

A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE  
BY TERMITES TO SEED SETTS OF SUGARCANE IN  
RAINFED SUGARCANE PLANTATIONS AT SEVANAGALA

N.C.Kumarasinghe<sup>a</sup> and M.A.S.K.Ranasinghe<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Sugarcane Research Institute, Uda Walawe

<sup>b</sup> Dept. of Agricultural Biology, University of Peradeniya

A survey was conducted to identify the key species of termites and the levels of damage by them to seed setts of sugarcane in rainfed plantations at Sevanagala.

The identification indicated that *Odonotermes redemanni*\* (Wasmann) and *Odonotermes horni*\* (Wasmann) are the major species damaging the seed setts.

It was found that the level of damage by termites in RB soils is higher than in other soils. Of all the varieties studied, Co 997 and Co 775 were found to be more susceptible to termite attack. There was a significant difference in the levels of damage by termites to seed setts at different ages except during second and fourth week is maximal. It was found that there was a highly significant difference in the levels of damage by termites in different locations (high medium and low lands). Maximum level of damage was observed in highlands (8.56 ± 1.90) while the minimum level of damage was observed in low levels (0.19 ± 0.14).

\*Identified by M.R.Wilson, Commonwealth Institute of Entomology.