

RESEARCH NEWS

A POTENTIAL PEST OF RICE IN SRI LANKA

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Rice sheath mite (Panicle mite), *Steneotarsonemus spinki* Smiley (Acarina; Tarsonemidae) is considered as the most destructive mite pest affecting rice culture in the world. It was first reported during early 2000's in the dry of Sri Lanka. Presently, it has spread to many rice growing districts in the wet zone causing higher yield losses (5%-95%) in rice production.

Leaf sheaths having different discolorations varying from purple to brown patches were considered as the main symptoms of the mite attack. Erect panicles with discolored empty or partially filled seeds were also considered as possible symptoms of this pest. These materials were collected from various parts of the low country wet zone and investigated under the binocular microscope (magnification 10x4). Colonies of very minute, white colour, transparent mites in all growth stages (eggs, nymphs and adults) could be detected on the inner side of the leaf sheath. Later studies proved that this mite is *Steneotarsonemus spinki* Smiley. This pest is 0.2 to 0.25mm long and 0.1 to 0.12mm wide, which is not visible to the naked eye. When plants are severely infected, predatory mite (*Lasioceius spp.*, Acarina; Ascidae) could be visually observed on the leaf sheath.

**Annual Symposium of the Department of Agriculture (ASDA)
Instructions to Authors**

1. ASDA will consider papers, short communications and research news for publication authored by Department of Agriculture officers. In addition to findings from the departmental work, collaborative work with institutions outside the department and postgraduate research relevant to Sri Lanka will also be accepted if they make a contribution towards the progress and understanding of Agriculture in Sri Lanka.
2. An abstract of the work should be submitted prior to the submission of full paper.
3. Papers should be written in English and as a policy they will be reviewed by an internal committee and external reviewers. It is recommended that the papers be reviewed by a senior researcher/officer of the department prior to submitting. Authors will generally be notified of acceptance 2 months before ASDA.
4. Posters should fit into 5' x 3' board.
5. Abstracts and manuscripts formatted according to the instructions given below should be submitted in duplicate to the Chairman, Organizing committee, ASDA Secretariat, In-Service Training Institute, P.O. Box 21, Peradeniya.

ASDA organizing committee will announce the deadlines for submitting papers and posters each year.

Text Preparation

A rigid layout is not insisted and it is advised to divide the paper into sections such as: ABSTRACT, INTRODUCTION, MATERIALS AND METHODS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REFERENCES.

The manuscripts should be **formatted** double spaced on A4 size paper with following page setup: Margins; Top, Bottom, Right and Left 1.5"; Header 1"; Footer 0.5"; Font: Times New Roman. **Manuscript should not exceed 10 pages.** Follow the formatting given in the table below.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Type style</i>	<i>Alignment</i>	<i>Font Size</i>	<i>Type Case</i>
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Author's Name	Normal	Center	11	Upper
Author's Address	Normal and Italic	Center	11	Title
Abstract	Normal	Center	12	Upper
Abstract Text	Bold	Justify	10	Sentence
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Introduction	Normal	Center	12	Upper
Introduction Text	Normal	Justify	12	Sentence
Materials and Methods	Normal	Center	12	Upper
Materials and Methods Text	Normal	Justify	12	Sentence
Sub Title	Bold	Left	12	Sentence
Table and Figure Titles	Bold	Justify	10	Sentence
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RUNNING TITLE: A short title, not exceeding 45 characters, should be provided.

ABSTRACT: This should state concisely the scope of the work and the principal findings, and should be suitable for direct use by abstracting journals and **should not exceed 200 words.**

KEYWORDS: A list of keywords not exceeding six words chosen from the title, abstract and body of the paper should be provided. They should be arranged in alphabetical order separated by commas.

FOOTNOTES: Footnotes within the text should be used only when essential.

ABBREVIATIONS: Avoid using uncommon abbreviations (e.g., SL.DOA) without full term in the text.

Graphs drawn in the MS-Excel program are preferable. Use *insert graph* option in Word program. **Do not cut and paste the graphs in your text.** If you are uncertain of the procedure please submit the graphs as separate files with original data in a 3.5" diskette. Make sure that your graphs and figures fit within the specified margins of the page.

Do not use colors in graphs to separate different categories. Use black and white patterns instead.

Line drawings: The original artwork should be submitted.

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The recommended SI (International) units and symbols should be used. Words *yalā* and *maha* should be italicized and start with simple letter if in the middle of a sentence. Only the scientific names of organisms/plants should be italicized.

Length of the papers, Short communications and Research news

Item	Maximum pages
Full paper	10
Short communication*	03
Research news	01

* Follow the style of short communications published in previous Annals.

Papers/posters not formatted according to the instructions given or received after the deadlines will not be accepted.

After the reviewing process, the papers will be sent back to the authors if revisions are required. A revised copy of the paper should be submitted as a word file in 3.5" diskette or CD, along with a single hard copy, to the Chairman, ASDA.

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INTRODUCTION: Introductory material including a review of the literature should not exceed what is necessary to include the justification for the work and the essential background.

REFERENCES: All references in the text must be listed at the end of the paper, in alphabetical order of the author's last name. Do not number the references. **Do not abbreviate or italicize the publication names. Special attention should be paid to the use of punctuations.** Study the following examples and follow the same style.

Journal articles

Joachim, A., W.R.S. Kandiah and D.G. Pandithesekera. 1933. Studies on paddy cultivation 2. The effect of manures on the composition of paddy and soil. *Tropical Agriculturist* 81: 11-35.

Books (Identical author and editor)

De Datta, S.K. 1981. Principles and practices of rice production. John Wiley and Sons, New York. 618 p.

Books (edited by someone other than the author of article)

Ladd, J.N. 1985. Soil enzymes. In *Soil Organic Matter and Biological Activity*, Eds. D. Vaughan and R.E. Malcolm. Pp 176-221. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht. The Netherlands.

Thesis

Pieper, R.D. 1963. Production and chemical composition of arctic tundra vegetation and their relation to the lemming cycle. Ph.D. Thesis. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. 100 p.

Web sites

Tables and Figures

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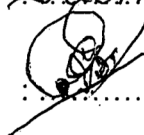
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