

A TECHNIQUE FOR THE APPLICATION OF SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES THROUGH PETIOLAR WELLS IN COCONUT

P. A. C. R. Perera, R. Mahindapala and U. Pethiyagoda
(Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila)

The results of a field experiment indicated the usefulness of petiolar wells for the administration of systemic insecticides in the control of foliar pests of coconut. The movement of systemic insecticides through the crown of mature coconut palms was monitored through studies on the larval mortality of the coconut caterpillar-*Nephantis serinopa* Meyr. Maximum effect was recorded when the insecticide was fed via petiolar wells through the 11th frond.

The usefulness of other fronds for treatment and the advantages of this method over the conventional trunk injection and soil dressing methods will be discussed.