adding wheat flour and a little bit of sugar. These pellets were fed to *R. rattus* and *M. musculus*.

Datura and *Lantana* sp. were not found effective but it was observed that the animals fed on *Ageratum* extracts became aggressive within 5 minutes after feeding and started running inside the cages. It was also observed that *R. rattus* started taking water after every 20-30 seconds and 50 per cent of the animals died within 24 hrs. Some degree of cannibalism was also observed in these animals. In *M. musculus* no mortality was observed.

Acceptance of dry baits by common mice of North Malabar

S. Keshava Bhat and A. Sujatha CP1334
Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, 670124, Kerala

The house mouse, *Mus musculus urbanus* the little field mouse, *M. b. booduga* and the long tailed tree mouse, *Vandeleuria oleracea* are very common in N... ...abar area. Of them, the house mouse is a common household pest, whereas the field mouse predominates the rodent fauna on the ground level in the coconut and cocoa plantation, followed by tree mouse which inhabits the branches.

Studies on the acceptance of dry baits by these rodents were conducted under caged conditions by offering three cereals (rice, wheat and finger millet) and three pulses (Bengal gram, green gram and cowpea) in multiple choice test. The baits were offered in three different textures (Whole grains, cracked grains and powders) and also by mixing with oils, sugar, and salt, etc.

Studies revealed that cracked forms of rice and wheat were preferred most by the house mouse and the field mouse, respectively. Further, they preferred plain baits to oily and sweetened ones. On the contrary, the tree mouse significantly preferred rice in its cracked form.

Effect of prebaiting on the efficacy of zinc phosphide bait against field rodents.

Roshan Lal, A.S. Dahiya and A.N. Verma
Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar 125004

Role of prebaiting done for different durations on the efficicacy of zinc phosphide bait against field rodents was investigated during January-February, 1986, at the Regional Research Station, Bawal (Haryana) in a pomegranate orchard of one hectare area. All the burrows were