

**DETERMINATION OF CHOLINESTERASE ACTIVITY TO ASSESS
ORGANOPHOSPHORUS PESTICIDES ABSORPTION BY MAN AND ANIMALS
— A CASE STUDY —**

M. Ponnambalam and Indranie Gunawardena

(Division of Occupational Hygiene, 97, Jawatte Road, Colombo 5)

The most common pesticide used for the control of ticks and mites in domestic animals in Sri Lanka is O, O-Diethyl-C-(3-chloro-4-methyl-7-coumarinyl)-phosphorethiolate (ASUNTOL). In small scale farming the pesticide preparations are applied manually by the applicators. These workers are occupationally exposed to the pesticides during the process of pesticide application on the animals. A selected group of these workers and some animals were biologically monitored for cholinesterase activity. The study reveals that while there is a marked decrease in the cholinesterase activity of the applicators, such decrease was not observed in the animals treated with pesticides.