

**B-08 An investigation of the causal agent for transparent leaf blotch in *Dracaena sanderiana* cv Gold**

S E Peiris, S M P C Padmini

*Dept of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya*

*Dracaena sanderiana* cv 'Gold' is an attractive foliage plant which at present has the highest demand in export markets. A transparent blotch develops on the immature leaves, reducing the export quality and the cause of which has not been discovered yet.

The effects of different potassium levels on plants grown in the net house and in potted plants with corrected soil pH, toxicity and deficiency of macro and micro nutrients in the hydroponic culture were investigated. Additionally isolation and reinoculation of bacteria and observation of cross section of the damage area of the leaf were also carried out.

The blotches which caused the disorder did not have any relationship with different  $K_2O$  levels in the plants grown in the net house or in potted plants tested. Bacteria isolated from the damage area were not phytopathogenic. Fluoride toxicity symptom was a brown colour patch which did not show any resemblance to the transparent blotch of the disorder being investigated. Symptoms of boron and manganese toxicities and ferrous deficiency also differed from the transparent blotch. However, ferrous toxicity levels showed a transparent blotch which had a close resemblance to the blotch which caused the disorder.

According to the results, the occurrence of transparent blotch in the *Dracaena* leaf is due to iron toxicity.