

## SOME MINOR PESTS OF COCONUT; NEW RECORDS FOR SRI LANKA

**P. Kanagaratnam, J. L. J. G. Pinto and  
S. V. Sinnathamby**

(*Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila*).

Three mites, three mealybugs and a spike moth were observed for the first time as minor pests of coconut in Sri Lanka.

*Raoiella indica* Hirst, a small mite has been recognized, as a pest in India, United Arab Republic and Mauritius. It was found to occur in great numbers and to cause damage to the ventral surface of leaves of about one year old seedlings at Dēhiwela and Demanhandiya. In the glasshouse at the Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila in addition to the above species, two other mites namely *Tetranychus fijiensis* Hirst and *Oligonychus (Reckiella)* sp. were also found. The damaged leaves turned yellow and dried up prematurely. *Stethorus keralicus* Kapur, a Coccinellid predator was found associated with these mites.

Mealybugs of *Palmicultor* sp. were found in large aggregations deep within the crown of three to four year old plants in the field at Nelumdeniya. Due to the sucking of sap, tips of leaflets were often dried at emergence.

*Pseudococcus citriculus* Green, a mealybug was observed on leaves of seedlings and adult palms in many coconut growing areas and causing localised yellowing.

Inflorescences of more than one hundred palms were found heavily infested with mealybugs of *Dysmicoccus* sp. at Kakka-palliya. No visible damage could be noted though sucking of sap could have caused serious damage to young tissues.

Larvae of *Batrachedra* sp., a spike moth was observed to damage buttons in the spike and to cause their shedding. This results in yield reduction.