AN ABNORMAL INFLORESCENCE IN BANANA VAR. PALAYAMKODAN

An abnormally branched inflorescence from the basal region of a fully grown palayamkodan banana plant (Fig. 1) was recorded at the Banana Research Station, Kannara in February 1983. Of the eleven branches, two were well developed with prominent male buds, while others were under-developed (Fig. 2). male buds had 4 or 5 staminate flowers per bract.

Pre-mature emergence of abnormal inflorescence in banana has been already reported by several workers (Nair and Karunakaran, 1963; Nair and Nair 1979).

The mother rhizome on dissection showed the entire core riddled with tunnels bored by banana rhizome weevil, Cosmopolites sordidus G. The symptom of weevil attack extended to the basal rhizome portion of the inflorescence too. In the present case since the mother rhizome was very severely infested by the weevil grubs, the freak inflorescence might perhaps be produced by a daughter sucker due to the response of the plant to reproduce precociously. Similar incidence of juvenile flowering in sugarcane due to smut infection has been reported by Raja (1963)-

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പൂർണ്ണ വളർച്ചയെത്തിയ ഒരു പാളയംകോടൻ വാഴയുടെ ചുവട്ടിൽ നിന്ന് അനേകം ശാഖകളുള്ള ഒരു പുങ്കുല വളർന്നു വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതായി കണ്ണാറ വാഴ ഗവേഷണ കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ കാണുകയുണ്ടായി. വാഴയുടെ മാണവും പുങ്കുലയുടെ ചുവട്ടിലെ മാണവും മാണപുഴു വിൻെ കഠിനമായ ആക്രമണത്തിന് വിധേയമായിരുന്നു. ഇക്കാരണ അവലായിരിക്കാം പ്രാ ര.ഭദശയിൽ തന്നെ വാഴയുടെ flro^ കന്ന° പുകുലയായി രൂപാന്തരം പ്രാപിച്ചത°.

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