

Study of leaf galls, leaf sports and scab-like condition of cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Blume) in Matara District

Sri Lanka is the major producer of cinnamon in the world from very early times and contributes 60% to the world export market. Despite many pests and diseases observed in the field, sufficient investigations have not been made so far. Therefore, studies were undertaken to investigate the effect of leaf spots, leaf galls and scab-like condition on cinnamon yield and the influence of agronomic practices on the severity of these conditions. Thirty-one farmers in the Mtara district were randomly selected and interviewed.

Survey revealed that the average damage level of leaf spot disease in the area (18%) was relatively high compared to scab-like condition (7%) and leaf galls (8%). *Colletotrichum gloeosporoides* was associated with leaf spots in most of the farmer's fields but no pathogen was found to be associated with scab-like condition. *Eriophyes* spp. (a mite) and *Trioza* spp. (a hopper) were found to be associated with leaf galls. The yield was not significantly related to any of the above disorders *viz.* Leaf galls, leaf sports and scab-like condition. However, Scab-like condition affected considerably on quilling efficiency. High shade, high planting density and longer weeding intervals increased the leaf spot severity. Sundry soil, sloppy-lands, long weeding intervals and low dose of fertilizer application had increased the scab-like condition. However, land short weeding intervals decreased the leaf gall severity.