

**EVALUATION OF THE TOXICITY OF SOME PESTICIDES  
TO THE RED MITE ON COCONUT, *RAO/ELLA* /ND/CA (HIRST.)  
(PHYTOPTIPALPIDAE)**

The palm mite *Raoiella indica* Hirst is a major pest of arecanut in Kerala. This also attacks other palms like coconut and dates. Putturudriah and Channabasavanna (1958) conducted some preliminary acaricidal tests against this pest. The efficacy of some newer pesticides against *R. indica* on coconut was assessed in a field trial at Trivandrum, Kerala and the results are reported here.

Six chemicals (vide. Table 1) known to possess acaricidal effects were tested. A leaf with maximum infestation, sprayed to full coverage formed a replication and there were three replications for each treatment. Results were assessed by counting the living mites in three sq. cm. area of the treated leaf selected at random, just before treatment and at the end of 1, 7 and 14 days after spraying. The data were subjected to statistical analysis and presented in Table 1.

**Table 1**

**Effect of various chemicals in controlling the red mite of coconut**

Name of the pesticides	Mean number of mites in an area of 3 sq. cm. of leaf surface	Period after spraying (in days)		
		Before spraying	1	7
1. Parathion (Ekatox) 0.04%	443	328	344	447
2. Thiometon (Ekaton) 0.1%	272	287	344	372
3. Phosphamidon (Dimecron) 0.03%	270	241	206	198
4. Formothion (Anthio) 0.1%	410	370	194	28*
5. Dimethoate (Rogor) 0.1%	346	274	117	0*
6. Ghinomethionate (Morestan) 0.05%	331	314	295	240
7. Control	215	210	375	317

\*Significant at  $P = 0.05$

CD = 263

There was no significant difference in the pest population in various treatments 24 hrs. and 7 days after spraying. At the end of 14 days there was significant reduction of pest population on trees treated with dimethoate and formothion. Though parathion gave maximum reduction in population one day after treatment, there was a gradual increase subsequently.

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#### REFERENCE

Putturudriah and Channabasavanna (1958). Preliminary acaricidal tests against the areca mite *Raoiella indica* *Arecanut J* 8 : 87

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