

Poster

BANANA LEAF ROLLER, A NEW PEST TO SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Banana (*Musa* spp.) is very important to many people in South-East Asia as a fruit. The banana leaf roller, *Erionota thrax* L. 1767 (Lepidoptera: HesperIIDae) was reported first time as a pest of banana plantation in the Wet zone of Sri Lanka during September – October in 2015. The life cycle, behaviour and effectiveness of the chemical treatments were studied at the Entomology laboratory, Regional Agriculture Research and Development Centre (RARDC), Makandura during September- October 2015. The length of the life cycle of banana leaf roller was about 40 days. Documents at National Plant Quarantine Service, Katunayaka confirmed that this pest is a quarantine pest. As it is a quarantine pest, all control measures should be practiced to control under the Economical Injury Level before its establishment in Sri Lanka. Hence, eggs, leaf parts which damaged by the caterpillars should be cut and burnt. As they were very attractive to the light, light traps could be used to manage them and ensure hygienic conditions in the field to manage that pest. In Sri Lanka, some birds have been identified as natural predators. Only in severe infestation, Chlorantraniliprole + Thimethoxam 40% WG (Vertako) 2.5 g / 10 l can be used as a temporary remedy to manage the pest.