

ENTOMOPATHOGENICITY OF LOCALLY ISOLATED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY BACILLACEAE ON THE VECTOR OF BANCROFTIAN FILARIASIS IN SRI LANKA

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Results of earlier experiments employing members of the family bacillaceae obtained from abroad on local strains of *Culex (p). quinquefasciatus* were reported previously (vide. 1978 SLAAS Sessions).

Seven members of the family bacillaceae isolated from husk pits off Wadduwa, were tested in a series of experiments for their entomopathogenicity on *Culex (p) quinquefasciatus* larvae. One of these identified bacteriologically as *Bacillus sphaericus* (M.R. 4) proved to be entomocidal, at a concentration of 10^3 /organs/ml. This is as effective as the imported strain of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, tested previously against our local strain of *Culex (p) quinquefasciatus*.

Members of the family bacillaceae have been employed extensively as a larvicide in other countries.

These strains of bacilli with proved efficacy against local strains of the vector of urban filariasis will be employed in field simulated laboratory conditions and subsequently field trials.

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