

# Exploiting natural wealth to sustain the much fancied Calocybe in Kerala, India

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## INTRODUCTION

Kerala is one of the small states of India having a hot and humid climate. Milky mushroom, the highly esculent large sized edible mushroom occur in abundance during and after the monsoon showers. The frequency of occurrence of the same species continuously from different localities indicate the cosmopolitan nature of occurrence. Wide screening of Calocybe from diversified habitat for yield assessment was done in paddy straw substrates using different casing materials like coir pith compost vermicompost and sand soil cow dung mixture



AK



BK



JK



RK



SK

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- One packet spawn of Calocybe was used for laying out a single bed
- Spawning done in the centre only.
- Casing materials namely coir pith compost, vermi compost and sand soil cow dung mixture were used.



Calocybe spawn



spawning in center



Vermi compost



Coirpith compost



Sand, soil, cowdung

## RESULTS

- BK produced maximum sporocarps with a BE of 90%
- Vermi compost was the most suited casing material for all strains.
- Though RK produced large sized fruiting bodies, it ranked as the second best strain only with 85% B.E.
- The fruiting body of A.K had small cap hairy stipe soft tissue and cream colored gills.
- Harvest obtained up to 2 months for all the 5 strains.
- Pest and disease attack was nil for BK, RK and AK.



BK



RK



AK

## REFERENCES

- Lulu Das and Prathibha 2013 "Alternate substrates to casing layer for assessing the productivity of *Tricholoma giganteum*" Mushroom Research Vol 22(2) pp 111-113
- Lulu Das 2013 - "Effective utilization of coconut bio resources for mushroom cultivation" Souvenir released during launching of Keramrutham pp 23-24