

**SOME STUDIES ON THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF
CHROMOLAENA ODORATA (= *EUPATORIUM ODORATUM*)**

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Chromolaena odorata (L) King & Robertson (= *Eupatorium odoratum*; s—Podisinghomaran) (Compositae) is a pernicious weed on coconut lands throughout Sri Lanka. Biological control of this weed has been attempted by the importation, laboratory—breeding and release of the defoliator insect, *Ammalo insulata* Walker (Lep. Arctiidae).

In addition to *C. odorata*, this insect completed its life cycle on *Aegeratum conyzoides*, another common weed, but *C. odorata* appears to be the principal host plant. The insect takes about 40 days to complete the life cycle. In the field, larval mortality due to predation and parasitization has been noted. During dry months, the larval population decreased noticeably.

The insect is now established in Sri Lanka and satisfactory control of this weed through defoliation has been achieved in certain areas. The data from field observations have been used to identify the causes of insect mortality and plans have been formulated to augment the field release of caterpillars to achieve maximum beneficial effects.

The results reported are from the research programme CPD/78/6 of the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka.