization by the fungus, inducing similar symptoms observed in diseased trees. Phellinus sp. was recovered from lesions obtained in the roots. It was concluded that Phellinus sp. is the causal agent of the disease.

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