

**AN ANALYSIS OF INSECTS CAPTURED WITH A ROTHAMSTED
LIGHT-TRAP USING A WEAK LIGHT SOURCE**

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Strong light sources such as mercury vapour lamps and 300 watt incandescent lamps are usually employed to capture insects with Rothamsted light traps. However, some insect groups are known to be repelled by "Strong" light (Gui et.al. 1942). The present study was carried out to determine insect groups that may be collected using a weak (40 watt) incandescent light source.

Trapping was carried out in the Kelaniya University premises once a week from Nov. 1979 to Oct. 1980. A monthly sample was obtained pooling four weeks' catches. Insects in each sample were assigned to their respective Orders and Families. The percentage composition of the Orders with respect to the total number of insects caught over a 12 month period is as follows.

Homoptera (4 Families) - 51.3%; Coleoptera (18 Families) - 14.7%
Hymenoptera (9 Families) - 9.7%; Hemiptera (8 Families) - 8.4%;
Diptera (13 Families) - 7.3%; Lepidoptera (4 Families) - 5.1%;
Ephemeroptera (1 Family) - 2.3%; Trichoptera (1 Family) - 0.6%;
Orthoptera (2 Families) - 0.5%; Isoptera (2 Families) - 0.1%;
Dermaptera (1 Family) - 0.1%.

References: Gui H.L. et.al. (1942). Response of insects to colour, intensity and distribution of light. Agric. Eugin 23, 51-58.