

FIELD EXPERIMENTS WITH PAPAYA MOSAIC VIRUS DISEASE**Rohan H. S. Rajapakse***(Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, Ruhuna University, Matara)*

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Virus diseases of Papaya (*Carica papaya*) have been reported from many countries where this crop is grown. Prevalence of the disease severely restrict profitable papaya production. Several authors (Adsuar 1946, Bhargara & Khurana 1971, Holtzman and Ishii 1963, Kawanishi and Namba 1966) have studied different aspects of the disease.

In this study several varieties of *Carica papaya* was screened for susceptibility to Papaya Mosaic virus (PMV). There was no resistance except the variety *Carica Candamarcensis* which is grown at higher altitudes in the tropics. Also representative plants of several families were tested. Family Cucurbitaceae was found to be an alternate host to PMV infection. There was no evidence for the virus to be transmitted through the seeds. Soil from the surrounding area of an infected plant did not transmit the virus to the neighbouring plants.

Infection of *Carica papaya* with PMV produced both external and internal symptoms. The anatomy of the leaf was adversely affected, structure of the palisade layers and the spongy cells were modified. These cells were smaller in size, smaller and fewer chloroplasts had broad intercellular spaces and the cells were deformed.

References :

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