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Chemical Eradication of *Pyrrosia piloselloides* (syn *Drymoglossum piloselloides*), a Debilitating Fern Epiphyte of Tea and Other Trees

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Pyrrosia piloselloides, a common tropical epiphytic fern, harms its host by smothering its growth. In tea, it inhibits the regrowth and renewal of the plucking table. Manual eradication is laborious as the rhizomes adhere strongly to the branches and the fern spreads throughout and deep in the canopy. Glufosinate ammonium, at the recommended rate for weeds under shade, can kill the fern without serious damage to the tea host. Efficacy is improved with adjuvants, in particular those that are a blend of petroleum oil, their derivatives and fatty acid esters and those that contain methylsiloxane polymers. The effect of the herbicide is also much more pronounced if the fern is exposed to sunlight at time of application, as during pruning.

Keywords: *Pyrrosia piloselloides*, epiphyte, weed, chemical eradication, tea.