

## **CARTAPIP AND THE USE OF ALBINO STRAINS OF *OPHIOSTOMA* FOR PULPING AND BLUE STAIN CONTROL**

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In the late 1980s, the first albino strains of *Ophiostoma piliferum* were developed by classical genetic mating techniques and further research led to the development of the commercially available product, Cartapip 97. Cartapip 97 is a unique microbial solution to resolve pitch problems for the pulp and paper industry and is used by mills in three continents; it has also been shown to be an effective biological control agent against sap-stain. Due to the strict importation restrictions and other quarantine issues of some countries, further research on the pathogenicity and new methods of monitoring and detecting Cartapip 97, was undertaken. In addition to *Ophiostoma piliferum*, other albino strains have now been developed from other *Ophiostoma* species. These new generation strains may have improved colonization abilities and are being studied for their ability to remove pitch and as biological control agents alongside Cartapip 97.