

**B-34 : DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL LINES OF *Cordyline* & *Dracaena*
VARIETIES BY MUTATION BREEDING**
A H S Senanayake, CTC Plantec Laboratory, Kalagedihena.

Experiments were conducted to create novel types of *Cordyline* and *Dracaena* varieties by mutation breeding from *Cordyline* CTC and *Dracaena* Purple Compacta for competitive advantage in marketing. Stem pieces with small axillary buds were given Gamma irradiation at a dosage of 3 krad and planted in a net house. It was possible to obtain one mutant from *Cordyline* CTC where the leaf margins turned white. From *Dracaena* Purple Compacta it was possible to obtain four similar mutants where leaves showed a variegated pattern of mixed colours. The mutation frequency of the former was 6.7×10^{-4} whereas those of the latter, was 2.5×10^{-3} . But mutations were stable. The mutant lines were multiplied by vegetative cuttings. The stability of the characters were maintained through tissue culturing in a modified MS medium.