

**B-41 : INCIDENCE OF MARBLING DISEASE IN SRILANKAN
PINEAPPLES (KEW VARIETY)**

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Kew variety belongs to the Cayenne group of pineapples commonly grown for canning in many parts of the world. Environmental conditions in the Moneragala district enhance flavour, and high brix values have been recorded from Kew pineapples grown in this district. However fruits obtained from this district showed symptoms characteristic of a condition hitherto not recorded in Sri Lanka, but referred to as marbling disease in other pineapple growing countries. A hardening of tissues was observed with the characteristic marbled appearance in the fruitlet region. At early stages of infection, tangential sections of the fruit reveal fruitlets with water-soaked lesions of one to three placental lobes in the central region of the fruit. The pathogenicity was confirmed by Koch's postulates. The causative organisms were identified by carrying out cultural, morphological and biochemical examinations. Causal organisms were found to be the yellow bacterium *Erwina herbicola*, and *Pseudomonas annans*, a pathogenic white bacterium.