

Control of a New Calyx Mite of Arecanut in Kerala

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A new pest of arecanut fruits (*Areca catechu* L.) caused by a mite belonging to the genus *Dolichotetranychus* (*Tenuipalpidae*) has been observed at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Sub-Station Peechi and neighbouring areas of Trichur since the summer of 1968-69. The mite is slender, orange coloured and is found inside the calyx of tender arecanuts. It sucks sap from the nuts. The infested nuts shrivel and later shed resulting in upto about 10% crop losses. It is found from November to May

only. The *Dolichotetranychus* spp. are distinguished by their three segmented palpus, the absence of a rostral shield and through hysterosoma with their pairs of dorsocentrals, one pair of dorosublaterals and five pairs of dorsolaterals.

A spraying trial using seven miticides was taken up against the pest. Except Thimet and Temic, all the chemicals were sprayed on bunches. These two chemicals were applied to soil around the base of palms. The results of the trials are summarised below.

Effect of different miticides on control of calyx mite

Treatment	Concentration	Mortality percentage		
		24 hr.	72 hr.	168 hr.
Thimet 10 G	91 g. / palm	5.1	1.9	2.1
Temic 10 G	157 g. / palm	0.9	2.8	2.6
Nuvacron 40 EC	1.0 ml. / palm	24.4	3.2	11.3
Galacron 50 EC	1.6 ml. / palm	52.1	6.8	19.3
Nuvan 100 EC	0.8 ml. / palm	26.1	7.3	6.0
Anthio	2.0 ml. / palm	71.6	84.7	89.3
Rogor 30 EC	1.0 ml. / palm	84.9	98.0	99.6
Control		2.4	1.3	1.3

S. E. per plot	11.7	3.7	7.1
Overall mean	33.4	25.7	28.9
C. V. (%)	35.0	14.5	24.4
S. E. for difference between the treatment means	9.6	3.1	5.8
C D. (P = 0.05)	20.5	6.54	12.4

Treatment differences were significant and Rogor 0.1% and Anthio 0.2% gave better control than the other chemicals 7 days after spraying.

The authors thank Dr. R. G. Fennah,

Director and Dr. A. H. Parker, Asst. Director, Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London for identifying the pest. They are also thankful to Shri K. V. Ahamed Bavappa for his keen interest.

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