

**CHEMICAL CONTROL OF THE CHILLI LEAF CURL COMPLEX****P. M. Anandasayanan***(Ciba-Geigy, P.O. Box 69, Colombo)*

The leaf curl of chilli (*Capsicum*) is prevalent in the traditional chilli growing areas of the North and East<sup>1</sup> and in the North Central Province. The casual factors are thrips, mites and virus<sup>2</sup>. The virus is transmitted by the insect vector *Bemisia*.

Commonly used chemicals were screened to compare their efficacy in controlling the casual agents of the chilli leaf curl. The treatments were: control, Methamidophos + Sulphur, Monocrotophos + Sulphur, Profenofos + Sulphur, Pirimiphos methyl and Profenofos, applied at 14 day intervals for a period of 90 days.

## SECTION B

The populations of mites, thrips and whitefly nymphs and the number of upward and downward curled leaves were assessed fortnightly, a day prior to the treatment.

Profenofos + Sulphur and Profenofos gave better results than other treatments; there was no significant difference ( $p=0.05$ ) between treatments Profenofos + Sulphur and Profenofos alone. Profenofos had good acaricidal action in addition to its insecticidal properties. Hence Profenofos used alone (without admixture with Sulphur) gives adequate control of chilli leaf curl.

This has two implications: (a) At the national level—Approximately 100 metric tons of Sulphur (WP) was imported in 1982, the bulk of it was used for the control of chilli leaf curl. Substantial savings in the import of Sulphur could be achieved by the use of Profenofos for chilli leaf curl control. (b) At the user level—By avoiding the use of Sulphur the frequent clogging of applicator nozzles, arising mainly as a result of inadequate 'creaming' of Sulphur can be eliminated. This would result in more uniform and economic application of pesticides.

### References

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2. Peiris, J. W. L. (1953). Chilli leaf curl complex, *Trop. Agric.*, **109**, 201-204.
3. Shivanadan, A. and Kangatharalingam, N. *Private communiques*.