

## GENETIC VARIATION BETWEEN RUBBER PROVENENCES<sup>1</sup>

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One-year old Hevea seedlings originated from 36 different provenances were evaluated for stem diameter, plant height, number leaf and disease tolerance. The seeds were from native trees collected in 14 distinct areas covering six localities in Acre state, two in Mato Grosso state and six in Rondônia state. The design used was a triple lattice 6 x 6 with 50 plants per plot, at a spacing of 4 by 4 meters. The preliminary results from this study showed that the RO/CM/10, MT/C/04 and MT/C/06 provenances to be the most vigorous. On the other hand, AC/S/08 and AC/S/11 showed the poorest vigour. The provenances originated from native trees located in the "varzea" (seasonal flooded area) showed the best behaviour in terms of vigor. In general, those provenances coming from Rondônia were more vigorous than those from Acre and Mato Grosso. In addition, provenances from the districts of Costa Marques (Rondônia), Ariel (Ma

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To Grosso) and Tarauacá (Acre contributed proportionally more to the estimated variation among the provenance in each state for the character of vigour. The parameters used for evaluation of genetic variation of the population showed high variability useful for selection. All the provenances showed a high susceptibility to Microcyclus ulei the incidence of Thanatephorus cucumeris and Colletotrichum gloeosporioides being less and more variable.