

MALFORMATION IN KODAMPULI (*GARCINIA CAMBOGIADESR.*)

Garcinia cambogia Desr. is a minor fruit of the tropics and is an important condiment used in south India. The fruits are valued for their dried rind which is exclusively used for flavouring fish curies. The crop is excellently suited for the low-lying reclaimed soils.

There is large amount of diversity in the population of *Garcinia* in Kerala. The crop is relatively free of pests and diseases. However, a bunching of vegetative shoots resembling the malformation in mango has been observed. This condition (Fig 1) is found to affect both the vegetative and reproductive parts of the tree and is found to be more prevalent during the flowering season. It is manifested both on the male as well as the female trees. The condition appears as a swelling of several buds at a place and several small shootlets packed with tiny leaf rudiments. In severe conditions, the transformed shoots appear as a compact mass having a diameter up to 3.0 cm which hang down from the primary and secondary branches. In the early stages, the mass is green or greenish yellow in colour. The mass remains on the tree for more than six months after which it starts drying up. A brownish discoloration is seen on the vascular tissues of the branches where these symptoms are observed.



Fig 1. Malformed shoots of *Garcinia cambogia* Desr.

The incidence of malformation severely affects the growth of the branch and flowering does not occur on such branches. In the case of mild symptoms, the affected branches survive into the next season and show similar types of symptoms in the next season at the same location. In very severe cases, the whole branch dries up. The causal factor for the disorder is unknown.