

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTROL OF *ASPI- DIOTUS DESTRUCTOR*, THE COCONUT SCALE

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In 1974 a programme for the biological control of *A. destructor* was started on a large scale and the spraying operations with kerosene oil-soap emulsion were temporarily suspended. Three exotic Coccinellid predators were imported, mass bred and released in the scale infested coconut plantation but they failed to establish in the release points. Two indigenous Coccinellid predators and an Aphelinid parasite were observed

to be widely distributed and effective natural enemies in bringing the pest under satisfactory control. Other indigenous predators were uncommon and present only in small numbers. The immature forms of the two common indigenous predators were often found parasitised in the field. Details of the mass breeding of Coccinellid predators in the laboratory, the methods of release and their performance in the field are discussed. The risks of predator mortality by the use of sprays of a kerosene oil-soap emulsion were also assessed.