

# Preliminary acaricidal tests against the areca mite,

## RAOIELLA INDICA (Hirst)

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The authors (1953 and 1956) have noted that the areca mite, *Raoiella indica* (Hirst), is common on the areca palms round about Tharikere and particularly at Lingadahalli (Tharikere Taluk) and also at Bangalore sometimes attaining a serious pest form in limited areas. Colonies of this red mite live on the lower surface of leaves and as a result of the feeding activity of the mites the leaves turn pale yellow and in severe cases where the infestation continues for a fairly long time the leaves may wither resulting in loss in the yield of nuts and sickly appearance of the attacked palms. As the mite was particularly serious in an areca garden at Lingadahalli, field tests were taken up there to investigate the efficacy of certain acaricides against the mite. Six chemicals (proprietary products) known to possess acaricidal effect were tested. 24 palms of approximately the same height and growth were selected and each acaricide was sprayed or poured into the basins of 4 palms. 'Sapperlot' sprayer was used taking care to see the entire surface of the palm, especially the lower surface of leaves, was wetted. Observations were made for the efficacy of the different chemicals 24 hours after

Areca nut Committee. The people not only of Kozhikode but the whole of Kerala are perturbed at the news that there is a move to shift the Headquarters from Kozhikode. Kerala being the foremost state in the production of this crop, people naturally expect that the Headquarters of the committee will be located in the very midst of the areca nut area and the Government of Kerala have promised every facility that is reasonably required for the committee functioning here. I hope the Committee will respect our sentiments and legitimate interests and take a right decision. Once more thanking you for your kind invitation to attend this meeting, I declare open, the conference.

the first treatment and also one month after, when another application was given to those treated palms which showed mite-infestation at that time. A number of palms showing similar mite-infestation were taken as untreated controls. The strength at which different chemicals were used and the results of observations are summarised in the table.

It may be seen from the table that all the Chemicals at the strengths tested were quite effective in killing the adult and young ones of the time. In the case of soil application (Pestox 3-H; and Systox) the action was delayed; no mite was seen dead at the end of 24 hours after treatment. Except in the case of 'Folidol E 605' and 'Malathion' the residual action of the acaricides persisted even after one month, whereas in the case of the above two chemicals re-building of mite-infestation was seen at the end of one month after treatment, though complete kill was seen 24 hours after treatment in both the cases. The untreated trees continued to show mite-infestation throughout the observations.

Based on these preliminary observations, any of the four acaricides 'Pestox 3 H', 'Systox', 'Solbar' and 'Wettable Sulphur' may be recommended, for the present, for use in the control of the areca mite. But in view of the fact that 'Wettable Sulphur' is quite cheap and at the same time effective with good residual effect, it can be recommended for general use in the control of the areca mite.

### References

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2. Puttarudriah, M. and Channa Basavanna, G. P. 1956. Some new insects and mites on Areca palm in Mysore-II Areca nut Jour. VIII (1): 9-10.