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IMPACT OF LARVICIDE MONOXCI-FCM ON ANOPHELINE LARVAE AND PUPAE IN SRI LANKA

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Monoxci-FCM a surfactant monolayer considered to be a non-toxic, environmentally safe larvicide was assessed/compared with Abate (an organophosphate larvicide currently in operational use for malaria control) for its impact on the larval and pupal stages of anopheline mosquitoes in Sri Lanka. The trial was made in two rivers Kuda Oya/Kirindi Oya near Thanamalwila in Moneragala Health Area, for a period of 1 1/2 months during the dry season. One kilometer in each of the rivers was used for treatment with Monoxci-FCM (Kuda Oya) and abate (Kirindi Oya) with another kilometer in each upstream being utilised as the untreated control areas respectively, Pre and post treatment evaluation indicated significant reduction of anopheline larval densities in the abate treated area. In the Monoxci-FCM treated area,

no such reductions were recorded although a certain decline of larval densities was noticed for the first few days. The breeding sites sprayed with Monoxci-FCM were not totally devoid of anopheline larvae at any time. This showed the compound to be not adequately effective, technically. Further, the formulation tested required large quantities of material and manpower for its transport making it operationally impracticable. It was concluded that Monoxci-FCM in its formulation tested was cost-ineffective/unsuitable for malaria control in Sri Lanka.